

FAQs: Permitted Uses in Coquitlam Parks

What activities are permitted and not permitted in Coquitlam parks?

Coquitlam parks are governed by the Parks and Community Facilities Bylaw. Permitted activities include:

- Informal recreational or social activities by the public;
- Publicly-sponsored programs run by the City, such as fitness classes or day camps;
- Community festivals, events and charitable fundraising activities that have received prior approval and pay the required fees; and
- Organized sports using sports fields, courts, track & field facilities, etc.

Without prior approval or a Facility Use Licence, the bylaw prohibits:

- Any activities that provide a private business with a financial or reputational benefit, whether or not money changes hands;
- Private events and sponsored activities;
- Advertising, signage or promotions (e.g. posters); and
- Activities that claim exclusive use of park space or disrupt the public's enjoyment of the park.

Exceptions include:

- Partnerships with businesses approved by the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture to deliver City programs or support a community event.

Why are some businesses permitted to operate in parks while others are not?

As noted above, there are very few instances in which businesses are permitted to operate in parks. The City does not proactively monitor parks to enforce the Parks and Community Facilities Bylaw, but will respond to complaints about business operations in parks. Complaints are typically generated by the appearance of promotional signage or activities that disrupt others' enjoyment of the park.

Can businesses operate at a park if they provide a free service?

While the provision of a free service is commendable, it still provides businesses with a reputational benefit, which is not permitted by the bylaw.

Can I apply for a Facility Use Licence to operate my business in the park?

Facility Use Licences are intended to be provided for the public looking to book a picnic shelter or an area for a special event. We are not currently issuing Facility Use Licences due to COVID-19. However, businesses would not be granted a Facility Use Licence to operate in parks as that is not permitted under the Bylaw.

Why is the City permitted to run its programs at parks and sports fields?

City programs are permitted in parks and sports fields because they are publicly-sponsored activities that generate a public benefit. For example, revenues from these programs fund other City services for the community.

What options do businesses have if they can't operate or have reduced capacity in their place of business?

Businesses seeking additional space to provide services are encouraged to look into Coquitlam's Temporary Outdoor Business Spaces program, an expedited process that gives businesses access to adjacent private or public property for restaurant seating, display and sales space, checkout areas or other services. Details are available at www.coquitlam.ca/patios.