



May 14, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Jay Deo, Manager, Recreation – Citywide Services
SUBJECT : Seasonal Park Board Activations – Board Briefing Memo

Dear Commissioners,

This memo provides the Board with a summary of the seasonal activations across Park Board.

Context

Each year, the Park Board has various seasonal facility openings and programming activations for the summer as well as seasonal food and beverage options.

This memo provides an overview of those activations and other key aspects of seasonal operations.

Outdoor Pools

Park Board operates five Outdoor Pools. Below is a list of facilities and the planned dates to launch the seasonal operations.

Table with 4 columns: Facility, Planned Opening Date, Planned Closing Date, Visits (2023). Rows include Kitsilano Outdoor Pool, New Brighton Pool, Second Beach Pool, Maple Grove Pool, and Hillcrest Outdoor Pool.

*Kitsilano Outdoor Pool – Pool still undergoing season opening maintenance which has been contingent on warm weather. Opening date to be determined.

**Hillcrest Outdoor Pool – opening is delayed by two weeks due to ongoing refit work in adjacent areas.

Outdoor Pools provide a well utilized component of the Recreation service delivery continuum attracting over 260,000 visits annually. They also support the overall heat response plans across the Park Board network.



Outdoor Pools Online Registration - Update

Park Board will continue to use the Showpass online reservation system for outdoor pools in 2024, this is the second year of utilizing a new reservation software that has improved the user experience from prior software solutions. The benefits of Showpass include:

- Reducing in-person queuing which is important in warm weather conditions where patrons stand in line for extended periods potentially creating patron safety issues
 - o Faster entry process as reservation patrons do not need to process payment onsite
- Allowing patrons to guarantee access while still having a drop-in option
- Increasing and diversifying access to Park Board outdoor pools by creating session times
- Maintaining safe lifeguard to patron ratios and allowing for better peak demand planning

Staff sought and reviewed feedback on the new system throughout the pilot of this new software in 2023. Improvements have been identified and improvements planned for this year include a more extensive public education campaign centred around booking processes and providing more accessible reservation options such as phone reservation via Showpass. Staff are also assessing operational adjustments such as signage and queue management processes to improve facility entrance times. Additionally, as staff availability permits, efforts will be made to increase pool capacity through either the Showpass or drop-in options.

Lifeguarding Beaches

Park Board Lifeguards will patrol and supervise designated swimming areas marked by coloured flags at beaches from Saturday, May 18, to Monday, September 2, between 12pm-8pm daily. Hours change in August (regular practice) to ensure swimming safety due to reduced visibility associated with earlier sunsets.

Beaches that are supervised include:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| - English Bay | - Second |
| - Jericho | - Sunset |
| - Kitsilano | - Third |
| - Locarno | - Trout Lake* |
| - Spanish Banks | |

*Trout Lake– opening June 1 due to ongoing preparation for the site.

Trout Lake was not staffed in 2023 due to concerns with water quality. However, the lake has been deemed accessible to swim to start the season, with regular water testing throughout the season to ensure safe conditions. If the water quality deteriorates this location may be closed for swimming.

Lifeguards will also continue to support the 2024 Alcohol and Beaches pilot and [On Water strategy](#).



The Park Operations team also increases service levels during peak summer months to help improve the customer experience at Vancouver's beaches, including; higher frequency of mobile janitorial visits to washrooms and changing rooms, portable toilets delivered to priority locations, increased beach maintenance such as debris pickup, log realignment, sand screening and grooming.

Spray Parks and Wading Pools

Park Board spray parks open to the public from Saturday, May 18, through until Monday, September 2 operating between 9am-9pm daily.

Unsupervised spray parks include:

- Chaldecott Park
- Connaught Park
- Harbour Green Park
- Hastings Park
- Oak Park

Supervised spray parks, with associated summer playground programs and wading pools include:

- Bobolink Park
- Brewers Park
- Burrard View Park
- Clinton Park
- Crab Park
- Douglas Park
- Granville Island (operated by CMHC)
- Garden Park
- Grandview Park
- Grays Park
- Lumberman's Arch (Stanley Park)
- Maclean Park
- Norquay Park
- Pandora Park
- Prince Edward Park
- sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 (Rainbow Park)
- Renfrew Park
- Robson Park
- Ross Park
- Slocan Park
- Sunrise Park
- Trimble Park
- Woodland Park

Supervised spray parks, summer playground programs, and wading pools are staffed during peak attendance times to enhance park experiences. Staff supervise these parks from Tuesday, July 2, through until Saturday, August 31.

All spray parks have push-button activation to minimize water usage and ensure compliance with regional water restrictions. Spray Park operations may be impacted throughout the season as staff will monitor and comply with escalating stages of regional water restrictions if they are enacted.



Misting Stations

The Park Operations team deploys misting stations to priority parks from June-September as part of the City's extreme heat mitigation preparedness. Misting stations will be installed at the following parks:

- China Creek South
- Dude Chilling/Guelph
- Nanaimo
- Winona
- Oppenheimer
- Andy Livingstone
- Thornton
- Victory Square
- Grandview
- Emery Barnes
- Cathedral
- Johnathan Rogers
- Kingcrest
- Emery Barnes
- Creekside Park
- Sunset Beach
- Woodland

Food & Beverage

As pools open over the May long weekend, Park Board food and beverage options will be ready to serve fresh, tasty fare. This season, concessions will feature exciting new menu items, including the Fraser Valley crunchy chicken burger (available as a plant-based option) and crunchy avocado tacos.

The Kitsilano Pool concession will undergo an exciting new pilot partnership with a local "container pop-up hospitality" concept called Batch. This collaboration will combine Park Board menu offering with those of Monarch Burger, a burger food truck concept launched by renowned local chef Robert Belcham. Under this arrangement, Batch will offer adult beverages on weekend on the deck opposite the concession above the pool. This innovative activation blends private and public cooperation to enhance the overall experience for Kitsilano Pool patrons.

This will be the first full season of the VanEats mobile ordering app and the new online ordering platform at vaneats.ca, available at eight concession stands:

- Lumberman's Arch



- Second Beach
- Third Beach
- Sunset Beach
- Kitsilano
- Jericho
- Locarno
- Spanish Bank East

The seasonal food options will also include al fresco dining options and the summer mobile food vending program. This year, several new additions to the food truck lineup will be introduced, including Cedar Feast House, specializing in First Nations cuisine, and a local lemonade stand in Devonian Park. Returning crowd favourites like the Berry Mobile fresh fruit market, Vancouver Bike Coffee, and San Juan Farms will also be available.

Pending successful completion of liquor licensing and inspection, the Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Pitch and Putts will officially launch their alcohol service in June. Each pitch and putt will partner with a local brewery to offer a selection of cold beer and wine, aimed at enhancing the golfing experience.

All food and beverage activations are aimed at providing a great experience for those that visit Park Board spaces and facilities.

Special Events

Special event activations across the Park Board network peak noticeably during the summer season, with a concentration of activity in Stanley Park, downtown, and waterfront parks. Between mid-May and mid-September, Vancouver's park network will welcome over 65 major special events, ranging from long standing favorites such as Bard on the Beach and the Vancouver Folk Music Festival to exciting new initiatives such as the Great Outdoors Comedy Festival and Mount Pleasant's new Rib & Music Festival. In addition, Vancouver's popular park spaces will host hundreds of other permitted activities, including smaller community events and gatherings, picnics, weddings, and organized recreation activities. These initiatives add civic vibrancy, foster important community connections, contribute to place making, and enable important economic opportunities, including fundraising for non-for-profit organizations. More information on key summer events being held in Vancouver parks can be found in the Park Board's major [Special Events Calendar 2024](#).

Seasonal Business Services

Summer also marks the start-up of several seasonal business services across the Park Board network, including water bike rentals and tours at Vanier Park, and stand-up paddleboard and kayak rentals at Kitsilano Beach. These long standing and popular summer services activate our public spaces, promote health and wellness, connect guests to nature, and support key Park Board strategies such as VanPlay and On Water.



Summary

Seasonal activations are about to commence increasing the activations in many outdoor Park Board spaces.

These seasonal activations outline how the Park Board provides diverse and expanded programs and services that serve the community in a variety of ways. The approach to provision of these services also takes into account geographical access and Equity Zones as defined by [VanPlay](#).

Overall, these seasonal activations improve the experience patrons have interacting with Park Board amenities during peak outdoor times.

Regards,

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Copy to: PB Leadership Team
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