



Central Park is unsuitable for 7pm-7am or 24/7 sheltering

- No washrooms
- Annual flooding
- Bylaws do not result in a manageable number of structures
- Tiny Home Community and Arena already sheltering 75+
- North Park is already considered "green space deficient"



North Park is largely made up of renters and low income families. Many rely on Central Park for their only access to free recreation, green space, and community gathering

1

Central Park floods every year and will continue to do so as weather events worsen



[2017 Geotechnical Study of Central Park](#) shows that Central Park is made up of

- topsoil, "sandy silt with fine to medium sand" described as "black, non-cohesive, moist and compact."
- "stiff to hard silty clay to clayey sand," "average natural water content from five samples was 23 percent."
- "very stiff to hard clayey sand and gravel"
- "soft to very soft gravelly clayey sand"
- bedrock

Yellow dot on flood zones map show where the tents above were located.

Residents know that drainage in Central Park is very poor, and that the playing fields and grass areas of the park flood each year.

2

We are not out of the rainy season yet. Allowing sheltering in Central Park again would inevitably lead to another emergency situation.

For those impacted by flooding, this has a significant effect on their health. For example, loss of warmth, mould accumulation, loss of belongings, immediate stress and the longer-term impact of relocation.

We are not out of the rainy season yet. **Allowing sheltering in Central Park again will inevitably lead to more flooding** resulting in decreased health for those sheltering and additional remediation.



These structures were not located in the "flood zones" indicated on slide 3.

They are on the berm along Pembroke and yet, they were also uninhabitable following the flooding.



3

Bylaws do not support a manageable number of structures in Central Park

The new and existing sheltering in parks bylaws do not result in a reasonable number of structures in Central Park. As demonstrated in this map, the **total number of permitted structures in Central Park would be 86.**

Furthermore, the bylaws prohibit sheltering on playing fields and hardscapes. This is not the primary value of Central Park. **Central Park is the backyard for people with no backyard.**

The current bylaws push structures into the most socially important areas of the park, the lawn surrounding the playgrounds, under shady trees, where existing picnic tables are located.



4

There are no washroom facilities in Central Park

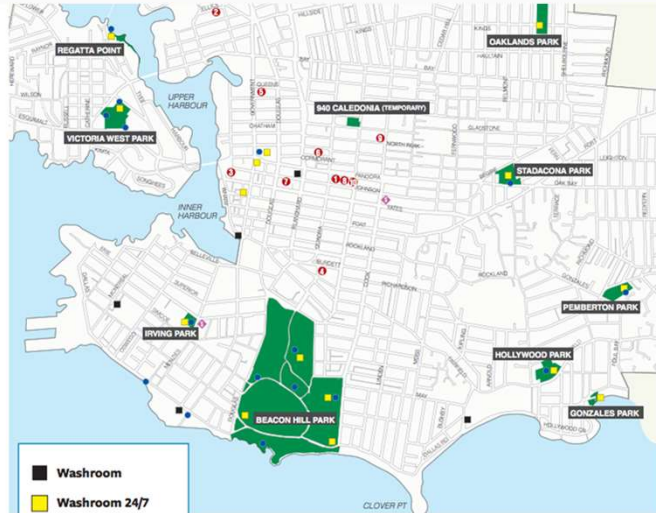
There are no public washrooms in Central Park.
This is a previously established criteria for sheltering.

There are not even any public washroom facilities close to Central Park. This has led to many instances of human waste found on lawns and gardens of nearby housed residents.

Based on the [Environmental public health guidance for encampments during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) the minimum standards for hygiene are:

- one toilet per 20 persons
- one handwashing station per 15–20 persons

In 2020, the City of Victoria installed 4 portable washrooms and one handwashing station in Central Park. **These were cleaned and maintained at a cost of \$22k/month, and still this was not adequate.**



Yellow squares indicate 24/7 washroom facilities, closest is at Centennial Square. Note all 11 other parks have 24/7 washroom facilities.

5

In order for the Arena and the Tiny Home Community to be successful and integrate into the community, Central Park must remain a community green space.

North Park is not saying “no” to sheltering in the community.

We are saying “yes please” to locations that do not disproportionately affect already marginalized residents who rely on Central Park.

In order for the Arena and the Tiny Home Community to be successful and integrate into the community, Central Park must remain a community green space.

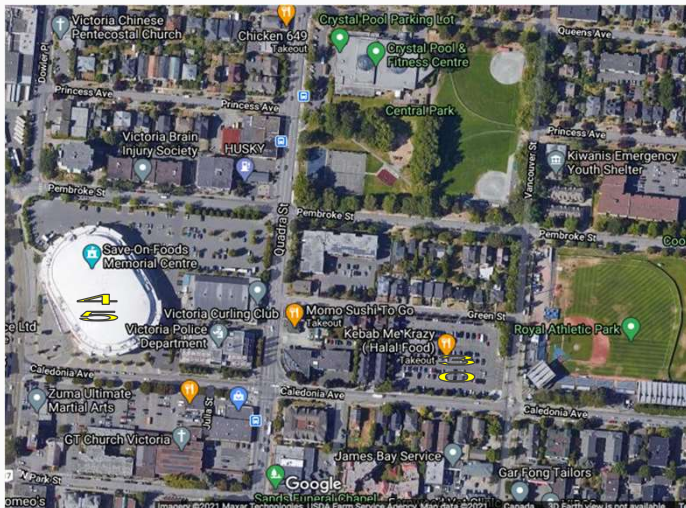
North Park can not accommodate a third location for sheltering.

Central Park has proven to be an unsuccessful location for sheltering.



6

North Park will be providing sheltering locations at the Tiny Home Community (30 beds) and Save on Foods Memorial Arena (45 beds)



Central Park is located within a block of two other locations where sheltering will be taking place.

- 45 beds at the Save on Foods Memorial Arena
- 30 shipping container tiny homes at Royal Athletic Park parking lot (940 Caledonia)

The NPNA has been clear that our support for both projects is contingent on Central Park being permanently removed from the list of parks where 7pm-7am or 24/7 sheltering is permitted.

7

North Park is already green space deficient, and equitable access to green space is incredibly important to North Park residents

According to the ["Community Values Survey"](#) conducted by the NPNA in October 2020

- 57% of respondents indicated that they feel that there is not enough access to green space
 - Respondents want to see community gardens, natural vegetation, open/flexible green space, shelters for gathering, and Indigenous cultural presence in parks
- 86% of respondents felt that Royal Athletic Park should be open for activities other than paid admission events
- 80% of respondents identified "Access to green space/parks" as the most important value to guide North Park development for the next 10-20 years

North Park has been disproportionately impacted by homelessness and other social challenges. Sheltering in Central Park has, and would continue to have a larger impact on the neighbourhood and residents than in other neighbourhoods.



June 2020 (top) August 2020 (bottom)

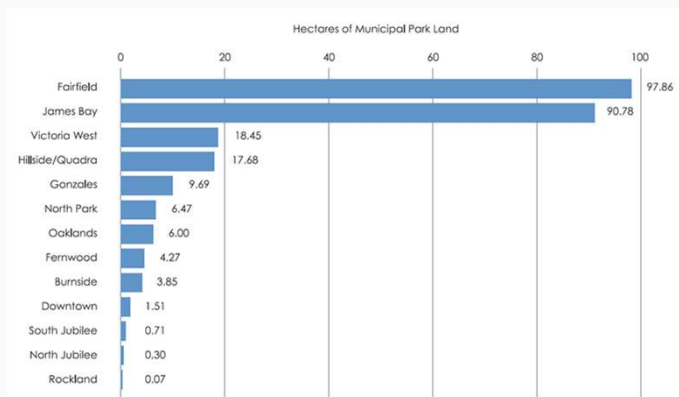
8

The amount of *accessible* green space to residents of North Park is **0.71ha/1000** residents, compared to Victoria average of 3.16/1000 residents

North Park has 6.47 hectares of municipal parkland. However, about half of that is made up of RAP.

If you include RAP there are 1.23 hectares of parkland/1000 residents. Once you remove RAP which is fenced off, and accessible only by paid admission, that decreases to **0.71ha/1000 residents**.

Compare this to the City average of 3.16ha/1000 residents.



9

Loss of use of remaining green space in Central Park disproportionately impacts the most marginalized residents in Victoria

The [October 2020 "Community Values Survey"](#) conducted by the NPNA identified that residents making less than **\$30k/year, refugees, immigrants, and racialized folks were the most likely to answer that there is not enough green space in the neighbourhood.** These groups are least likely to travel outside of the neighbourhood to access other areas of green space/parks.

Many residents in North Park live in multi-family buildings with no access to green space. Adequate and equitable access to public green space is important for the well-being of the community. In the 2012 OCP, two of the strategic directions for North Park were to "renew citywide recreational facilities," and create a new neighbourhood park (See proposed location at right).



Proposed Location of Additional Park in North Park, and existing Municipal Parks and Open Spaces in North Park.

10

The demographics of North Park support an equity centred decision that takes into account the disproportionate impact that sheltering in Central Park has on residents

The average resident in North Park is likely a **renter living in an 5+ storey apartment building**, who is more likely to use **transit** and is **less likely to own a car**. They are the most likely in Victoria to be **low income and financially vulnerable**. 15-30% of North Park residents live in **subsidized housing**, and nearly a quarter of North Park residents **live in poverty**. This is even higher for seniors and children (36% and 28%). Furthermore, North Park is already considered **green space deficient**. Despite several City owned facilities in North Park, there are no free to enter **community gathering spaces**.

In North Park, Harris Green, and Downtown

- 77% of residents are renters
- 57% of residents live in 5+ storey apartment buildings (highest in Victoria)
- 28% of households are considered low income (second highest in Victoria)
- 15-30% of households living in subsidized housing (versus less than 15%, City average)
- 21% of households identify as immigrants (3rd highest in Victoria)
- 4% of households are recent immigrants
- 5% of households identify as Indigenous
- 28% of children (0-17) live in poverty
- 23% of adults (18-64) live in poverty
- 36% of seniors (65+) live in poverty

11

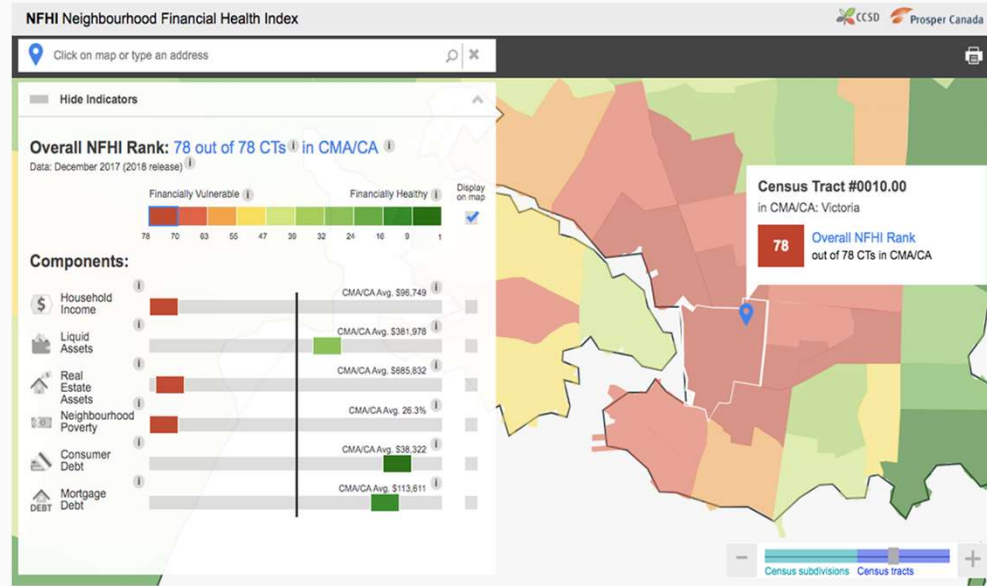
North Park compared to City of Victoria average

The demographics of North Park support an **equity centred decision** that takes into account the **disproportionate impact that sheltering in Central Park has on residents** who do not have the resources or opportunity to seek out green space or recreation options in other neighbourhoods.

North Park	City of Victoria
Renters: 77%	Renters: 60%
57% of residents in 5+ storey apartment building	18% of residents in 5+ storey apartment building
28% of households are low income	15% of households are low income
15-30% of households live in subsidized housing	Less than 15% of households live in subsidized housing

12

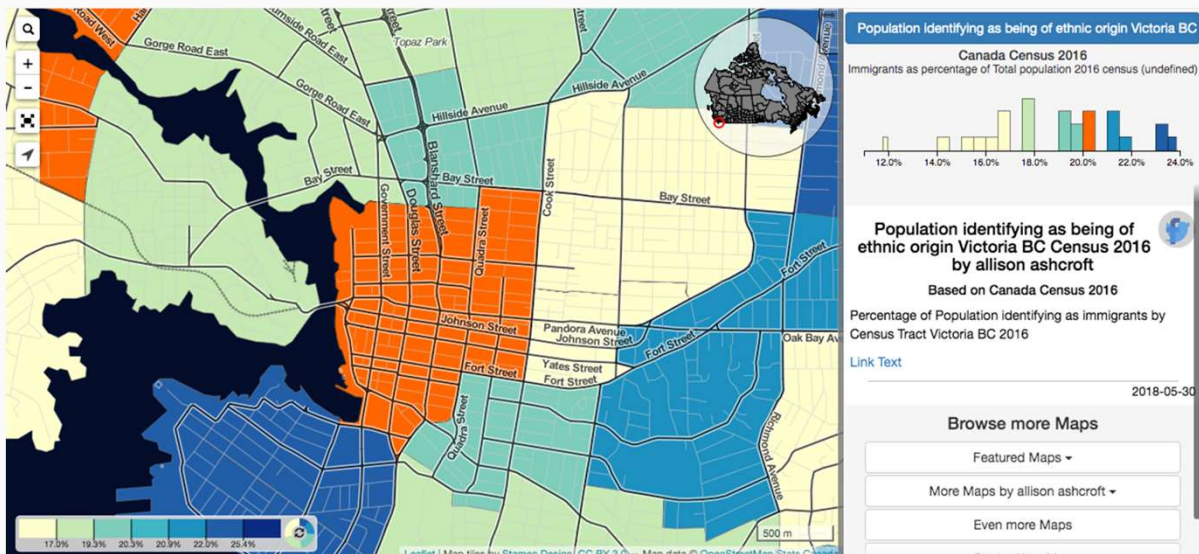
Financial vulnerability of residents in North Park



North Park is ranked 78 out of 78 for the most financially vulnerable neighbourhood in the CRD according to Prosper Canada's National Financial Health Index, a composite index of household financial health at the neighbourhood level. <https://communitydata.ca/NFHI/>

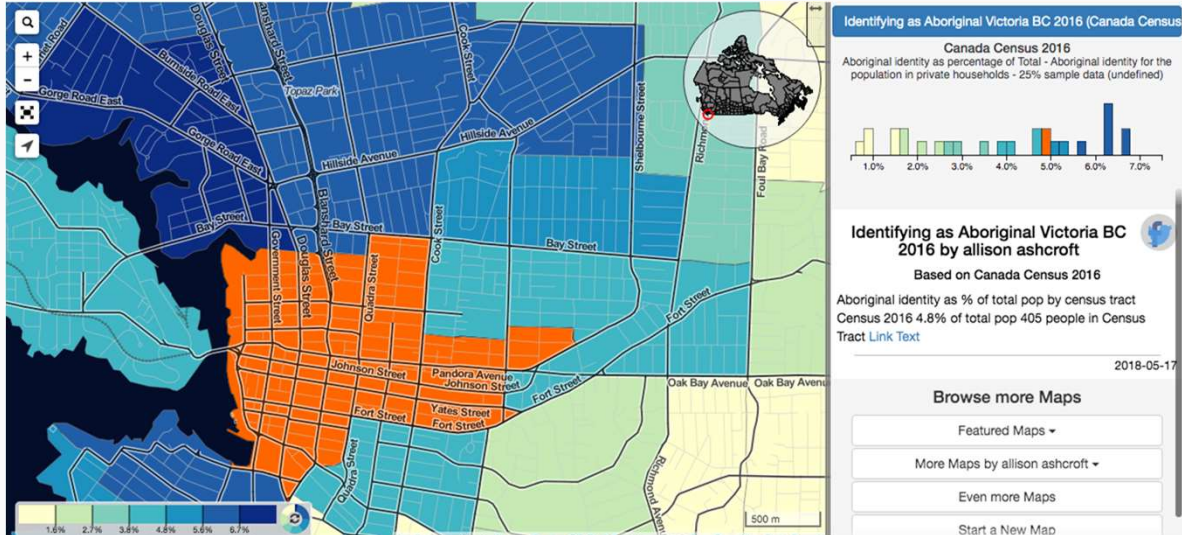
13

21% of households identify as being an immigrant (3rd highest in Victoria)



14

5% of households identify as Indigenous



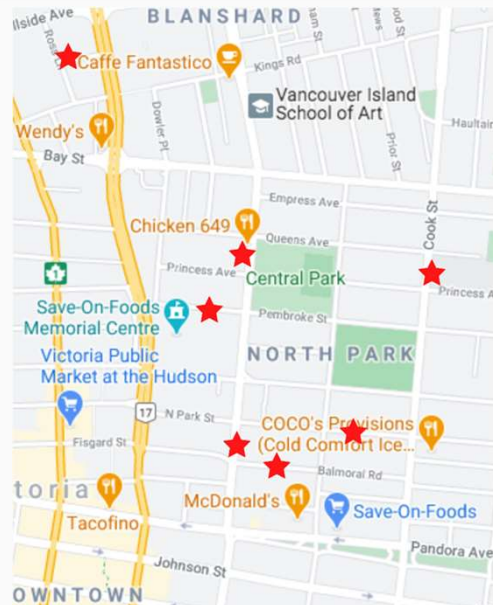
15

Central Park is used by many community groups who rely on this centrally located green space

Stars represent:

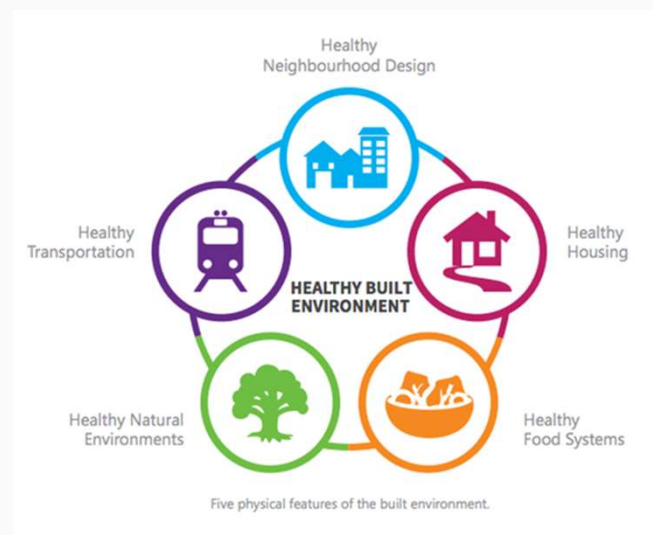
- Masjid Al-Iman Mosque,
- Inter-Cultural Association,
- Victoria Immigrant Refugee Centre,
- Bayanihan Filipino Community Centre,
- George Jay Elementary School,
- Quadra Village Community Centre,
- Victoria Brain Injury Society.

Central Park is also used by the City of Victoria for summer camps, and out-of-school care.



16

Studies shows that green space provides greater health benefits to lower socioeconomic status individuals and groups than to the general population



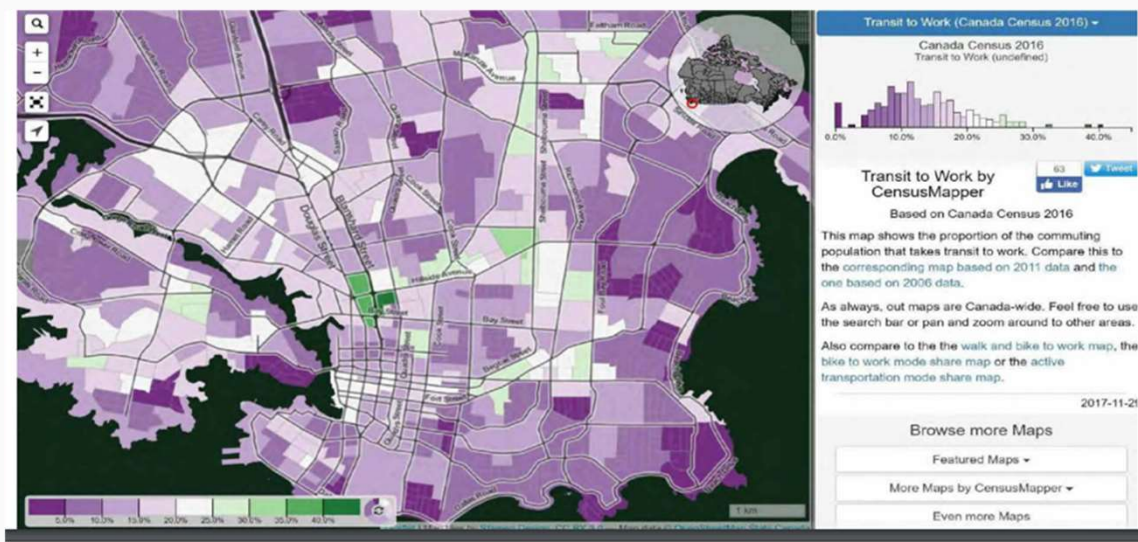
There is consistent evidence that **green space provides greater health benefits to lower socioeconomic status individuals and groups than to the general population**

- Strong positive associations between green space and healthy birth outcomes among mothers of lower socioeconomic status.
- Green space may decrease the effect of income deprivation on all-cause and cardiovascular mortality
- Associations between green space and reduced mortality are strongest in socioeconomically deprived neighbourhoods, and cannot be explained by increased physical activity

[Supporting Health Equity Through the Built Environment: BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

17

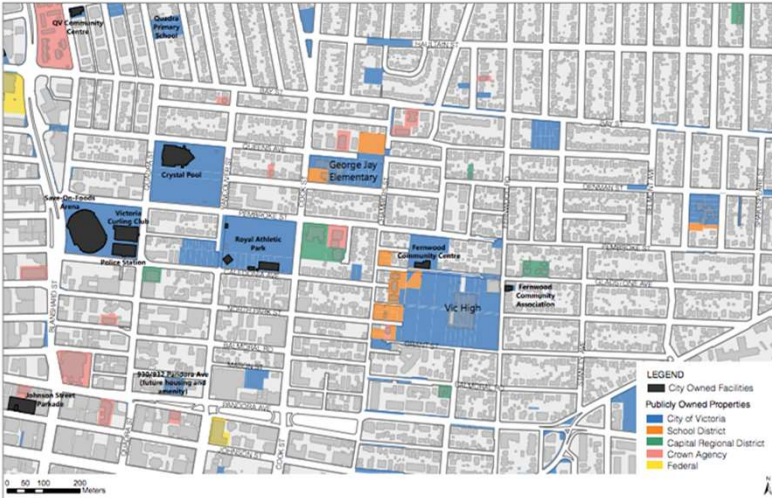
Map shows proportion of households that take transit to work, possibly indicating no household vehicle ownership and/or lower disposable income



18

Admission costs for City owned recreation facilities in North Park

Public Amenities



Cost of admission for a family of four

Crystal Pool: \$12.25 (family swim)

Save on Foods Memorial Arena: \$11.45 (plus skate and helmet rental)

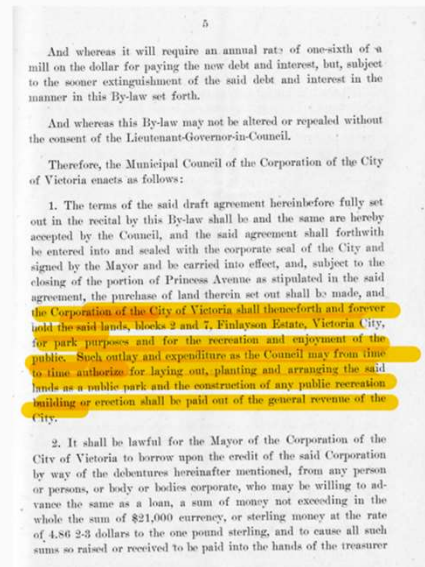
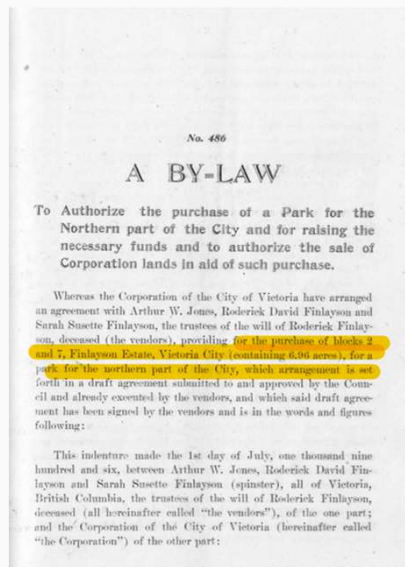
Royal Athletic Park: \$44 (HarbourCats general admission for 2 adults and 2 children)

Despite being home to several City owned recreation facilities, **none of these facilities are free** to enter making Central Park even more important for North Park residents, many of whom are low income and do not have a backyard of their own.

19

Central Park Land Covenant dictates that Central Park is to be used exclusively for “recreation and enjoyment of the public” in perpetuity

A land covenant applies to Central Park that stipulates that the “City of Victoria shall thenceforth and forever hold the said lands [Central Park] for park purposes and for the **recreation and enjoyment of the public**” in perpetuity.



20