

VISION MANDATE:

Social equity is a “core value” integral to the growth of Richmond and its downtown and will:

- **“Build Community”**: Contribute to community health and well-being by balancing services and facilities with growth and the changing needs of citizens;
- **“Build Green”**: Enhance accessibility through the improved proximity of citizens to services and facilities;
- **“Build Economic Vitality”**: Attract and retain employees and socially-responsible employers by enhancing quality of life and access to high-quality social, health, community safety, and education services;
- **“Build a Legacy”**: Support a healthy, safe, diverse, respectful, and empowered community today and for future generations.

2.8 Social Equity & Community Services

ISSUE:

To be sustainable, the City Centre must foster social equity. Social equity requires “inclusivity” – opportunities for citizens to participate in their community, throughout their lives, in a safe and supportive environment, regardless of each person’s abilities, culture, economic status, or other factors.

An inclusive ethic, with the support of a strong network of civic resources, government agencies, not-for-profits interests, and other stakeholders, can foster connections, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, civic pride, and an invigorated sense of community belonging and empowerment.

Inclusivity relies on ensuring social and physical “accessibility”. A compact, transit- and pedestrian-oriented, urban form, such as that proposed for Richmond’s City Centre, is a good setting to achieve this objective:

- providing for multiple-family, seniors’, and affordable housing and higher densities, contributing to less social and economic segregation;
- co-locating community services with jobs, housing, parks, recreation, and amenities, can better put them within the physical and financial reach of more people.

In addition, the City supports three levels of service (e.g., city, community, and neighbourhood), the delivery of which generally falls into three categories:

- City owned and operated uses;
- City agreements with outside agencies, such as the Richmond School District (No. 38), RCMP, and Vancouver Coastal Health;
- City assisted uses (e.g., childcare funding).

The development of the City Centre and its urban villages presents the opportunity to locate these services where they can be most accessible to citizens, amenities, transportation, and complementary uses. To be most effective, this will need to be undertaken in coordination with a needs-based service delivery approach that is responsive to the City Centre’s evolving demographic (e.g., aging population, smaller households) and recognize and adapt to the challenges of a rapidly urbanizing community.

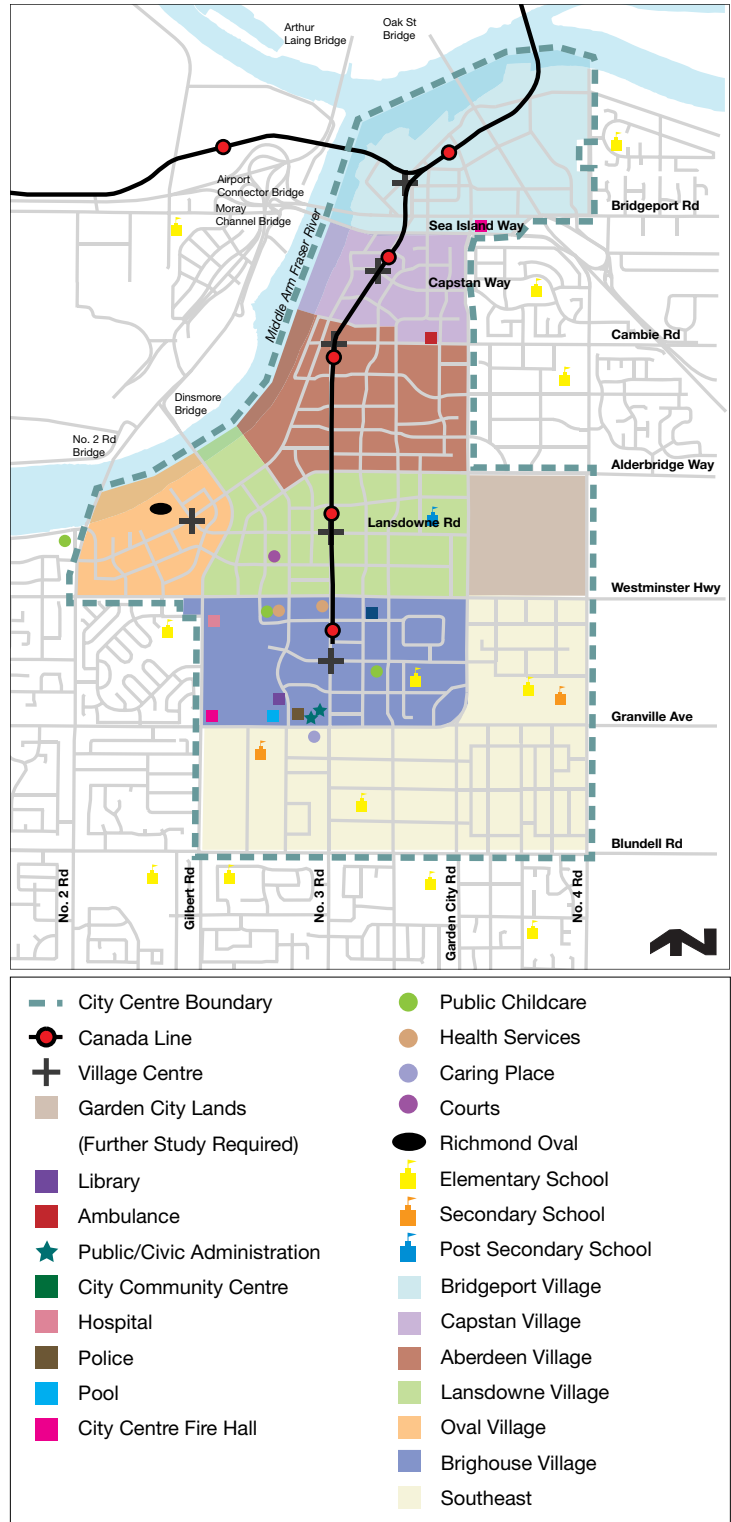
OBJECTIVE:

Provide a framework for an “**inclusive community**” that supports the diverse needs of its citizens and equitable access to social, health, education, safety, and other community resources for present and future generations, throughout their lives.

Such a framework involves many critical factors. Two are addressed in this section (child care and community service hubs), while others are addressed elsewhere in the CCAP (e.g., affordable housing, transportation, public realm and public life).

Access to services will be facilitated by locating complementary services with, adjacent to or nearby existing and future City Centre public facilities.

Existing Public Institutions Map



POLICIES	
2.8.1 Policy, Program & Investment Coordination	
a)	<p>Establish an Integrated City Centre Community Service Strategy</p> <p>Support equitable community service access for the City Centre's diverse and changing population, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy and program consistency and coordination; • service delivery models tailored to meet the City Centre's special challenges and opportunities; • planning for a continuum of services, through the lives of the citizens, and across service providers.
b)	<p>Encourage a Continuum of Education Opportunities</p> <p>Recognize the importance of life-long learning to the health and well-being of residents by supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Richmond School District (No. 38) and its delivery of the provincial K-12 curriculum, together with extra-curricular activities and complementary services and programs (e.g., after-school care, adult education, ESL), including the support of school expansions and new facilities (e.g., form, size, location & implementation). The City will co-operate with the School Board in co-planning its schools and sports fields (e.g., a new elementary school, any surplus lands); • the establishment of the City Centre as a regional focus for post-secondary facilities and programs; • private schools and alternative education programs supportive of the City Centre, Richmond, and its residents.
c)	<p>Ensure that Richmond's Law & Community Safety Strategic Plan Meets the Needs of the City Centre</p> <p>Ensure that Richmond's proposed Law and Community Safety Strategic Plan includes clear strategies and adequate resources for responding to the City Centre's emerging challenges, lifestyle objectives, and development considerations.</p>
2.8.2 Urban Development & Planning	
a)	<p>Encourage the Development of an Inclusive City Centre</p> <p>Develop a compact, pedestrian- and transit-oriented, urban environment designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locate housing, jobs, parks, amenities, and services to enhance residents' proximity to daily needs; • enhance the ease of mobility and access to daily needs and services for all residents, regardless of age, aptitude or level of ability (e.g., via walking, scooter, transit, audible crossing signals); • incorporate "crime prevention through environmental design" (CPTED) strategies to enhance personal and property safety and security; • support institutions (e.g., educational, health, religious) seeking to locate or retain premises in the City Centre, and related uses that provide a community benefit, are consistent with neighbouring properties and have a complementary design to neighbouring uses.
b)	<p>Encourage the Timely & Cost-Effective Provision of Well-Located Childcare Facilities</p> <p>Support the following facilities and programs (where permitted under Richmond's OCP airport noise sensitive development policy), through partnerships, development incentives, and the support of outside agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least one childcare facility should be situated within each village centre (e.g., to be funded in whole or in part via developer contributions) (e.g., density bonusing or a reduction in the parking requirements may be considered); • one childcare facility is encouraged as part of any major City facility (e.g., community centre); • encourage out-of-school care for school-aged children in all City Centre elementary schools and/or in adjacent, private development (density bonusing may be considered in the latter case); • encourage additional facilities and programs as determined to be necessary based on up-to-date needs assessments and the advice of the Health Care Licensing authority.
c)	<p>Encourage the Establishment of "Community Service Hubs"</p> <p>Explore opportunities to establish a multi-use, multi-agency community service "hub" in each of the City Centre's six village centres, designed to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • convenient access to services and programs offering a range of tools, resources, and technical assistance; • a variety of new service delivery models; • multi-agency partnerships, coordination, co-location, cost sharing, and efficiencies; • a continuum of services, especially where this requires the coordination of multiple agencies (e.g., early childhood development, health and wellness).
2.8.3 Intercultural Needs	
a)	<p>Support Intercultural Dialogue & Exchange</p> <p>Encourage neighbourhoods, civic facilities, and programs that foster intercultural dialogue and understanding, and welcome and support new immigrants (e.g., promote intercultural activities).</p>
2.8.4 Community Involvement	
a)	<p>Explore Opportunities for Village-Based Community Involvement</p> <p>Encourage village residents and stakeholders to create effective associations that promote community connectivity, pride and safety.</p>

2.8.2(b) Child Care

A key component of social equity is the availability of affordable, accessible, quality child care. The City of Richmond’s Child Care Policy acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees.

A child care centre (e.g., 232 m² min (2,500 ft²)) can serve a range of age groups as determined by community needs. Developers incorporating child care centres into their developments are urged to contact Child Care Licensing as early as possible regarding licensing requirements and location suitability, and to work with a child care provider regarding facility design.

Locating child care centres in each residential urban village within public facilities, schools and new developments will be pursued by the City and encouraged with its partners.

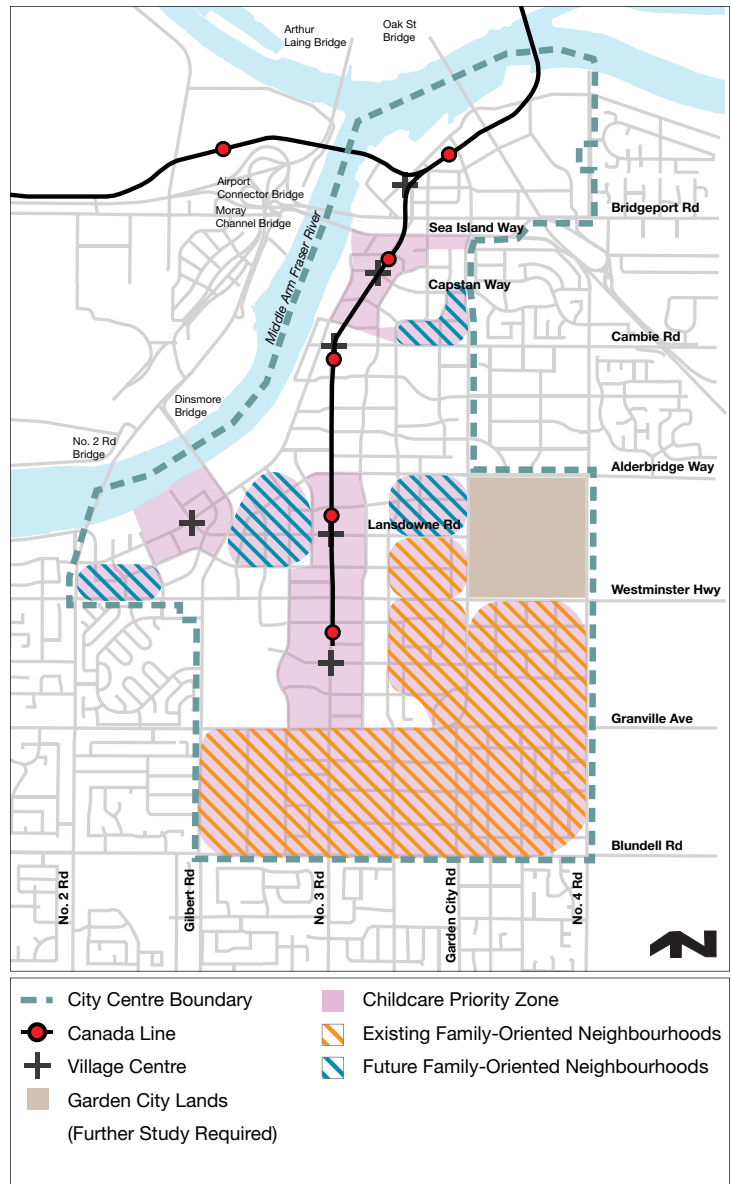
Challenges/Opportunities

The number and location of child care centres needed must be regularly reviewed, based on up-to-date child care needs assessments, child care licensing advice, and provincial/federal policy changes.

Proposed Strategies

- Negotiate dedicated space through Density Bonusing (see Implementation Section).
- Negotiate financial contributions (see Implementation Section).
- Work with the Province and stakeholders to establish early childhood hubs.
- Regularly update the Needs Assessments.

Child Care Map



Also see maps in Section 2.7, “Recreational & Cultural Facilities.”

Notes to Map:

In Private Development, child care centres may be located in:

- Village Centres where permitted (all except Aircraft Noise Sensitive Development areas);
- elsewhere, as a private developer option, particularly in family oriented housing areas.

In Public Development, child care centres may be located in:

- civic facilities;
- schools;
- other public sector facilities;
- institutional uses (e.g., places of worship).

2.8.2(c) Community Service Hubs

Ensuring that all residents, regardless of age, ability, income and cultural background, have access to community services is key to village livability. Suitable and affordable space will be required by community service agencies as the population grows.

Community service hubs involve the co-location of two or more compatible community services to better serve the needs of residents while strengthening the capacity of participating agencies.

Community service hubs may target specific populations or mandates (e.g., early childhood, youth, seniors) or provide services to a wide spectrum of community members. A range of spatial and governance models exist.

Challenges/Opportunities

The cost of leasing/purchasing land and facilities is beyond the financial reach of many community service organizations. The City and other stakeholders need to work together to ensure that suitable space is available for community services as the population grows. The hub model maximizes use of land/facilities, while minimizing capital/operating costs and improving service to residents.

Proposed Strategy

- Encourage amenity space in new City centre development to lease space to non-profit agencies, giving priority to co-located services.
- Co-locate community services in civic and other public sector facilities.

Community Service Hubs may be located in a range of neighbourhoods and take a variety of forms to suit the surrounding community. Photos and descriptions of existing community service hubs are found below.



Examples in Richmond:

1. Located in Community Agencies: At Richmond Family Place, a variety of social service and statutory agencies provide early childhood and family support programs. Shared office and program space is provided;
2. Located in Schools: The Grauer Early Learning Centre is a school-community partnership initiated by Richmond Children First (MCFD) and the School District whereby services to pre-school children and their families are offered in existing facilities;
3. Located in Civic Land/Facilities: Richmond Caring Place, a purpose-built stand alone facility, houses a range of community service agencies that share amenities on City land. Hamilton School and Community Centre is a joint use facility that also provides program space to community agencies and the Richmond Public Library.

Examples in other municipalities:

4. Neighbourhood Houses, Greater Vancouver: Neighbourhood Houses typically offer a range of programs through partnerships with service providers (e.g., child care, family support, immigrant settlement, social and recreational opportunities);
5. John Braithwaite Community Centre, City of North Vancouver: A partnership among the City of North Vancouver, North Vancouver Recreation Commission and North Shore Neighbourhood House that offers recreation, cultural and social programming in partnership with community agencies;
6. Early Years Centre, Surrey: This centre co-locates three early years (e.g., birth to 6 yrs.) services (e.g., child care and family) in a commercial facility leased by one of the non-profit service providers. Space is shared.