

FACILITY

Why is the City not going to complete repairs on Canada Games Pool?

After careful consideration and review of the risks and costs to repair the leak in the main pool tank, City staff recommended to Council to decommission Canada Games Pool effective immediately.

City of New Westminster staff have been working with a team of professionals that includes, a hydrogeologist, geotechnical engineer, and structural and civil engineers, to explore all possible options to repair the leak and extend the service life of Canada Games Pool. By nature of the work involved, any attempt to repair the pool could uncover additional issues or challenges. Additionally, the significant cost, extensive work required, and an estimated timeline of approximately 8 months to complete were all contributing factors to the decision to not proceed with repairs to the facility. The decision to decommission the facility involves the least amount of risk and will allow for existing resources to remain focused on the completion of t̄m̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre. As part of that project, Canada Games Pool was already scheduled to be decommissioned in August 2023.

What is the extent of the damage to the facility?

There are extensive cracks in the pool tank that have resulted in water leakage that cannot be repaired without significant cost. There is secondary damage to the PVC pipes that run underneath the tank, causing additional water loss. Additionally, there is damage to the mechanical room which heats, filters, and circulates the water which occurred when significant flooding was experienced in September 2021.

What was the cause of the leak?

The cause of the leak to the pool tank continues to be thoroughly investigated by a team of professionals. The City of New Westminster is committed to doing its due diligence to understand the reason for leak, and will report back findings to the community once we have more information.

How long until the new aquatic facility opens?

t̄m̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre is scheduled to open in late 2023.

What will happen to Canada Games Pool now?

Some site work will take place over the coming months to monitor ground water levels on site while the pool is drained, and then the facility will be decommissioned prior to deconstruction.

Will the closure and deconstruction of Canada Games Pool accelerate the opening of t̄m̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre?

As a result of decommissioning the Canada Games Pool facility earlier than planned, the City would save money and a modest benefit could be expected with advancing the construction schedule of the new facility. While some elements can be advanced such as exterior work to the north entry, the facility opening date will not change.

Will there be an opportunity for the community to say goodbye to Canada Games Pool?

The City's priority is focused on restoring and implementing services as quickly as possible. After which, staff will work on plans for the community to give a proper send-off to Canada Games Pool in the New Year. More information will be provided as details become available.

OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

What are my options for swimming lessons and other aquatic activities?

New Westminster Parks and Recreation is working on a plan to develop service delivery alternatives including, extending the operating season of the community outdoor pools, relocating Canada Games Pool fitness equipment to Centennial Community Centre, and utilizing private and community facilities to provide limited fitness and aquatic service offerings.

What are my fitness options?

Operating hours at existing fitness centres will be extended at Queensborough Community Centre and the New West Youth Centre Fitness Centre (Century House). Fitness equipment from Canada Games Pool will also be relocated to the gymnasium at Centennial Community Centre, and gym programs that normally take place at Centennial Community Centre will be relocated to other recreation and community facilities.

What will happen with the Centennial Community Centre?

Centennial Community Centre will continue to be fully operational until its scheduled deconstruction in 2023.

Will the outdoor pool seasons be extended?

Staff are currently exploring options to extend the 2022 operating season for Moody Park Outdoor pool and the 2023 season for both Moody and Hume Park Outdoor pools.

What will happen to facility staff?

It is the intention of the City to assist in mitigating the impacts of the Canada Games Pool closure on staff as much as possible. The City has assisted with connecting auxiliary staff to alternate employment opportunities within the City and other municipal parks and recreation departments in the region and prepared the necessary documentation to enable staff to apply for EI and other income supports. By the end of November, all permanent staff will have been redeployed to other essential responsibilities within the Parks and Recreation or other City departments.

As the City moves toward the eventual opening of the t̓m̓əsew̓tx̓w Aquatic and Community Centre, some of the permanent staff will be re-engaged in the planning and preparations for the activation of services in the new facility. All Canada Games Pool staff will be fully engaged in the new facility's operations at the time of opening.

How many Canada Games Pool staff are affected by the closure?

In a typical year, approximately 100 individuals are employed in auxiliary staff capacities with positions ranging from aquatics to building maintenance to clerical support. There are also 18 permanent staff employed at the pool.

What are the financial implications?

The decision to decommission Canada Games facility does provide an estimated \$0.7 million savings or 0.76% tax dollars to provide one-time temporary relief on the 2022 General Funded Operating Expense Budget, while the cost to repair and re-open the facility would have put significant pressure on the City to find \$2.3 million.