

UNA Guidelines for Public Park Usage

(Updated: June 2026)

1. Purpose

The parks managed by the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) are intended to be safe, inviting, and well-maintained public spaces for everyone to enjoy. These guidelines outline expected behavior to help ensure visitor safety, protect park amenities, and support the wellbeing of the surrounding community.

2. Scope

These guidelines apply to everyone using UNA-operated parks, including residents, visitors, children, guests, contractors, and organized groups. By entering or remaining in a UNA park, individuals are expected to follow these guidelines and respect shared community spaces.

3. General Conduct

All park visitors are expected to behave respectfully and responsibly. Visitors should be considerate of others and avoid behaviour that is discriminatory, disruptive, unsafe, or incompatible with the shared use of public spaces.

4. Hours of Operation

UNA parks are open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., in line with the *UNA Noise Bylaw* and community standards for safe and respectful park use. Activities outside these hours are not permitted unless specifically authorized by the UNA. Parks may occasionally close temporarily for maintenance, repairs, safety, or operational reasons, with notice provided where possible.

5. Prohibited Activities

To help keep parks safe and enjoyable for everyone, the following activities are **not permitted** in UNA parks:

- Smoking, vaping, alcohol consumption, drug use, and overnight camping
- Littering, illegal dumping, or leaving waste outside designated receptacles
- Damaging, removing, or interfering with park property, including trees, landscaping, benches, signs, and playground equipment
- Using audio devices, musical instruments, or amplification equipment in a way that creates excessive noise or disturbs others
- Operating a remote-control aircraft, including drones
- Swimming or bathing in fountains, ponds, or other water features except at the Wesbrook Community Centre Splash Pad
- Open fires, fireworks, flames, or barbecues unless expressly authorized by the UNA

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6. Pets and Animals

Pets must remain on a leash at all times unless otherwise indicated by signage or park rules, such as in designated dog park areas. Pet owners or handlers are responsible for promptly cleaning up waste and ensuring their animals do not create disturbances, safety concerns, or damage to park property.

7. Pedestrian Priority Areas

UNA parks are designed as pedestrian priority zones. Personal mobility vehicles, including electric scooters, unicycles, and similar devices, should be operated at low speeds and in a manner that prioritizes pedestrian safety. To help ensure the safety of children and families, users should dismount and walk their personal vehicles when near playground areas.

Cycling, rollerblading, and skateboarding may be permitted where appropriate, but users must remain cautious and yield to pedestrians at all times.

8. Playgrounds and Recreation Areas

Playground equipment is intended for children, and caregivers are responsible for ensuring that children use equipment safely and appropriately. Sports fields, courts, and other recreation areas may have additional rules, schedules, or booking requirements, and all posted instructions must be followed.

9. Safety and Emergency Response

All park visitors are responsible for their own safety and should remain aware of their surroundings. Personal belongings should not be left unattended. Suspicious activity should be reported to the RCMP when necessary. Visitors should stay on designated paths and avoid unsafe or restricted zones. In an emergency, call 911.

10. Environmental Stewardship

Park users are encouraged to help preserve the natural environment by respecting plants, wildlife, and natural features. Wildlife are protected under the *BC Wildlife Act*, and must not be disturbed, fed, handled, removed, or harmed. Do not remove plants, flowers, rocks, or other natural materials from the park. Visitors are encouraged to minimize waste and use reusable containers whenever possible.

11. Shared Responsibility

UNA parks are shared community spaces, and everyone plays a role in helping keep them safe, clean, welcoming, and enjoyable for all. By respecting these guidelines, park users help contribute to a positive experience for the entire community.