

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE  
**SUBJECT:** **BUDGET EFFICIENCIES: BARNET MARINE PARK PARKING**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek Council approval for delivering the Barnet Marine Park parking program with four-hour time limits and with the support of a third-party contract service provider.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** staff be directed to continue the seasonal four-hour parking program and continue delivering parking management services in partnership with third-party service provider at Barnet Marine Park, as outlined in the report titled “Budget Efficiencies: Barnet Marine Park Parking” dated January 13, 2026.

## 1.0 POLICY SECTION

This report supports the following Council-adopted policies, plans and strategies: City’s Equity Policy (2020), Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), Social Sustainability Strategy (2016), Burnaby Transportation Plan (2021), Healthy Community Policy (1991), the Benefits Based Approach (2023) and the Interim Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Strategy Framework (2024).

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

Barnet Marine Park faces significant parking demand during peak summer periods, with over one thousand vehicles competing for 466 available parking stalls during busy days. This supply/demand imbalance has led to vehicle queuing along Barnet Highway, impacting accessibility, safety, and the overall visitor experience.

To address these challenges, the City has considered options, including pay parking, and introduced experimental pilot programs to help address the challenges. After three years of experience and evaluation, this report presents recommendations for a long-term approach to parking management at Barnet Marine Park.

### 2.1 Historical Directions

December 05, 2023: The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, supported development of a free, reservable parking program at Barnet Marine Park.

March 25, 2024: Council endorsed phasing in parking limitations and a reservation system, including updates to relevant Bylaws.

March 25, 2025: Council approved staff’s recommendation to defer the reservation system in favour of implementing time limited parking and engaging a third-party traffic management service provider.

**2.2 Historical Staff Actions**

2024: Staff implemented a four-hour parking time limit at the east lot (May 01 - September 30), with Parks Operations staff managing traffic.

2025: The four-hour limit was extended to the west lot and traffic management was enhanced through a third-party provider.

2025: Staff piloted digital parking availability signage; however, reliability with solar power limited effectiveness. Staff will continue to explore options.

**3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

Evaluation of the Barnet Marine Park parking management program suggests that the four-hour parking time limit has been effective and suggests that current measures are appropriate for existing levels of use.

**3.1 Visitor Data**

Visitor activity remained consistent from 2023 to 2025 with only minor year over year variations. (see Attachment 1).

Year	Total Visitors (May 1 – Sept 30)
2023	244,483
2024	246,045
2025	254,095

Analysis indicates the four-hour parking limit meets most visitors’ needs and available spaces are sufficient. (see Attachment 2).

Metric	Value	Description
Average visit duration	56 minutes	Most visits are under the four-hour limit
Non-Burnaby residents	78%	Most visitors are from outside Burnaby
Days >1000 visitors	119 days	Moderate demand days
Days >2000 visitors	58 days	High demand days
Days >3000 visitors	28 days	Peak demand days

**3.2 Cost Analysis**

PRC costs to manage parking in 2025 were \$197,000 lower than in 2024, primarily due to reduced staff overtime.

Item	2024	2025
Parks operations staff	\$227,000	\$0
Third party traffic management	\$121,000	\$172,000
Feasibility study	\$6,000	\$0
Operating works (signage & markings)	\$15,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$369,000</b>	<b>\$172,000</b>

By law enforcement costs increased by \$11,000 in 2025 due to greater staff presence.

Item	2024	2025
Costs	(\$43,000)	(\$104,000)
Recovery from tickets	\$22,000	\$72,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$21,000)</b>	<b>(\$32,000)</b>

Low visitation at non-peak times limits the opportunity for a viable pay parking business model and risks discouraging visitors to the park.

Based on three years of data and continuous improvements, the Barnet Marine Park parking management program has balanced visitor demand, accessibility, and cost effectiveness. Continued delivery of the four-hour time limit, supported by third-party traffic management and City bylaw services, is recommended to maintain safe and equitable public access.

**4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A focused communications approach will support the continuation of the four-hour parking program. Public information will be provided through on-site signage and the City’s digital platforms to ensure visitors are aware of parking regulations, peak-season timing, and available transportation options, including transit, cycling, and car-sharing.

As part of the City’s commitment to reconciliation and shared stewardship, staff will engage host Nations — including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh), and kʷikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem) Peoples — regarding the continued operation of parking management measures at Barnet Marine Park. Engagement will focus on maintaining Indigenous access, identifying any concerns, and exploring appropriate accommodations consistent with co-management responsibilities and cultural access rights.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. PRC costs for the recommended program are included in the department's annual operating budget. Should council direct staff to explore alternative parking models, expected costs will be assessed and funding requests will bring forward future financial planning processes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Visitor Activity Summary

Attachment 2: Visitor Flow Report

## **REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was jointly prepared by Andre Kolber, Manager Parks Operations, John Quach, Supervisor Parks Plant Maintenance, and reviewed by Brad Domaas, Director Parks.