

**From:** Miranda Barnes  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Inquiries <[Inquiries@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:Inquiries@rdn.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Please ban camping in the 707 park located on Gabriola Island

April 23 2020  
Attention: Claire Thorpe  
Re: Please ban camping in the 707 park located on Gabriola Island.

While I sympathize with the plight of the homeless, I have thought long and hard about this issue and I keep coming to the same conclusion, that camping in the 707 could have disastrous affects for our small island community. The 707 is an extremely large park with already limited and difficult access for our firefighting crews and equipment. The thick underbrush and slash piles alone are an extreme fire hazard in normal circumstances, let alone with the added risk of campers being neglectful.

Due to the extremely poor cell coverage in the 707 our local fire department often have a difficult time locating people in a emergency.

Being an island, Gabriola has no mutual aid agreements so in most emergencies we are on our own. Forestry will come when they can but their resources and ability to respond is also limited. Our fire department is working hard with forestry to keep access to the 707 open but at this time the park is still not safe for any type of camping due to the potential of wildfire.

Allowing camping in the 707 is just too great of a fire risk.

Thank you  
Miranda Barnes  
[REDACTED]  
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