

GRIMSTON PARK



Established **1937**
Size **6.44 acres**
location **20th Street & Sixth Avenue**

Ammenities

- **Two tennis courts**
- **Wading pool**
- **Lacrosse box**

Ammenities

- **Softball diamond**
- **Rotary Crosstown Greenway Plaza**
- **Soccer field**
- **Views**
- **Picnic area**
- **Adventure playground (rebuilt in 2010)**
- **Washrooms**

Rapid construction of homes to the city's western boundaries in the 1920s created the West End neighbourhood known as "Honeymoon Heights."

While Moody Park had long served the needs of this area, it was too distant for the growing number of families with young children needing a local park. Residents therefore presented the Parks Commission with a petition in 1929 requesting a playground in the area. Unfortunately, the Great Depression scuttled these plans for almost ten years.

In 1938, as the local economy began to recover, the West End had an estimated population of 5,000. The new Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School and the cheap building lots of Connaught Heights continued to attract even more families to build west of Twelfth Street.

The land for a West End district park was finally set aside by Council in 1937 and formally named "Westside Park" by the Parks Commission in 1940. Westside Park was renamed by the Parks Commission on November 21, 1955 in memory of Douglas G. Grimston, a longtime Parks Commission chair.

Bulldozers leased from the Vancouver Parks Board began clearing the site in 1944 for construction of the playground and playfield. The wading pool and washrooms were built in 1950, followed by the tennis courts in 1954. The lacrosse box was constructed in 1969, concurrent with the filling and enlargement of the playground.

A new Adventure Playground was created between 1977 and 1978; two 32-foot children's slides were installed in late spring, 1984, with money donated by the New Westminster Rotary Club. The Adventure Playground was officially opened on August 9, 1984 with many of Doug Grimston's family members in attendance.

Behind the Name...Grimston Park:



Douglas G. Grimston

Born: 1900

Died: September 15, 1955

Doug Grimston was a native son of New Westminster. He worked in his family's business, Westminster Ice Limited, and served four terms as chairman of the Parks Commission. He advocated tirelessly for the expansion and beautification of the city's parks, as well as for the construction of the new Queen's Park Stadium.

As the President of the New Westminster Athletic Association, Grimston was instrumental in negotiations to include the New Westminster Royals in the Western Hockey League. He was also active as president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, and in this capacity accompanied Canada's team at the World Hockey Olympic Championship in Oslo. He was further recognized for his contribution to Canada's victory in the World Championship Hockey playoffs in 1954.

His sudden death from cancer in 1955 was the subject of a front page newspaper obituary and editorial in **The British Columbian**: "It's difficult to say in words how this community felt about its favorite son, Doug Grimston, particularly such a few short hours following his death. ... He was a leader in the organization and growth of Canadian amateur hockey; he assisted - financially and morally - every type of sport found in the Royal City, and served as parks commissioner for a good number of years. There are many things about Doug, his personality and his temperament, and the things he achieved, that will

be remembered for many years to come. ... Doug's heart belonged to sport and the men and women in its various fields. But his efforts were not confined to his family, his business, his community and sport, he gave many hours and dollars to organized charities and much more of the same... the thing that made his such a beloved figure was his willingness and ability to get things done. The city and the community... take heart in remembering that Doug used his time on earth that others might use their time to better purpose and pleasure."