

## Daytime Warming Centre FAQs | [whiterockcity.ca/warmingcentre](http://whiterockcity.ca/warmingcentre)

1. *When is the Daytime Warming Centre open?*

Daily 7am – 10pm until March 8, 2024

2. *How do I reach staff or someone who is visiting the centre?*

Contact the centre at 604-841-9215 or by email at [info@eccsociety.org](mailto:info@eccsociety.org).

3. *How many people work in the centre during the day?*

A minimum of three (3) centre staff and security are on site at all times. Collaborating service providers may also be on site including nurses, social workers, doctors, counsellors, and government ministry staff.

4. *What is the maximum number of people allowed in the warming centre?*

30 is maximum capacity.

5. *What kind of services does the centre offer?*

Services offered include light meals and snacks, bathroom facilities, addressing basic medical needs, travel to and from nighttime shelters, connections to service providers, which improves mental and physical well-being for centre guests.

6. *Who is the centre run by?*

The City of White Rock contracts Engaged Communities Canada Society to operate the warming centre. [www.eccsociety.org](http://www.eccsociety.org)

7. *Have there been any success stories that have come out of the assistance given?*

The centre operator reports that there are plenty of success stories. Once people are able to get their most basic medical and safety needs addressed, other important things can be addressed, such as housing, counselling, and access to skills-training.

8. *Are there security cameras or security guards near the centre?*

There are no security cameras. Centre staff includes security. During the 2022-2023 season of the centre's operation the City received few complaints to Bylaw Enforcement. Should you observe any illegal activity or feel unsafe at any time, please call the RCMP.

9. *Where do people go at nighttime and how do they get there?*

Most of the people who use the Daytime Warming Centre live year-round in our community and each have their own circumstances. Currently there is no daily overnight shelter operating on the peninsula.

The City of Surrey operates an emergency overnight shelter on nights when temperatures are below zero.

South Surrey Recreation & Arts Centre EWR

14601 20th Avenue

Entrance located near the lower parking lot on the southeast corner of the building.

45 spaces - Adult 19+

10pm – 7am

604-315-0267

10. *Is there a safe injection site at the centre?*

The Daytime Warming Centre is a drug free zone. There is no safe injection site located at the centre. During the 2022-2023 season, there was an outdoor tent for smokers. Currently, there is no outdoor tent onsite.

11. *Does the park get a regular sweep for drug paraphernalia?*

Yes. The centre staff sweep the park several times daily and have the proper tools and knowledge to remove it safely. The sweep area is detailed below:

West: as far as the stairs leading up to the track, the entire parking lot and adjacent trees along Anderson and follow that down to the arena.

South: the front of both the arena and the curling rink.

East: inside the community gardens and parking lot.

North: all of the play areas (pickleball courts, etc) and the grassy area with picnic benches, as well as along 16 Ave to the bus stop.

They do not go as far as Generations Playground.

12. *What do we do if we find drug paraphernalia in the park?*

**Should you spot drug paraphernalia please do not touch it.** Report it to the centre staff by calling 604-841-9215.

*13. Are people allowed to use drugs in public areas?*

Currently, provincial legislation has decriminalized drug possession for personal use.

In 2023, the provincial government passed legislation effective January 1, 2024, to restrict the use of illicit drugs in certain public areas, including parks and playgrounds. [Legislation introduced regulating the public use of illicit drugs | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](#).

On December 29, 2023, however, a British Columbia Supreme Court Justice granted a temporary injunction against this legislation. [B.C. Supreme Court pauses legislation banning drug consumption in public spaces, citing 'irreparable harm' | CBC News](#)

If you see illegal activity, or feel unsafe, please call the RCMP.

*14. Where are the closest public washrooms in the Centennial Park complex?*

Public washrooms are available in Centennial Arena.

*15. How much is the operation of the centre costing the City of White Rock?*

\$360,000 to operate until March 2024.

*16. If I want to donate to the centre, how do I do that?*

Donations to the centre are needed and very appreciated. Donations of food, clothing, and supplies are accepted and can be dropped off from 7am – 10pm daily at the centre.

Monetary donations may also be made to the daytime warming centre. Donations will be placed in a City reserve fund designated for the operation of this facility. Visit [whiterockcity.ca/warmingcentre](http://whiterockcity.ca/warmingcentre) for more information or make a donation using the QR code below.

