

VISION MANDATE:

Livability and community wellness are directly influenced by the presence of high quality, accessible public recreation, cultural and library facilities. Planning for Richmond's City Centre presents the opportunity to:

- **“Build Community”:** Provide community facilities and programs that address diverse community needs in a range of places to recreate, learn and socialize;
- **“Build Green”:** Mitigate the impact of urban development and encourage sustainable transportation options through the use of green building technologies and urban forms;
- **“Build Economic Vitality”:** Maximize the appeal of City Centre through the provision of high quality recreation and cultural facilities, thus attracting business to locate here, and tourists to visit;
- **“Build a Legacy”:** Provide places and spaces that position Richmond as a leading centre for sport, wellness and sustainability, and as a host for internationally significant events.

The Recreation and Cultural Facilities policies presented here are based on Council approved strategies and plans including the Facilities Strategic Plan, 2007-2012 Major Events Plan in Richmond “Catch the Excitement”, Richmond Arts Strategy, Richmond Oval Art Plan, Older Adults Service Plan - Active and Healthy Living in Richmond, Youth Service Plan - Where Youth Thrive, and 2007 Richmond Museum and Heritage Strategy. Where additional policies are required, the City (e.g., Facilities, Parks, Recreation) will present additional plans and implementation programs to Council for approval.

2.7 Recreational & Cultural Facilities

ISSUE:

Community facilities that provide opportunities for recreational, cultural and literary pursuits are essential components of a healthy, livable urban core. They contribute significantly to overall wellbeing by addressing a range of fundamental needs.

By 2021, the City Centre population is expected to double to 78,000 people. Over this period, the number of people aged 65 and over in the City Centre is expected to increase by roughly 155%, from 6,000 to 14,000 (from 15% to 18% of the population).

There already exists a significant need for community facilities in the City Centre (particularly in terms of ageing or under-sized facility infrastructure). Future increases to the City Centre population, and the changing demographics and diverse needs of the City Centre, have implications for the delivery of services to residents:

- the ‘baby-boomer’ generation is starting to retire and has unique needs and interests, a larger than ever disposable income, and likely the longest retirement period in history;
- older adults are ‘aging-in-place’. They are staying at home despite disabilities, and this has implications for providing services to them;
- the significant number of immigrants in Richmond (1 in 5 residents are born in another country) means that ethnic and cultural diversity needs must be considered in order to ensure equal opportunity and participation in recreation and cultural programs and services. Of the 40,000 residents in the City Centre in 2006, 63% are visible minority (with 45% being ethnic Chinese). Current migration patterns and the emphasis on service for Chinese-speaking individuals suggests that the City’s ethnic make-up is unlikely to change significantly in the future;
- the number of children and youth in the City Centre is expected to grow by roughly 70% (from 7,500 to 13,000) over the next 15 years. Involving and supporting children and youth is a key foundation for building a strong and vibrant community. Participating in recreational and cultural programs and services can help Richmond’s youth who live in the City Centre, to lead more enriched and healthier lives. The goal is to help youth thrive, learn, and be creative and healthy.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase livability in Richmond's City Centre by providing innovative, affordable and inclusive facilities, programs and services, in response to the changing demographics and diverse needs of the community.

Investments in community facilities must respond to a growing focus on sustainability from environmental, social, cultural and economic perspectives.

Financing

How recreation and cultural facilities are to be financed and phased (including their specific location) will be addressed separately from the CCAP process by a Corporate Facilities Implementation Plan and through facility feasibility studies. It will also address the need for other civic buildings.

There is currently a great deal of research being done on the looming 'health crisis' associated with physical inactivity. It is well recognized that there is a direct connection between physical activity levels and an appropriate provision of recreation facilities, parks and trails.



Existing City-Owned Recreation and Cultural Facilities within the City Centre			
Neighbourhood ¹	Community ²	City-Wide ³	Regional ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lang Community Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None in City Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minoru Aquatic Centre. Minoru Place Activity Centre. Minoru Arenas. Cultural Centre. Brighthouse Library. Minoru Sports Pavilion. Brighthouse Pavilion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateway Theatre. Richmond Oval. Minoru Chapel.

¹ Services (e.g. library lending service, community meeting space) for the population of the PRCS Service Area living within five to ten minutes walk (i.e. around 1 km (0.6 mi.) in distance) of a community centre. Neighbourhood provision is currently service-based, rather than physical facility-based.

² Facilities that serve the local population of a PRCS Service Area. Facilities of this level are typically a community centre, hall and branch library.

³ Facilities of this scale typically draw users from across the City, but also serve the needs of the residents of a specific PRCS Service Area. These include facilities such as arenas, aquatic centres, main library, and seniors centre.

⁴ These typically draw users from across the region and act as a destination place. The facilities can also serve broader user groups, such as for provincial, national and international events.

POLICIES	
2.7.1 General	
a)	Building Green New community facilities should be constructed in accordance with the City's "Sustainable High Performance Building Policy", and should aim to incorporate environmental improvements (e.g., an Eco-Plus+ Approach - see Policy 2.5.2). Facilities should have the ability to integrate ecological-based amenities (see Policy 2.5.4) within or adjacent to them. Co-locating facilities where possible and/or developing them in a more urban format (i.e., with a smaller urban footprint) will use less land and require less energy.
b)	Transit Oriented & Accessible Major new facilities should be located along major transit corridors and close to the Canada Line stations, so as to reduce the dependence on private vehicles. (Policy 2.3.5 (c) provides for reduced parking supply requirements for off-street parking for developments near transit villages.) Facilities should be accessible by a variety of non-motorized modes, including pedestrian and bike paths. The streets and sidewalks around community facilities should be designed to promote pedestrian and cycle access.
c)	Co-location of Facilities Co-location opportunities must be considered in facility development, in terms of the siting or 'packaging' of facilities (in the same building or in close proximity) that share users or achieve operational efficiencies.
d)	Mixed-Use Developments Opportunities to incorporate projects into mixed-use developments through private sector and institutional partnerships should be encouraged, due to the significant benefits that can be obtained, both in terms of capital cost sharing and to users.
e)	Adjacency to Commercial & Retail Services Facilities should be adjacent to commercial and/or retail spaces (e.g., cafes, restaurants, bookshops, grocery stores), to maximize user benefits and 'foot traffic' in the proximity of the site.
f)	Design Excellence Built facilities should demonstrate architectural design excellence.
g)	Co-Location with Parkland & Open Space Facilities should be co-located (either contiguous with, or in close proximity to) parkland or open space where possible. However, built facilities should not 'erode' parkland or open space. Alternatives should be explored to optimize roof use (e.g., green roof, amenity use, solar panels).
h)	Relationship of Indoor & Outdoor Space Facilities must be planned and designed to facilitate and maximize outdoor space (for programming and informal use). As appropriate, facilities must act as a base and staging area for outdoor programming and services on the site or immediate area.
i)	Maximum Accessibility Facilities must be located so as to maximize accessibility within the intended market. Facilities must offer more than minimum accessibility standards and should ensure easy access to all members of the community.
j)	Flexibility of Space Facilities must be built so as to maximize flexibility of use (to ensure responsiveness to changing community need).
2.7.2 'Neighbourhood' Level Facilities	
a)	Location Criteria Neighbourhood level facilities (e.g. library lending services, community meeting space) must be located within or very close to a Village Centre, so that each village has a library lending service and community meeting space. Encourage walking access to the facility from a Village Centre without interruption by physical boundaries.
b)	Equitable Distribution Neighbourhood facilities should be equitably distributed among urban villages.
2.7.3 'Community' Level Facilities	
a)	Location Criteria Community level facilities (e.g. community centres) must be located within close proximity to a Village Centre, have city-wide transit access, have comfortable pedestrian and bicycle access, maximize co-location opportunities, and have proximity to similar or complementary amenities. Consideration should be given to the facility being a village focal point, having access to open space, having automobile parking options, being co-located with other community or city-wide amenities (e.g. other built community facilities or parks), and having proximity to similar or complementary amenities outside of the City Centre.
2.7.4 'City-Wide' Level Facilities	
a)	Location Criteria City-wide facilities must be in a high visibility location, contribute to the identification of a 'City Centre', have city-wide transit access, have automobile parking options, comfortable pedestrian and bicycle access, maximize co-location opportunities, have proximity to similar or complementary amenities (e.g. community centres, libraries, etc.), and have availability / access to land or appropriate open space. Consideration should be given to proximity to regional transportation links, special geographic features (e.g. the riverfront), being co-located with other community or city-wide facilities and amenities, trail or greenway access, and to similar amenities outside of the City Centre.
2.7.5 'Regional' Level Facilities	
a)	Location Criteria Regional level facilities must be in a high visibility location, have proximity to regional transportation links, commercial amenities, special geographic features (e.g. the riverfront), have city-wide transit access, have automobile parking options, maximize co-location opportunities, have proximity to similar or complementary amenities (e.g. community centre, library, parks, etc.) within the City Centre, and have availability / access to land or appropriate open space. Consideration should be given to bicycle and pedestrian links, specific co-location opportunities, trail and greenway access, and connectivity with complementary amenities and population centres outside the City Centre.

2.7.1 Recreational Facilities

A significant need exists for recreation facilities in the City Centre.

- The current Lang Centre is significantly under-sized.
- The Minoru Aquatic Centre is at the end of its functional lifespan.
- The Minoru Place Activity Centre is undersized. More and different types of spaces are needed to serve the older adult population.

Challenge/Opportunity

Facilities must be sustainable and responsive to diverse community needs. There is a need to extend services that are currently available elsewhere in the city, to the City Centre (e.g. gymnasium, weight room, fitness studio, seniors and youth program spaces, multi-purpose spaces, and informal gathering space).

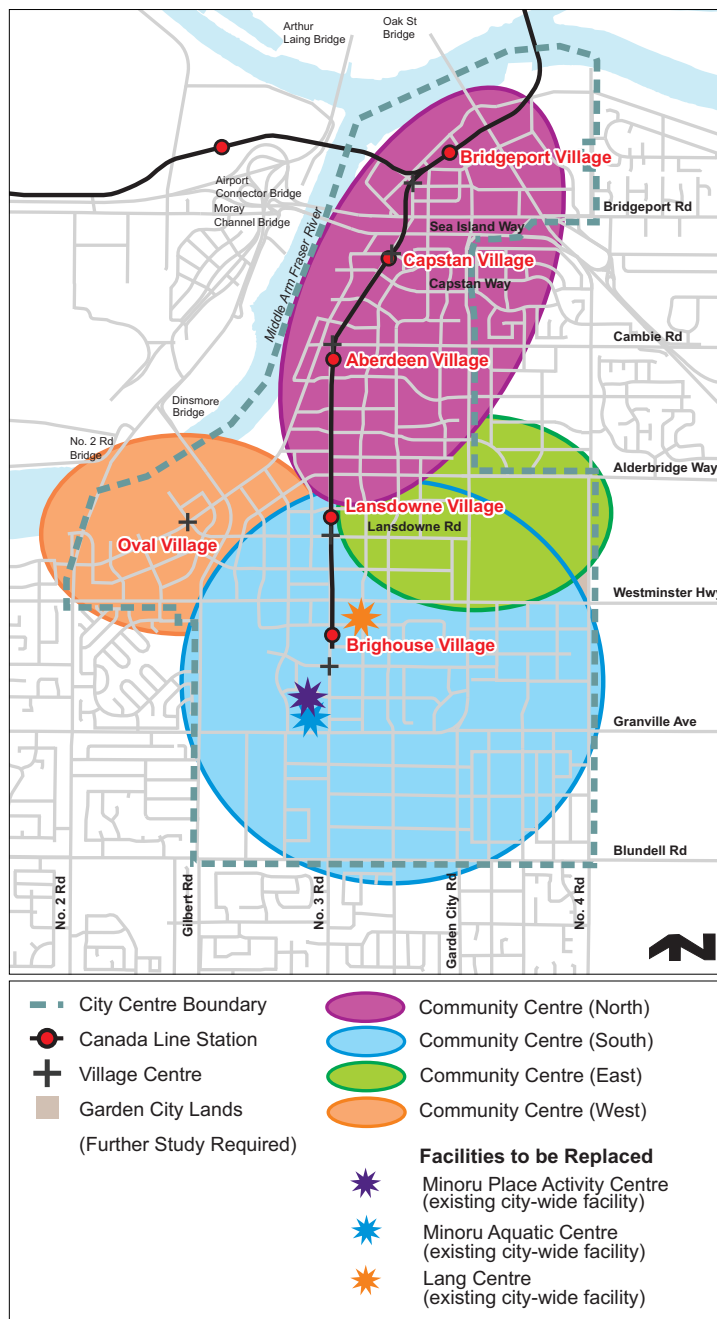
Proposed Strategy

The approved PRCS Facilities Strategic Plan outlines a 20-year strategy for replacing, retrofitting and upgrading existing buildings, and for new facility development.

In the City Centre, the following are proposed (see table on next page):

- two new community centres are required, one in the north and one in the south of the City Centre to provide core services to a broad range of local residents, and to meet a wide variety of indoor and outdoor basic recreation and cultural needs. Each centre will be a social and wellness focal point of community life for all ages, all ethnic backgrounds, and all levels of ability or disability;
- a replacement aquatic centre is required, with multiple tanks and supplemented with several wellness features, such as fitness and physiotherapy type services;
- a replacement older adults centre is required;
- at full build-out of the City Centre, two additional community centres are envisioned to meet the needs of the urbanized core. Council will need to approve updated plans later.

Recreation Facilities Map



Benefits of Co-Location

- *Greater use of some spaces which each facility might need, but not on a full time basis.*
- *Greater service to customers and families who would appreciate using more than one facility during the same visit.*
- *Capital and operating cost savings from joint and reciprocal use of shared support areas.*
- *Operating savings from having equipment and staff on site that could handle more than one amenity.*

Proposed City Centre Recreational Facilities (Location TBD)			
Facility	Needed Space	Timing	Service Level
Community Centre (South)	3,250 m ² (35,000 ft ²)	2008-2014	Community
Community Centre (North)	3,250 m ² 35,000 ft ²	2022-2029	Community
Older Adult Facility	2,790 m ² (30,000 ft ²)	2008-2014	City-wide
Aquatic Centre	5,570 m ² (60,000 ft ²)	2008-2014	City-wide

Proposed City Centre Recreational Facilities Subject to Future Study			
Facility	Needed Space	Timing	Service Level
Community Centre (East)	1,860 m ² (20,000 ft ²)	2030+	Community
Community Centre (West)	1,860 m ² (20,000 ft ²)	2030+	Community

2.7.1 Cultural

Richmond’s City Centre is growing rapidly, and the increasing large and diverse population has created new demands for services. There is a desire to fulfil community needs through the provision of cultural services and programs to residents, and to attract visitors to Richmond. Culture is an important economic generator through the provision of employment and tourism opportunities.

Challenge/Opportunity

The current Richmond Museum at the Cultural Centre is significantly undersized, and with current constraints is unable to interpret the unique Richmond Story in an effective and innovative manner.

A new visual and performing arts facility is required to augment and extend the kinds of services currently provided at the Cultural Centre and Gateway Theatre.

Proposed Strategy

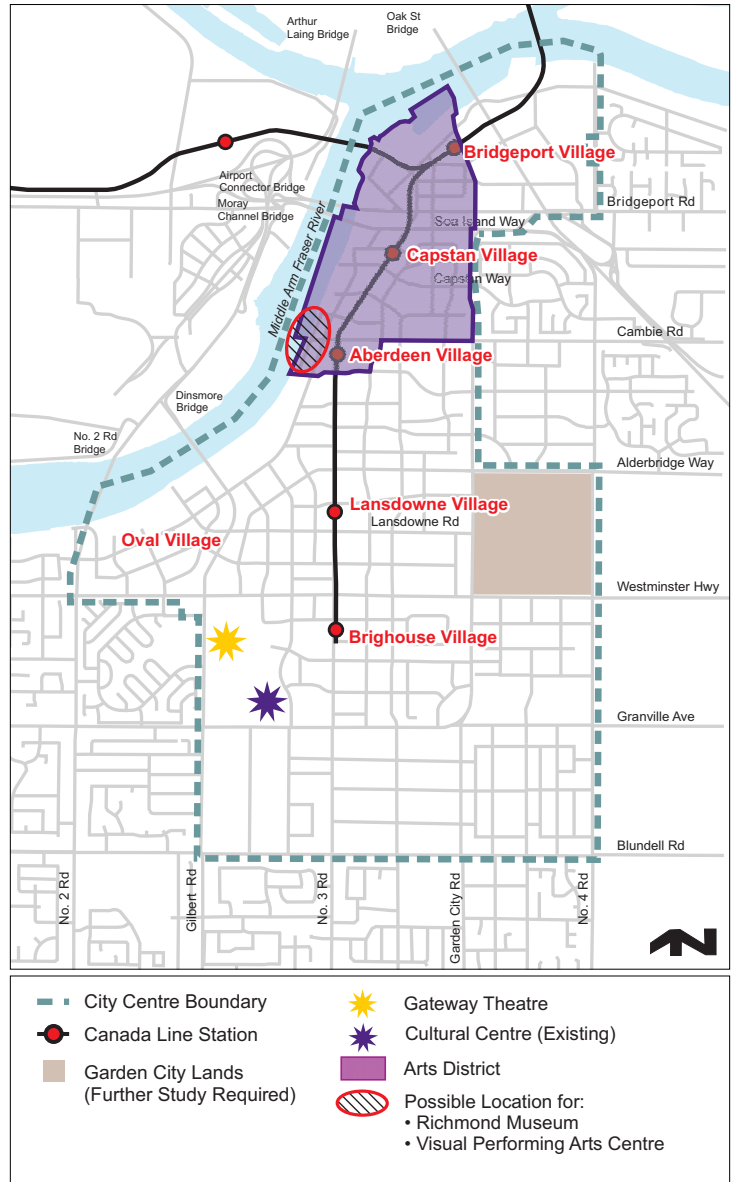
The centrepiece of the City’s approved 2007 Museum & Heritage Strategy is to “build a new dynamic destination museum”.

Both a new museum and a visual & performing arts centre are proposed in the PRCS Facilities Strategic Plan.

How these will be financed will be determined by future PRCS reports and Council review and approval.



Cultural Facilities Map



Proposed City Centre Cultural Facilities (Location TBD)			
Facility	Needed Space	Timing	Service Level
Richmond Museum	4,645 m ² (50,000 ft ²)	2015-2021	Regional
Visual and Performing Arts Centre	4,180 m ² (45,000 ft ²)	2022-2029	City-wide

2.7.1 Libraries

Libraries are the most used indoor community facilities in Richmond, utilised by 4 out of 5 residents. The Library Board reports that Richmond Public Library has the highest per capita circulation of any large urban library, as well as the highest percentage of active card holders.

Challenge/Opportunity

The heavy use of Richmond libraries has resulted in growing service gaps in space and collections. There will be a need to improve in these areas, and to undertake facility development that, as the population grows, library services keep pace. The library in the City Centre - Brighthouse (Main) Branch library - serves the dual purpose of being a community branch for the City Centre, and a city-wide resource for advanced library services. Brighthouse cannot currently support additional population growth.

Proposed Strategy

In 2006, based on the PRCS, Place & Spaces in City Centre report, Council authorized that the following proposed library facilities be incorporated in the CCAP:

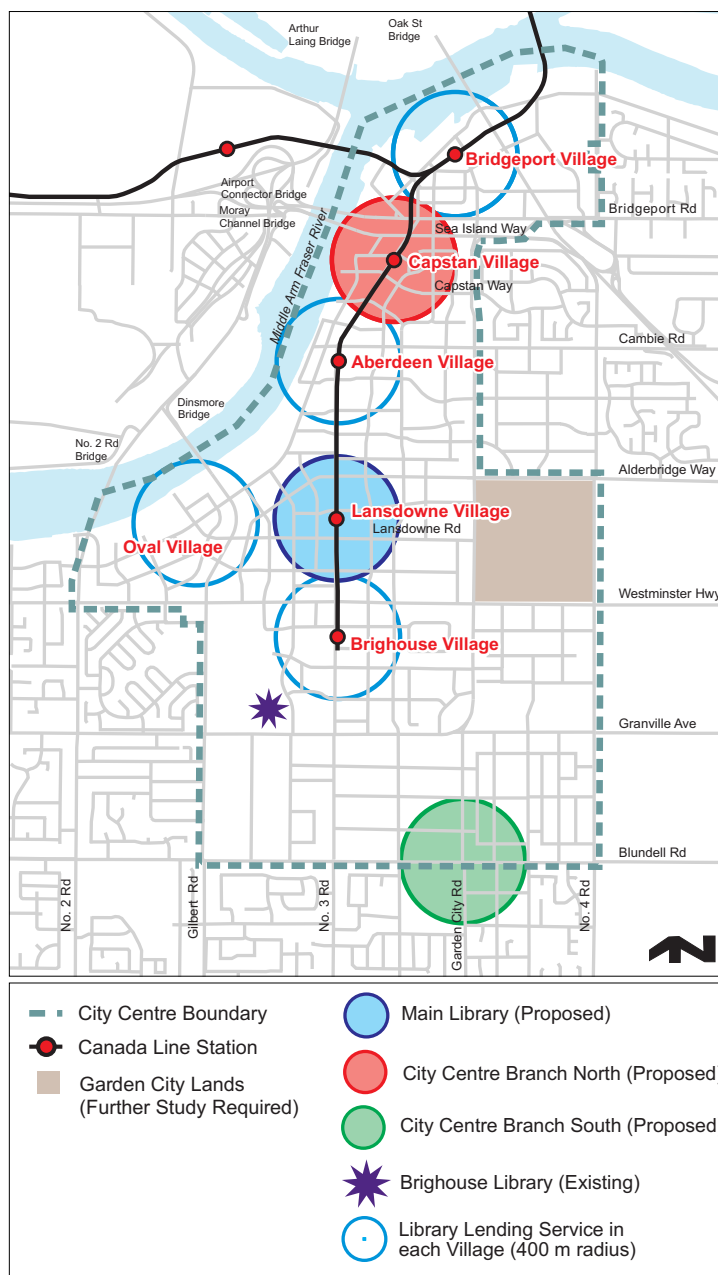
- library lending services in each village centre;
- 3 branch libraries;
- a new Main Library.

Note: The existing Brighthouse Library could become a 2,325 m² (25,000 ft²) branch library (south) and each branch library would likely be co-located with another facility (shared space would vary depending on the type of facility with which it is co-located).

It is to be noted that Council still needs to determine the specific location of and funding for the proposed libraries. PRCS will bring forth reports for Council approval.

Also in October 2007, as per the Richmond Library Facilities Plan, Council reinforced the above.

Library Facilities Map (Proposed)



Proposed City Centre Libraries (Location TBD)		
Facility	Needed Space	Service Level
New Main Library	9,290 m ² (100,000 ft ²)	City-wide
City Centre Branch Library (north)	2,325 m ² (25,000 ft ²)	Community
City Centre Branch Library	1,860 m ² (20,000 ft ²)	Community
City Centre Branch Library	1,860 m ² (20,000 ft ²)	Community
Lending Library Services	185 m ² (< 2,000 ft ²)	Neighbourhood