

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
["Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)
["Rosa, Donnie" <Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca)
Date: 1/6/2021 7:39:50 AM
Subject: Strathcona Park encampment - update

Good morning Mayor and Council,

For your information, I am sharing the following update provided to Park Board Commissioners on work that was undertaken in Strathcona Park yesterday and will continue in the coming days and weeks.

We will continue to keep you apprised as these efforts proceed.

Best,
Paul

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ulmer, Christine" <Christine.Ulmer@vancouver.ca>
Date: January 5, 2021 at 5:20:59 PM PST
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: "PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL"
Subject: Strathcona weekly e-briefing - Jan. 5, 2021

\u-257 ?

Good evening Commissioners,

I'm writing to provide you with a brief update of important work that has been completed in Strathcona Park today, as well as to update you on a new communications process that aims to keep you informed of work that is being planned as well as completed as we support the City and BC Housing with their efforts to bring folks indoors and return the park to greater community access.

I will be working closely with Amit Gandha, Director of Parks, and my colleagues in communications at the City of Vancouver and BC Housing to deliver brief weekly email updates to you to improve the flow and immediacy of information to you on behalf of our GM.

As significant work often takes place in the park over the weekend, I'll be updating you by email on Monday afternoons with information and progress reports. Enhanced communication to the Board is a priority for GM Rosa and the rest of the Park Board team so you can expect to receive these weekly updates moving forward.

Of course, if there are significant updates or activities later in the week I will be sure to update you as things develop but want to provide you with a bit more structure so you can anticipate these e-briefings. Further, we will continue to offer in camera briefings on a regular basis.

Today's update will kick off this new approach. Next week's updates will follow the Monday schedule. I hope these updates will prove to be helpful and informative, as always, please feel free to reach out with feedback or questions.

Strathcona Park Update: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021

Today the Park Operations team installed approximately 500 feet of four-foot-high fencing in Strathcona Park (see photo one), reducing the physical footprint of the encampment and relocating tents and structures to more appropriate, dryer ground on the gravel field, which will also afford greater use of the park by the Strathcona community.

The fencing was installed on the north side of the park (Prior Street), running east to west off of Raymur Avenue (see photo two) and includes flow-through gaps to ensure individuals in the park have the ability to move freely while limiting the ability for tents and structures to be erected. This plan was developed in collaboration with our partners as well as VFRS and VPD.

A few tents remain in the north quadrant that is now fenced and outreach work is continuing with those individuals with a goal of relocating them either into the encampment or indoors if available, clearing the northeast quadrant entirely.

Delineating and decreasing the footprint of the encampment has been determined in close conversation with the camp leadership and will provide greater access for Parks staff to continue the removal of debris and garbage, as well as increase park access for the community.

Earlier today Parks staff supported the relocation of 10 recreational vehicles (RVs) and vans along Raymur Avenue in preparation of the installation of additional hygiene and warming support services, which are anticipated to be activated next week. Raymur Avenue is now clear of parked vehicles and barricades are in place to prevent parking (see photo three).

The relocation of the RVs was a joint initiative between Parks, the City, and BC Housing. The site along Raymur Avenue was cleaned today and prepared for the warming tent, shower, and washroom facilities. The hygiene and warming operational supports are being funded by BC Housing; the Park Board is supplying power for the facilities.

Debris removal inside the park continues this week and is a joint initiative between Parks staff and the peer-led group. It is important to note that this work is being done daily and in conjunction with those in the encampment. You may have seen images of piles of garbage in the park that have been circulated on social media and sent via direct email from nearby residents, however, those images do not tell the complete story.

While it may look to some as though there are mounds of garbage, those piles are intentional and have been placed in designated areas in the park by the peer-led workers in order to facilitate their

removal by Parks staff. This process has been undertaken to ensure Parks staff are removing only materials that have been clearly indicated as debris or waste and not individuals' personal belongings.

Next steps in the park include the sanitation of Raymur Avenue in preparation for hygiene and warming supports, as well as continued debris removal.

Sincerely,

Christine



Christine Ulmer, MSc. | Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications
Vancouver Park Board | 2099 Beach Avenue
t. 604-654-0757
christine.ulmer@vancouver.ca





