

**From:** Park Board GM's Office  
**To:** PB Commissioners  
**Cc:** PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications  
**Subject:** Strathcona Park Encampment - Weekly Board Update - March 29, 2021  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 1:07:13 PM  
**Attachments:** GM ORDER - Strathcona Park Encampment - Northeast Area Restrictions - 2021-03-30 (FINAL).pdf  
image002.png

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Hello Commissioners,

Please find below this week's update regarding the work of the City and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation in responding to the encampment in Strathcona Park.

### **GM order extension**

- Tomorrow morning, we will be issuing a General Manager's Order stating that tents, temporary shelters and structures will not be permitted in the northeast corner (dog off-leash area) of Strathcona Park. This is an extension of the General Manager's order issued February 10, 2021 which restricts setting up temporary shelters, structures or tents on the west side of the park. As remediation work in the west side of the area nears completion, this GM order extension into the northeast corner of the park is a necessary next step to ensure remediation work throughout the rest of the park continues. The aim is to resume normal park operations so that recreation and other community programs can resume.
- This GM Order falls under the authority granted through the Parks Control By-law. The Order states that "all existing tents, temporary shelters, and structures must be removed from the northeast corner, as indicated on the map, by 10 a.m. Thursday, April 8, 2021." A copy of the GM Order, which includes a map outlining the area where temporary structures are not permitted, is attached for your reference.
- The GM Order will be issued to the individuals who are currently sheltering in the northeast corner of the park, and signage will be installed in several locations inside the park tomorrow afternoon. BC Housing will also include details of the order in their twice-weekly update to people who are sleeping in the park. Outreach will notify people in the park about the order at today's dialogue meeting with encampment leadership and will continue to work with those currently in the northeast corner of the park to connect them with shelter, housing and other services, should they be interested.
- Once people have been relocated and tents, temporary shelters and structures have been removed from the northeast corner park, staff from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation will erect a fence barrier to temporarily close off the area for remediation. The work is expected to take approximately three to six weeks to complete.

### **Recent events in the park**

- Last week there were a number of incidents in the park including two overdoses (one of which ended tragically), a dispute that led to someone being attacked by a dog, and three fires including a major one on Friday. The fire on Friday was limited to one tent but resulted in the explosion of some propane tanks. No one was injured by the fire but one person was treated for a dog bite injury. An investigation is underway and staff are working with VFRS and other department leads to identify steps we can take to reduce the improve safety conditions in the park. These events have further reiterated the need to decamp the park by the end of April.

- Yesterday's wind storm brought down some of the fencing that had been erected in the park and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff are in the park today to re-erect the fencing and clear up debris that was generated by the storm.

### **Engagement with the community**

- Staff will be meeting with the Strathcona Residents Association within the next week to notify them of the order, as well as including information about the order in the bi-weekly email to the Strathcona community on April 9.
- To support remediation and future park use planning, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff are setting up meetings with Ray-Cam, local youth and stewardship groups in the coming weeks, with arrangements for equity deserving groups to engage in the process for remediating and future uses of the park. Continued correspondence with residents has included sharing information on remediation, equity based engagement and park access as well as future planning processes. A COVID safety plan for meeting in the park is being created, which will help determine the next meeting date with resident's groups and individuals.

### **RV enforcement**

- Outreach staff and Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO) have been speaking to RV owners over the last week about the steps they need to take to be in compliance with the City by-laws.
- A Final Warning will be distributed by PEOs on Wednesday and staff will begin to block off parking spaces around the park as they are vacated to ensure they are available for equipment and materials that will be needed for the decampment.

We will continue to update you on any new developments with regard to the current GM Order, as well as any other significant activities related to Strathcona Park and the people experiencing homelessness in the park.

Regards,

Donnie

### **Donnie Rosa | GM**

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver | 604.257.8448  
pronouns: she/her they/them

*I acknowledge that we are on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nation, the x̱məθkʷəjəm (Musqueam), s̱kw̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)*



## Order from the General Manager of the Park Board

Pursuant to the Parks Control By-law, the General Manager of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation orders that effective Tuesday, March 30, 2021, as an extension to current restrictions on the west side of Strathcona Park, temporary shelters and structures will also not be permitted in the northeast corner of the park, as outlined in the attached map, to allow the Park Board to remediate and return this area to recreational use and programming for all park users.

The Parks Control By-law states:

11. *No person shall erect, construct or build or cause to be erected, constructed or built in or on any park any tent, building, shelter, pavilion or other construction whatsoever without the permission of the General Manager, except that this provision does not apply to a temporary shelter that complies with the provisions of this by-law.*

11B. *A temporary shelter:*

*(a) must not be erected:*

- i. within 25 metres of a playground or school;*
- ii. in, on or within a:*
  - A. beach, pond, lake or dock;*
  - B. trail, bridge, seawall, roadway or park entrance;*
  - C. natural area;*
  - D. garden or horticultural display area;*
  - E. pool or water park;*
  - F. sports field, sports court, skate park, fitness amenity or golf course;*
  - G. community centre or fieldhouse;*
  - H. bleacher, stage, gazebo, public monument, designated picnic site, picnic shelter or washroom;*
  - I. designated off-leash dog area; or*
  - J. designated special event area for which permission has been given in accordance with this by-law;*

**Temporary shelters are currently not permitted on the west side of Strathcona Park, and all existing tents, temporary shelters, and structures in the northeast corner of the park must be removed by 10:00am on Thursday, April 8, 2021.**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021

**Address/location:** Strathcona Park, 857 Malkin Avenue, Vancouver, BC

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

General Manager  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

**March 30, 2021**

Date



People experiencing homelessness and living in Strathcona Park are encouraged to talk to Outreach Staff who are in the park daily and to accept offers of indoor accommodation being provided by BC Housing. Temporary shelters are currently not permitted on the west side of the park and, by noon on March 31, 2021, all temporary shelters and structures in the northeast corner of the park must be removed.

If you would like information on housing availability or other supports, please contact Carnegie Outreach 604-665-3318 or BC Housing Orange Hall 604-648-4270.