

Responsible Consumption of Alcohol in Parks Pilot Program Review

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Feb 13, 2024



Agenda

- Background
- Pilot Program Overview
- Community Engagement Results
- Key Findings
- Proposed Next steps
- Feedback

Project Background



Program Overview

- Provincial legislation requires local government bylaw
- Pilot program from June – October 2023
- Limited to 1 park per quadrant
- Bylaw outlines key requirements for open consumption of alcohol:
 - Bylaw must identify parks, hours, specific consumption allowed area(s)
 - Requires signage to be placed in permitted areas
 - No drinking within 10 m of programmed amenities (playgrounds, fields, spray parks, pools etc.)

Park Locations

- Size & layout of space to reduce interference with other activities;
- Accessibility & proximity to public transportation;
- Amenities such as washrooms, seating & waste disposals; and
- Safety such as lighting & visibility



Community Engagement Results

- 45 survey respondents
- All Burnaby residents
- 20% of respondents did not visit a pilot park
- Most respondents consumed or saw consumption during visit
- Of respondents that live beside a park: Edmonds highest response
- Central Park most visited by respondents
- Primarily 35-44 years most responses
- 30% of respondents had no serious concerns

Other Community Feedback

- Zero customer comment cards from recreation facilities
- 2 customer service calls received
- Currently calls are coming in to PRC administration asking if drinking is allowed in parks

Municipal Comparison

Municipality	No. of Parks	Areas / m restrictions	Pilot or Permanent Program
Vancouver	31 parks 16 seasonal/beaches	Restrictions (m)	Permanent Pilot - beaches
Coquitlam	50+ parks	Restrictions (m)	Permanent
Port Moody	6 parks		Pilot
Port Coquitlam	10 parks		Permanent
West Vancouver	4 parks	Designated areas	Permanent
North Vancouver	14 parks	Restrictions	Permanent
Langley (City)	3 parks (Fri-Sun only)	Designated areas	Pilot
Delta	22 parks	Designated areas	Permanent
Richmond	3 parks	Designated areas	Pilot

Key Findings

- Survey, community feedback and overall pilot results consistent with other municipalities' pilots
- Lack of overall engagement and feedback likely indicates program is not a significant concern for community members
- Feedback regarding confusion where drinking was allowed and difficulty maintaining 10m restriction from programmed amenities (playgrounds, fields etc.)

Proposed Options

1. Status quo – 4 piloted parks
2. Expand but limit to parks in highly visible areas and walking distance to transit
3. All parks with restrictions on programmable areas/amenities

Next Steps

- Obtain feedback and input from Committee
- Council report regarding pilot results and recommendations for future program
- Draft new bylaw with following updates:
 - Remove 10m restrictions and replace with prohibiting drinking in programmed areas (fields, playgrounds etc.)
 - Expand program to all City parks not located in a shared school site
 - Year-round program



Committee Feedback