

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL OUTDOOR EVENTS 2026**
PURPOSE: To seek authorization required under the Burnaby Noise or Sound Abatement Bylaw for outdoor events at specific locations.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT approval be given for up to 84 events at Deer Lake Park, Central Park and Swangard Stadium between March 15, 2026, and November 1, 2026, as outlined in the report titled “Authorization for Special Outdoor Events 2026, dated February 24, 2026.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The recommendation within this report aligns with the Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), Burnaby Economic Development Strategy (2007), Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), the Benefits Based Approach (2024), Unsolicited Partnerships Proposal Policy (2025) and the Interim Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Strategy Framework (2024) supporting diverse, accessible experiences that enhance vibrancy within Burnaby and the City’s purpose “to create the city that we all want to live in and be in.”

2.0 BACKGROUND

Outdoor parks and facilities continue to serve as important venues for festivals, concerts and special events, specifically Deer Lake Park Festival Lawn, Swangard Stadium and Central Park (Patterson & Central Blvd.). The community’s interest and appetite for gatherings and special events have grown exponentially and these programs add to the vibrancy of public spaces and places in Burnaby.

The Burnaby Noise or Sound Abatement Bylaw 1979, Bylaw No. 7332, Section 16B requires Council authorization for special events using amplified sound at these locations.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Up to 84 special events with amplified sound will take place at Deer Lake Park Festival Lawn, Central Park, and Swangard Stadium in 2026. This number is higher than the previous year by approximately 45%. Events include Symphony in the Park, Opera in

the Park, the Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival and up to eight ticketed concerts hosted by external organizers and/or community groups at the Deer Lake Festival Lawn location. StreetFest on Central and the Central Spark Halloween celebration will be held at Central Park and Central Boulevard. Swangard Stadium will host up to 66 festivals and sporting events including the Rise/Whitecaps/Rovers professional soccer matches, Pinoy Festival, Canada Rocks organized by CannaFest and Pumpkins after Dark. All activities can operate up to 11:00 pm.

Event organizers are required to ensure that amplified sound levels do not exceed an average decibel limit of 98 dbA in accordance with industry standards for live events.

The recommendation and procedures align with past practice and within the provisions of the relevant municipal bylaw (Burnaby Noise and Sound Abatement Bylaw 1979), specifically:

16B (1) The provisions of this Bylaw do not apply to concerts, festivals, sporting events, or other special events held in or at Deer Lake Park or Swangard Stadium that would otherwise contravene any of the provisions of this Bylaw if such events have been authorized by Council (BYLAW NO. 12066);

(2) In authorizing the holding of events to which subsection (1) applies, Council may authorize the events:

- (a) generally, by authorizing a maximum number of those events that may be held at either or both of Deer Lake Park and Swangard Stadium in a particular calendar year;
- (b) specifically, by the location, date, and description of the event.

Staff will continue to manage the venue locations professionally to ensure all events and festivals are well organized and meet standards.

The recommendations contained within this report reflect the City’s standard practice for regulation of amplified sound. As the number and scale of events in Burnaby has grown, the City works to sustain vibrancy, opportunities for community building and expanded public space, and the strong quality of life residents enjoy. In alignment with best practices across the region and country, staff will continue to assess regulations for amplified sound and live events, as new or enhanced event spaces are developed to serve residents.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The public and neighbourhood areas will be advised through marketing plans. The City produced signature special events will include robust outreach strategy for implementation.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

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

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Yvonne Chui, Manager Arts Services and reviewed by Emmaline Hill, Director Culture.