

Hastings Park Conservancy
Post-Fair ParkWatch in Hastings Park
October 28, 2008

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Could anyone imagine this in Stanley Park or QE Park???

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 28, 2008
ParkWatch Observers: Armin Strohschein & Georgina Nicholson
Weather Conditions: Sunny and warm, a good weather day

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Area	Observations / Remarks
<p>Sanctuary Structures</p>	 <p>Crosswalk still needed at west entrance of Sanctuary. Cars often speed past crossing at excessive speeds without enforcement from PNE security.</p>
	 <p>Fence post has been hit by vehicle and is leaning over. Needs to be fixed by PNE maintenance.</p>
	 <p>Graffiti on east bridge pillars and south retaining wall parallel to Hastings Street.</p>
	 

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Electrical cord in trees at north end of Sanctuary. Left over from PNE???

Wildlife

Few birds observed or heard during visit.

- Mallard ducks 30

Vegetation

Morning glory still has strong foothold in Sanctuary considering it is late October.

Community participation in Hastings Park through ParkPartner would greatly improve maintenance but community continues to be denied by city and PNE.



Lovely white berries that wildlife will eat during the winter.



Just south of floating bridge there has been some clearing of weeds and planting of salal.

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Pond

Water levels in south pond higher than expected. Small, north pond almost empty and waterfall has not been working for over a year. When is **PNE** going to fix problem since they have the power and responsibility to maintain Hastings Park?



Closer look at above photo shows yet another unsecured garbage can thrown into pond.

Green scum visible on water.

Faint putrid odor detected. Strong odor reported some days before by schoolteacher taking children for nature walk in Sanctuary.

Gravel needed to cover black landscaping material lining water route.



Electrical box located between Italian Garden and Sanctuary dented, needs repair.

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Italian Garden

Structures



Lower portions of fountain green with slim, needs power washing. Water works mostly running well except for sculpture to right where no water was running from mouth.

Graffiti on bench in allee and column in playground.



Blue paint spilled on pavers during the PNE still not removed by PNE maintenance.



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Is poor cow ever going to get ears again?

Would the children or grandchildren of PNE board members like to use these amenities when playing in the adjacent playground?



Vegetation



At least 7 trees missing from allee. When is PNE going to replace dead and/or removed trees?
Area clear of leaves.
Lavender smells fragrant.



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Nice ornamental grasses planted in bed, right above, that was previously empty, left above. (Hard to see due to autumn leaves in bed.)



Weeds and wires in a garden bed.

Park Activities Triumph Street at Renfrew Street natural entrance to Italian Garden. Need for an enhanced entrance at this site obvious. Crosswalk across Renfrew needed.



Momiji Garden

Structure

No obvious park link between Sanctuary and Momiji Garden; should be to be more inviting.



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Rotting bench planks need replacement.

Large amount of green graffiti on gazebo.



Vegetation



Looks better than other greened parts of Hastings Park but still in need of better maintenance and weeding.

Autumn colours beautiful.



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Other Parts of Hastings Park

Maybe a 100 patrons in the 600 slots casino. Marginally more patrons in televised horse race area. The November 5th opening of the casino in Burnaby likely to thin numbers even further.

Not able to go to racetrack in field and walk around boardwalk. No obvious entrance to boardwalk. Hope this "green area" is not counted as part of "green park", because it isn't.

Metal grates around trees in front of grandstand look nice, and expensive. Recent landscaping around grandstand and parking looks good. Too bad that the same amount of time, effort and money isn't spent in existing and potential green areas of Hastings Park. In the last 10 years there have been no "green" capital improvements at all. How long is Hastings Sunrise and east Vancouver going to have to wait?

Even though entrance 7, at the foot of Eton Street, is touted as an unofficial entrance/exit by city staff, today the gate was open with vehicles observed entering and exiting parking lot.



Entrance 6 is clearly in opposition to the operating agreement which specifically instructs casino to advertise **GATE 9** and to close gate 5,6, & 7 to car traffic (with exception of Giants games).

And to end as started, **could anyone imagine a similar sign in Stanley Park or QE Park?**
