
Stanley Park Advocates
News Release
January 31, 2018

The rare and at-risk Great Blue Heron species found in Stanley Park will have a brewery and brewpub next to their protected breeding colony if the Vancouver Park Board and Anheuser-Busch have their way.

This controversial decision made by the Park Board, and endorsed by City Council recently, was done surprisingly without proper public consultation and an Environmental Impact Study for the sensitive Park area. Not only does it breach provincial, federal and the Park Board's own requirements to curtail disruptive activities during the heron's critical breeding season from February to August, it also infringes further on a minimum 60 metre nesting buffer zone requirement for this vulnerable species.

Although the colony has habituated to nearby activity, this provides unprecedented exposure to their most damaging threat: human disturbance and noise. Ignoring their own Heronry Management Guidelines, the Park Board is allowing construction, with its disturbing noise and machinery, at the most sensitive time of breeding: when herons balance energy for nest building, egg production, incubation and chick-rearing. Once built, herons will face an onslaught of partying foot traffic and pub noise under their nests late into the evening every night. The herons may be resilient, but they are not invincible.

Wilderness groups are now getting involved. The growing body of citizens aware of this move by the Park Board is disappointed and disillusioned with the Park Board's abdication of their stewardship role in favour of giving the world's largest beer conglomerate a foothold in our park system complete. The following video provides a view of the travesty that transpired at City Hall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epmVWreCrn8>

The Park Board, brewery and Stanley Park Ecology Society guarantee the Great Blue Heron colony will not be impacted. However, impact is unpredictable. This guarantee was made to pave Anheuser-Busch's way into our parks for maximum profit and capital investment as cited by the Park Board.

Thousands continue to sign the global petition to keep our parks a family-friendly, nature-focused area at <https://www.change.org/p/vancouver-parks-and-recreation-stop-anheuser-busch-brewery-in-stanley-park>. Please support our continued efforts to protect and preserve nature in our Parks.

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