

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 1/6/2024 12:42:50 PM
Subject: CRAB Park Update
Attachments: 23-040-crab park guidelines for shelter 48x32.pdf

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Please find below an update on work at CRAB Park related to the encampment.

Park Rangers from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation continue to attend CRAB Park daily to engage with people without housing who are sheltering in the park, both within an area specifically designated for daytime sheltering by those without housing ("daytime area") and in other areas of the park where people without housing are able to shelter overnight but need to comply with bringing down their structures during the day.

This work involves general clean-up and debris removal, taking down structures as per the Park Control By-Law, and discussion of safety concerns related to certain types of structures and types of materials. Park Rangers are also regularly accompanied by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services staff who discuss fire safety with people sheltering in the daytime area.

While in the designated daytime area temporary structures are permitted to stay up during the day, these structures do need to meet the requirements of temporary structures as outlined in the Park Control By-Law and related operational safety guidelines. The By-Law requirements set forth basic health and safety requirements for temporary shelters to protect human life, maintain the park environment, enable park management, and allow for emergency response to access if necessary. Additional operational guidelines provide further safety requirements related to structures in the designated daytime area. Both the By-law requirements and operational guidelines have been discussed with people in the daytime area numerous times so everyone in the area is aware of these requirements.

Of the estimated 80 structures in the daytime area, approximately 20 are currently non-compliant with the requirements and guidelines. In early December, Park Board staff advised people sheltering in the daytime area of the need to bring non-compliant structures into compliance with the requirements and guidelines for safety reasons, providing a deadline of January 7, 2024. This allowed a full month for people to bring their structures into compliance voluntarily. Park Board staff have now advised people in the daytime area of some additional time before general clean-up will start. To be clear, we are not asking people to leave, however we are requiring people who are staying in the area to comply with the By-law requirements and operational guidelines for safety reasons.

The City of Vancouver's Homelessness Outreach team continues to attend CRAB Park to offer assistance and support to those sheltering in the park, including making offers of shelter. The City's partners will continue to connect with those sheltering in Crab Park to offer support services and access to shelter spaces as they become available.

The Park Control By-law provisions for temporary shelters can be found here: <https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/files/BYLAW-ParksControlBylawTemporaryShelters-20200915.pdf>. The operational guidelines for the daytime area are attached for information.

If you have any further questions, please email me directly and I will respond through the weekly Q&A.

Sincerely,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager

Pronouns: she/her

Assistant: Stacey Crawford

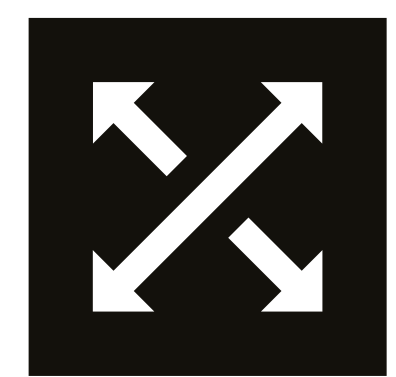
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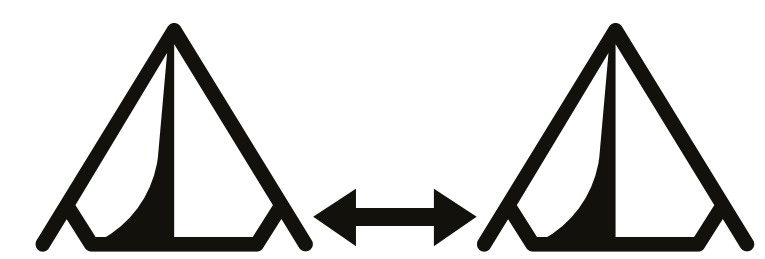
Pronouns: she/her

The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəγ̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and ƛ̓əʔwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Guidelines for Shelters and Fire Safety at CRAB Park



3 meter x 3 meter areas only



1 meter minimum between tents



Temporary structures shall not be made from construction materials (eg: wood, pallets, metal, fencing, etc)



No fires (unless ceremonial with a permit), propane or open flames



Shelter means a tent or temporary structure that provides shelter to a person experiencing homelessness and that is capable of being dismantled and moved