



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

August 21, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : **Cenotaph Accessibility Review & Upgrades – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the progress of the accessibility upgrades to the Memorial South Park Cenotaph site, along with an overview of accessibility to other war memorial sites located in Vancouver parks.

On April 1, 2019, the Board approved the motion titled [Accessibility Improvements to the Memorial South Park Cenotaph](#), which directed “staff to consult with members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS) to upgrade the Memorial South Park Cenotaph to be fully accessible for our aging and injured veterans as soon as possible”. A subsequent public enquiry about the accessibility of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park led to staff to review the accessibility of all park cenotaphs.

For the cenotaph at Memorial South Park, staff reached out to ANAVETS to review the proposed upgrades which include: new curb let down ramps; paths on the north and south side; and widening of the perimeter pathway surrounding the cenotaph to make it a more comfortable width for users with mobility issues (see Appendix A for site map & construction diagram). All upgrades also consider tree protection needs. Construction work began on July 27, 2019, and is expected to be complete by early September.

Staff also contacted Remembrance Day ceremony organizers for Grandview Park, Victory Square, and the Japanese Canadian Memorial in Stanley Park to consult on accessibility to the monuments in these locations (see Appendix B for maps of these sites). Grandview Park is already considered to be universally accessible. The area surrounding the cenotaph at Victory square is also considered accessible; however, there is no accessible connection between the cenotaph and the park walkways due to the steep grades within the park. The Japanese Canadian Memorial requires repairs to the concrete pavers surrounding the monument; this construction work will be undertaken in mid-September, under the supervision of the Park Board archaeologist. All sites will be ready for this year’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Regards,

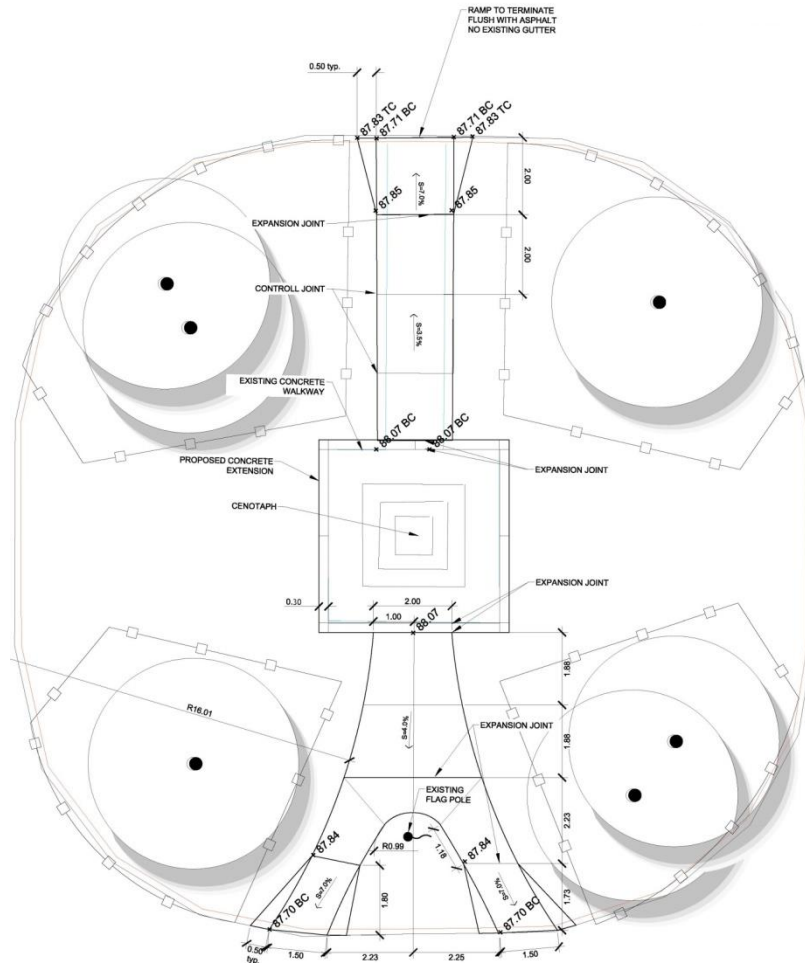
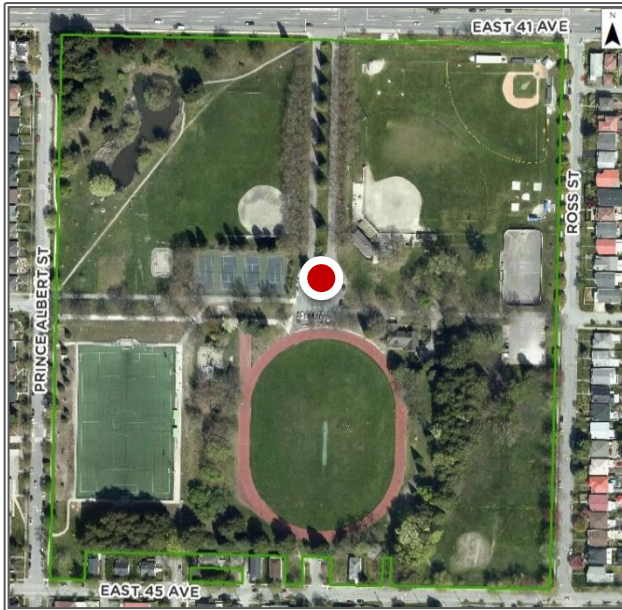
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications, Park Development

Appendix A: Memorial South Park Cenotaph – Accessibility Upgrades & Site Map



Appendix B: Cenotaph/Monument Sites in Grandview Park, Victory Square, & Stanley Park



