

MAY 18, 2023: SUMMARY: Vancouver City and Park Board bylaws and regulations relating to music and amplification.

Vancouver Park Bylaws music and amplification

8 (c) No person shall operate any amplifying system or loud speaker in any park without the written permission of the General Manager first had and obtained.

(g) No person shall sing, play a musical instrument, or otherwise perform or provide entertainment in any area of a park which has been designated by the General Manager as an area in which entertainment is not allowed.

22 (l) in any portion of a park designated as a "quiet area" and posted as such, operate a radio, tape player, or other device capable of transmitting live or recorded sound, unless the sound is transmitted directly to a person's ears through the use of headphones.

(Note: There are **3** designated quiet beaches in Vancouver: **Sunset Beach, Locarno Beach and West Spanish Banks.**)

CoV Noise Control ByLaw

3. No person shall make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, any noise or sound in a street, park or similar public place which disturbs or tends to disturb unreasonably the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of persons in the neighbourhood or vicinity.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this By-law the following are declared by Council to be noises or sounds which are, in its opinion, objectionable or liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public and are hereby prohibited, and no person being the owner or occupant of any premises shall make, cause, allow, or permit:

(a) the noise resulting from a gathering of two or more persons at any time, where one or more human voice is raised beyond the level of ordinary conversation,

(b) the sound of a radio, television, player or other sound playback device, public address system, or any other music or voice amplification equipment, musical instrument, whether recorded or live, whether amplified or not, provided that the sound does not emanate from a commercial premises, or

(c) the noise resulting from construction except during the hours and days during which section 16 permits a person to carry on construction,

which can easily be heard by an individual or member of the public who is not on the same premises, notwithstanding that such noise or sound might not constitute a breach of any other provision of this by-law.

5. No person shall in a quiet zone make, cause or permit to be made or caused, continuous sound the sound level of which:

(a) during the **daytime** exceeds a **rating of 55** on an approved sound meter when received at a point of reception within a quiet zone, or 60 on an approved sound meter when received at a point of reception within an activity zone, event zone or an intermediate zone; or

(b) during the **nighttime** exceeds a **rating of 45** on an approved sound meter when received at a point of reception within a quiet zone, or 55 on an approved sound meter when received at a point of reception within an activity zone, event zone or an intermediate zone.

CoV Busker/Street Entertainment Regulations

Safety and comfort

Performers and their audience must not block doorways, display windows, sidewalks, paths, bicycle routes, or city streets

Performances must not jeopardize the comfort and safety of others. Performers must respect the wishes of nearby residents and visitors, particularly regarding the loudness of the performance. Refrain from requesting the crowd to cheer or yell

Volume levels and amplification

Voice amplification is not allowed, although we give case-by-case consideration to rap music performers

Battery-operated **amplification can only be used for instruments that need an amp** to be heard (when you apply for your permit, we ask you to describe your instrument or accessory to be amplified)

For example, an acoustic guitar does not need amplification to be heard

Amplification is only allowed for the instrument identified on the permit

Performances using amplification must be **in a location that will not disturb others**. Performers must respect the wishes and concerns of others

The **volume** must be kept to a reasonable level, **under 70 db** and intended for an **audience within 10 metres**, within the guidelines set by the Noise Control By-law

PARTY BOATS: Petition and CoV Liquor Control Regulations

Petition excerpt: "It appears that noise by-laws are meaningless when it comes to loud party boats in our harbour. It appears that out on the water it's open season as far as noise. I've been told by the Vancouver Police Department that there's a jurisdictional problem. No one seems to really be in charge of these party boats. They're not subject to city noise by-laws and the Port Authority has no authority.

However, there is a solution. Charter boat companies are required to get a City Business Licence as well as a Liquor Licence. In 2015 the City Liquor Licencing Coordinator set these rules for charter boats"

Aug 19, 2015: New city guidelines re party boats

"Regarding the noise reduction we have taken the following steps.

1) Posting the following "standing orders" on the Bridge for the Captain.

a) **That the vessel to stay 1.5 nautical mile off Kitsilano and Point Gray areas when having music on the top deck.**

b) Cruise at an increased speed when leaving False Creek and returning.

c) **If cruising close to shore, sound levels to decrease exponential based on distance from the shore.**

Note these orders will be incorporated into our existing bridge operational and training manual.

2) Monitor top deck levels for sound. Note: An app is available for smart phones, we usually do this but was missed on one occasion.

3) Not allow outside base bins to be brought in from charter parties to be used on the top deck.

PLEASE SIGN THE PARTY BOAT PETITION

Please help turn down the loud party boat "music" in Vancouver harbour.

City of Vancouver Noise Bylaw Review: Input on Health Impact (excerpt)

May 18, 2023, By Jan L. Mayes, MSc, Audiologist (Retired), member of The Quiet Coalition, former Board Member Right to Quiet Society.

Noise Exposure Limits

Even in Quiet Zones, dB limits specified by the City of Vancouver current Noise Bylaws are not likely protective enough, especially for noise-sensitive or high risk members of the general public. More protective noise exposure limits are outlined in various internationally recommended guidelines to prevent adverse communication and/or health effects from public exposure to noise pollution. This might include World Health Organization Guidelines for Community Noise (1999), Night Noise Guidelines (2009), and Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018).

QUIET PARKS AND QUIET SPACES INAD EVENT April 2022

“In observation of the 27th annual International Noise Awareness Day (INAD), and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Vancouver based Right to Quiet, a virtual forum was held on April 27, 2022 examining the health enhancing benefits of quiet green spaces, and the importance of protecting such spaces from noise pollution for the benefit of humans and urban wildlife.

Quiet Parks and Quiet Spaces addresses the health impacts of noise and the need for quiet spaces in urban parks, especially as density increases.

*ORGANIZERS: Right to Quiet Board Members Elvira Lount (Utopia Pictures Ltd) and Karl Raab (VP)”
MODERATOR: CATHERINE EVANS (Vancouver): Park Board Commissioner 2014-2018;*

INAD INTRO: ARLINE L. BRONZAFIT, Ph.D. (New York): Environmental psychologist; Professor Emerita City University New York; Right To Quiet Board; Co-Founder The Quiet Coalition and INAD;

PANELISTS:

ULF BOHMAN (Sweden): Director of Urban Parks Quiet Parks International; City of Stockholm Guide to Silence.

DR FRANCESCO ALETTA (UK/Italy): (Research Associate at the Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, The Bartlett, University College London).

DAVID SADOWAY (British Columbia): faculty Geography and Environment Dept. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC

Elvira Lount
May 18, 2023
Kitsilano, Vancouver
Utopia Pictures Ltd.
Keep Kits Beach Wild
Former Board Member Right to Quiet Society