

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

Date: 11/25/2016 5:25:36 PM

Subject: Memo - Update on Andy Livingstone Park

Attachments: [CMO - Memo to M&C - Andy Livingstone Park Update - DCM.PDF](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached memo from Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager updating you on Andy Livingstone Park.

The memo provides information on:

- Current state of the park
- Actions taken to maintain the safety and usability
- Future maintenance plans

Please reach out to Paul Mochrie directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Sadhu

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Deputy City Manager

MEMORANDUM

November 23, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office

FROM: Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Andy Livingstone Park

Dear Mayor and Council,

As you are aware, there have been significant challenges in recent years related to overnight camping, drug use and garbage at Andy Livingstone Park. The following memo outlines the actions that we are taking to maintain the safety and usability of the park.

Commencing in 2015, the City has undertaken a focused, cross-departmental effort to engage with local residents and park users and to address the concerns raised by those group. Staff from VPD, Parks, Carnegie Outreach and Engineering have been working in concert on this matter.

As the lead agency, Park Board has implemented a number of measures to improve the experience for park users. These actions include the erection of a fenced enclosure at the fieldhouse washrooms to improve overall security, cleanliness, and safety for shower program and park users. The fencing also reduces the risk of fires associated with overnight camping adjacent to the field house. Used syringes also represent an ongoing safety risk in the park; additional needle drop boxes, scheduled sweeps and quick response needle pick-ups have been coordinated with Vancouver Coastal Health to mitigate this concern.

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On an ongoing basis, the park is serviced by daily visits by Rangers as well as a substantial commitment of Parks maintenance resources. On weekdays, there are two staff on site for 4 hours. There are also 2 staff deployed for 2 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition to regular maintenance activities, all hard surfaces and benches in the park were power washed and a major horticulture cleanup was conducted in August to improve sightlines in and around the park. Sanitation has also increased the level of service to Andy Livingstone in terms of providing additional garbage bins and increased frequency of pick-ups.

With regard to camping in and around the park, there is ongoing contact by Carnegie Outreach, Streets division staff and VPD personnel to encourage individuals to access alternate housing or shelter arrangements. Unfortunately, a number of the individuals who frequently stay in the area are struggling with mental health and addiction challenges that impair their ability to access and maintain housing.

Since early 2015, VPD has also taken steps to increase the police presence in the park. As part of that effort, the Chinatown Community Policing Centre partnered with the False Creek Residents Association in March, 2015 to host a public event in the park as an opportunity for engagement with the neighbourhood regarding safety concerns.

Complementing the efforts of VPD and Park Rangers to address security concerns, Securigard was contracted to provide overnight foot patrols in the park from June through the end of October. While those patrols have been discontinued over the winter months, a satellite Ranger station will be established in the Andy Livingstone fieldhouse commencing in January 2017 which will further enhance the Park Board presence and oversight of the park

Although there has been notable progress on a number of the issues identified by residents and park users, the maintenance of Andy Livingstone Park as a safe and usable space represents an ongoing challenge at this time. Staff maintain ongoing communication with the neighbourhood and will continue our efforts to manage these pressures in a sensitive and effective manner.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Mochrie', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Paul Mochrie
Deputy City Manager

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