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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 6/24/2021 8:00:47 AM
Subject: [Upcoming NR: Oppenheimer Park reopening](#)
Attachments: [Oppenheimer Park Phase 1 Reopening Illustration.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

This morning at 9 AM, Park Board will be issuing the below news release regarding the phased reopening of Oppenheimer Park, which I am sharing for your awareness. Please keep this news embargoed until that time.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

News Release
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
June 24, 2021

West side of Oppenheimer Park set to reopen next week

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation will begin reopening Oppenheimer Park in phases, starting with the west side on Monday, June 28.

While fencing will remain around the full perimeter of the park, the entrances on the western portion will be open and accessible to the public 24/7. The eastern side of the park, which includes the fieldhouse, playground and house posts, will remain closed as they undergo further repairs and restoration.

“We know this park is integral to the community, and we are pleased that people will now be able to socialise, play and attend City programming in the western section,” says Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. “Reopening takes much more than restoring grass, trees or structures. It’s important that our staff take the time to meet with community members and park users in a meaningful way to better understand their needs around programming, and other sacred cultural elements like the house posts, totem pole and baseball backstop.”

Park restoration

The park—which was closed in June 2020—has been undergoing significant remediation following the closure of an encampment onsite. By taking a phased approach, staff can continue to work on repairs in the park and seek community feedback, while providing public access to the finished areas.

Based on community input, staff are piloting various furnishings on the west side of the park including:

- Natural log seating for informal gatherings (placed in both sunny and shady spots)
- A shared garden area to be activated by partner organizations Watari and Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- Heavy-duty wood tables for eating and socializing (including accessible options)

The log seating and shared garden will be ready for the reopening on June 28, while the tables will arrive mid-July.

Facilities and programming

While the fieldhouse is closed for repair, staff will temporarily install a washroom trailer and a site office on Dunlevy Avenue to ensure the public and staff have safe access to washrooms and Carnegie Community Centre staff have on-site space to deliver programming.

The Carnegie Community Centre's Oppenheimer Park team will deliver programs and services in the park such as arts and craft, physical wellness activities, music programming, hot drinks, and other forms of check-ins with people.

Throughout the phased reopening of the park, staff will continue to speak with community members, cultural groups and park users to gather feedback on topics ranging from park furnishings to programming, and how best to heal and reopen the remainder of the park.

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Note to editors: See Oppenheimer Park map attached. Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, will be available for media questions at 1:15 p.m. today via webex. To receive a link to participate, please email pb.communications@vancouver.ca.

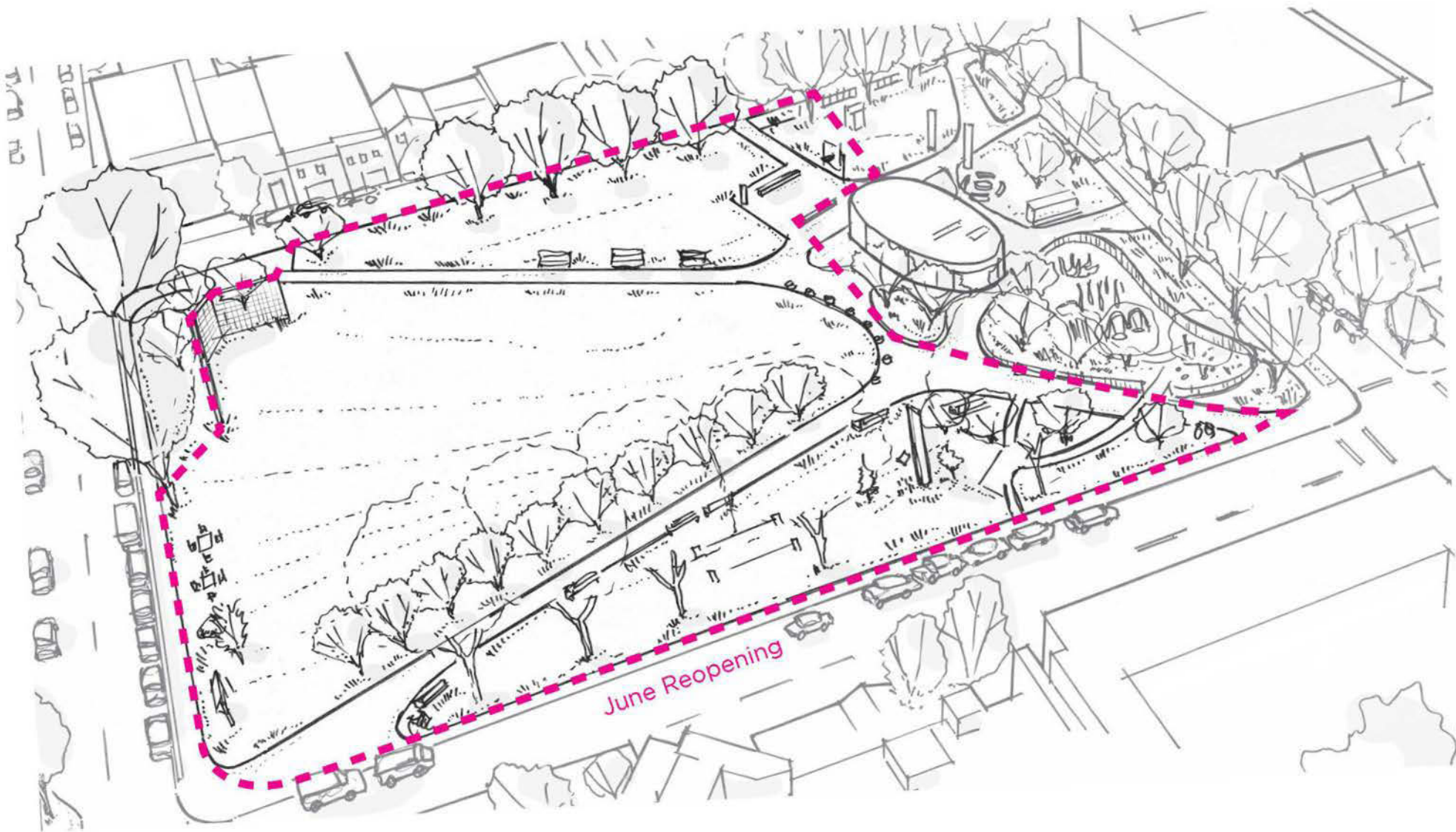
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June Reopening