

Corporate Policy

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Section:	Engineering, Operations, and Public Works	11
Sub-Section:	Environmental Management	5280
Title:	Decorating in Parks and Natural Areas	2023-01

Related Policies

Number	Title
BL2961-C	Littering and Dumping Prohibition Bylaw
BL3321	Parks and Community Facilities Rules and Regulations Bylaw
BL2961-C	Tree Protection Bylaw

Approvals

Approval Date: July 11, 2023	Resolution #: <u>RC23/161 (Consent)</u>
Amended:	Resolution #:
Amended:	Resolution #:
Amended:	Resolution #:

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Decorating in Parks and Natural Areas

Policy

It is the policy of the City of Port Moody to protect natural areas within City Parks and on other City Lands from Refuse or Chattels, including Seasonal Décor, that may otherwise impact wildlife and wildlife habitats, ecosystem features, trees and vegetation, and other natural assets.

Definitions

“City” means the City of Port Moody.

“Chattel” means a personal possession or object.

“Designated Decorating Space” means a specified area in City Parks or on City Lands that the City has explicitly allocated for the temporary display of Seasonal Décor for a predetermined amount of time, in accordance with the Terms of this Policy, and, if applicable, Supplementary Guidelines.

“Natural Area” means any forest, shrubland, wetland, grassland, riparian zone, rocky outcrop, stream, beach, estuary, intertidal or subtidal zone, or other naturalized ecosystem area designated as a City Park or on City Lands, that provides ecosystem services, wildlife habitat (e.g., food source, water source, shelter source, rearing area), or contains natural assets.

“Park” means and includes every public park, open space, trail, playground, urban forest (including all driveways, roadways, paths, and lanes within a public park, playground, or urban forest), beach, bathing beach, boulevard, picnic area, picnic shelter, water playground, marina, and all other community recreational land owned or controlled by the City that is intended for athletic, social, cultural, or recreational use by members of the public; and any real property acquired and held by the City and dedicated and reserved by it for the use, recreation, or enjoyment of the public; and any land which the City owns or controls by means of a lease, licence, or other legal instrument, within the jurisdiction of the City.

“Prohibited Material” means an item, collection of items, or substance that is not permitted in a Designated Decorating Space, as defined under the Terms of this Policy or in applicable Supplementary Guidelines.

“Refuse” means all debris, garbage, food and food remains, glass, metal, and Seasonal Décor or accumulation of waste or discarded materials or things of any kind or nature whatsoever.

“Seasonal Décor” means materials, objects, ornaments, or art installed outdoors and adorning any tree, shrub, natural feature, structure, or fence, with or without cultural or religious value or symbolism, with the intention of celebrating or acknowledging a special event or seasonal holiday.

“Supplementary Guidelines” means additional or conditional restrictions or considerations for Designated Decorating Spaces, as determined by City staff, further to the Terms of this Policy. Supplementary Guidelines may vary depending on the location and scale of the Designated Decorating Space and are subject to change by City staff.

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Procedures

1. At the discretion of the General Manager of Community Services, the City may delineate areas within City Parks or on City Lands, known as a Designated Decorating Space, where the temporary or seasonal installation of Seasonal Décor by the public is permitted for a predetermined period of time, per the Terms listed in this Policy and Supplementary Guidelines, if applicable.
2. Terms of a Designated Decorating Space, including Supplementary Guidelines, if applicable, will be made available to the public on the City's website, and will be posted at any Designated Decorating Space.
3. Any Seasonal Décor within a Designated Decorating Space that violates any Terms or Supplementary Guidelines, may be removed by City staff. Any Seasonal Décor installed within a Designated Decorating Space is done so at the Seasonal Décor owner's expense, and the City is not responsible for any damage to, or theft of, such materials.
4. Any Seasonal Décor installed outside the boundaries of a Designated Decorating Space, or any Seasonal Décor that contains prohibited materials per the Terms of this Policy or applicable Supplementary Guidelines, may be in contravention of section 3(a) of the Littering and Dumping Prohibition Bylaw, sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the Parks and Community Facilities Rules and Regulations Bylaw, and/or section 6.7(g) of the Tree Protection Bylaw, and may be subject to confiscation and enforcement.

Terms

Any person installing Seasonal Décor within a Designated Decorating Space must abide by the following Terms:

1. A reasonable degree of respect must be given to decorations belonging to others. The City is not responsible for loss, relocation, or theft of items left in Designated Decorating Spaces.
2. Seasonal Décor materials must not include hate speech or hate symbolism of any kind, including profanity, lewd imagery, or other offensive remarks.
3. All Seasonal Décor materials installed are to be collected by their original owners by the end of the last full week of February, or by the date stipulated in the applicable Supplementary Guidelines. Any materials left unclaimed will be removed and disposed of or donated by the City and will not be held for later collection by the owners. Prohibited materials include:
 - Glass (including glass bulbs or ornaments) and items with sharp or hazardous edges.
 - Candles and lanterns containing a lit flame.
 - Styrofoam, glitter, plastic confetti, mesh/netting, and tinsel.
 - Edible materials, including seeds, nuts, dog treats, and wrapped/unwrapped candy.
 - Artificial snow (including plastic fragments or fibrous materials).
 - Latex or helium balloons.

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4. Any trees, shrubs, or other natural vegetation within a Designated Decorating Space that has been deemed either suitable or unsuitable for Seasonal Décor installation will be clearly identified or marked as guidance for the public and to ensure protection of sensitive natural assets. Installation of Seasonal Décor on trees or vegetation identified or marked as unsuitable may be in contravention of the Tree Protection Bylaw.

Monitoring/Authority

This policy shall be implemented and monitored by the Community Services Department. Changes to this policy require approval from Council.