



DESIGNATED SMOKING AREAS AT SELECT SPECIAL EVENTS IN SUMMER 2026

Pilot Program

Park Board Committee Meeting

June 1, 2026



PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- Present concept of designated smoking areas at events to the Park Board
- Review requests from two event organizers (Triostar Productions and Feaster Festivals & Events) to implement pilot program in Summer 2026
- Seek the Board's approval for this request



BACKGROUND | Parks Control Bylaw

- No smoking policy approved by the Park Board on July 5, 2010
- Regulation applies to all Vancouver parks and beaches
- Aligned to the Park Board's commitment to promote healthy urban environment and support active living and wellness
- Followed the introduction of similar smoking restrictions other North American cities



BACKGROUND | Special Events

- Special events play an essential role in building community connection, diversity and cohesion, and driving economic activity
- Park Board supports over 1,500 events and other activities across its network
- Staff work collaboratively with event organizers to enable events, improve operations, and minimize/reduce potential risks



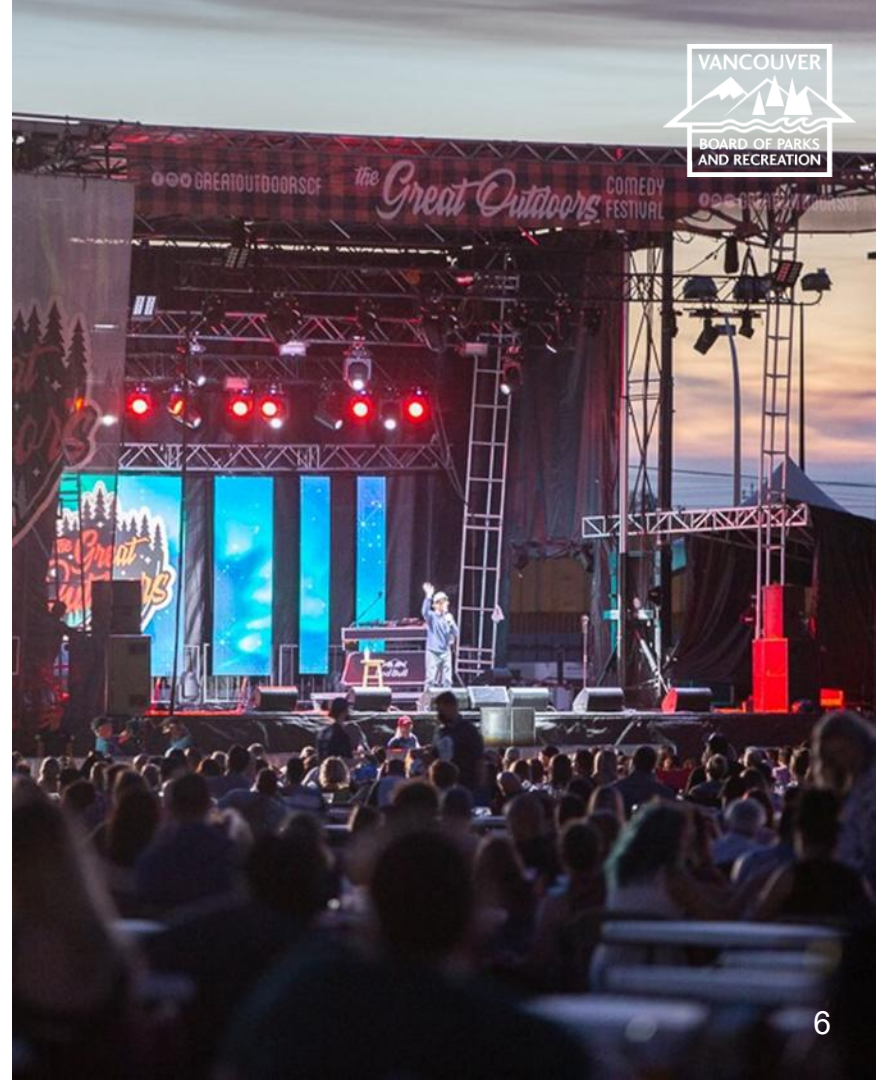
BACKGROUND | What's the Issue?

- Despite significant efforts, illegal smoking at events is frequent at large public gatherings
- Surveys indicate that up to 37% of festival-goers smoke, leading to routine rule-breaking at non-smoking events
- Attendees exploit oversight/enforcement gaps to circumvent smoking bans



PROPOSAL

- Trixstar Productions (TP) and Feaster Festivals & Events (FFE) seeking an exemption to the Park Board's no smoking policy to offer designated smoking areas, on a pilot program basis, for three Summer 2026 events:
 - TP – Great Outdoor Comedy Festival; Stanley Park (19+)
 - FFE – Country Club & Rosé Disco Festivals; Jericho Beach Park (19+)



PROPOSAL

- Objective is to reduce illegal smoking at their events, reduce public safety risks, and enhance park protection
- If approved, staff would work with organizers on the detailed planning and implementation (location, signage, fencing, scrimming, staffing, no F&B, etc.)



PAST PRECEDENTS

- Park Bylaws restrict consumption of liquor in park spaces, unless approved by the Board
- Park Board regularly approves designated areas for liquor consumption in parks
- Proposed pilot program seeks to follow a similar model
- Designated smoking areas would be expressly approved by the Board, while maintaining the integrity and authority of the no smoking policy



BENEFITS

- Reduced illegal smoking/improved Park Bylaw compliance
- Improved public safety
- Improved park protection during the dry summer season
- Operational efficiencies for event organizers
- Improved guest experience



TRENDING

Canada forecasts 2026 to be among the hottest years on record

604 NOW

LINK IN COMMENTS

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Financial – all expenses to be borne by event producers; no costs to Park Board
- FEST Committee support – pilot program endorsed by all major delivery partners/agencies
- Data collection – to measure success and support report back to Board
- Review/report back – before potential introduction at future events
- Risks/challenges – potential reputational risks and/or misinterpretation about program objectives; mitigate through communications



SUMMARY

- Illicit smoking at large events continues to be an issue of concern
- Designated smoking areas have proven effective and are being introduced in cities across Canada
- Report contemplates the introduction of designated smoking areas for three events on a pilot program basis
- Staff confident that this initiative can be delivered successfully and recommend the approval of this pilot program



RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve, as a pilot program, the requirements of the Park Board Smoking Regulation Bylaw not be strictly enforced in relation to the 2026 Great Outdoor Comedy Festival and the 2026 Rosé Disco and Country Club events to allow for the establishment of designated smoking areas at these events; and

- B. THAT, Park Board staff will report back to the Board regarding the efficacy of this pilot project no later than March 31, 2027.

