



April 6, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Road Closures (COVID-19) – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to inform you of the planned closure of all roads within Stanley Park, including Park Drive, to decrease public visitation and enable increased physical distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 8, 2020, vehicle access to Stanley Park will be closed to the public, with only authorized staff, stakeholders, and emergency personnel granted entrance. This closure will start on Wednesday morning and will remain in place indefinitely. It will be implemented via physical barriers and signage at key access points to the park, supported by Park Rangers, Securiguard, and the Vancouver Police Department. Digital traffic signs on Georgia Street, at English Bay, and along the Stanley Park Causeway will alert motorists to the closure. The Stanley Park Causeway (Highway 99) will remain open.

Despite the closure of all parking lots in Stanley Park more than a week ago, visitors have continued to travel by car to the park, particularly on sunny days, and parking on the roadways. In order to keep these important park assets open, new interventions are required to ensure they can be accessed safely. Closing the roads in Stanley Park will reduce the daily number of people in the park and open up space for cyclists and pedestrians.

The roadways will remain open for cyclists, who will be encouraged to use Stanley Park Drive and move off the seawall so that it can better support safe physical distances for pedestrians (walking and rolling). This measure will also help mitigate the risk of crowding at key points along the seawall and allow for more safe use by local residents.

As shown in the attached map, vehicle access to Stanley Park will be controlled by closing entrances at Georgia Street, Beach Avenue, and the Stanley Park Causeway:

- physical barriers and check points will be installed and managed by Park Rangers (6am-8pm) and Securiguard (8pm – 6am), with support from the Vancouver Police Department;
- digital traffic signs will alert motorists to the road closures;
- Emergency Services, City of Vancouver, and Park Board staff, as well as other key operators will continue to have access;
- access will be provided to park stakeholders, including operators within the park such as staff and members of the Rowing Club, Yacht Club, HMCS Discovery, Aquarium, and Stanley Park Ecological Society;
- Lost Lagoon Road will remain open to provide service vehicle access to Stanley Park Brewing;



- Translink Bus Service to Stanley Park (# 19) will be unaffected; and
- West End Neighborhood streets will be unaffected.

Next Steps

The Park Board will be issuing a media release and hosting a media event at 10:00am on Tuesday, April 7 to announce the closure. A communications campaign will commence immediately to ensure public awareness. Messages will be shared via signage, social media, email broadcasts, and on the City and Park Board webpages.

Park Board staff will continue to work closely with the City's Engineering staff, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, the Vancouver Police Department, and park stakeholders to ensure the smooth transition and management of the closure.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/kh/dh/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications
Sadhu Johnston – City Manager
Darrell Reid – COVID-19 Task Force Chief

**STANLEY PARK ROAD CLOSURES
DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE**

ACCESS CHANGES

NOTE: Emergency Services and Key Operators will have unrestricted access

SUBJECT TO CHANGE
UPDATED: April 6, 2020

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