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**From:** Jackson, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** PB Commissioners  
**Cc:** Park Board GM's Office; Tanaka, Ema; Rosa, Donnie; Gandha, Amit  
**Subject:** Response to Commissioner Question - VanDusen and Bloedel Capacity

Good Evening Commissioners,

We received a question regarding our capacity limits at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory, as well as our partnership with the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) in supporting member admissions.

In late November, with an increase in COVID-19 cases and new Provincial Health Office (PHO) orders banning events and gatherings, we cancelled Festival of Lights and reduced visitor capacity out of an abundance of caution and to discourage gatherings leading up to the holidays. In the new year we adjusted garden capacity back to previous levels and look forward to safely welcoming an increased number of visitors to the garden. While the garden itself is vast, capacities need to be limited to ensure physical distancing can be maintained in all areas. There are concerns unique to a paid garden like VanDusen, such as pinch points created by ingress and egress, as well as congestion points that are created within the garden with seasonal blooms and key features.

Bloedel admission capacities are also managed closely by staff. Indoor venues have been identified as higher risk and as a result generally speaking will have lower capacity limits than our outdoor/open-air spaces. Current capacity at Bloedel is restricted to 30 visitors for each 45 minute time slot; this compares to a 90 person limit per 30 minute admission slot at VanDusen (roughly 180 people per hour).

We will continue to take our guidance from the PHO on this matter and adjust as appropriate.

With respect to supporting the VBGA and its members, staff continue to engage in regular conversations with the VBGA to balance the capacity split between members and general admissions. This is a fluid process. General admissions are critical to the Park Board's ability to keep this site open as the revenues from paid admissions cover the costs for our day to day staffing levels. Staff monitor admissions daily and have adjusted the ticket split where we have experienced lower general public demand so as to enable increased member admissions. We will continue to monitor this and be flexible to support our partner while ensuring we are mindful of our budget commitments.

I hope this information helps to clarify staff's approach to managing these sites during the pandemic. If you have further questions, please route through the Park Board GM's office and I would be happy to respond.

Thanks,  
Steve

Steve Jackson, CPA CA | Acting Deputy General Manager



*My pronoun is: he, him*

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*I acknowledge that we are on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nation, the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>əm</sup> (Musqueam), s<sup>k</sup>wx<sup>w</sup>ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwəṭəł (Tsleil-Waututh)*