

## Strathcona Park Neighbours: Update six

March 25, 2021

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### Direction and overall plans

- The City, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and BC Housing continue to take an incremental approach to ending the encampment in Strathcona Park and will continue to move people from the park as more indoor spaces become available.
- We are currently finalizing plans for the next stage of this work and anticipate moving everyone out of the encampment and into accommodation by the end of April.
- The City and BC Housing are also collaborating on opening all of the spaces needed to make the decampment possible, including two 60 bed shelters at 875 Terminal and 15-27 West Hastings which are currently undergoing renovations.

### Park access

- Remediation of the west side of the park is nearing completion and operation crews expect to be finished by the end of this week or early next week
- Staff from the City and the Park Board continue to work together to finalize a plan for managing space in the northeast corner of the park.
- The park is open and accessible while the remediation work is completed.

### Update on RVs

- The City's Parking Enforcement team is continuing their work to manage the RVs parked in the vicinity of Strathcona Park and ensure that the equipment needed for the forthcoming decampment is not impeded.
- Following the delivery of a General Notice last week, Parking Enforcement Officers are now issuing warning tickets to all vehicles that are in contravention of relevant bylaws and have spoken to many of the vehicle owner/occupants directly. The City's Homelessness Outreach Team is also working with RV owners to discuss options and supports related to housing or relocation of their vehicles to more appropriate locations.
- Vehicle owners will be given ample notice to engage with the City's Outreach Team and/or make necessary repairs to their vehicle.
- The enforcement of these by-laws in the Strathcona area is part of a plan to address similar by-law offences across the city.

### Hearing from you

- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff have started a series of conversations in the Strathcona neighbourhood to learn how activations, stewardship and planning can support welcoming people back to the park, healing and reimagining this place. Developing an early vision that includes community values will inform not only short-term park activations, but can also support potential future planning processes. If you would like to be part of these community conversations, please email [strathconapark@vancouver.ca](mailto:strathconapark@vancouver.ca)



## Questions arising from the community

- **People have been in RVs around the park for longer than the encampment has been in place. Are they being offered housing too?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, housing crisis, and winter season, City staff have not wanted to displace people and have instead been focusing on working with RV residents to keep the areas around their vehicles clean and free of debris. Staff are currently focused on managing RVs in two main areas, including around Strathcona Park where on-street spaces currently occupied by RVs are required for forthcoming decampment logistics (movers, sanitation trucks, etc.).

As the winter season is coming to a close, Parking Enforcement is preparing an outreach program to issue warning letters to the RV owners in order to advise them of the parking violations they are in. Further enforcement is planned for the Slocan location this spring. In the Strathcona area, staff are taking a six-week phased approach, with support from City Homelessness Services, to allow RV owners time to come into compliance.

The City, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and BC Housing remain committed to updating you regularly regarding our work in the park. Prior to our next update, if you have any questions, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please email [homelessness@vancouver.ca](mailto:homelessness@vancouver.ca).

