

REPORT

Parks and Recreation

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** August 29, 2022

From: Dean Gibson,
Director of Parks and Recreation **File:** 2137970

Item #: 2022-600

Subject: Fall 2022 Outdoor Pools Operating Schedule Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information.

PURPOSE

To inform Council of changes to the proposed September 6 – October 10 Outdoor Pool operations.

SUMMARY

As a result of the Canada Games Pool closure, Outdoor Pool operations for 2022 were extended into fall to provide aquatic services to the residents of New Westminster. The January 31, 2022 report to Council outlining the Outdoor Aquatics plan in response to the *Be Heard New West – Outdoor Pool Preferences Survey* stated both of the City's Outdoor Pools would extend their operating season until October 10, 2022. As reflected in the above noted report to Council, staff continue to monitor attendance and overall facility usage during the extended pool season and will be weekly adjusting the proposed Fall schedule for Hume Park Outdoor Pool based on a number of operational factors.

BACKGROUND

On November 24, 2021 – Council announced the early decommissioning of the Canada Games Pool and Fitness Centre as a result of the failure of key mechanical and structural pool systems. As Canada Games Pool services were effectively halted, the

Parks and Recreation Department initiated a process of developing service delivery alternatives for the affected services.

On January 31, 2022 Council approved the *Summer 2022 Outdoor Aquatics Plan*. In this plan, both of the City’s outdoor pools were approved to remain open for services until October 10, 2022. Spring and summer monitoring of attendance and operations at Hume Park Outdoor Pool requires a change to the proposed scheduling.

ANALYSIS

Pool attendance and public demand for services

Moody Park Outdoor Pool opened early in the spring of 2022 to allow residents options for swimming activities in the City of New Westminster. Attendance numbers during the non-traditional days of operation, April 23-June 29 provided the following statistics:

| Moody Park Outdoor Pool-Spring 2022 | Leisure Swim |
|--|---------------------|
| Spaces Offered | 34,000 |
| Spaces Filled | 3776 |
| % Capacity | 11% |
| | Lap Swim |
| Spaces Offered | 3465 |
| Spaces Filled | 2080 |
| % Capacity | 60% |

Pool usage is greatly dependent on weather forecasts and it should be noted that spring weather patterns this year were unseasonably cool and wet. If fall produces a warm and bright season both of the City’s outdoor pools serve to be utilized greatest in the after school hours and on weekends. Hume Park Outdoor Pool schedule will be based on the increased demand for afterschool and weekend hours then adjusted as weather, ambient temperature and natural daylight wanes.

Daylight hours and ambient lighting

Hume Park Outdoor Pool does not have significant exterior and interior pool lighting. The facility was not designed to be operated in the darker hours after dusk or before sunrise during the fall months. Operations staff are exploring options for portable lighting structures however the feasibility of this enhancement cannot be confirmed at this time. In contrast, Moody Park Outdoor pool has appropriate existing infrastructure to support evening swimming. If the operations of Moody Park Outdoor Pool prove to have the capacity for the late evening and early morning swims that can accommodate all residents of the community, the addition of lighting at Hume Park Outdoor Pool will not be considered further for this year.

Pool Boiler System

The Boiler at Hume Park Outdoor Pool is scheduled to have more preventative maintenance completed in spring of 2023 and at present there is uncertainty if the boiler will have the heating capacity to sufficiently heat the pool as the cooler weather arrives

in in September and October. Operations staff will continue to monitor and make recommendations as required.

Staffing Considerations

Trained staff shortages within the Aquatics field continue to be an operational reality. Changes in staff availability come the fall have continued to erode the department's trained team of aquatic professionals. An adjusted outdoor pool fall schedule is necessary to respond to the anticipated availability of trained and qualified aquatics staff.

CONCLUSION

Accounting for pool attendance and public demand, daylight hours and ambient lighting, pool mechanical systems and staffing considerations; it is prudent to align the Fall operating hours of Hume Park Outdoor Pool with the periods of expected demand for services. Hours of operation for Hume Park Outdoor Pool will remain dynamic in response to public safety, bather comfort and staffing factors.

NEXT STEPS

Moody Park Outdoor Pool

Moody Park Outdoor Pool operations will continue to schedule a full program complement until October 10, 2022. This program complement includes Swim lessons, Lap swimming, Leisure swim, Aquafit, Adult Swim and rentals. Following Labour Day, Moody Park Outdoor Pool will adjust the operational hours to the following:

Monday-Friday – 8:00-10:30am, 12:00-8:45pm

Saturday-Sunday – 12:15-7:30pm

Hyack Swim Club Rentals – Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday am, Wednesday/Friday pm

Swimming lessons – Tuesday/Thursday pm, Saturday am Private lessons only

Hume Park Outdoor Pool

Hume Park Outdoor Pool will implement a dynamic pool schedule. After Labour Day, Hume Park Outdoor Pool will adjust operational hours to the following:

Monday-Friday – 3:30-7:00pm

Saturday-Sunday – 11:45-7:00pm

A team of aquatic operations staff will continue to evaluate factors affecting safe and efficient operations of Hume Park Outdoor Pool and adjust hours of operation every 3-5 days. The schedule will be dynamic and responsive to changes in daylight, weather forecasts, pool and air temperatures, public demand and staffing availability. The schedule and available swims will be current and visible at all times online in the program registration platform: <https://www.newwestcity.ca/parks-and-recreation/recreation/drop-in>.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditures associated with heating and treating both of the City's outdoor pools will remain fixed regardless of the scheduled operating hours.

OPTIONS

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Provide staff with additional direction.

Option #1 is recommended

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Corrinne Garrett, Senior Manager – Recreation Facilities and Services

This report was reviewed by:
Stephanie Trasolini, Acting Aquatics Manager

This report was approved by:
Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer