

SUNSET PARK



IHP4675

Capital Improvements are listed in Appendix A

Established **1969**
Size **0.44 acres**
location **Eighth Avenue & Richmond Street**

Ammenities

- **Grass & trees**
- **Benches & Gazebo**

Sunset Park was originally developed in 1969-1970, when the city leased the property from the Salvation Army with an agreement to provide a neighbourhood park and rest area for the senior citizens residing in the adjacent Buchanan Memorial Sunset Lodge care home.

The park site was originally the estate of Samuel Bentley and Sarah [Sadie] Buchanan, who cleared this site to build a very beautiful Arts and Crafts-styled home c. 1912 overlooking the Fraser Valley. The couple also developed magical gardens notable in their day, which were full of rockeries and ivy topiaries and used for many community and social functions.

During the last days of a fatal illness, Sarah Buchanan was faithfully visited by Salvation Army Lieutenant Charles Watt. In 1946, just prior to his own death in 1947, Mr. Buchanan donated his home and property to the Salvation Army to be used as a rest home as a memorial to his wife.

Buchanan Lodge opened in August 1946 as a retirement home for 52 women. It provided personal immediate care to 43 residents as part of the B.C. government's long term care program in. In 1993, the Lodge was demolished to make way for a new multi-level care facility which opened in 1997. The site of the formerly leased park was then transferred to the ownership of the city, and a new gazebo and path system were constructed.

The new Buchanan Lodge was designed by Neale Staniszki's Doll Adams Architects and reinterpreted some of the architectural features of the old building. This development won a 1998 Wood Design Award, as well as a 1999 Architectural Institute of B.C. (AIBC) Merit Award.

Behind the Name...Sunset Park:



Although this park's name suggests it provides a view point for enjoying sunsets, it was actually taken from the name of the adjoining Buchanan Memorial Sunset Lodge. In the early years of retirement homes, sunset was often used to allude to the "sunset years" of a person life.