

Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (2018–2023)



Progress Update 2024 – 2025



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Message from the Partners.....	5
Focus Area Highlights and Major Accomplishments	
Focus Area #1	6
2024–2025 Highlights	6
2018–2025 Major Accomplishments.....	14
Focus Area #2	17
2024–2025 Highlights	17
2018–2025 Major Accomplishments.....	22
Focus Area #3	24
2024–2025 Highlights	24
2018–2025 Major Accomplishments.....	30
Focus Area #4	32
2024–2025 Highlights	32
2018–2025 Major Accomplishments.....	36
Focus Area #5	38
2024–2025 Highlights	38
2018–2025 Major Accomplishments.....	41
Conclusion	43





Introduction

Over the past seven years, the Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (2018–2023) (the “Strategy”) has provided a framework for collaborative action to support resident well-being and healthy lifestyles. It has guided the City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38 in delivering programs, events, and initiatives that promote active living and wellness. Partnerships with community associations and societies, and with residents, have strengthened community capacity, advanced shared initiatives, and supported residents in taking an active role in their health and well-being.

Endorsed by Richmond City Council on July 23, 2018, the Strategy was developed jointly by the City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38. It reflects a shared commitment to improving resident well-being through greater access to supports, opportunities and innovative initiatives that advance the Strategy’s vision of an **active, caring, connected, healthy and thriving Richmond**.

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges that affected the partners’ ability to fully implement the Focus Areas and related actions within the original timeframe. During this time, the partners conducted a comprehensive audit and, in 2024, extended the Strategy through 2025. This extension enabled some initiatives to be adapted to better align with the changed landscape resulting from the pandemic.

In the Strategy, wellness is understood to be multifaceted and is defined as:

“... the ability of individuals and communities to reach their fullest potential. At an individual level, wellness means an optimization of and a balance among physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. At a community level, wellness means living in harmony with others, respecting diversity, feeling safe, supported and included, and having a sense of belonging to one’s neighbourhood and broader community.”

The Strategy is organized around five Focus Areas, each with unique actions, objectives and corresponding outcomes.

Focus Areas	Outcomes
#1 Foster healthy, active, and involved lifestyles for all Richmond residents with an emphasis on physical activity, healthy eating, and mental wellness.	↑ Awareness of benefits ↑ Physical activity opportunities ↑ Physical activity levels ↑ Healthy food outlets ↑ Fruit and vegetable servings ↑ Self-rated mental health
#2 Enhance physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities.	↑ Strong sense of community belonging ↑ Volunteerism
#3 Enhance equitable access to amenities, services, and programs within and among neighbourhoods.	↓ Amenities, programs, and services available by neighbourhood ↓ Reduced barriers to opportunities

Focus Areas	Outcomes
#4 Facilitate supportive, safe, and healthy natural and built environments.	↑ Walkability of neighbourhoods ↑ Outdoor unstructured play opportunities
#5 Promote wellness literacy for residents across all ages and stages of their lives.	↑ Awareness of wellness components

Together, these Focus Areas and strategic actions have guided initiatives that support the health and well-being of people who live, work and play in Richmond. Building on the previous progress update provided to Council, which highlighted accomplishments from 2022 to 2023, the sections in this report are organized by Focus Area and include both **2024–2025 Highlights** and **2018–2025 Major Accomplishments**. The 2024–2025 Highlights profile notable activities, outcomes, and developments from the past two years, while the 2018–2025 Major Accomplishments reflect significant achievements over the full life of the current Strategy. Together, they provide a concise overview of recent progress and cumulative impact.

Throughout the Strategy's lifespan, progress has been monitored and reported through regular updates, supported by assigned responsibilities, funding, data monitoring, timelines, and a communication plan.



Message from the Partners

The City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38, remain dedicated to promoting and facilitating holistic health and wellness within the community. Over the past seven years, guided by our shared values, the Community Wellness Strategy has supported coordinated efforts among these partners to advance our vision of Richmond as an active, caring, connected, healthy and thriving community.

We recognize that wellness is shaped by a wide range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors. Access to programs and services, supportive neighbourhoods, opportunities for physical activity, healthy food, and social connection all play an important role in overall well-being. Community factors—such as programs, employment, transit, school policies, parks, proximity to family and friends, and personal time—influence residents’ ability to maintain healthy lifestyles, build resilient neighbourhoods, and engage socially. Together, these factors affect how people live, learn, work, and play in Richmond, and ultimately shape health and well-being across the community.

The two-year interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic gave partners an opportunity to explore new opportunities, conduct a comprehensive review of the Strategy, reflect on achievements to date, and reassess current initiatives to better respond to the evolving needs of the community. Since that time, Richmond has experienced a steady increase in participation in events, programs and physical activities.

As highlighted in this report, the partners have made significant progress toward the objectives within each of the five Focus Areas. This work has strengthened collaboration across organizations and support more coordinated wellness communications, information sharing and policy development.

Moving forward, the City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38 will continue to work together to identify opportunities, align efforts, and build on shared successes. United by our common vision, the Community Wellness Strategy partners remain committed to fostering a community where every resident can thrive and where health and wellness continue to be a shared priority.



In addition to the Community Wellness Strategy, the City of Richmond has several interconnected plans that guide collective actions in promoting overall community well-being, including:

- 2041 Official Community Plan
- Community Wellness Strategy
- Social Development Strategy
- Richmond Arts Strategy
- Recreation and Sport Strategy
- Parks and Open Space Strategy
- Cultural Harmony Plan
- Child Care Strategy
- Seniors Strategy
- Youth Strategy
- Richmond Accessibility Plan

The Community Wellness Strategy (2018–2023)—Progress Update 2024–2025 delineates specific actions in the Community Wellness Strategy, while acknowledging the synergistic work directed by other strategies that also aim to improve wellness outcomes across the community.

Richmond School District No. 38 is guided by the Richmond Board of Education Strategic Plan 2020–2025, including a goal of fostering resilient and healthy lifelong learners.

Vancouver Coastal Health sets its strategic priorities, such as supporting optimal health and well-being, with an overarching vision of “Healthy lives in healthy communities.”

Focus Area #1

Foster healthy, active and involved lifestyles for all Richmond residents with an emphasis on physical activity, healthy eating and mental wellness.

Focus Area #1 supports initiatives that encourage physical activity, healthy eating, access to healthy foods, and positive mental wellness. Through partnerships and community-based programs, these efforts help reduce barriers, increase participation, and support residents in making healthy food choices and leading active, healthy lives.

2024–2025 Highlights

ACTIVE LIVING AND EXPLORING RICHMOND

- **Walk Richmond:** The Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association expanded its free, year-round Walk Richmond program by offering additional guided walks and increasing volunteer walk leader capacity. Between 2021 and 2025, the number of walks increased by 21% and participation grew by 49%, giving more participants regular opportunities to stay active, build social connections, and explore Richmond’s green spaces and walking routes.



- **Historical Walking/Cycling Tours:** In addition to guided walking tours of Minoru Park, the Richmond Museum Society offered free self-guided historical walking and cycling tours across the city. These tours provided low-barrier opportunities for residents to stay active and connect with others while learning more about Richmond’s history, heritage, neighbourhoods and park amenities.
- **Public Art Walking/Cycling Tours:** Several self-guided Public Art Walking Tours are available online, encouraging residents to stay active while exploring Richmond’s public art and neighbourhoods. In 2024 and 2025, public art tours included National Seniors Day Bus tours of City Centre and Steveston, Culture Days walking tours of the Oval Village and Capstan Village neighbourhoods, and a public art cycling tour along the West Dyke Trail. In 2025, from May to September, free monthly walking tours of Capstan Village, led by local arts professionals, engaged residents and visitors while raising awareness of the growing number of public artworks in the City’s Arts District.

- **StoryWalk® Library Program:** A StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that promotes literacy, learning and outdoor play by displaying individual pages of a storybook on weather-resistant signs in community spaces. Richmond Public Library continued to deliver the StoryWalk program through the permanent outdoor StoryWalk Circuit along the McLean Neighbourhood Park walking trail and introduced 20 StoryWalk kits for use in parks and community spaces. Together, these initiatives supported literacy development and encouraged physical activity for families and children across Richmond.
- **Geocaching and Adventure Labs:** The City's Geocaching and Adventure Lab offer interactive GPS and app-based outdoor experiences that engage participants of all ages in exploring the city. The GeoTour invites participants to search for 50 hidden geocaches by foot or bike, and the Adventure Labs provide three app-based scavenger hunts—Terra Nova Rural Park, Richmond Nature Park, and Garden City & Paulik Park—with unique storylines, challenges, and trivia on wildlife, ecology, and local history. Between January 2024 and November 2025, the GeoTour engaged 1,307 participants from 19 countries, and the Adventure Labs reached 434 participants from 12 countries, offering immersive ways to explore Richmond's parks, culture, and hidden stories while being physically active.



CYCLING FORWARD

- **Bike to School Education Program:** Delivered in partnership with Richmond School District No. 38, the Bike to School Education Program provided more than 3,000 Grade 6 and 7 students at 38 elementary schools with hands-on cycling skills training and active transportation education. The program helped students build confidence, improve road safety knowledge, and consider cycling as an alternative way to travel to and from school.
- **StreetWise Cycling Education:** Delivered in partnership with Lime, StreetWise Cycling Education engaged over 100 residents through beginner and intermediate bike skills courses, basic bike maintenance sessions, and a pilot cycling education program for seniors. The program helped increase confidence and reduce barriers to cycling for residents of different ages and abilities.
- **Go By Bike Week:** Offered in partnership with HUB Cycling, Go By Bike Week encourages residents to explore cycling as both an active form of transportation and a way to support personal health and well-being.



ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGING

- **Choose To Move and ActivAge™:** Funded by the BC Ministry of Health, Thompson and South Arm Community Associations delivered the Choose to Move and ActivAge™ programs in partnership with the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association, the University of British Columbia, and the Active Aging Society. Running concurrently, the programs supported 10 seniors through a 10-week, coach-led fitness and wellness experience designed to improve mobility, build confidence, support social well-being, and support long-term healthy habits.
- **Walking Soccer for Seniors:** The Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living offered free Walking Soccer sessions for adults 55+ years in partnership with the Richmond United Football Club. Held outdoors on the Minoru Oval Field, the program welcomed 15–20 participants each week and supported active aging through skill-building, social connection, and fun, low-impact play.
- **Outdoor Concerts and Cultural Activations:** The Minoru Seniors Society delivered 14 outdoor concerts and cultural activations at the Minoru Centre for Active Living Plaza, attracting more than 2,000 attendees annually. Programming included musical performances and cultural participatory activities such as painting, dance, and fitness classes, creating inclusive opportunities for older adults and other residents to connect, participate, and celebrate Richmond’s cultural diversity.
- **Filipino Folk Dancing Programs:** Delivered in partnership with PhilCAS of BC through Culture Days and a nine-week seasonal program, this initiative engaged more than 40 participants. Free try-it sessions introduced children, youth, and adults to Filipino dance, followed by weekly classes exploring traditional forms such as *tinikling*, *aray*, *chotis* and *sublian*. The program increased access to culturally relevant recreation, supported inclusive participation, and strengthened cultural understanding within Richmond’s diverse community.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH PHYSICAL LITERACY

- **After-School “Hangout” Program:** Newly introduced by Thompson Community Association, the Hangout at Blair Elementary School offers instructor-supported, unstructured play and access to the school gymnasium for students in Grades K–7. The program runs twice a week and provides a safe and engaging space for children to stay active and connected outside the classroom while addressing after-school care needs in the community.
- **After-School Art Truck Program:** This after-school art and sport program brought accessible, high-quality arts and recreation programming directly to schools in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38. The program supported mental well-being, resilience, social connection, belonging, play, and physical activity through art and active games. In 2024, the Art Truck served 30 Grade 4 to 7 students at McKay Elementary School. In 2025, the program expanded to Blair and Tomsett Elementary Schools, reaching 32 students through a 10-week low-cost, low-barrier after-school program.
- **Physical Literacy Passport & Colour Quest Programs:** Offered in collaboration with Richmond Public Library through the BC Summer Reading Club, these programs engaged children in fun, simple, and low-barrier activities in community centres, pools, arenas, parks and playgrounds throughout the summer. Focused on the 25 Fundamental Movement Skills identified in the City’s Physical Literacy Initiative, the programs supported active play while reinforcing literacy and family participation.
- **Learning Together Sessions:** Richmond Public Library delivered nearly 100 Learning Together sessions across library branches, reaching approximately 970 participants. The sessions combined literacy and active play, helping parents, caregivers, and children build foundational skills while integrating movement and play physical activity into everyday family routines.





FOOD LITERACY, ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE, AND HEALTHY EATING EDUCATION

- **Food Skills Programs:** South Arm Community Association delivered a range of food literacy programs in partnership with community organizations. In 2024, in partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control, a six-week *Food Skills for Families* program was offered, engaging 12 participants in hands-on nutrition and cooking education. In 2025, in partnership with Urban Bounty, a 16-week *Garden Talks and Tastings* program was offered, engaging seniors and youth in gardening and food preparation while providing access to fresh produce. The Association also delivered the *Iron Chef* program, supporting youth in developing cooking skills, teamwork, and healthy eating habits.
- **Food Literacy for Seniors:** The Minoru Seniors Society delivered a range of grant-funded food literacy initiatives supporting seniors and intergenerational learning. Funded through New Horizons for Seniors Program grants totalling \$41,500 over 2024 and 2025, programs included Dining through the Decades, and other workshops focused on cooking skills, healthy eating, and food access. The Society also delivered ongoing cooking workshops at the Seniors Centre, supporting seniors in preparing simple, nutritious meals at home.
- **Nature School Garden Programs:** Thompson Community Association's Terra Nova Nature School (TNNS) features 1,200 square feet of garden space where children can plant, grow, and harvest their own vegetables for snacks and meals. Supported by the City's Environmental Enhancement Grant, TNNS created a Food Forest with native plants, fruit trees, spices, and berries, providing hands-on learning and encouraging families to make healthier food choices at home. TNNS also delivered Chefs in the Garden camps, where children harvested produce and prepared meals while developing foundational cooking skills and knowledge of healthy eating.

- **Sunset Snacks:** The City, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, hosted Sunset Snacks at the KPU Farm, engaging approximately 40 youth of 13 to 24 years. The program combined outdoor activities and hands-on workshops focused on agriculture and sustainability, providing opportunities for youth to connect with peers and mentors while building awareness of local food systems and activating a community space for youth engagement.
- **Kwantlen Street Farmers Market:** The Kwantlen Street Farmers Market at the Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza continued to improve access to locally grown food and community-based vendors in a central, accessible location. Operating weekly from May to November in 2024 and extending to December in 2025 in response to strong demand, the market increased proximity to fresh, affordable food for City Centre residents. Access was further supported through the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program for seniors, low-income families and pregnant individuals, helping reduce barriers to accessing healthy food.
- **Richmond Farm Fest:** In 2025, following a short hiatus, the City of Richmond partnered with Kwantlen Polytechnic University to host the Farm Fest community event at Garden City Lands. The event featured interactive cooking demonstrations and educational programming to promote healthy eating and awareness of local food systems to over 2,500 attendees.



MENTAL WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY BELONGING

- **Vancouver Coastal Health Mental Wellness Initiatives:** In 2025, Vancouver Coastal Health partnered with community organizations to deliver a range of mental wellness initiatives. These included two mental health awareness movie nights, which reached approximately 85 participants, as well as Suicide Prevention Awareness events that engaged more than 40 participants. Together, these initiatives increased awareness, reduced stigma, and connected residents to available support.
- **Richmond Public Library Mental Wellness Programs:** A range of initiatives were hosted by Richmond Public Library to support mental wellness, including six Heartfulness Meditation sessions that engaged more than 20 participants in stress management practices. Richmond Public Library also partnered with FamilySmart to deliver 12 parenting workshops, engaging 60 participants and providing strategies to support children facing mental health and substance use challenges. In addition, teen mental health workshops engaged more than 40 youth and caregivers, increasing awareness of and access to support resources.
- **Integrated Child and Youth Teams:** Serving students in Richmond School District No. 38 as well as private and independent schools, the Integrated Child and Youth teams improve access to mental health and substance use supports for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Delivered in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, Foundry Richmond, the Ministry for Child and Family Development, and FamilySmart, the initiative strengthens early access to coordinated care and supports student well-being, resilience and connection.
- **Richmond Youth Media Program:** The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) offers weekly opportunities for youth to develop media skills while connecting with local mental wellness resources. The Media Lab opened in 2011 and moved into a bigger and brighter space in January 2024 at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex. In partnership with the Richmond Addiction Services Society and supported by a Vancouver Coastal Health SMART grant, the program provides a safe, low-barrier drop-in space for youth to meet peers, engage with Youth Outreach Workers, and access mental health support through phone, in-person guidance, or connections with local youth-serving organizations.



2018–2025 Major Accomplishments

GLOBAL ACTIVE CITY ACCREDITATION

In September 2018, the City of Richmond became one of the world's first six cities designated a "Global Active City" through the Active Well-being Initiative in Lausanne, Switzerland. This prestigious recognition honors Richmond's leadership in promoting physical activity, its innovative and holistic Community Wellness, and Recreation and Sport Strategies, and its strong partnerships with organizations including Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond School District No. 38, and local community associations and societies. Achieving the designation required passing an independent audit with a rigorous review of the city's programs, strategies, and operational practices. As part of the Global Active Cities network, Richmond now gains opportunities to learn from like-minded cities, share best practices, and advance inclusive approaches to physical activity and sport for all residents.



PARTICIPACTION COMMUNITY CHALLENGE: CANADA'S MOST ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Since 2019, the City of Richmond has participated in the ParticipACTION Community Challenge, a national initiative encouraging Canadians to get active in June and recognizing the most active communities in each province and across the country. Richmond earned BC's Most Active Community in 2022 and 2024, and in 2025 was named Canada's Most Active Community, receiving a \$100,000 prize to support local physical activity and sport initiatives. That June, in collaboration with community partners, the City offered 1,018 activities, programs, and events for 413,044 participants, 75% more organizations, 80% more activities, and 60% more participants than in 2024.



GROWING PARTICIPATION IN PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in Parks, Recreation and Culture programs increased steadily, reflecting renewed resident engagement in active living, wellness and community connection. From 2019 to 2025, visits to City drop-in recreation facilities rose from 1.4 million to almost 2.0 million, while participation in registered programs at City facilities increased from 105,512 to 111,426. Residents participated in a wide range of opportunities, including swimming, fitness and wellness programs, sports, arts, dance and other community-based activities. This growth was supported through the City's relationship-based service delivery model with community associations and societies, as well as through collaboration with other community partners. Together, these efforts supported healthier lifestyles and stronger community connectedness for Richmond residents.



VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH PROMOTION GRANTS

Vancouver Coastal Health Promotion supported community-based initiatives that promoted healthy lifestyles, mental wellness and social connection among Richmond residents. Since 2018, more than \$3.2M was distributed to local organizations serving newcomers, refugees, seniors, children, youth, and people living with mental health challenges, including Richmond Mental Health Consumer & Friends Society; Pathways Clubhouse Society of Richmond, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Richmond Family Place, Urban Bounty, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. By enabling trusted community organizations to deliver wellness-focused programming, the grants helped address a range of health and social needs while building on the strengths of Richmond's diverse communities.

COMMUNITY GARDENS IN PARKS

Community gardens offer residents opportunities to connect with nature, grow plants and vegetables, and engage with sustainable gardening practices while engaging in light physical activity and enhancing community connections. Between 2018 and 2025, in partnership with Urban Bounty, approximately 442 new community garden plots were added in parks across Richmond, including Garden City Lands, Cook Neighbourhood Park, Hamilton, Hamilton Community Park, Alexandra Neighbourhood Park, Terra Nova Rural Park, Riverport, and three locations along the Railway Greenway. In 2024, six wheelchair-accessible plots were added at Hamilton, Alexandra, and Terra Nova, improving accessibility for residents with mobility disabilities.



SCHOOL-BASED FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

Starting in 2023, Richmond School District No. 38 received \$2.73 million in provincial funding through the Feeding Futures School Program to provide breakfast, lunch, and snack programs for students in need and enable the launch of community fridges in every school. In 2024, Kwantlen Polytechnic University donated over \$22,000 in produce from its Garden City Lands farm to support the Richmond School District No. 38's community fridge and student food programs, increasing access to fresh, locally grown food while strengthening community connections. In 2025, additional National School Food Program funding and the Richmond School District No. 38's Feed-U-Cate fund further supported school-based food security initiatives, improving access to nutritious food for students across the city.



CITY OF RICHMOND GRANTS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Between 2018 to 2025, The City awarded over \$7.75M to non-profit community organizations through various community grants to support the provision of a diverse array of programs and services that enhance well-being and improve the quality of life of Richmond residents, including:

- Arts and Culture: Approximately \$982,000 was allocated for operating and project grants to cultural non-profit organizations.
- Child Care: Approximately \$447,000 was allocated to non-profit organizations that support or deliver licensed child care in Richmond.
- Environmental Enhancement: Approximately \$180,000 was allocated to non-profit organizations for materials needed to enhance Richmond's natural environment.
- Health, Social and Safety: Almost \$4.9M was allocated to non-profit organizations delivering social services and programs in Richmond.
- Parks, Recreation and Community Events: Approximately \$950,000 was allocated to non-profit organizations delivering programs and services that support health, well-being and community connection.
- Neighbourhood Celebration, Community Celebration and Neighbourhood Block Party: Almost \$296,000 was allocated to support public events that connect and build community in Richmond.

FOUNDRY RICHMOND

Foundry is a network of sites located throughout British Columbia that offers free in-person and online support for young people 12–24 years, and their families. Operated by Vancouver Coastal Health, in conjunction with Richmond-based community partners, Foundry Richmond has offered five core services including: mental health services, substance use services, physical healthcare services, work/education/community services, and peer support since opening the permanent site in 2022. Foundry Richmond provides safe, non-judgmental, and confidential care, aiming to provide low barrier access to services for Richmond youth. Foundry Richmond has been an innovative site, frequently exploring new ways to effectively connect and support Richmond youth.



Focus Area #2

Enhance physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities

Focus Area #2 supports initiatives that strengthen belonging, participation, and connection within Richmond neighbourhoods and communities. Through welcoming built and natural environments, along with inclusive programs and services, these efforts create opportunities for residents to gather, participate and build relationships that strengthen social connectedness and a sense of belonging.

2024–2025 Highlights

CONNECTING THROUGH THE ARTS

- **Engaging Artists in Community Programs:** The Engaging Arts in Community Program partnered artists with three community groups to deliver a range of community-engaged projects including those that support youth in expressing identity and building social connections. One project, *Hidden Stories of the Bioverse* (January–June 2024), engaged over 80 students at Dixon Elementary School in exploring local ecosystems and personal narratives through place-based art, resulting in a multi-authored comic book and public art installations at Francis and No. 1 Road.

CREATING WELCOMING GATHERING SPACES

- **Capstan Neighbourhood Park Phase 2:** Delivered in 2025, Capstan Neighbourhood Park Phase 2 added basketball courts, seating areas, open lawn space, lighting, bike racks, and extensive tree and plantings. Located beside Capstan Train Station in a high-density urban neighbourhood, the park brings natural and built elements together to create an inviting, accessible gathering space that encourages residents to meet, interact, and take part in shared recreational activities close to home.
- **London/Steveston Neighbourhood School Park Dog Off-Leash Area:** Completed in 2024, the new dog off-leash area at London/Steveston Neighbourhood School Park creates a welcoming neighbourhood space for residents to gather, connect and build relationships through regular park use. Identified through the London/Steveston Park Master Plan and informed by community engagement, the amenity provides an active and social space for dogs while supporting social interaction and strengthening belonging within the neighbourhood.





EXPANDING RECREATION THROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTREACH

- **Neighbourhood Play Days:** In partnership with community associations and societies, Neighbourhood Play Days offered free, inclusive recreation activities in five parks during summer 2025. Held weekly at Garry Point, Thompson, Aberdeen, King George/Cambie, and South Arm parks, the program engaged approximately 1,450 residents through games, music, and family-friendly activities, bringing neighbours together in shared outdoor spaces and strengthening connection, participation and belonging.
- **Children and Family Community Outreach:** South Arm Community Association delivered neighbourhood-based outreach by bringing arts and sports activities directly to Adelaide Court Housing Cooperative. In August 2025, two outreach sessions engaged over 25 children living at the complex, reflecting broader efforts to provide accessible recreation opportunities where children and families live, play and connect, while strengthening community connection and belonging.
- **Seniors Wellness and Monthly Socials:** Funded through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, seniors programs at South Arm Community Centre supported active aging, social connection and community belonging. Monthly socials engaged over 700 residents over 12 months in health, education, and social activities that strengthened community connections and cultural understanding. The *Seniors Stronger Together* program also offered free monthly gatherings that combined instructor-led exercise focused on balance and fall prevention with social engagement, benefiting approximately 60 seniors.
- **Engaging Seniors in Age-Friendly Planning:** Supported by funding from the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program and provincial BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly Communities grant, five Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Groups that engaged 89 seniors were implemented in the Broadmoor, Cambie/East Richmond, Hamilton, Blundell and Gilmore/Shellmont neighbourhoods. Through facilitated discussions,



built environment tours and guest speakers, participants learned about programs and services for seniors, and built connections with peers and service providers, while informing neighbourhood planning to support aging-in-place, and strengthening participants' sense of belonging and civic engagement.

BUILDING SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS THROUGH RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- **Community Connect Box:** Launched in 2024, the Community Connect Box program supports residents in long-term care homes through activity kits, including puzzles and games, placed on-site for up to six months. Regular staff visits help engage residents, foster social interaction, and connect them with library services, helping reduce social isolation and strengthen relationships for seniors with diverse needs.
- **Conversations in the Library:** Since launching in May 2025, Conversations in Library has created regular opportunities for residents and newcomers to practice English, meet others, and build social connections in a welcoming setting. Through 64 sessions, the program engaged almost 600 participants and supported connection and belonging in the community.
- **Mahjong & Conversation:** Mahjong & Conversation brought seniors together on a weekly basis to play Mahjong, socialize and build connections with others in a welcoming environment. Offered more than 60 times in 2024 and 2025, the program engaged 787 participants and supported ongoing social interaction and belonging.
- **Youth Conversation Circle:** Coordinated by Richmond Public Library in partnership with Settlement Workers in Schools and Richmond School District No. 38, Youth Conversation Circles provided regular opportunities for teens to connect with one another through facilitated conversations and games on everyday topics. Between 2024 and 2025, 70 sessions were hosted, engaging nearly 864 youth and supporting peer connection and belonging.

CREATING CONNECTION THROUGH NATURE-BASED PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

Richmond Nature Park Society delivered workshops, exhibits and seasonal events that created opportunities for residents to gather, learn and connect through shared nature-based experiences. These included:

- **Visions of Biophilia:** In 2024, artist Desiree Patterson led eight workshops involving more than 200 participants, resulting in a 52-foot community mural installed at the park entrance. The project fostered connection by bringing residents together to contribute to a shared public artwork inspired by nature.
- **Halloween Hoot:** Featuring a festive trail with over 35 inflatables, nature-themed art, a pumpkin patch, and educational exhibits, this 10-day family-friendly event welcomed 5,000 visitors in 2025. The event created opportunities for families and neighbours to gather and connect through a shared seasonal experience in a natural setting.
- **Nature Series:** Introduced in 2024, the Nature Series promoted free, seasonal programs that connected residents with Richmond's parks, urban wildlife and one another. Through presentations, guided walks and hands-on activities on topics such as hummingbirds, owls,



bats and mushrooms, the series drew 350 to 500 participants per event, encouraging participation and shared outdoor experiences, while strengthening environmental stewardship and community connectedness.

- **Rediscover Richmond Program:** Supported by a \$5,000 PlanH Healthy Communities grant, the Richmond Nature Park Society delivered the Rediscover Richmond Program in 2024. The program offered free, accessible, outdoor experiences through 19 workshops across nine parks and six community facilities. Activities included bird watching, kite flying, and learning about local plants and helped more than 300 participants reduce isolation, build social connections, and strengthen their sense of belonging within Richmond neighbourhoods.



CONNECTING COMMUNITY THROUGH ECO-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

- **Community Tree Planting:** During Earth Week, 18 youth, four adults, and two staff planted 75 shrubs and five trees, supporting natural pest management and creating valuable bird habitat. This initiative strengthened biodiversity, climate resilience, and community stewardship, and was funded by the Richmond Nature Park Society through the City's Environmental Enhancement Grant. In addition, 17 tree-planting community events were hosted throughout 2024 and 2025, bringing residents together in shared green spaces to help improve the local environment.
- **Invasive Species Removal:** With funding from the City of Richmond's Environmental Enhancement Grant, Thompson Community Association delivered youth-led projects focused on invasive species removal in local parks that promoted environmental stewardship, raised community awareness and created meaningful opportunities for youth and community members to work together, strengthening neighbourhood connections, participation and a sense of belonging.
- **Mini Forests:** In 2024 and 2025, more than 490 community members, volunteers, and students helped plant over 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and perennials through mini forest initiatives at Garden City Park, Garden City



Lands, Spul'u'kwuks Elementary, and Baydala Court near the Bridgeport Trail. These dense native plantings improve air quality, provide shade, and enhance wildlife habitat, while creating more welcoming neighbourhood spaces and strengthening environmental stewardship and community connection.

BUILDING CONNECTEDNESS AMONG YOUTH

- **Friday Night Youth Hangouts:** Richmond's community associations and societies offered Friday Night Youth Hangouts to provide free opportunities for youth to participate in sports and physical activities while connecting with peers. Youth staff and outreach workers from Touchstone Family Association provided resources to support mental wellness, community engagement, and leadership development.
- **Youth Mega Hangouts:** This program created opportunities for youth to connect with one another through shared social and recreational experiences during the summer months. Activities included Drag Queen Karaoke at Cambie Community Centre, the Young and Loud Youth Concert at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, and a Youth Cookout and Concert at South Arm Community Centre. In partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University Farm, 43 youth also participated in a Long Table event where they harvested produce, took part in flower arranging, and shared a farm-to-table meal, helping to foster social connection, belonging and meaningful community experience.
- **Link-up Program:** This free, drop-in social program for youth of 19–24 years creates opportunities to build connections, develop a sense of belonging, and engage with others through shared activities such as trivia nights, improv, and crafts. Originally launched at Steveston Community Centre, the program has since expanded to City Centre Community Centre, increasing access to social connection opportunities across neighbourhoods and supporting community connectedness for young adults.



2018–2025 Major Accomplishments

VOLUNTEERISM SUPPORTING COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Growth in volunteer participation through the City’s “I Can Help” volunteer management system strengthened community wellness by helping residents contribute to sports, arts, culture and recreation opportunities across Richmond. While volunteer activity declined significantly during the pandemic, contributions rebounded strongly as programs, events and community initiatives resumed, increasing from 15,554 volunteer hours in 2020 to 61,467 in 2025. This growth reflects the important role volunteers play in expanding opportunities for participation, social connection, belonging and community engagement. The City’s continued ability to attract and support volunteers strengthened community capacity and contributed to a more active, connected and inclusive city.



MINORU LAKES RENEWAL PROJECT

The Minoru Lakes Renewal Project enhanced access to supportive outdoor environments that promote physical activity, mental well-being and social connection. Completed in 2023, the renewed Minoru Lakes District introduced new site furniture, a boardwalk, enhanced viewing areas and a waterfall that also serves as a bio-filter for stormwater, creating a welcoming natural space for residents to gather, walk and connect with nature. Native plantings around the lakes further improved the ecological health of the area and support local wildlife, including waterfowl and insects. In 2025, the project received the BC Recreation and Parks Association Parks Excellence Award.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Over the life of the Strategy, the City strengthened community connection, belonging and intercultural understanding by partnering with local organizations and community groups to deliver signature events that created inclusive opportunities for residents and visitors to connect, learn and celebrate together. As reflected in the City's Signature and Community Events Plan 2025–2029, annual signature events play an important role in fostering civic pride, sense of place and community belonging. Signature events such as the Children's Arts Festival, Doors Open Richmond, Cherry Blossom Festival, Steveston Salmon Festival, and Richmond Maritime Festival provided large-scale opportunities to celebrate Richmond's diverse cultural traditions. Additionally, on September 7, 2025, Richmond Farm Fest, in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, returned to Garden City Lands for a free, family-friendly celebration of farming, food and community, attracting over 2,500 visitors. Together, these events strengthened intercultural connections and expanded access to cultural participation across the community by bringing together 144,000 people in 2024 and 158,000 people in 2025.



Photo credit: Grant McMillan

Focus Area #3

Enhance equitable access to amenities, services, and programs within and among neighbourhoods

Focus Area #3 supports initiatives that reduce barriers and improve equitable access to programs, services and community supports across Richmond. These efforts respond to diverse neighbourhood and population needs, help residents participate more fully in community life, and support overall well-being.

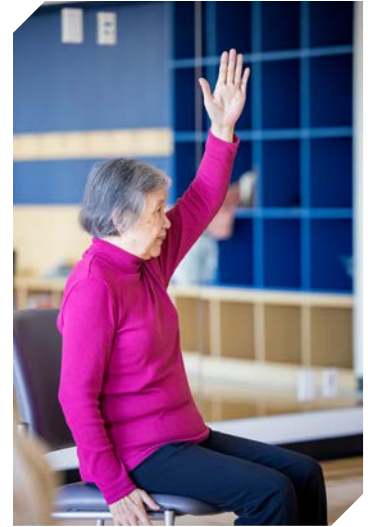
2024–2025 Highlights



EQUITY-INFORMED PLANNING AND COMMUNITY VOICE

- **Equity Lens Toolkit for Recreation:** The Equity Lens Toolkit (the Toolkit) was created and piloted in 2024 across the City's community centres to ensure that programs and services are tailored to the diverse needs of the community. The Toolkit includes a reflective guide to identify gaps, set priorities, and integrate equity considerations into program planning and service delivery. A monitoring and reporting plan also ensures ongoing assessment and responsiveness to community needs. Learnings from the pilot will help inform next steps, with the goal of expanding the Toolkit's use across more City programs and services, continuing to drive equity, diversity and inclusion forward. The project was supported by a \$15,000 BC Healthy Communities grant received in 2021.

- **Advisory Committees Advancing Equitable Access:** Council-appointed committees, such as the Seniors Advisory Committee, Accessibility Advisory Committee, Aquatic Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Committee and Intercultural Advisory Committee strengthened inclusive decision-making by bringing community perspectives into City planning, policies, programs and services. For example, Youth Advisory Committee members, including representatives from Aspire Richmond, Foundry Richmond, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Richmond School District No. 38 and Vancouver Coastal Health, helped identify barriers to youth participation and opportunities to improve access. The Intercultural Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from immigrant-serving agencies and residents, applied an intercultural and equity lens to City strategies and engagement, highlighting opportunities to improve language access and culturally responsive communication and programming; in 2025, Chimo Community Services joined the Committee, further strengthening insight into the experiences of newcomers, refugee claimants, and asylum seekers.



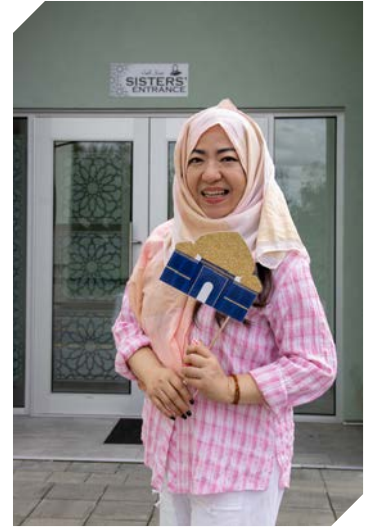
ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE RECREATION AND WELLNESS

- **Sensory-friendly Skates and Swims:** Sensory-friendly skating and swimming opportunities were introduced to improve access to recreation for individuals with autism, anxiety, sensory sensitivities, or disabilities. Sensory-friendly skates offered a regular-lighting, music-free environment to support comfortable participation, while sensory-friendly swims featured reduced noise, modified pool conditions such as turning off water features and hand dryers, and additional staff support. Together, these initiatives helped reduce sensory barriers and expand inclusive recreation opportunities in welcoming, low-barrier settings.
- **Get Active Fitness Sampler:** Funded by the ParticipACTION Community Challenge grant and offered in partnership with the Vancouver Coastal Health Richmond Mental Health Team, this program supported select adults with ongoing mental health disabilities through twice-weekly sessions at Minoru Centre for Active Living. Participants engaged in a range of activities, including small group training, Nordic walking, Pilates, and aquafit, improving access to inclusive, supported fitness opportunities. Following the program, several participants continued their fitness journey independently, demonstrating sustained engagement and increased confidence in physical activity.
- **Adaptive Try-it Fitness Sessions:** Thompson Community Association, in partnership with Aspire Richmond, delivered inclusive “try-it” fitness sessions as part of the ParticipACTION Community Challenge, featuring adaptive yoga, Pilates, kickboxing, and Zumba for individuals with disabilities.
- **Specialized Fitness Programs:** The City expanded specialized fitness supports for residents living with Parkinson’s disease and those recovering from knee and hip replacement surgeries. Delivered at Minoru Centre for Active Living and Watermania, these instructor-led programs support improved function, strength, and recovery through targeted land- and pool-based exercise. In 2025, the Exercises for Those with Parkinson’s program increased capacity and reached 180 participants over two years, while the Joint Replacement Recovery Program also expanded and served 63 participants in 2024 and 2025. Additional movement programs are also offered to support individuals with arthritis, osteoporosis and mobility disabilities to better manage daily activities.



CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND NEWCOMER-FOCUSED ACCESS

- **Women and Girls-Only Swim:** Women and girls-only swim sessions at Watermania responded to growing community demand by providing a dedicated, inclusive space for participation. Open to women and girls of all ages, as well as boys under seven, participation increased from approximately 2,000 in 2024 to more than 2,300 in 2025, improving access to recreation and supporting cultural inclusion.
- **Coffee and Chat Program:** 122 individuals living with dementia participated in the free Coffee and Chat program. This program was hosted by Minoru Seniors Society in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of BC and Yukon and offered in Cantonese. The program provided an opportunity for seniors with early symptoms of dementia to have a barrier-free social connection with others who are also living the dementia.
- **Newcomers Bus Tours and Newcomers Guide:** Newcomers Bus Tours were relaunched in 2024, with over 20 tours engaging more than 450 participants in small-group, multilingual sessions introducing City services. The Newcomer's Guide to Richmond was updated in 2025 and made available in eight languages, while additional tours, including a Terra Nova Rural Park visit for 25 newcomers, further supported connection and settlement. Together, these initiatives reduced barriers, improved access to information, and strengthened community integration.
- **New Immigrant Orientation Program:** The New Immigrant Orientation program was delivered in partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and provided Mandarin and Cantonese sessions to connect newcomers to health and wellness programs in Richmond, including low-cost and free services. Over 30 sessions engaged more than 880 participants, improving access to information and supporting settlement and participation in community programs.
- **Indigenous Success Program:** In April 2025, the Indigenous Success Program was delivered in partnership with Richmond School District No. 38, engaging students in leatherworking workshops led by knowledge keepers Bruce Baptiste and Mae Postel. Across four sessions with 6–10 participants each, students learned to create medicine pouches, strengthening cultural awareness, hands-on skills, and connection to Indigenous knowledge and traditions.
- **Diversity Symposium:** In 2024, the City celebrated the 10th anniversary of its annual Diversity Symposium, a free event for professionals, volunteers and community members interested in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Workshops in the 2024 and 2025 Symposiums focused on inclusive-by-design program principles and strategies for centering lived experiences in program planning. These workshops shared best practices for engaging with groups that experience barriers to participation in programs, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, newcomers, and people with disabilities.



ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCE NAVIGATION

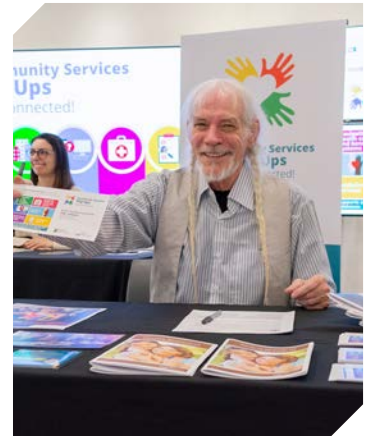
■ Community Services Pop Ups & Community Services Connectors

Program: Through the Community Services Pop Ups and Community Services Connectors program, residents with lower incomes were connected to a wide range of community-based services that helped households meet needs such as employment, housing, recreation, social connection and wellness. Developed in partnership between the City and Richmond Public Library in collaboration with community partners, a total of 137 Community Services Pop Ups and Community Services Connectors programs were held at Richmond libraries between January 2024 and December 2025. Approximately 2,714 residents were able to access critical information about services and support through these programs that contribute to their overall well-being.

- **RPL To Go:** RPL To Go is a mobile outreach initiative launched by Richmond Public Library in 2025 to remove barriers to library resources access and increase engagement with residents of all ages, including underserved and hard to reach individuals. Since July 1, 2025, this service has made over 35 visits, connecting with almost 1500 residents.

■ No or Low-Cost Community Meals and Food Programs Resource:

The City collaborated with the Richmond Food Bank and Richmond Food Coalition to update the No or Low-Cost Community Meals and Food Programs resource. The resource compiles information about free and low-cost meals delivered by community organizations and grocery distribution through the Richmond Food Bank. In 2024, the resource was refined to enhance access to information about community food programs, as well as act as a tool to support community meal providers assessing potential gaps and service duplication. The resource is available on the City's Community Resources webpage.



ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SUPPORTS AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

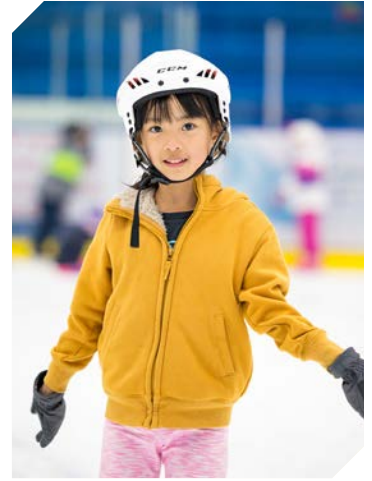
- **Vaccine Clinics:** Free drop-in COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics improved access to preventative healthcare by offering services in familiar, community-based locations. Delivered by Vancouver Coastal Health at Richmond Public Library branches, the clinics reached 150 participants. By providing no-cost immunization opportunities in accessible settings, the initiative helped reduce barriers to care and support community health and well-being. Furthermore, clinics were offered at the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living and City Centre Community Centre in partnership with local pharmacies.
- **Citywide Wellness Clinics:** In 2024 and 2025, several community associations and societies including South Arm, East Richmond, Steveston, City Centre and the Minoru Seniors Society, delivered a range of wellness services for seniors. Services included blood pressure and glucose checks, hearing clinics, foot care, reflexology, and massage treatments. In 2025, participation notably increased, including 2,272 blood pressure checks, 2,678 blood glucose tests, and over 1,000 wellness treatments, improving access to preventative care and supporting seniors' health and well-being.
- **Wellness Connections:** Offered by the Minoru Seniors Society, Wellness Connections is an outreach program that is designed to reintegrate frail, at risk and isolated seniors back into the community, and it is offered in Cantonese and English four times a year. The multi-session program includes varied activities, a specialized fitness class, lunch and transportation and utilizes multiple volunteers. Over the two years, the program served 192 participants. The program is partially funded by a Community Gaming Grant and a City of Richmond Health, Social and Safety Grant. Remaining costs are covered by the Society and participant fees.
- **Getting There:** In 2024 and 2025, the Minoru Seniors Society, supported by a Vancouver Coastal Health Promotion Grant and in partnership with the Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends Society, delivered the *Getting There* program to support seniors facing transportation barriers. The initiative enabled seniors to attend bi-weekly programs at the Minoru Centre for Active Living, with transportation and participation provided at low or no cost. Continued support in 2025 ensured the program remained fully accessible, improving access to services, reducing isolation, and strengthening social connection among participants.
- **Minds in Motion:** South Arm Community Association, in partnership with Alzheimer Society of BC and Yukon, offered *Minds in Motion 55+*, a free Alzheimer's Society referred program led by a certified fitness instructor and followed by social activities designed for people living with early-stage memory loss.



REDUCING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

- **Active Recreation and Sport Fund:** The Richmond Sports Council's Active Recreation and Sport Fund helps to remove financial barriers to recreation and sport programming for children in Richmond. Through funding from the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Events grant, the Fund has supported 50 children since 2024, providing up to \$500 per child to cover fees for active recreation and sport programs that do not have a provincial governing body. Eligible programs included martial arts, floor hockey, swimming, gymnastics and various types of dance.

- **Grade 5 Active! Pass:** Since 2023, the Grade 5 Active! Pass provided free access to recreation programs, including public swimming and skating, helping remove financial barriers for youth at a key stage of development. Participation increased from nearly 900 of 1,900 students in 2023–2024 to 1,088 of 2,059 students in 2024–2025, supporting early engagement in sports and recreation, building confidence in community spaces, and encouraging lifelong healthy habits.
- **\$29 Summer Active Pass:** The City in partnership with community associations and societies, offered the \$29 Summer Active Pass, a low-cost pass for children and youth 5 to 18 years to stay active over the summer break. Valid from mid-June through Labour Day weekend each year, the pass provided unlimited access to drop-in activities including swimming, skating and Pitch 'n' Putt golf, as well as fitness centre access and select sports and fitness drop-in activities at community centres. In 2025, an increase in overall usage by youth, with over 3,000 more visits compared to 2024, was recorded. In 2025 and 2024, 50,739 and 54,005 visits were recorded.



2018–2025 Major Accomplishments

RECREATION FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Recreation Fee Subsidy Program provides residents of all ages experiencing financial hardship with subsidized access to recreation, culture and parks programs. The program supports participation in both registered and drop-in programs offered by the City and community associations and societies, helping more residents to access the physical, mental wellness and social benefits of participating in recreational activities. Program uptake continued to grow in 2024–2025, with 4,854 participants—a 15 per cent increase from 3,985 participants in 2023–2024 and a 53 per cent increase from 2,984 participants in 2022–2023.



COMMUNITY LINK SERVICE (SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PROGRAM)

Social Prescribing is an innovative approach that addresses social determinants of health and connects individuals with non-clinical community resources to enhance overall health and well-being. Since its launch in October 2022, the Social Prescribing Program within the Richmond Primary Care Network (PCN) has become a vital service, transforming access to holistic supports across the community. The Program enables Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners to refer patients to a Community Link Worker, who assesses individual needs and connects them to appropriate support and services, including programs in Richmond’s community centres, Minoru Seniors Centre and aquatics facilities. The Social Prescribing program has expanded to include public education, outreach, and collaborations with community partners and organizations. Participants experience improvements in physical and emotional well-being, social connections, and overall quality of life. In 2025, the addition of a Community Navigator enhanced service capacity and language accessibility through Cantonese and Mandarin support, improving equity of access and overall program efficiency.



COMMUNITY POVERTY REDUCTION AND PREVENTION TABLE

Since the adoption of the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty, the City and its partners have worked together to reduce barriers to community supports for residents experiencing or at risk of poverty. A key mechanism has been the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table, which has strengthened cross-sector coordination, increased awareness of available services, improved referral pathways, and improved equitable access to community supports across Richmond.

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS PROJECT

Through Library Champions Project, recent immigrants have received training about library services and programs as well as other community, health, and social service resources in Richmond, to help other newcomers navigate and access resources, and participate more fully in the community. In 2020, 40 newcomers trained to become Champions and reached out to 1,067 newcomers. By the end of 2025, 27 cycles were completed with 301 newcomers as Champions, reaching 15,485 individuals and connecting them to resources and opportunities to participate in community life.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

The Richmond School District No. 38 Community Schools Initiative was launched in the 2020/21 school year to create programming opportunities for elementary students, particularly those in Grades 5 to 7, to develop and enhance physical literacy. Programs focus on age-appropriate, skill-building activities that build movement competence, confidence and enjoyment in physical activity. Since its launch, partnerships with South Arm, City Centre and East Richmond Community Associations, as well as Steveston Community Society, have expanded sports and physical activity programming and increased access to opportunities for participation beyond the school day. Together, these efforts help foster lifelong healthy habits and active lifestyles.

WATER SAFETY EDUCATION

The Water Safety Education Program expanded access to basic water safety education for children and youth who may not otherwise participate in swimming lessons. Aligned with the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum, school-based sessions reached 975 students in 2024 and 983 students in 2025 across 12 schools each year. Additional outreach at community events extended the program's reach beyond schools. By reducing financial, cultural, and access barriers, the initiative helped address gaps in water safety knowledge, build confidence around water, and support drowning prevention, particularly for newcomer children and youth who may face increased risk.



Focus Area #4

Facilitate supportive, safe, and healthy natural and built environments.

Focus Area #4 supports initiatives that enhance Richmond’s built and natural environments to support health, safety and everyday well-being. These efforts improve walkability, access to outdoor spaces, and opportunities for recreation, unstructured play, and active transportation.

2024–2025 Highlights

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

- **Audible Pedestrian Pushbutton Systems:** 30 Audible Pedestrian Pushbutton (APS) systems were installed at signalized intersections, following consultation with representatives of persons with sight loss. The systems feature verbal wayfinding, audible tones, and braille. Feedback from the Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Group sessions in 2024 and 2025 also informed additional upgrades, including an APS at the Cambie Road crosswalk near East Richmond Community Hall and tactile surface improvements to further support safe and accessible travel.
- **Accessible Bus Stops:** As of 2025, 95 per cent of the City’s bus stops are accessible to people with mobility disabilities, with approximately 10 new accessible stops installed each year. These improvements support safe transit access, greater independence and better connectivity for residents with mobility needs.



- **Multi-Use Pathway Expansion:** The City continued to expand its Multi-Use Pathway network to strengthen active transportation infrastructure and improve connectivity and accessibility within and between neighbourhoods. Completed projects in 2024 and 2025 included the off-street pathway on No. 2 Road from Steveston Highway to Williams Road; Phase 3 of the Steveston Highway pathway from No. 2 Road to Railway Avenue; widening and repaving of the Garden City Road pathway from Francis Road to Williams Road; a new pathway on the north side of Lansdowne Road from Gilbert Road to Pearson Way; and safety improvements at No. 2 Road and Westminster Highway, including a bi-directional cycling facility from No. 2 Road to Lynas Lane.



- **Nature House and Kinsmen Pavilion Accessibility Upgrades:** In 2024, the Richmond Nature Park completed accessibility improvements to the Nature House and Kinsmen Pavilion, including accessible doors, enhanced ramps, and paved walkways, helping ensure the park remains welcoming and usable for visitors of all ages and abilities.

ENHANCING SAFETY, COMFORT AND USABILITY IN PUBLIC SPACES

- **Customized Road Safety Programs:** Staff engaged residents, businesses, and schools to develop customized road safety programs in several neighbourhoods. This work led to speed reduction projects on Dyke Road and Springfield Drive, a 30 km/h speed limit in the Princess/London neighbourhood, and safety upgrades at the intersections of No. 5 Road and Westminster Highway, No. 2 Road and Westminster Highway, Cambie Road and No. 5 Road, and Cambie Road and St. Edwards Drive. These improvements enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, promote active transportation, and contribute to more livable and connected communities.
- **McLean and Blundell Neighbourhood Parks:** In 2025, new washroom signage, additional benches and tree maintenance, enhanced accessibility, comfort and safety in these public spaces. These improvements support walkability by improving washroom wayfinding, addition rest opportunities, and improving sight lines for park users.
- **No. 3 Road Bark Park:** To improve conditions for cyclists, pedestrians and off-leash dogs, safety upgrades at No. 3 Road Bark Park carried out in 2025 included a new multi-use trail, fencing, and enhanced entrances. These improvements increase safety, encourage active use, and create a more inclusive, enjoyable park experience.
- **Shade and Shelter Program:** In 2024, three new shade and shelter structures were added at Dover Park, Garden City Park, and McLean Park. These structures provide protection from sun and inclement weather, improving comfort and supporting longer, safer use and community engagement in outdoor spaces.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE OUTDOOR LIVING AND PLAY

- **Richmond Cycling Map:** In 2025, the Richmond Cycling Map was updated to include route comfort levels and safety information, helping residents plan rides across more than 345 km of bike routes. Available in print and online, the map improves access to cycling information, encourages active transportation, and supports healthier, more connected communities.
- **Minoru Park Outdoor Fitness Area:** Completed in November 2025 and with funding from the Rotary Club of Richmond, the new outdoor fitness area at Minoru Park added accessible, senior-friendly equipment that supports year-round physical activity and community connection.
- **Steveston Community Park Playground:** The renewed Steveston Community Park playground opened in June 2025 following a multi-year design process with community engagement. The \$2.2M upgrade created a cohesive play environment with improved sightlines to enhance safety and included accessible surfacing and play features supporting a wide range of ages and abilities.
- **Cultural Centre Annex Big Blue Blocks:** In 2024, Big Blue Blocks were installed outside the Cultural Centre Annex to support unstructured play. These large, movable foam pieces encouraged children of all ages to build, imagine, and explore through hands-on, active play.
- **Richmond Public Library ExplorePACKs:** Richmond Public Library's ExplorePACK collection provided barrier-free access to outdoor and learning experiences through kits for activities such as fishing, hiking, and birdwatching. Borrowed more than 4,200 times over 2024 and 2025, the collection supported children and families in exploring local environments, building STEAM skills, and increasing participation in outdoor recreation.



VIBRANT AND WELCOMING PUBLIC SPACES

- **Richmond's Street Banner Program:** Since its launch several years ago, the program has added locally designed artwork to neighbourhood streets and public spaces, contributing to a more vibrant and inviting public realm. Through the Banner Sponsorship Program, eligible organizations, including local businesses, non-profits and special event organizers, sponsored banners in select locations. In 2025, the street banners reflected 10 themes, namely Island City, Play, Diversity, Urban Landscape, Wildlife, Sustainability, Sports and Recreation, Community, Nature and Arts, Culture and Heritage. Over 580 entries were submitted to the annual community-wide contest, celebrating the places, activities and experiences that make Richmond unique.
- **Community Mural Program:** Between January 2024 and December 2025, 14 new murals were installed through this program at civic facilities, private businesses, schools and other buildings, enhancing Richmond's built environment and contributing to more welcoming public spaces. These artworks have been well-received by the public and facility users.





2018–2025 Major Accomplishments

SAFE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION:

Since 2022, the City has advanced safer, healthier travel options through implementation of the Cycling Network Plan, road safety improvements, and Richmond’s shared e-bike and e-scooter program, in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health Public Health, the Richmond School District and other partners. The updated Cycling Network Plan provides a 15-year framework to improve cycling infrastructure and safety through intersection upgrades, expanded bike parking and other network improvements, while supporting convenient access to jobs, services and recreation. Richmond’s shared e-bike and e-scooter program has complemented this work by providing affordable, low-carbon transportation for residents and visitors, with approximately 245,000 trips taken since 2022. In 2024, discounted Lime Access rides were extended to Recreation Fee Subsidy Program participants, helping reduce financial barriers and support more equitable access to community amenities and activities.

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND OPEN SPACE ENHANCEMENTS

Guided by the Parks and Open Space Strategy, the City expanded and enhanced Richmond’s network of parks, playgrounds and open spaces between 2018 and 2025. New parks opened during this period, including Aberdeen Park, Alexandra Park, Capstan Neighbourhood Park, Ketcheson Park and Tait Riverfront Park, increasing access to neighbourhood and waterfront open spaces that support physical activity, outdoor play and everyday community use. The City also advanced playground and park amenity renewals to make outdoor spaces safer, more welcoming and more functional for residents of all ages and abilities. This included playground renewals, expanded shade and shelter infrastructure, trail and accessibility improvements and upgrades that support longer and more comfortable use of parks. Recent examples include



the Steveston Park Playground renewal, new shade and shelter structures at Dover Park, Garden City Park and McLean Park and safety and access upgrades at No. 3 Road Bark Park. Together, these investments strengthened Richmond's parks and open space system and enhanced opportunities for active living, social connection and neighbourhood well-being.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Richmond's Public Art Program contributes to more welcoming, vibrant and engaging public spaces. By incorporating art into civic and community settings, the program supports placemaking, reflects community identity, fosters social connection and cultural awareness, and encourages a stronger sense of belonging. Since 2018, completed projects have included *Richmond's Firefighter* at No. 1 Fire Hall (2018), *No. 2 Road Drainage Pump Station* (2018), *Together* at Minoru Centre for Active Living (2019), *Four Seasons of Movement* at Clement Track (2020), *Pergola Garden* at Alexandra Park (2022), *Wake* at Tait Waterfront Park (2022), *Typha* at Middle Arm Waterfront Greenway (2023), *Seasons of Colour* at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (2024), *Welcome* at the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre (2025) and *Tales in Current* at the Brighthouse-Terminus Canada Line Station (2025).



Image credit: *Together* by David Jacob Harder

Focus Area #5

Promote wellness literacy for residents across all ages and stages of their lives

Focus Area #5 supports initiatives that strengthen awareness and understanding of health and wellness literacy. These efforts improve access to information and help residents build the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

2024–2025 Highlights

INCREASING ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND INCLUSIVE HEALTH INFORMATION

■ **Ming Pao Healthy Living Day and Newcomer Health Navigation:**

Through a partnership with Richmond Public Library and community health partners, the annual Ming Pao Healthy Living Day provided Cantonese-language health education sessions led by medical professionals, engaging 165 participants in both 2024 and 2025. In addition, the library partnered with SUCCESS to deliver a series of programs for newcomers on navigating health and wellness services, including access to primary care, benefits and screenings. Together, these initiatives improved access to culturally and linguistically relevant health information, strengthened system navigation and supported informed decision-making among diverse communities.



- **Generation Health Community:** Launched in 2024, Generation Health Community was a collaborative initiative between the Childhood Healthy Living Foundation, East Richmond Community Association, and Mitchell Elementary School. Designed to support children living with obesity and their families, the program strengthened wellness literacy by increasing awareness and understanding of health and physical activity through education and skill-building opportunities led by nutritionists and exercise specialists. Topics such as nutrition, healthy sleep habits, recreation and active living helped equip participants and their families with the knowledge, confidence and practical tools to make informed, sustainable lifestyle changes that support long-term health and well-being.

BUILDING WELLNESS KNOWLEDGE AMONG CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- **Healthiest Babies Possible Program:** Richmond Public Library, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, delivered the Healthiest Babies Possible program through 46 sessions that reached over 600 babies and adults in 2024 and 2025. The program provided nutrition counselling, food access support and health education to promote healthy eating and improve wellness knowledge among priority families.
- **Physical Health Program:** Vancouver Coastal Health Public Health, in partnership with Richmond School District No. 38, delivered the Physical Health Program in Grades 1 to 3 classrooms. Public Health nurses visited 11 schools, reaching over 1,000 students and supporting teachers with tools to integrate physical activity, healthy eating, sleep and mindfulness into daily learning. Take-home resources extended learning to families and reinforced healthy behaviours beyond the classroom.



SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING THROUGH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

- **Health Talks:** Richmond Public Library, in partnership with Senior Link Society, delivered educational sessions on health and wellness led by a naturopathic doctor. A total of 21 sessions engaged more than 400 participants in 2024 and 2025, improving access to reliable health information and supporting informed decision-making among older adults.



- **Seniors Wellness Education and Preparedness Programs:** Community associations such as Minoru Seniors Society and South Arm Community Association, partnered with Vancouver Coastal Health to deliver a range of free workshops and information sessions for seniors on topics including falls prevention, extreme weather preparedness, home health supports and access to primary care services. These initiatives reached more than 350 participants and improved seniors' access to practical health and safety information, increased awareness of available supports and strengthened wellness literacy related to healthy aging and service navigation.
- **Self-Management Program for Seniors:** Thompson Community Association partnered with the University of Victoria's Self-Management Program to offer a free six-session education workshop series for seniors. Workshops included Chronic Pain Management and Diabetes Prevention and Education, offered in May and November 2025, respectively. The program strengthened seniors' knowledge, self-management skills and confidence in managing their health.

2018–2025 Major Accomplishments

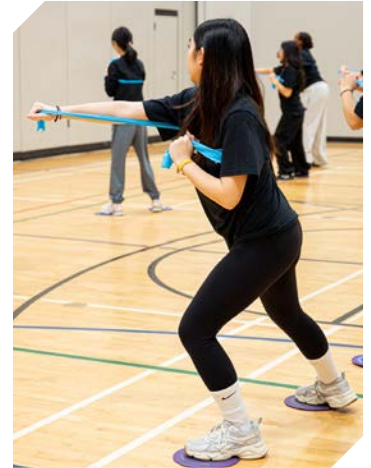
55+ ACTIVATE! WELLNESS FAIR

The 55+ Activate! Wellness Fair continues to be an important source of health, wellness, safety, and independence information for older adults. After being aligned with Seniors Week in 2019, the event drew approximately 1,000 attendees. In 2021, when the Fair was held online, more than 300 age-friendly bags containing information and resources were distributed through community centres. The Fair returned in person in 2023 with over 40 information booths, five educational workshops, and approximately 500 attendees. On March 27, 2025, the biennial event again welcomed more than 500 attendees at the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living, featuring 45 information booths, three educational workshops in English and Cantonese, four physical “try-it” activities, and a Wellness Relaxation Room. Together, these events improved access to health and wellness information, increased awareness of available programs and services, and supported older adults in making informed decisions about their health and well-being.



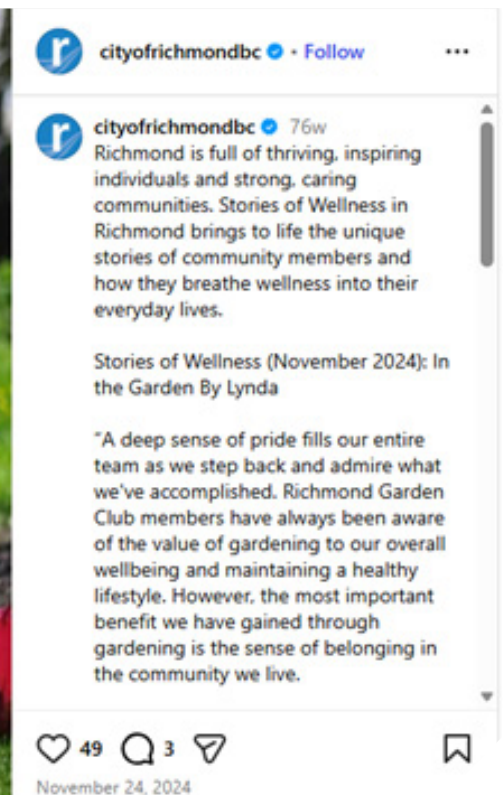
GIRLS ONLY DAY (G.O. DAY)

G.O. Day is a joint initiative by the City of Richmond, Richmond School District No. 38, Vancouver Coastal Health, and community associations and societies. Taking place annually, G.O. Day is a free expo for female identifying youth to participate in both health educational and physical activity workshops. Post-pandemic, G.O. Day returned in 2022 and has continued through 2024. In 2024, the wide range of events and activities included a fitness class, a basketball lesson, Snack Attack—a workshop focusing on healthy and accessible snacks, a self-esteem and reflection exercise and a K-pop dance class. To support continued participation after the event, participants were connected with the *Empower Her* group and many other affordable activities to provide ongoing opportunities for girls.



STORIES OF WELLNESS IN RICHMOND

In 2024, the Stories of Wellness in Richmond campaign was launched. This annual initiative supported wellness literacy by increasing awareness and understanding of physical activity, healthy eating, and mental wellness through relatable, community-based examples. By featuring personal experiences and highlighting practical approaches to healthy, active living, the campaign helped residents build knowledge, reflect on their own wellness practices, and explore informed ways to support their own well-being.



Conclusion

The Community Wellness Strategy reflects the City of Richmond's shared commitment to enhancing the health, well-being, and quality of life of all residents. Progress across the five Focus Areas demonstrates the collective impact of community-driven action to reduce barriers and expand opportunities for meaningful participation in community life. Through improved access to recreation, services, learning opportunities, and social connection, these efforts have contributed to greater inclusion, a stronger sense of belonging and community well-being.

The highlights and accomplishments outlined in this report show that strong partnerships and sustained community engagement can produce meaningful results. Enhancements to public spaces, expanded access to programs and services, and increased opportunities for connection and learning have helped strengthen Richmond's capacity to respond to community needs in inclusive and practical ways. This work also underscores the importance of ongoing collaboration, responsiveness, and shared leadership in addressing emerging needs and priorities.

The City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No. 38 remain committed to building on this foundation and continuing to work with residents and community partners to advance wellness. Through these shared efforts, Richmond will continue to foster a healthy, connected, and inclusive community where all residents can thrive.





City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4000
richmond.ca