

From: "Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 1/31/2025 3:40:18 PM
Subject: Update: Costs of CRAB Park Encampment

Hello Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide an update on the total costs for both City and Park Board departments to support the GM Temporary Designated Area in CRAB Park from 2021 through to its closure in 2024. Please note that this is also information that has previously been requested by Global News and so we plan to share this information with Global media by end of day today.

Summary:

- Total costs for CRAB Park from 2021 to November 7, 2024 (date of Designated Area closure) were \$3 million.
 - Total costs accrued in 2024 were approximately \$1.6 million.
- These costs include sanitation and related engineering services, maintenance and repairs by park operations staff, staffing costs including Park Rangers, VPD, VFRS and Homelessness Services Outreach, and a low estimate of management oversight time.
- For your awareness, these costs do not include costs associated with responses to legal challenges and correspondence, communications staff to support public communications.

Should Council receive requests from the public about CRAB Park, or the City's response to homelessness, here are a few proposed key messages for your consideration:

- The Temporary Designated Area at CRAB Park was established in April 2022 through a General Manager's order to provide temporary daytime sheltering to people who were camping on the slopes at the time. From the beginning, the goal was always for the space to be temporary and for it to return to general park use.
- The Park Board closed the Temporary Designated Area at CRAB Park to daytime sheltering use on Nov. 7, 2024, as part of a planned return of that area of the park to general community use.
- CRAB Park serves approximately 6,000 people within a 10-minute walk, with very few green spaces nearby—the demand for this vital green space for resident well-being is very high. It's one of the densest neighborhoods in Vancouver (10,000+ people per square km).
- The City of Vancouver's response to homelessness entails ongoing, intensive work with senior government to create affordable housing, activate emergency shelters, and provide access to washrooms, showers, low-cost meals, and indoor spaces as feasible, and to advocate for improvements in mental health services and supports.

Please also feel free to refer any further media inquiries that might arise from the Global reporting to media@vancouver.ca, so we can triage responses internally and with partners.

Thank you,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager

City of Vancouver

E-mail: sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: she/her

Assistant: Laura Holvor

Phone: 604.829.9602

E-mail: laura.holvor@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: she/her

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