



January 9, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : **CRAB Park Improvements & Washrooms – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you about the upcoming public engagement planned to help identify priorities for improvements in CRAB Park at Portside, and to provide you an update on the park's washroom facilities.

Park Improvements – Public Engagement

In July 2019, the [Vancouver Fraser Port Authority \(VFPA\) announced a conditional donation of \\$1 million toward improvements to CRAB Park](#) to offset the impacts of the Centerm Expansion Project. Park Board and VFPA staff are coordinating a funding agreement for the project, however VFPA has indicated that funding is subject to the delivery of park improvements prior to completion of the Centerm Expansion project, currently scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.

The Park Board will be responsible for identifying priorities, design, public engagement and delivery of the improvements. While \$1.0M is not sufficient to support a full park renewal, the funds could support improvements to the park such as: renewal of playground facilities; development of a new off-leash dog park; shoreline/wetland enhancements; improvements to pathways and circulation; new trees; addition of infrastructure to support park events; and the expansion of naturalized areas.

In order to identify park improvement priorities, staff plan to engage the public and key park stakeholders in early 2020. This will include the Crab-Water for Life Society and the Strathcona and Ray-Cam Community Centres who regularly use the park for programming. Staff will be exploring engagement methods such as a participatory budgeting process that identifies the costs of various improvements and allows the public and stakeholders to allocate portions of the budgets to various priorities. It is expected that a concept plan based on this engagement will be ready to present to the Board by late 2020.

Washroom Facilities

As advised in the [Enquiries Summary Report](#) provided on November 18, 2019, the fieldhouse washrooms in Crab Park were closed to the public in late October 2019 due to structural safety concerns. As well, many of the facility's systems have reached end of life and the building design is no longer suitable for the current social realities of CRAB Park. As such, Real Estate & Facilities Management staff have recommended that the entire fieldhouse be demolished. This demolition work is planned for early 2020.

Until a longer term plan is developed, staff will be piloting a pre-fabricated washroom structure that has been designed by the City of Portland for similar park and public settings. The [Portland Loo](#) is a standalone steel structure that provides single occupant washroom facilities that are highly visible and durable (see Figure 1 below). The steel structure is easy to clean and maintain and is vandal resistant. The Portland Loo has been used by other BC municipalities and park departments, including Victoria, Nelson, Kamloops, and Esquimalt.

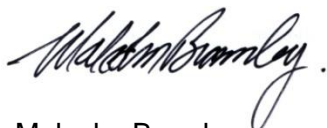
Figure 1: Portland Loo Interior & Exterior Images



Once the fieldhouse is demolished, the plan is to install two Portland Loo units using the site's existing water and sewer utilities. The estimated cost for the two units is approximately \$500,000. Due to their prefabrication and ease of install, staff estimate that the Portland Loo pilot project could be operating in the park in as little as six months.

In the interim, portable toilets have once again been provided as staff have been able to identify a new vendor willing to service the park. Signage will be installed in early 2020 to advise park users of the upcoming building demolition and subsequent installation of the Portland Loos.

Regards,

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

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/amb/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
Park Development
PB Communications