

August 16, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

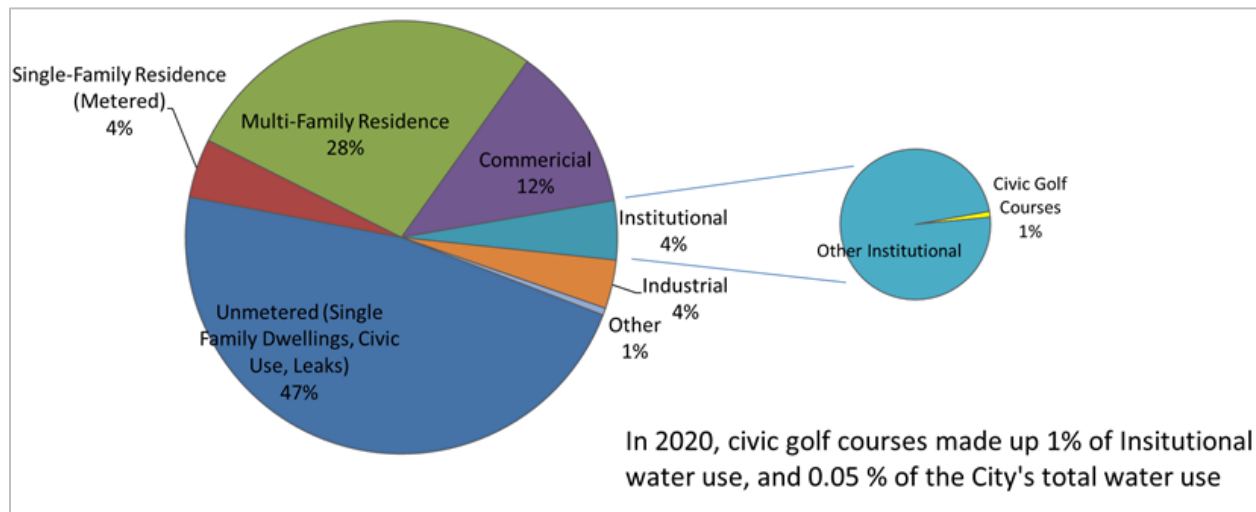
SUBJECT : **Golf Course Water Use – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

Further to the information on Park Board golf course water usage included in the [July 19 Enquiry Summary Report](#), the purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of water consumption and conservation initiatives, along with the requested breakdown of the volume of water used for each of the three full-size golf courses: Fraserview, Langara and McCleery.

### 2020 Water Consumption

In 2020, Park Board golf courses accounted for just 1% of institutional water use, and only .05% of overall water use in the City of Vancouver (as shown in Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1: City of Vancouver 2020 Sectoral Water & Golf Course Water Consumption**  
Source: COV Engineering - Water Conservation Office

Irrigation of Park Board golf courses accounts for 6.4% of the total water used for irrigation across the entire parks and recreation system. In 2020, 56% of all irrigation water used was non-potable. Following is a breakdown of the 2020 water budget and consumption rates for each of the full-sized golf courses:

#### Langara Golf Course

- Annual water budget = 72,647 cubic metres
- Used 50% of overall water budget in 2020
- 100% of this water use is from non-potable water sources.



### **Fraserview Golf Course**

- Annual water budget = 65,531 cubic metres
- Used 55% of overall water budget in 2020 (35,915 m<sup>3</sup>)
- 33% of this water from non-potable water sources. (11,790 m<sup>3</sup>)

### **McCleery Golf Course**

- Annual water budget = 59,772 cubic metres
- Used 58% of overall water budget in 2020 (34,105 m<sup>3</sup>)
- 34% of this water from non-potable water sources (11,468 m<sup>3</sup>)

### **Water Conservation Initiatives**

Some of the current golf course water conservation efforts include:

- phase one of the Langara drainage project, which diverts all storm water into the irrigation retention pond for re-use irrigating the turf;
- conversion of a combined 9.6ha of maintained turf areas to meadow grass areas for pollinators, birds, and wildlife refuge; reduced or eliminated irrigating these areas;
- continued irrigation system audits to locate deficiencies and maximize efficiency - spacing, new nozzles, reduced output sprinklers, directional sprinklers for targeted irrigation, replacing leaking valves, etc.;
- using moisture meters to monitor soil moisture levels to determine irrigation requirements;
- continued inter-seeding programs to introduce more heat and drought tolerant turf species on golf fairways, tees, and rough;
- allocating Capital Reserve funds to water source studies at Fraserview and McCleery to locate additional viable ground water sources.

The golf operations team continues to work with the environmental planning group to identify new water conservation opportunities.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnie Rosa".

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/jm/ag/clc

Copy to: PB Leadership Team  
Park Operations  
PB Communications