



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 11 Update: St. Anne's Protest Camp

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, May 2, 2017 a group identifying themselves as the 'Alliance Against Displacement' entered a fenced off area in the Haney Neighbourhood. The St. Anne's site, located west of 223 Street south of 117 Avenue, is in the early stages of development to a park site and neighbourhood consultations were scheduled to begin shortly.

On Friday, May 5, City staff provided legal notice to the campers onsite that they need to vacate the site as it falls under the City's Parks Regulations Bylaw.

On Thursday, May 11, City staff began removal of the construction fencing on the west side of the site to ensure public safety and the ability of first responders and City staff to have access to the site at all times. During the first week of the protest camp there were a number of occasions when access to the site was blocked by people in the protest camp, including the use of locks.

While the fence was being removed a number of vacant tents were removed from the site pursuant to the Parks Regulations Bylaw prohibiting daytime camping. People that remain in the protest camp have been provided with information regarding shelter, meal and support services that are available in the community.

The City will continue to monitor the site and ensure community safety and seek compliance with the Parks Regulations Bylaw. The City will continue to work with local service providers representing BC Housing and Fraser Health to connect unsheltered citizens with services to help them transition from the streets.

The City is also continuing the work to get an injunction to end the occupation of the site by those who refuse to comply with the Parks Regulations Bylaw.

Work is continuing on the development of the neighbourhood park on this site. Two weeks ago invitations were mailed to homes in the immediate neighbourhood to attend an Open House on Thursday, May 4. We would like to thank the community members who came out to share their vision for the site.

For more information on this media release, please contact Chief Administrative Officer, Ted Swabey at 604-463-5221 or via email at tswabey@mapleridge.ca.