

CRAB PARK

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is committed to maintaining as safe and as clean an environment as is feasible for those sheltering in the Daytime Area in CRAB Park.

Park Rangers will continue to seek compliance with the following Park Control By-law:

Park Control By-law (Section 11)

No person shall erect, construct or build or cause to be erected, constructed or built in or on any park any tent, building, shelter, pavilion or other construction whatsoever without the permission of the General Manager, except that this provision does not apply to a temporary shelter that complies with the provisions of this by-law.

Compliance includes compliance with the By-law and all related operational and safety guidelines. The By-law and guidelines apply to structures set up for overnight sheltering and to structures in the Daytime Area.

Upcoming Cleanup

Since December 2023, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has been planning work to bring the structures in the Daytime Area into compliance with Park Control By-law requirements and the safety guidelines.

In January during an attempt to clean up the park, staff encountered significant amounts of debris, including garbage, propane tanks, rats, needles, and feces that have accumulated in and around the Daytime Area. These conditions are neither safe nor hygienic for people sheltering in the park or for staff.

Park Board and City staff are working through a planning process to carry out the cleanup safely using equipment to do the cleaning work and bring the structures into compliance at the same time. This means that the Daytime Area cannot be occupied while the cleanup work is underway.

In order to ensure your safety during the cleanup, this is what is being considered:

- Creation of a Temporary Daytime Sheltering Area where people sheltering in the park can relocate. If a new tent is required, one would be provided.
- If you have belongings that would not fit in the Temporary Area, we will discuss temporary storage options with you for those items that are appropriate for storage.
- Once everyone moves into a Temporary Area, we would put up fencing around the General Manager's Daytime Area and perform site cleanup and repair over a one-week period.
- Once the area is safe and clean, only those who have been sheltering in the Daytime Area would be permitted to move back in.



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The cleanup will result in a safer and cleaner Daytime Area in CRAB Park and we hope people sheltering will work with us to keep it in this condition moving forward.

This cleanup would not be a decampment. It is in response to significant health, safety and fire concerns as well as unsafe structures in the General Manager's Daytime Area of CRAB Park.

The City of Vancouver's Homelessness Services Outreach Team continues to connect with people sheltering outdoors, supporting them to access income, support services and housing and shelter spaces as they become available. They also continue to work with BC Housing to try to identify housing and shelter options.

We have already received helpful feedback on the proposed cleanup and are open to hearing your ideas on how to make this proposed process easier for you. We may not be able to accommodate all your suggestions, but we will review each one carefully. Please provide feedback by Thursday, February 29.

There are several ways you can share feedback:

- Park Rangers visit CRAB Park three times per day. You can share your ideas with them when you see them.
- You can call 311 at any time and provide feedback to the call taker – the feedback will get to us.
- Management from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the City of Vancouver are onsite Thursdays at 1 pm. We can discuss any feedback next Thursday, February 29 when we are back onsite.

We know this is a lot of work and will do our best to ensure smooth transitions for those sheltering in the park.

Your safety and the safety of our staff, those in the community, and the public is our priority, and we are committed to working with the community to address issues that impact health and safety.

The Thursday, February 29 meeting at 1:00 pm will be held under the gazebo.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Park Rangers or call 311 and someone will get back to you shortly.