

Northwest Neighborhood

Summer 2011 Newsletter



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••••• **Neighborhood**
••••• **Picnic Franklin Park**
••••• **July 16**
••••• **Details pg.3**
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••••• **Next Neighborhood**
••••• **Meeting**
••••• **October 27, 7:00 pm**
••••• **Franklin Elementary**
••••• **School**
•••••

Parks to become a little less green

Parks and public spaces becoming a little more grassy, a little less green. With last year's budget cuts becoming more visible, citizens are asked to help.

All who use Vancouver parks, trails and ballfields are encouraged to help keep things clean and be prepared for less mowing, watering and litter pickup. Likewise, citizens can expect public medians and rights of ways within the city to be a little more grassy and a lot less green this summer.



Such changes, becoming more visible in the landscape this June, are the result of significant staffing cuts over the past few years, part of the citywide effort to manage Vancouver's ongoing budget shortfall.

Since 2009, Vancouver's staffing for keeping public areas mowed, pruned, cleaned, watered and more has been cut by about 56 percent, from 32 to 14. But the amount of ground they cover hasn't changed.

Those remaining 14 employees are responsible for the same 83 parks (517 acres); 10 open space properties (48 acres); 57 special properties such as city facilities, water stations, fire stations and airpark (205 acres); 3 cemeteries (70 acres); 72 miles of trails and walks; and 577 center-line miles of streets with rights of way on each side and many with medians (103 acre total). That includes 108 acres of shrub beds and an estimated 13,058 trees.

Parks, trails and ball fields within the City of Vancouver are planned, developed and administered by Vancouver-Clark Parks and

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