



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

May 22, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton
Deputy General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **COVID-19 - Parks & Recreation Reopening & Recovery - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to provide you an update on the tentative order for the reopening of Park Board facilities and services. Staff are incorporating new guidance, arriving daily, from various government and non-government agencies, such as WorkSafe BC, BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), and Provincial and local Health Authorities to develop a thoughtful and thorough plan that will continue to be refined as we move through the next few weeks.

With the successful launch of BC's phase two starting on May 19, we will be reopening most parking lots this weekend (details included in the attached Info Bulletin for release this morning), and then will begin reopening outdoor recreational facilities for casual use only the following week. This is anticipated to include synthetic turf fields, skate parks, bike tracks, disc golf, basketball and multi-court sports, lacrosse, roller hockey, and volleyball courts. The specific timing of these reopenings is still being determined and should be confirmed by mid-week. As this remains a dynamic plan, public messaging will continue to be coordinated by the Park Board Communications Team and I would ask that you continue to forward any related media requests to PB.Communications@vancouver.ca.

BC's phase three is anticipated to start on June 1, at which time we will begin the phased reopening of more complex operations, the timing of which is expected to occur over several weeks (possibly months) as we align with new requirements and guidelines. This phase includes the recall of employees and more extensive safety plans, training, approvals and coordination with third parties and partners. The facilities and services that will be reviewed in this phase will include playgrounds, day camps, concessions, beaches, outdoor pools, and community centres. Staff have already begun the planning work and collaboration with key stakeholders, such as the Community Centre Associations (CCAs), to address the revised requirements for reopening these services safely.

As we progress through the pandemic and continue to receive guidance and feedback, the reopening of other assets and service areas will continue to be reviewed to determine how best to align with BC's phase three & four reopening plans. Staff will continue to update the Board as new information becomes available, and will also present more detailed updates at the Regular Board meetings, with the next presentation planned for May 25. If there are any particular areas of question or concern, please let me know.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shauna Wilton'.

Shauna Wilton
Deputy General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/ee/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications, PB Planning, Policy & Environment

Parking to reopen at Vancouver beaches and parks starting today

Starting this morning, Vancouver Park Board staff will begin reopening the majority of parking lots at parks and beaches, with the aim of having lots open by Sunday, May 24.

Parking lots were closed in mid-March as part of the Park Board's overall effort to support physical distancing, reduce crowding at destination parks and beaches, and encourage use of neighbourhood parks.

The reopening over the next two days of public parking includes 7,000 stalls at beaches and parks across the city, including the roadways at Queen Elizabeth Park. The reopening follows careful planning and consideration by the Park Board and is in alignment with the BC Restart Plan. Parking at beaches and parks is also vital to ensure there is equity of access to these spaces, particularly for residents with mobility challenges.

Pay parking and enforcement will be in effect at the pay lots and visitors are urged to keep a safe distance from others of at least two metres while exiting their vehicles and visiting beaches and parks.

Parking will remain temporarily closed at lots in Stanley Park and English Bay due to the continued vehicle closures in the park and along Beach Avenue. A small number of lots will remain temporarily closed at certain community centres and park sites for operational reasons.

The Park Board is taking a thoughtful and phased approach to reopening its facilities and services. Fraserview and McCleery golf courses and VanDusen Botanical Garden reopened May 1, tennis and pickleball courts May 9, and Langara Golf Course May 15.

The Park Board continues to review the feasibility of reopening other facilities and services and will make adjustments to its operations based on the latest information provided by Vancouver Coastal Health, the Provincial Health Officer, and industry partners.

For more information about the status of services and facilities impacted by COVID-19, please visit: vancouver.ca/covid19