

Shaping the Future

New Direction

The new direction provides an exciting opportunity for all Richmond residents to be involved in and contribute to a healthy connected community.

The Renewal Plan for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services provides a base to develop our new direction together with the community and other key stakeholders.

The new direction will provide the following:

- Coordinated and integrated City-wide services
- Opportunities for neighbours to connect neighbourhood and community building services
- Appropriate planning, research & support
- A greater focus on needs based programming

Goals & Guiding Principles

The new service delivery system will be guided by the following principles (adopted by City Council):

- Ensure City's ability to meet community needs
- Ensures that customer service is enhanced
- Values & encourages community involvement
 - increasing the number and types of volunteer opportunities
- Values effective partnerships
- Ensures financial sustainability
- Provides a policy framework for decision making
 - program and safety standards
 - risk management

Trends

The City of Richmond is a diverse community that has changed significantly over the past decade. These changes accompanied by national trends have created the need for a new service delivery system. Some of the trends that impact Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services include:

Aging Infrastructure

- Municipalities across the country are seeing their infrastructure deteriorate with lack of renewal funding.

Increasing Diversity

- 59% of Richmond residents are visible minorities, making Richmond the most diverse community in Canada.
- Due to the economic climate of BC, citizens are demanding public recreation to be more efficient, effective and accountable. Collaboration will be essential and duplication of services will need to be eliminated.

Health Issues

- Two thirds of school aged children are not active enough to promote optimal growth and development. One quarter of Canadian children are considered or be overweight.

Fewer Volunteers

- Fewer volunteers are available for ongoing commitments. Volunteers are looking for short term, meaningful opportunities that double as their recreation time.

Aging Population

- Richmond's population is aging with more that 1/3 of the population over the age of 50

Barriers to Accessibility

- The gap between the haves and have nots is widening as is the gap between those who have attended some form of higher education and those who have not.
- One in three children in Richmond live below the poverty level.

These trends and ongoing changes to the community have created challenges to ensure that recreation is accessible to all Richmond residents.

How Do I Find Out More?

Detailed information on the Renewal Plan is available on the city website, www.richmond.ca or contact Recreation and Cultural Services at 604-276-4107.