

CITYSTUDIO SPRING 2014 COHORT, PROJECT REPORT

CAMPFIRE

INTRODUCING PUBLIC FIREPITS ON VANCOUVER BEACHES

CityvStudio

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<i>SECTION</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
I. PROJECT SUMMARY	3
II. PROJECT DETAILS	4
Vision	4
Context	4
Purpose	4
III. MEDIA RELEASE	5
IV. CITYSTUDIO CHALLENGE	5
Staff & Stakeholders	6
Support & Resources	6
Site	7
Stewardship Plan	7
Scalability	7
V. BUDGET	8
VI. TIMELINE	8
VII. CHALLENGES & LESSONS	10
Project Barriers	11
Key Lessons	11
Recommendations	11
IX. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	12
X. REFERENCES	12
XI. APPENDICES	15
A - Model City Matrix	15
B - Proposed Site Matrix	17
C - Original Proposal (for Parks)	18
D - Two Page Report (for Mayor's Office)	26
E - Presentation Texts	28
F - Bylaw Information	32

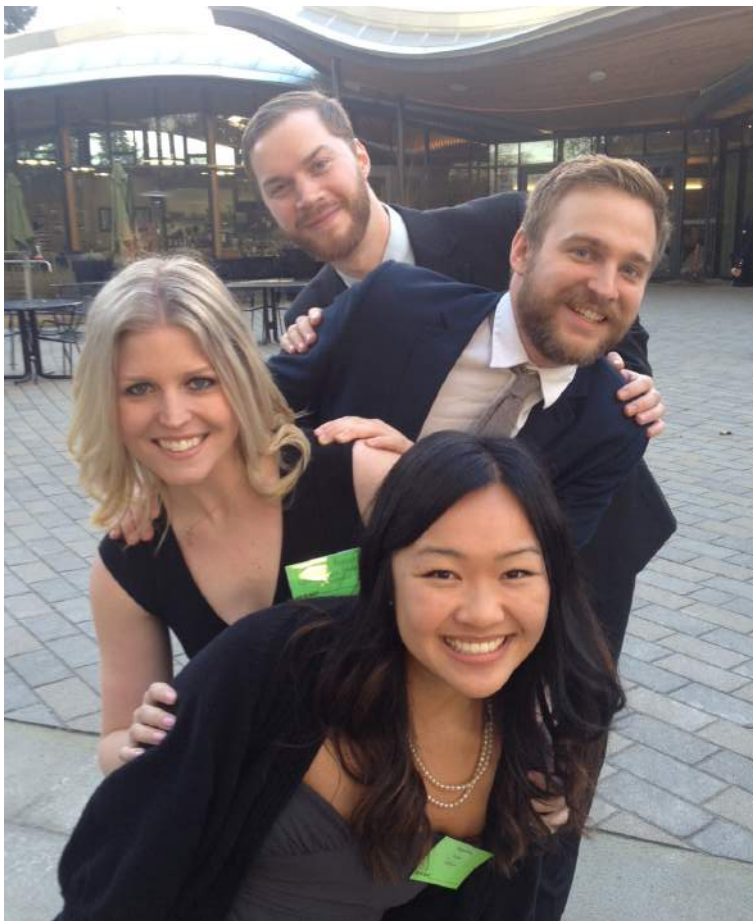
I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: The Campfire Project

Project Description: Introducing shared public firepits on Vancouver beaches

CityStudio: CityStudio is an innovation hub inside Vancouver City Hall where students gain hands-on experience co-creating real-world solutions on the ground with City staff, experts and community members.

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CAMPFIRE TEAM

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II. PROJECT DETAILS

VISION

The CityStudio Campfire Project aims to introduce shared, public firepits as a way to cultivate connections, increase use of Vancouver parks year round and contribute to a fun Vancouver. After studying the models currently present in Calgary, Edmonton, Seattle, Penticton and San Francisco, the Campfire Project proposes to make the case for permanent public firepits on select Vancouver beaches starting with one pilot firepit to be implemented in Summer 2014 at Locarno Beach.

CONTEXT

Vancouver Coastal Health estimates that 25% of Metro Vancouver residents could be suffering from social isolation. Additionally, according to the Vancouver Foundation's Connections and Engagement Report, the biggest concern for people in Metro Vancouver was a growing sense of isolation and disconnection. These reports put hard data behind what many intuitively know: it's hard to make friends in Vancouver, our neighbourhood connections are polite but weak, and many people are retreating from community life. Another growing concern is the amount of new residents projected to move into the region in the coming decades. According to a Metro Vancouver Report, an additional 1.2 million people will move into the region by 2041. As the City becomes more dense and living spaces decrease in size, there will be a greater need for Vancouver parks and beaches to act as our collective backyard.

PURPOSE

The Campfire project aims to bring back the original social innovation to tackle the city-wide problem of loneliness. Campfires have been used throughout human history as a way to connect, and are a central component of many cultures. They are also an important piece of the Canadian and West Coast cultural identity and provide an environment for strangers to meet and share food, stories and music. The Campfire Project addresses several goals set out by the Healthy City Strategy and the Greenest City Action Plan, including cultivating connections and getting outside.

Public campfires also provide an opportunity for Vancouverites to feel ownership and responsibility over public space in a safe and contained way. In our proposed pilot, the City of Vancouver would maintain and regulate the firepit to ensure that it is used safely, while residents bring wood and light the fire leaving room for spontaneity. This increased sense of ownership and responsibility will contribute to a more fun and engaged Vancouver.

Details

As a group we researched the best practices from the major cities of Toronto, Penticton, Seattle, and Calgary who all currently have public firepits **(see Appendix A)**. With this research we outlined a proposal that included our objective of implementing a public firepit, specifically detailing a location, safety precautions, budget, timeline and environmental / health concerns. We also created a suggested list of rules and regulations that detail burn materials, permitted hours, and the four proposed site locations **(see Appendix B and C)**.

III. MEDIA RELEASE

Because of the sensitive nature of our project for strategic purposes we were advised not to send a media release. However, we created a summary for the CityStudio website with our vision and purpose, see below.

CITYSTUDIO WEBSITE SUMMARY / MEDIA RELEASE

The CityStudio Campfire Project aims to introduce public firepits as a way to cultivate connections and increase use of Vancouver parks all year round. The Campfire Project proposes for one pilot project to be implemented during the summer on a Vancouver beach to make the case for a permanent, public firepit.

The Campfire team wants to bring back the original social innovation to tackle the city-wide problem of loneliness. Fires have been used throughout human history as a way to connect, and are a central component of many cultures around the world. Campfires are also an important piece of the Canadian and West Coast cultural identity. They provide an environment for strangers to meet and share food, stories and music. Public firepits will address the Healthy City Strategy goals of cultivating connections and getting outside as well as the Greenest City goal of increasing access to nature.

Toronto, Calgary, Seattle and San Francisco all have public campfires. Let's add Vancouver to this list!

IV. CITYSTUDIO CHALLENGE

The CityStudio Challenge asks students to resolve 5 key problems while designing and executing a real project on the ground in Vancouver:

- 1) Co-create and collaborate with Staff and Stakeholders,*
- 2) Mobilize funding Support and resources,*
- 3) Work on a real Site in Vancouver,*
- 4) Develop relationships for ongoing project Stewardship, and*
- 5) Create the stepping stones for multiplying project impact with Scalability.*

1) STAFF		
ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE
Vancouver Parks Department	Lindsay Cole (Primary Staff)	Parks Planner
Vancouver Parks Department	Bill Harding	Director of Parks
Vancouver Parks Department	Malcolm Bromley	General Manager
Vancouver Fire Department	Rob Renning	Assistant Chief
Vancouver Fire Prevention	Rick Cheung	Fire Protection Engineer
Vancouver Police Department		
Vancouver Sustainability Group	Malcolm Shield	Climate Policy Engineer
Vancouver Sustainability Group	Doug Smith	Assistant Director
Mayor's Office	Kevin Quinlan	Vancouver Sustainability Group
Gen Why Media	Fiona Rayher	Co-Founder and Artist Director
Social Innovation Generation	Al Etmanski	Director SiG West

2) SUPPORT & RESOURCES

Our project focused on proposing the idea of firepits in Vancouver to City staff. Therefore, there was a greater need for staff and political buy-in than monetary support. From our research and quotes from BC Bricks Supplies Ltd, the materials for our proposed river rock firepit would be an estimated \$1110. Another option is a concrete firepit with materials costing \$308. At CityStudio's Hubbub event at City Hall, we designed, created and distributed campfire badges to act as conversation starters and a way for Vancouver citizens and City Staff to show support for public firepits.

3) SITE

We researched potential sites around the city and consulted with stakeholders to determine the most suitable location. This preliminary research showed that the area from Jericho Beach to Spanish Banks would be the most ideal location for a pilot firepit, specifically the east end of Locarno Beach. Factors, outlined in **Appendix B**, included proximity to water sources, high visibility from roads and parking lots, accessibility to safety services and distance from nearby homes. Locarno Beach is located beside Jericho Sailing Centre and within walking distance to Locarno Park field, washrooms and a concession stand.

4) STEWARDSHIP

We created a proposal (**see Appendix C**) that compiled our best practice research from other cities. This proposal included project details, proposed rules and regulations, and addressed potential health, environmental and safety concerns. The hope for our proposal was to provide all the necessary information for the Parks Department to steward and operate public firepits in the city.

Fiona Rayher from Gen Why Media and Al Etmanski from Social Innovation Generation were inspired by our Campfire Project and are hoping to have a large public campfire at the center of their Ideas Festival event at Vanier Park on May 30th, 2014. This evening celebration will bring changemakers from all over the world to Vancouver to meet and engage with the local community. This event contributes to our project by increasing awareness and dialogue about public firepits in the city.

The Campfire Team has also applied for the Museum of Vancouver's Neighbour Maker Project Assistance Award to hold a campfire storytelling event at Vanier Park in the beginning of May. This event also aims to raise awareness and support for public campfires by sharing stories, songs and s'mores around the theme of fire. The event will not include a real fire, but instead will be focused around a mock campfire made from tealights and lanterns.

4) SCALABILITY

The first phase of the project is the proposed pilot firepit on Locarno Beach that would be implemented in Summer 2014. If the initial pilot is successful, it could then be scaled up to several firepits on select Vancouver beaches.

Through our Campfire Project, our group concluded that a larger systems change is needed in order for Vancouver to become a truly engaged city. This means a shift towards a culture in which residents feel they can influence the public sphere. Public campfires create this type of opportunity for Vancouverites to feel ownership and responsibility over public space, but in a safe and contained way. The City of Vancouver would maintain and regulate the firepit to ensure that it is used safely, while residents bring wood and light the fire leaving room for spontaneity.

V. BUDGET

REVENUE					
CityStudio Grant	CityStudio Grant				\$500.00
	TOTAL REVENUE				\$500.00
EXPENSES	SUPPLIES	SUPPLIER	Q	P	T
Campfire Badges	Felt	Michaels	6	\$0.49	\$2.94
Campfire Badges	Box of Safety Pins	Dollar Etc.	2	\$1.29	\$2.58
	TOTAL 'Campfire Badges' EXPENSES				\$5.52
SUBTOTAL ALL					\$5.52
WITH TAX					\$6.18

VI. TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
February 4th, 2014	Project Formation: Our group formed around the idea of helping create a more fun and engaged Vancouver by creating a public campfire pit.
February 21st, 2014	Call with Lindsay Cole: She provided potential locations for the pilot firepit and advice on how to move forward.
February 24th, 2014	Meeting with Bill Harding: He advised us to create a proposal, (See appendix C) addressing health, environmental and liability concerns that would deliver to an upper management meeting.

February 26th, 2014	Started contacting other cities: The team contacted Penticton, Seattle, Calgary, Toronto, and Metro Vancouver to record their best practices and strategies.
March 3rd, 2014	Call with Fiona Rayher: Fiona Rayher from Gen Why Media expressed interest in including a campfire at the Vancouver Ideas Festival at Vanier Park on May 30th, 2014. As the event marks the end of the Social Innovation Exchange, SIX and FUEL conference, she saw the campfire as a way for participants to meet the Vancouver public.
March 4th, 2014	Proposal sent to Bill Harding: Final proposal was sent to Bill Harding to be discussed at the upper management team meeting.
March 4th, 2014	Meeting with Kevin Quinlan: Met with Kevin Quinlan to create a strategy of how to best move our project forward while maintaining positive relationships with City staff.
March 13th, 2014	Meeting with Fire Department: Met with Rick Cheung and Rob Renning from Fire Prevention to discuss our proposal and hear their concerns. The discussion focused on their concerns with air quality, safety, and their hesitancy about approving a pilot firepit within the existing bylaw that prohibits open wood-burning fires in the city.
March 18th, 2014	Stakeholder Meeting: A stakeholder meeting was held with representatives from the Vancouver Parks Department and Fire Department to discuss the possibility of implementing a pilot project on Locarno Beach that would be open every weekend in May 2014. The Fire Department was unwilling to approve the proposal for a pilot project in May due to concerns regarding air quality.
March 24th, 2014	Meeting with Al Etmanski and Fiona Rayher: It was decided that the large-scale bonfire at the Vancouver Ideas Festival in May would be a different than our public campfire project, but that our group would still be involved in a different capacity.
March 26th, 2014	Meeting with Kevin Quinlan and Fiona Rayher: He pushed us to take a political route by creating a revised and updated pilot project that he would deliver to Mayor Robertson and Sadhu Johnston (see Appendix D). He advised Fiona to write a separate proposal for the Vancouver Ideas Festival.
April 1st, 2014	Presentation at Hubbub: The Campfire group presented their final project at the Hubbub event to students from CityStudio Partner courses, City Staff and other stakeholders (See Appendix E). Robert and Chelsea presented the Campfire Project as part of the five CityStudio stories told at the Ashoka Showcase during After Dark (see Appendix E).

April 4th, 2014

Meeting with Fiona Rayher, Duane Elverum and Janet Moore:

Together we created the rough draft of a proposal for the inclusion of a fire at the Vancouver Ideas Festival.

April 4th, 2014

Sent in Neighbour Maker Proposal: We proposed a storytelling event on May 2 that will include professional storytellers, acoustic musical performances and the sharing of personal stories around the theme of fire.

VIII. CHALLENGES & LESSONS

BARRIERS	SOLUTIONS
There are currently two bylaws in place that prohibit our project from moving forward. One is the Vancouver Fire bylaw, which prohibits open burns in the city unless there is approval from the Vancouver Fire Chief. The Vancouver Parks bylaw prohibits open fires in Parks unless there is approval from the Executive Directors of Parks. The official bylaws are in found in Appendix F .	In addition to creating a well-researched proposal with examples from other cities (see Appendix A), we created relationships with key staff members to champion our project within the City of Vancouver. The Parks Department was willing to try a pilot on the weekends in May. By the end of the semester, our proposal was in the Mayor's Office under review. We also drafted a revision to the existing bylaw that would permit designated public firepits using best practices from other cities (see Appendix F).
The major concern from the Vancouver Fire Department was the effects of firepits on air quality.	To mitigate concerns from the Fire Department about air quality, we included research on the relative effects of firepits compared to other sources (see Appendix C.7). It was critical for us to clarify that our project was to have 1-3 firepits on select public beaches, as opposed to advocating for personal or private firepits throughout the city.
Our project demonstrates that time constraints and workload make it difficult for City staff to take on additional projects. We were fortunate enough to partner with the City; however, there needs to be more staff capacity to foster a more engaged city. The City staff we approached were receptive to having public firepits; however, due to the general risk-averse culture of the City, firepits are difficult to get on the ground.	Our project was able to move through the City structure due to the strong relationships we developed with well-connected City staff. Focussing on staffs' personal connections to campfires was key to gaining and maintaining support.

KEY LESSONS

One of the biggest lessons we learned was that there are multiple paths to accomplish the same goal. Our project had three potential paths that we could have taken. These were: working with City staff to gain internal support, pursuing a political route by taking our project to the Mayor or other elected representatives, or by launching a campaign to gain public support. We needed to be strategic in our choice of which strategy to employ and when, in order to push our project forward in the most professional manner. Therefore, when the Fire Department was unwilling to approve our pilot proposal, we approached Kevin Quinlan for advice on how to best move forward.

With the knowledge we have now, we have identified several steps that we could have taken to help our project. There were several City staff members who were interested in championing the project with important leverage and insight who could have pushed our project further in the beginning. In particular, we could have asked Doug Smith to address the minimal air quality effects of firepits at the large stakeholder meeting. We could have done more research to determine the hours that the Vancouver Fire Department dedicates to extinguishing illegal fires and compared it to the hours needed to maintain and monitor our proposed firepit. In terms of process, we could have used the feedback we received to make minor adjustments as opposed to making more abrupt direction changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

One piece of advice that we received from the 2013 Urban Campfire group was to get started early. By starting our process earlier, we were able to involve and contact more stakeholders.

It was important to approach City staff at the appropriate time and ask the right questions about how to move our project forward. This strategy allowed us to maximize the learning outcomes from meetings and also maintain positive relationships with City staff.

We also found that the most effective way to gain staff support was to involve staff in the process and have them problem solve with us. This contributes to a collaborative process working towards a similar goal.

IX. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would not have been able to get this far without the help and support from others. In particular, we would like to thank Janet Moore, Lena Soots, David Hatfield and Duane Elverum for their endless support. We would also like to thank Lindsay Cole, Kevin Quinlan, Bill Harding, Doug Smith, the 2013 CityStudio Urban Campfire team and the cities of Calgary, Seattle and Pentincton for all their knowledge and assistance on our project. In addition, we want to acknowledge Fiona Rayher, Adrian Sinclair and all of the Spring 2014 CityStudio guests for their valuable input and feedback on the Campfire Project.

X. REFERENCES

A campfire handbook for parks (by Friends of Dufferin Grove Park): <http://dufferinpark.ca/campfires/wiki/uploads/Campfires/ACampfireHandbookEBook.pdf>

- This handbook was a key reference tool for the group as it outlines how the firepit program was introduced in Toronto despite the previous bylaw prohibiting open wood-burning fires.

Beach Fire Management Report 2005 (Seattle Report): <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/BeachFireReport05.pdf>

- This article details how Seattle was able to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and local air pollutants associated with beach fires, as well as reduce the amount of illegal beach fires, by introducing a new Beach Fire Management strategy.

Campfires at Dufferin Grove Park (Toronto): <http://dufferinpark.ca/campfires/wiki/wiki.php?n=Campfires.FrontPage>

- This article detailed the history of the fire program in Toronto Parks and the impact it has on the use of parks year round.

Caring for the air 2013 Metro Vancouver: http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air/Documents/Caring_for_the_Air-MV2013.pdf

- This article outlines the clean air strategy by Metro Vancouver. It was used to learn more about air quality monitoring in the region as well as trends and baseline data.

City of Penticton, City of Calgary, City of Toronto, Metro Vancouver, City of Seattle:

- The research compiled from conversations with each city's Fire Department, Parks Department, and those responsible for the Bylaw was compiled into a city matrix. The matrix **(see Appendix A)** was used as a model for our proposal for the City of Vancouver to follow.

Impacts of Greenhouse Gas and Particulate Emissions from Woodfuel Production and End-Use in Sub-Saharan Africa <http://rael.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/very-old-site/OA5.1.pdf>

- This article was used to inform the environmental appendix of the proposal. It outlines the CO₂ emissions associated with burning wood compared to charcoal. It concludes that the burning of charcoal emits much more CO₂ than the burning of wood.

Impacts of Parks Beach Fires 2004 (Seattle Report): <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/BeachFireReport04.pdf>

- This article details how Seattle approaches the issue of air quality in the summer months and the circumstances of when and how a burn ban should be implemented on firepits on beaches.

International Comparison of Urban Air Quality - Environment Canada: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators/default.asp?lang=en&n=FDBB2779-1>

- This report details how Vancouver and other Canadian cities' urban air quality ranks internationally. The conclusion drawn from the report is that Vancouver consistently ranks among the cities with the best air quality in the world.

Metro Vancouver Residents at Risk from Social Isolation: http://www.vch.ca/about_us/news/news_releases/metro-vancouver-residents-at-risk-from-social-isolation

- This page on Vancouver Coastal Health's website provides more information on the serious problem of social isolation in Metro Vancouver.

Metro 2040 Residential Growth Projections: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/planning/development/strategy/RGSBackgroundersNew/RGSMetro2040ResidentialGrowth.pdf>

- This report provided the statistics for population growth in Metro Vancouver.

Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report for 2003: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual2003.pdf>

- This report outlines the goals set forth by the Provincial Health Officer in regards to air quality. It was used to inform the environmental appendix for the proposal.

Seattle Beach Fire rules: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/AlkiBeachPark/fire.pdf>

- This article was used a model for creating a list of proposed rules for the City of Vancouver to follow.

Riddervold, I., Bønløkke, J., Olin, A., Grønborg, T., Schlünssen, V., Skogstrand, K., et al. (2012). Effects of wood smoke particles from wood-burning stoves on the respiratory health of atopic humans. *Particle and Fibre Toxicology*, 9(1), 12.

- This article studies the effects of smoke from wood burning stoves on the human respiratory system. The findings of the study are that no severe effects on the respiratory system are associated with short term exposure to wood smoke. It was used to make the case that one pilot campfire pit will have little to no impact on regional air quality.

Vancouver Foundation's Connections and Engagement Report: <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/documents/VanFdn-SurveyResults-Report.pdf>

- This report indicated that social isolation is a growing concern in Vancouver and inspired our project purpose.

300,000-year-old firepit found in Israel could be the first example of a social campfire.: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/300000yearold-firepit-found-in-israel-could-be-the-first-example-of-a-social-campfire-9091822.html>

- This article describes the first ever found example of a social campfire. It details how humans used fire both for cooking food and as a focal point for social gatherings. Reinstating how fire is the first social innovation, recording back 300,000 years ago. We used this information on the history of fire and it's importance in our 2 minute presentations.

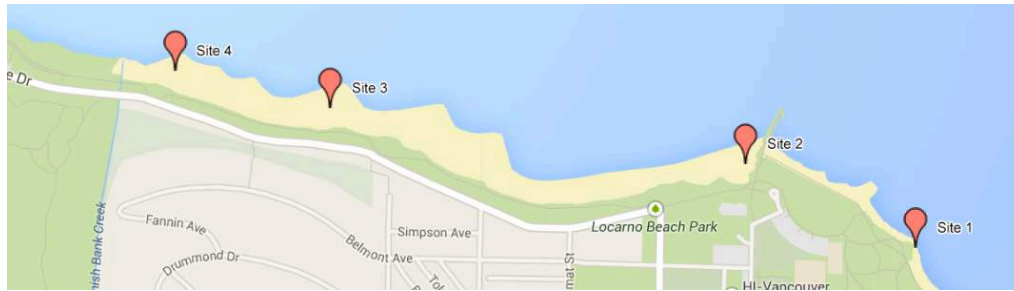
APPENDIX A - MODEL CITY MATRIX

	MODEL CITIES				PROPOSAL
	CITY OF CALGARY	CITY OF SEATTLE	CITY OF PENTICTON	REGIONAL DISTRICT OF METRO VANCOUVER	CITY OF VANCOUVER
STEWARDSHIP [MAINTENANCE & ASH REMOVAL]	The City of Calgary Parks Department	Seattle Parks & Recreation	City of Penticton Parks Department	Metro Vancouver Regional Parks	The Vancouver Parks Department
ASH REMOVAL [HIGH SEASON]	Park operations removes ash from fire pits and dispose in garbage	Crews remove cooled ashes and haul them to the city transfer station Along with other debris twice a month during summer, once a Month during spring and fall, once every three months the rest of the year	Park operations removes ash from fire pits every second morning		Ashes dumped into existing hot bbq, coal disposal bins
QUANTITY & DISTRIBUTION	138 fire pits distributed between 6 parks	21 firepits distributed between 2 beaches	5 fire pits distributed between 3 beaches	16 fire pits distributed between 2 beaches	1 pilot firepit making the case for multiple firepits on select beaches
PERMIT	No preauthorized permit required	no	no	no	no
BOOKINGS	Select fire pits can be booked out for a cost via the parks board website	no	no	no	no bookings, fire pit is to be used and shared by all
HOURS HIGH SEASON	10 AM - 1 AM	Close at 11PM	6 AM - 12 AM	7 AM - 10 PM	10 AM - 1 AM
SEATING	Select fire pits have permanent benches that can accommodate up to 40-80 persons	no permanent seating	no permanent seating	no permanent seating	no permanent seating
FIRE SIZE	Flame must be under 1m width x height	flame must be under 0.9m (3ft) x 0.6m (2ft) height	flame must be under 1m width x height	flame must be under 1m width x 1m height	1m width x .75 height

APPENDIX A - MODEL CITY MATRIX

PERMITTED FUEL	"clean, dry firewood"	"clean, dry, unfinished cord wood"	"only seasoned firewood is to be used"	"clean, natural firewood"	"clean, natural firewood"
PROHIBITED FUEL	Treated/painted lumber, lumber products with glue or resin, wet or unseasoned wood, leaves-brush-yard waste, garbage, rubber, tires, plastic, animal carcasses or parts	pallets, garbage, construction waste, paper products and brush	"No pallets, No prohibited materials, No metal or nails"		(See Appendix C.3)

APPENDIX B - PROPOSED SITE MATRIX



DESCRIPTION	SITE #1	SITE #2	SITE #3	SITE #4
Description	Jericho Beach Point	Locarno Beach	Spanish Banks Woodlot	Spanish Banks West Concession
SAFETY				
Distance from fire lane	200 m	30 m	70 m	40 m
Distance to water source	20 m	100 m	30 m	30 m
Flammable Material	30 m (trees)	15 m	60 m (wood pile)	40 m (trees)
Visible from road	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visible from parking lot	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SAFETY				
Distance to waste bins	20 m	40 m	80 m	30 m
Distance to ash disposal	200 m	140 m	170 m	30 m
NOISE				
Distance to closest Neighbour	375 m	270 m	200 m	185 m
DISTANCE				
Distance to Washrooms	400 m	200 m	100 m	30 m
Distance to Bike Racks	200 m	100 m	100 m	30 m
Distance to Dog Park	2000 m	650 m	600 m	1575 m
Distance to Beach Volleyball Nets	300 m	150 m	120 m	120 m
Distance to Picnic tables	130 m	120 m	100 m	100 m

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

THE CITYSTUDIO CAMPFIRE PROJECT

Stuart Dow | Chelsea Keenan | Robert Morton | Peggy Wong

PROJECT

The CityStudio Campfire Project envisions designated public fire pits in Vancouver parks. Public fire pits are currently legal in cities such as Calgary, Seattle, Penticton and Tsawwassen and we are proposing to add Vancouver to this list. To move forward, we are asking for Parks Board assistance in implementing a pilot fire pit project that would be in place for the summer. The first phase of the project will be a demonstration event showcasing how a campfire can be a safe, inclusive and fun way to bring communities together. The second phase would be to implement a fire pit pilot project starting May 30th to August 31st, 2014.

Fiona Rayher, co-founder of Gen Why media is working with SIX, Social Innovation Exchange, and has expressed interest in the Campfire Project. SIX is holding a conference at the end of May and would like to incorporate a campfire into their final celebratory event. This proposed evening event will happen at Vanier Park on May 30th and could act as our first phase demonstration event.

OBJECTIVE

Vancouver Coastal Health estimates that 25% of Metro Vancouver residents could be suffering from social isolation. Similarly, the Vancouver Foundation found that people in Metro Vancouver's biggest concern was "a growing sense of isolation and disconnection." The purpose is to foster a greater sense of connection amongst Vancouver residents. Fire has been used throughout human history as a way to connect with place and people, and is a natural gathering place to share food, stories, and music. The community fire ring will address the Healthy City Strategy goals of Cultivating Connections and Active Living and Getting Outside, as well as the Greenest City goal of increasing access to nature.

DETAILS

Location

We have proposed three locations for a summer pilot project: Vanier Park, New Brighton and Spanish Banks extension as outlined in **Appendix C.1**. Vanier Park is the most ideal in terms of distance from residential areas, accessibility, potential community interest, and visibility for safety and fire concerns.

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

Safety

In **Appendix C.2**, we propose rules that should be enforced when using an outdoor fire pit in Vancouver, which are based on existing guidelines from the following cities: Toronto, Calgary, Penticton, and Seattle. **Appendix C.3** outlines the proposed permitted burning materials. **Appendix C.4** describes the law and liability regulations demonstrated by Huntington Beach, California to avoid issues of negligence. The proposed insurance model will be based on the existing structure by the City of Toronto (**Appendix C.5**).

Budget

In **Appendix C.6**, we have separated the cost of the pilot project into three categories: Fire Pit Construction Cost, Waste Management Cost per Month & Additional Patrolling Cost per Month. Fixed cost of fire ring construction ranges from \$300 to \$1500. We estimate that additional park maintenance and ranger hours needed to run the pilot could range from 0 to 45h additional hours per month. This is contingent on whether ash disposal and fire ring patrol can be included in the existing park maintenance and ranger shifts.

Timeline

May 30, 2014 – Fire pit demonstration project, as part of the SIX Conference. May 30 - August 31, 2014 – Summer pilot project in one of the specified locations.

Environmental / Health Concerns

The burning of wood emits gases that both contribute to climate change and reduce local air quality. However, we conclude that the greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction in local air quality associated with public campfires would be minimal (**See Appendix C.7**). Metro Vancouver's air quality consistently meets/exceeds Canadian and regional standards, but if pollution levels do become unsafe, air quality advisories can be issued. Currently the City permits charcoal barbeques to be used for cooking food, however from a greenhouse gas emissions perspective, burning charcoal is much worse than burning wood.

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

Appendices [Appendix C.1 Locations]

LOCATION	VARIABLE PARK	SPANISH BANKS [EXTERIOR]	BRIDGE DOWN PARKS
PUBLIC [ACCESSIBLE]	Along the Seaside Seawall route; close to Cypress Bikeway and the Burrard Street Bridge	Along Seaside Seawall route	Along the PortSic route and Trans (Trail; close to Iron Memorial Bridge
	Less than 10 minute walk from nearest bus stop; walking paths connected to Kitsilano Beach and Hadden Park	About 20 minute walk from nearest bus stop	About 15 minutes from nearest bus
CITY	vancouver average, English dominant language; smaller household sizes	language, more single-family homes; stable residential base; low density of housing	community centre heavily used; Chi dominant language
	City of Vancouver Archives Kitsilano Community Centre	West Point Grey Community Centre Lord Byng Pool	Hastings Community Centre Thunderbird Community Centre
[Mandarin]		[Filipino]	[Park from 500m]

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

Appendices [Appendix C.1 Locations]

[illegible]

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

[Appendix C.2 Guidelines]

1. Fire pits are only allowed to be supplied from open-sides.
2. Fire pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
3. The pits within the city limits, the city parks and gardens.
4. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
5. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
6. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
7. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
8. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
9. The pits must be constructed with a 100% close.
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[Appendix C.3 Permitted Materials]

Permitted Materials:

clean, dry firewood

Not Permitted Materials:

leaves, grass, and grass cuttings, biomedical waste, wooden pallets, tires, plastics, drywall, demolition waste, waste, paint, tar paper, treated lumber, railway tires, manure, rubber, asphalt, lumber products with glue or resin, animal carcasses

[Appendix C.4 Liability]

Law and Liability Regulations:

Examples of the law and liability regulations demonstrated by Huntington Beach, California to avoid issues of negligence:

1. Maintain the property: pits must be regularly and properly cleaned-out or they will become covered in sand or debris creating some hidden danger of burning hot coals beneath the surface of the sand.




APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

2. Warning signs and instructions for safe and proper use of fire pits must be posted
3. The fire pits must properly be landscaped so that fire pits are easily seen by those using the property

[Appendix C.5 Insurance]

The proposed insurance structure is based on the established insurance structure in Toronto. In Toronto the city has no outside insurance coverage for any claims under \$5 million however the city has its own insurance kitty for claims fewer than 5 million. Each division, such as Parks and Recreation, is internally charged a premium by the city, partly based on how many claims are made against that division. There would be no insurance coverage for the city in case someone sued for “incident or injury” caused by a park campfire. Under a \$5 million claim, there’s no external insurance coverage in Toronto; however, 90% of all third-party liability claims against the city are resolved for less than \$15,000.

[Appendix C.6 Budget]

FIRE PIT CONSTRUCTION COST			
Type	Provincial Campsite: Metal Fire Pit	California: Concrete Fire Ring	West Coast: River Rock Fire Pit
Construction	cut & welded in metal shop, dug in and planted in ground	poured into place using cast	poured concrete base, fire brick interior wall, river rock capstone exterior wall
Current Use	Penticton / Metro Van Parks	California / Seattle	Idea For Vancouver
Image			
Material Cost	\$300	\$300	\$1,100

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

[Appendix C.7 Environmental / Health Issues]

The burning of wood is virtually carbon neutral, as the carbon dioxide that is emitted represents carbon that was drawn from the atmosphere. The burning of wood emits several other greenhouse gases, which include methane and nitrogen dioxide, however these are emitted in a much smaller proportion. The only other greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with the burning of wood are related to the transportation and extraction of the wood itself, which can vary greatly depending on the method of extraction and the origin of the wood. If wood is procured from local sources and is harvested in a responsible manner, the embodied emissions will be minimal.

The burning of wood also emits several local pollutants, which studies have linked with a variety of serious health issues. However, the direct health effects of wood smoke is disputed, as one 2012 study published in the journal of *Particle and Fibre Toxicology*, found no severe effects on the respiratory system associated with short term exposure to wood smoke. Additionally, Metro Vancouver's air quality consistently meets or exceeds both Canadian and regional standards, and BC's Air Quality Health Index can issue air quality advisories if pollution levels become unsafe.

	WOOD	CHARCOAL
Direct emissions from renewable sources	22.6	39.6
Direct emissions from non-renewable resources	225	300
Complete lifecycle emissions from renewable sources	28.9	485.6
Complete lifecycle emissions from non-renewable sources	244.6	867.5

APPENDIX C - ORIGINAL PROPOSAL [WRITTEN FOR PARKS]

SEATTLE	CALGARY	PENTICTON
<p>Fires are not allowed during air pollution alerts</p> <p>Legal fuel only in fires; clean, dry, unfinished cord wood</p> <p>Illegal fuels are prohibited from entering any Seattle park. These include pallets, garbage, construction waste and brush. Fires in provided metal rings only. Fire fuel must be completely contained within the metal rings, and be no more than 2 feet high.</p>	<p>Fire Chief has power to declare a ban on all burning within the city</p> <p>Size of flame must be under 1 meter in length/height</p> <p>Allowed: Clean, dry firewood- Not Allowed: treated/painted lumber, lumber products with glue or resin, wet or unseasoned wood, leaves-brush-yard waste, garbage, rubber, tires, plastic, animal carcasses or parts</p>	<p>The City may choose to close beach fire pits, at the discretion of the Penticton Fire Department. Only seasoned firewood is to be used. No pallets. No prohibited materials. No Metal or nails.</p> <p>Metal grate over fire pit restricts height of flame, and amount of fuel that can be burned.</p>

APPENDIX D - TWO PAGE REPORT (FOR MAYOR'S OFFICE)

CITYSTUDIO CAMPFIRE PROJECT

Bringing Back The Original Social Innovation!

OBJECTIVES

The CityStudio Campfire Project aims to introduce shared, public, firepits as a way to cultivate connections, increase use of Vancouver parks year round and contribute to a fun Vancouver. After studying the models currently present in Calgary, Edmonton, Seattle, Penticton and San Francisco, The CityStudio Campfire Project proposes one pilot campfire pit to be implemented in the summer at Locarno Beach to make the case for a permanent, public firepit. As the city increases in density and people move into smaller living spaces, public firepits could become a vital meeting place for residents in the city. Firepits will address the Healthy City Strategy goals of cultivating connections and getting outside, as well as the Greenest City goal of increasing access to nature.

RECOMMENDED SITE DETAILS

Based on the site matrix we created to evaluate the different locations, the east end of Locarno Beach, just West of Jericho Sailing Centre, is the most viable location to minimize the risk associated with a public firepit. The proposed firepit structure would be constructed in west coast river rock style, with a poured concrete base, firebrick interior wall, and river rock capstone exterior wall. The estimated cost for materials excluding labour is approximately \$500.

PROPOSED RULES & REGULATIONS

Public firepits do have potential risks, but from drawing on examples from Calgary, Edmonton & Seattle, we have created the proposed rules and regulations to ensure those Risks are kept to a minimum.

- Firepits are shared spaces "Bring Wood & Friends!"
- Firepits close at midnight
- Patrons must have means to extinguish fire at all times
- Fire must be kept at reasonable size (1m width & height)

APPENDIX D - TWO PAGE REPORT (FOR MAYOR'S OFFICE)

- Fire must be completely extinguished before leaving the area
- Fire must never be left unattended
- Permitted materials only: clean, dry firewood
- Non-permitted material: leaves, grass, and grass cuttings, biomedical waste, wooden pallets, tires, plastics, drywall, demolition waste, waste, paint, tar paper, treated lumber, railway ties, manure, rubber, asphalt, lumber products with glue

NOTES FROM KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Thursday, March 13th

- Rick Cheung (Fire Protection Engineer)
- Rob Renning (Assistant Chief of Fire Protection)
- CityStudio Campfire Project Team

Key Ideas & Concerns:

- Concerns about the contradictory messages surrounding future bans on wood burning and allowing for public firepits and concern for public safety
- Emphasized the amount of complaints they receive about smoke from backyard barbeques, wood-burning stoves and illegal open burns

Tuesday, March 18th

- Lindsay Cole (Parks Planner, Championing for CityStudio Campfire Team)
- Bill Harding (Director of Parks)
- Representatives from Fire Department, VPD, other Parks staff

Key Ideas & Concerns:

- Fire Department believes safety risks could be mitigated, but concerned about allowing wood-burning fire pits while still aligning with the Greenest City goals
- VPD concerned about extra policing time, as rangers have little enforcement power
- Potential concerns from Metro Vancouver regarding smoke from wood burning negatively affecting air quality in adjacent municipalities
- Parks Board willing to try a one-month pilot on weekends using a booking system, Fire Protection unwilling to ok pilot because of by-law concerns regarding emissions, but did think it would be possible to effectively mitigate safety risk!

APPENDIX E - PRESENTATION TEXTS

E.1 Hubbub Presentation Text

Hi, my name is Rob this is Peggy, Stuart and Chelsea and we are the Campfire Project. Before we begin, I would like you to invite you to remember the last time you sat around a campfire: ...the sounds...the people you are with, and the feeling of togetherness. Inspired by last year's CityStudio project, The Campfire Project aims to introduce shared public fire pits on Vancouver beaches, following the models of Calgary and Seattle.

Campfires bring people together, get people outdoors in all seasons and provide a way for people to take meaningful ownership over our collective backyard. Vancouver Foundation put hard data behind what many intuitively know: it's hard to make friends in Vancouver, our neighbourhood connections are cordial but weak, and that many people are retreating from community life. By cultivating connections, and increasing access to nature the campfire project addresses goals set out by the Healthy City Strategy, Greenest City Action Plan and contributes to a fun Vancouver.

We want to bring back the original social innovation to tackle the city-wide problem of loneliness. Campfires have been used throughout human history as a way to connect, and are a central component of many cultures, including our own Canadian heritage. According to a Metro Vancouver Report, an additional 1.2 million people will move into the region by 2041.

As the City becomes more dense and living spaces decrease in size, there will be a greater need for Vancouver Parks and Beaches to act as our collective backyard.

To start, we propose one pilot project on Locarno Beach this summer to make the case for public firepits in Vancouver.

We have spent the last three months researching best practices of the major cities who currently have public fire pits in order to create a proposal for the parks board and city staff. This led to a stakeholder meeting with the Vancouver Parks Board, Sustainability Department, Fire department, and VPD, to discuss the possibility of implementing a pilot firepit. Our proposal is currently being reviewed by the Mayor's office.

Calgary, Seattle, San Francisco, Toronto all have public firepits. Let's add Vancouver to this list!

APPENDIX E - PRESENTATION TEXTS

E.2 After Dark Presentation Text (Ashoka Showcase)

C: = Chelsea Keenan

R: = Robert Morton

R: Hi I'm Rob.

C: Hi I'm Chelsea, and we are 2 of the 4 members from the Citystudio 2014 Campfire project, alongside our members Stu and Peggy who are also here tonight.

We chose campfire as our project focus, inspired by Last years group who attempted a similar goal to have a legal campfire within the city. We reflected on our own memories/ experiences and knew we had a connection to simple essence a campfire can bring.

R: -I remembered a camping trip Tofino with two of my best friends. We had been there for two days and still hadn't met anyone from our campsite. We were outgoing but we knew simply walking into someone else's campsite and saying "hello can we join you for dinner," wouldn't be socially acceptable. Instead we hatched a plan to meet our neighbors.

-We went down to public area of the campsite and put up sign at 7pm that said "Bring wood and friends"...

-by 9:00 PM we had a campfire with more than half the campsite sitting around it, sharing food and teaching each other campfire songs.

-For the rest of our camping trip, we stayed in a community of people we knew. ...sharing ketchup and making beach plans..

-This was a fantastic example of how easily campfires bring people together and reinforced that creating a community firepit was the project we wanted to work on.

R: And so we set out to talk to city and get this on the ground. And the response from literally every city staff we spoke to was the same.

"wow what an awesome idea guys-I would love to be able to have a campfire on the beach near my house..but its not going to happen"

C: Being the stubborn students that we are, we were left with why? Why can't we do this?

-Knowing that Seattle, San Francisco, Calgary, Toronto and most European Cities had public campfire pits why couldn't Vancouver

APPENDIX E - PRESENTATION TEXTS

-Through meetings and dialogues we as a group learned that the city of Vancouver is extremely risk averse compared to other cities.

C: For Example, When I phoned Calgary 311, and asked about the legal implications with having firepits in parks (Calgary has 150 legal public campfire pits), for example if someone were wanting to sue over injury; their response was this: it is the same as “driving a car on a city street” or the “same as tripping on a public street” , you use city property at your own risk and people are aware and ok with that.

C: Why does Vancouver have a culture of entitlement and blame vs a culture of ownership responsibility and engagement.

Through research we learned Vancouver has created a an engaged city task force to tackle this problem-it indicates that people are retreating from community life. People vote less, give less, volunteer and join less. and This fraying of community leads to indifference, a corrosion of caring and compassion and a retreat from the very things that make our community a better place to live.

C: Through the process of our citystudio dialogues, contact with other cities and through and a lot of reflection, we’ve come to a conclusion. In order to become a more engaged citizen we need to be able feel some sense of ownership and responsibility within our community- for this to happen we learned that we need to have more opportunity to do this.

R: Ok to explain this a bit more I’m going to use a LEGO example:Imagine in one hand you’re given a pre built lego spaceship. It’s been built perfectly and crazy glued together but your not allowed to touch it. On the other hand you’re given the lego set, and you get to build the spaceship yourself using the instructions. Which one are you going to be more invested in? If it breaks which one would you be more likely to fix yourself? Or if I was to take it away which one would you be more likely to protect? Which one would you be more likely to show off and use with your friends?

R: So of course you’re going to be more engaged in things you have ownership over.. but thinking back to creating a more engaged Vancouver..

APPENDIX E - PRESENTATION TEXTS

R: How do we give people the opportunity to make the community their own without chaos. We can't have people painting polkadots on their neighbours houses and city buildings without consent We can't have people planting gardens in the middle of soccer fields And we definitely can't have people lighting fires as they please in the middle of Stanley Park

R: But is there a way we can have both?

Is there a way we can provide room for people to have ownership and responsibility in a contained way? We realized campfires do exactly that-they are an example of this perfect framework. They provide a way for Vancouverites to light their own fires, bring their own wood, and create their own shared space engaging with friends and neighbours but in a contained way in a designated area.

R: And we realized we have seen this framework work before: For example: Vancouver's existing Green streets program and the painted intersection project and Portland's Street Mural Program that our classmates are currently working on.

R: The Green Streets Program gives residents the freedom to plant anything they want, within a designated public space, such as a roundabout or Boulevard. And Portland's Street Mural Program allows a neighbourhood to paint their own mural with as many polkadots as they want, within a pre-established section of the street. All three programs result in the same sense of ownership, responsibility, and engagement without burning down the city!

C: The basis of our project became this question: how can we foster a more engaged Vancouver, a community that takes responsibility, takes action rather than complains and knows the names of their neighbours. By creating the space and opportunity for Vancouverites to take ownership and responsibility in the public sphere such as hosting a campfire... citizens develop a real sense of ownership in our communities and become more engaged. With projects such as these mentioned, we can transform the way people in Vancouver think: from what the city should do for me to...what can I do for my city!

APPENDIX F - BYLAW INFORMATION

CURRENT VANCOUVER BYLAW

1.1.2.3. Alternatives

1) Alternatives to requirements in this By-law are permitted if the *Fire Chief* is satisfied that these alternatives provide a level of fire and life safety that is equivalent to the level of performance otherwise required by this By-law. [See Appendix A.]

CURRENT VANCOUVER PARKS BYLAW

1.1.1.1. (5) This By-law is enacted on the understanding and specifically expressed condition that

- a) it creates no duty whatsoever on the City of Vancouver, the *Fire Chief* or any employee of the City of Vancouver to enforce its provisions, and
- b) a failure to administer or enforce its provisions, or the incomplete or inadequate administration or enforcement of its provisions, shall not give rise to a cause of action in favour of any person whatsoever.

PROPOSED DRAFT BYLAW

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the conduct and activities of people on publicly owned property and immediately adjacent areas in order to promote the safe, enjoyable and reasonable use of such property for the benefit of all citizens of the City of Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver requires that all Fires Must be Supervised.

Definition

1. "Fire Pit" includes a permanently affixed outdoor fire receptacle

Prohibited Fires

2. Subject to the provisions of this Part, a person shall not cause or permit an outdoor fire on land they own or occupy. Fires are only permitted in designated fire pits by the City of Vancouver

Fire Pit Standards

3. A Person may build, ignite, or allow a fire on a Premises in a Fire Pit as long as that Person ensures that the fire is contained in a City of Vancouver Fire Pit that:

- (a) is constructed of non-combustible material;
- (b) has an open flame area that does not exceed 1 metre at its widest point;
- (c) does not have walls which exceed 0.75 metres in height measured from the floor of the Fire Pit to the top of the wall of the Fire Pit excluding any chimney;

APPENDIX F - BYLAW INFORMATION

- (d) is set upon or built into the bare ground or a non-combustible material such as brick or stone;
- (e) is situated at least 3 metres from any house, garage or similar structure including wooden decks, porches and similar amenity space attached to a structure measured from the part of the Fire Pit which is closest to the structure or amenity space;
- (f) is situated at least 3 metres from any other combustible material measured from the part of the Fire Pit which is closest to the combustible material; and
- (g) is not located directly under any tree or overhanging branches.

Fire Fuel Restrictions

4. No Person shall burn, at any time, on any Premises, the following materials:

- (a) treated or painted lumber;
- (b) lumber products containing glue or resin;
- (c) wet or unseasoned wood;
- (d) leaves, brush or yard waste;
- (e) garbage;
- (f) rubber, tires or plastic; or
- (g) any animal carcass or part thereof.

Time Restrictions

5. No Person shall ignite or allow a fire to burn on a Premises between one o'clock a.m. (1:00 a.m.) and ten o'clock a.m. (10:00 a.m.).

Powers of The Fire Department

6. If, in the opinion of an Officer, or in the sole opinion of a member of the Fire Department, a fire poses a danger or does not comply with the requirements of this Bylaw, a member of the Fire Department may extinguish the fire and take any other steps that member of the Fire Department deems necessary to ensure that the fire and site of the fire no longer pose a danger.

Powers of the Chief Bylaw Officer and Fire Chief

7. Fire Bans Notwithstanding any other provision in this Bylaw, the Chief Bylaw Officer or the Fire Chief may, in either's sole discretion, issue an order that prohibits a Person from building or igniting a fire in a Fire Pit on a Premises.

No person shall contravene an order of the Chief Bylaw Officer or Fire Chief that prohibits building or igniting a fire in a Fire Pit.

Notwithstanding any provision in this or any other bylaw, the Fire Chief may declare a complete ban of any burning of any kind in the City.

APPENDIX F - BYLAW INFORMATION

When determining whether to declare a complete ban on burning, the Fire Chief may take into consideration any or all of the following factors:

- (a) the air quality index;
- (b) levels of recent precipitation;
- (c) water shortages or restrictions;
- (d) availability of firefighters and fire fighting equipment; and
- (e) the overall fire danger.

(1) No Person shall ignite a fire in the City of Vancouver fire pit when a complete ban on burning has been declared by the Fire Chief and is in effect.

(2) A member of the Fire Department or an Officer may direct a Person to extinguish any fire when a fire ban is in place.

(3) A Person who fails to comply with the direction of a member of the Fire Department or an Officer to extinguish a fire during a fire ban commits an offence and the member of the Fire Department or the Officer, as the case may be, may extinguish the fire.