

July 17, 2013

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**Last week's vandalism means costly repairs, temporary lack of amenities in City parks**

The few are spoiling things for the many in City parks with the destruction of a concrete picnic table at the Splash Park as well as damage to benches and the change room door at this popular new outdoor facility.

The City's Ken Forde park washrooms have also been targeted, with soap dispensers torn from walls now sprayed with graffiti.

*"We recognize that the vast majority of community members are using these facilities responsibly and enjoy the opportunities for recreation provided through City parks," says Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture. "But even though it's a very small percentage of people who choose to vandalize, they end up costing the community in a number of ways. Beyond the repair or replacement cost, it shows disrespect for the rest of the community and spoils other people's enjoyment of these facilities."*

Replacing and re-installing the concrete table at the Splash Park will cost approximately \$2,500, Milnthorp says.

Like many other high-profile, high-use public sites, the Splash Park area is under video surveillance.

The City and RCMP will review the video to determine whether it is possible to confirm the identity of the people who have done the damage.

Anyone with information related to these crimes is asked to contact the Campbell River RCMP detachment at 250-286-6221 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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250-286-5797

***Photo caption: A City employee prepares to remove a concrete picnic table that was damaged beyond repair at the Splash Park.***