



June 30, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT : **Heat Wave Response – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide you an overview of the various services offered to help residents through the record-breaking heat wave experienced in Vancouver over the past several days. In response to the extreme weather advisories, Park Board staff partnered with colleagues at the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), along with the Community Centre Associations and a variety of stakeholder groups to provide support across the city. Some of the extreme heat response initiatives involving Park Board staff and facilities included:

- reopening Oppenheimer Park ahead of schedule to provide much needed access to shaded green space for Downtown Eastside residents and visitors;
- supporting VFRS with temporary water fountains & misting stations throughout the city to augment existing services;
- using park irrigation systems to provide temporary pop-up spray sites at 15 different parks across the city; between 11am – 6pm, irrigation was turned on for 15 minutes each hour;
- closing VanDusen Botanical Garden and the 3 pitch and putt courses early on Monday (hottest day) to avoid access when outdoor conditions most unsafe for visitors and staff;
- opening wading pools at Woodland Park and Grays Park ahead of schedule;
- increasing Ranger patrols in Stanley Park to mitigate fire risk and along busy beach areas to provide public education about risk of heat and impact on health and safety;
- offering limited menu items in golf clubhouses to reduce impacts on staff in hot kitchen spaces;
- suspending back nine play at golf courses to allow additional watering/maintenance to protect golf assets; supplying water and monitoring groups on golf course for dehydration;
- communicating to staff about staying safe and cool in the current heat wave; and
- activating extreme weather cooling centres at eight air conditioned community centres.

These efforts have been well received by residents and partners and I am proud of the creative solutions and work undertaken by staff this week.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Donnie Rosa', written over a circular stamp or watermark.

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

/sj/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications