

LIVE.



CONNECT.

Live. Connect. Grow.

Parks, Recreation
and Cultural
Services

A Master Plan
for 2005 – 2015

*Improving quality of life
for individuals, families
and communities today
and tomorrow*

2008 Annual Progress Report



PRCS Master Plan 2008 Annual Progress Report

Purpose of the Report

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Annual Progress Report contains an overview on the key components of the PRCS Master Plan: Relationship-based Approach, Being Accountable, Service-based Approach, Programs and Services, Places and Spaces, Facilities and Amenities and, Financial. These areas help provide direction on the future of Richmond's parks, recreation and cultural services in an integrated manner.

In addition to a summary on the status of each recommendation, we are pleased to provide a summary of the department's major projects and achievements.

The first PRCS Master Plan Progress Report was produced in June 2007. This year's report continues to highlight PRCS' progress and achievements and upholds staff's commitment to report out to City Council on an annual basis. By working within the Master Plan framework that incorporates and integrates the key components, PRCS can work towards achieving the City's vision *"to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada"*

"The Master Plan is intended to be a strategic and directional resource that will guide policy development and decision-making. It is a comprehensive document to be used as a reference by all those involved in the delivery of parks, recreation and cultural services."

The 2005 - 2015 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan provides a framework that incorporates and integrates the key components required to achieve the future Vision as developed by the community.

“Building relationships between and among quality of life service providers is critical to the sustainable success of the system. These relationships will help ensure effective and efficient use of scarce resources and will lead to exciting new service-delivery relationships for the community.”

The City recognizes the importance of ensuring a healthy and active not-for-profit sector and will work with the community to develop strategies and actions to enhance and strengthen groups within this sector.



Older Adults

Relationship-based Approach

Overview

To meet the community's current and future needs, PRCS continues to recognize the importance of building effective relationships with quality of life service providers. Building community capacity is encouraged through cooperative and collaborative efforts between community organizations, government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector.

Master Plan Recommendations

1. Foster effective working relationships with the community, using shared values and commitment as the foundation. (in progress)
2. Ensure that the City continues to work with a wide range of community-based organizations and is committed to establishing and maintaining effective relations with others. (in progress)
3. Develop positive relationships with a wide range of community-based organizations to attain outcomes.
4. Support the development of a comprehensive volunteer strategy and increase the City's investment in volunteer management. (in progress)
5. Provide a range of community engagement opportunities to build citizenship and community capacity at all levels in the community.
6. Work with other government organizations and other institutions to develop new programs, respond to new opportunities and to share leadership and awareness.
7. Endorse the Community Involvement Framework Model. Ensure protocols are in place that clearly defines accountabilities.
8. Adopt four core business focuses for the PRCS Department and align resources to support these business areas:
 - Community and neighbourhood building
 - Research, planning, development and marketing;
 - Programs and services to meet community needs
 - Places and spaces: Facility and parks operations

Progress and Achievements

- The City received a \$35,000 community health promotion grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to create Greenways to Active Participation. The City, with partners, Richmond Health Services and the Richmond School Board have developed a complement of resources and targeted communication strategies that will encourage people who live, work and play in Richmond to increase their physical activity through active transportation and/or building walking or cycling into their daily lives.
- Queensborough and Hamilton staff have been working to bridge the gap between the Queensborough and Hamilton communities. By utilizing the assets of both centres, the communities have access to more community services and programs. This will be the fourth season of programming together and creating benefits to local residents.

- Seniors Wellness Clinics have expanded to eight sites, including five City community centres, Beth Tikvah Congregation and the Vedic Cultural Centre, and provide community based health monitoring for hundreds of culturally diverse seniors. Seniors Wellness Clinics are a partnership between the City of Richmond Seniors Services and Vancouver Coastal Health through Richmond Health Services.
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) continues to produce its newsletter called the Communiqué to provide community partners with an update on highlights in PRCS, as well as information on research and trends and key initiatives that the City is involved with that may affect PRCS. Introduced late in 2005, the electronically distributed newsletter has become increasingly popular.
- PRCS worked with local sports community organizations to develop a Richmond chapter of Kidsport. This initiative reaches out to low income residents to facilitate their participation in field sport as part of the “Everyone Can Play” strategy. The goal is to reduce financial barriers that prevent low-income families from participating in field sport activities.
- The City of Richmond in partnership with the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society and Tourism Richmond hosted the 51st Annual British Columbia Museums Association conference at the Radisson Hotel in October 2007. The opening reception at the Cultural Centre was a great success highlighting our multi-cultural city with a Chinese Lion Dance and a youth Banghra dance performance. Taiko drummers sounded through the Cannery and delegates also enjoyed a pre-conference tour of Britannia, Terra Nova and other attractions.
- PRCS developed a toolkit for staff to use to research and facilitate placement of practicum and internship students from post-secondary institutes. The process of developing the toolkit allowed PRCS to develop a new relationship with Langara College that resulted in a recreation program promotion/recruitment opportunity for them. It also resulted in PRCS successfully securing 3 student interns for 14-week periods in early 2008.
- Cambie’s Sprites Preschool received a \$39,000 Gaming Commission Grant and several other smaller grants, which were then matched by East Richmond Community Association to create a new playground behind the East Richmond Hall. The grand opening of the playground took place this spring.
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) received the Healthy Food and Beverage Sales Grant for \$12,500 from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. The funding will be used to help phase in changes to healthy food and beverage choices in PRCS facilities, to educate the public as to what healthy food and beverage choices are, and how they can assess their options and to decrease the amount of unhealthy food and beverage options available in Richmond city facilities.
- In October 2007, Richmond City Council endorsed the Community of Excellence for Sport and Wellness initiative. Richmond is one of Canada’s most progressive and innovative cities, and has gained a reputation for excellence in a number of areas. The Richmond Community of Excellence for Sport & Wellness is a multi-stakeholder City-led initiative providing an integrated community-based sport, recreation and wellness participation strategy for the citizens of Richmond, and beyond, as a sustainable Olympic legacy. As an established Community of Excellence for Sport and Wellness, Richmond will be recognized as the best place to live, work and play – to achieve our highest potential.

PRCS worked with local sports community organizations to develop a Richmond chapter of Kidsport. This initiative reaches out to low income residents to facilitate their participation in field sport as part of the “Everyone Can Play” strategy. The goal is to reduce financial barriers that prevent low-income families from participating in field sport activities.



Taiko Drummers

The Richmond Community of Excellence for Sport & Wellness is a multi-stakeholder City-led initiative providing an integrated community-based sport, recreation and wellness participation strategy for the citizens of Richmond, and beyond, as a sustainable Olympic legacy.

“The role of municipal government is to ensure the availability of the broadest range of quality-of-life services, including parks, recreational and cultural opportunities, for individuals and groups, within available resources. The City of Richmond is accountable to its citizens to ensure that it effectively manages and allocates public resources to meet the broadest public good.”



Being Accountable

Overview

PRCS staff are committed to ensuring availability of a broad range of quality of life services for individuals and groups working within available resources. Staff continue to be accountable to its citizens, through effective management and allocation of public resources, responsible planning and effective public consultation.

Master Plan Recommendations

9. Establish public consultation standards and practices.
10. Allocate resources to system-wide and project specific planning. (complete)
11. Develop clear and consistent direction through system-wide, Council-approved policies as a foundation in areas of access, use, pricing, public involvement and customer service. (in progress)
12. Develop standards and guidelines to address safety and risk, effective use of resources and service quality.
13. Ensure the City is responsible for leadership, expertise and allocation of City resources.
14. Establish agreements with organizations that provide a service on behalf of the City, with a clear focus on service definition, roles, responsibilities, finances, business plans, accountability and evaluation. (in progress)
15. Ensure excellence in customer service.

Progress and Achievements

- Late in 2007, the City entered an agreement with The Active Network, Ltd. (TAN) and necessary supporting system service providers to replace the current recreation registration and electronic payment computer systems. Currently, TAN products are being used by all Metro Vancouver municipalities and are a market leader in municipal software with over 1,500 installations in North America. Implementation of the registration system is expected to start with the Richmond Oval, followed by other existing recreation sites.
- Further to the Richmond Museum & Heritage Strategy endorsed by City Council in June 2007, a Museum Feasibility Study was initiated last fall. Consultants have worked with staff and stakeholders to develop a vision for a new museum and determine operational requirements for public space, collections, exhibits and programming as well as recommendations for location criteria. An open house will be held in summer 2008 to acquire the community's input and finalize the vision for a new museum that could play a critical role in the City's evolving cultural life.
- The Recreation Fee Subsidy program provided opportunities for over 600 low-income Richmond residents to participate in various recreation programs throughout the year. This program runs in partnership with Richmond community associations. In addition, 2007 also saw an additional 97 residents involved in sport and physical activity through the City's involvement with the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program.
- Following directions from the Richmond Arts Strategy, a committee of City staff, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Arts Coalition and B.C. Children's Art and Literacy Centre was formed to work with consultants to create a Community Scan and Economic Impact Study on the value of the arts to Richmond.

Service-Based Approach

Overview

As the city continues to grow and change, PRCS staff's focus has evolved from the traditional facility-based approach, to a broader service-based approach. This shift has progressively changed program and service priorities to research, planning and system wide policies. Staff are working with others to better understand and respond to the diverse needs in the community in a more coordinated approach, by intentionally focusing on specific target markets and service areas.

Master Plan Recommendations

16. Endorse the process for addressing community needs.
17. Conduct a broad Needs Assessment that involves all sectors of the population every 5 years commencing in 2007.
18. Develop and adopt three-year Service Plans in 12 key service areas of: Volunteerism, Youth Services, Sports, Arts, Heritage, Special Events and Festivals, Older Adult, Environment and Nature, Active Living and Wellness, Childcare, Community and Neighbourhood Building and Community Recreation. (in progress)
19. Adopt an asset-based approach to creating a child and youth-friendly community. (adopted)
20. Adopt an outcome or results-based approach to planning and evaluating programs and services.
21. Ensure services are provided at Neighbourhood, Community, Citywide and Regional levels and there is support for national and international program and event development.
22. Ensure programs and services are developed based on sound principles, guidelines and policy.
23. Establish a cooperative planned approach with a common vision, clearly defined roles for the City and others and a consistent coordinated delivery system.
24. Encourage and facilitate partnerships between the City and other organizations in the delivery of parks, recreation and culture services. (in progress)

Progress and Achievements

- PRCS is currently undertaking a 2008 Community Needs Assessment, which was last conducted in 2001. Its purpose is to gain an in-depth understanding of the parks, recreation and cultural program and service needs of the Richmond community. Richmond is a multi-cultural and ethnically diverse community, and this study is intended to provide clear recommendations on how PRCS and its partners can meet the future needs of all segments of our community. The views of Richmond residents will be sought through a citywide phone survey, and through focus groups comprised of residents and representatives from community groups.
- On April 3, 2008 the Richmond Museum Society was awarded a Cultural DiverseCity Award for Business in the not-for-profit category. The awards committee was impressed that the Museum's exhibits and programs have repeatedly and consistently been a showcase for the community's rich cultural diversity.

“ As the community grows and changes, the City and organizations it works with must shift to a broader focus. A service-based approach focuses more on program and service priorities based on research, planning and system-wide policies. ”





In May 2008, Richmond City Council endorsed the 'Older Adults Service Plan – Active and Healthy Living in Richmond'. The changing face of the older adult sector is having an impact on municipalities across Canada in terms of delivery of services. In particular, there is a need to provide a diverse range of services for an expanding older adult population (as there will be more older adults and an increasingly diverse older adult population that need to be served in the future – ranging from active baby-boomers to frail seniors).

- PRCS, its partners and community organizations, have a long history of responding to the needs and aspirations of youth in the city. The “Where Youth Thrive” Plan for serving youth builds on the foundations laid in the City’s 1995 Youth Strategy. In 2007, the plan was created by the Youth Services Steering Committee - a partnership between the City, youth, Community Associations, RCMP, Richmond School District, Richmond Health Services, Richmond Sports Council and non-profit agencies (including SUCCESS, Richmond Addiction Services, and Touchstone Family Services). Developing the plan through this collaborative effort reflects how important it is for the variety of youth-serving agencies in Richmond to work together in order to create positive and enriching environments for our youth to flourish.
- In May 2008, Richmond City Council endorsed the ‘Older Adults Service Plan – Active and Healthy Living in Richmond’. The changing face of the older adult sector is having an impact on municipalities across Canada in terms of delivery of services. In particular, there is a need to provide a diverse range of services for an expanding older adult population (as there will be more older adults and an increasingly diverse older adult population that need to be served in the future – ranging from active baby-boomers to frail seniors). The plan’s vision is “Richmond: to be a community where older adults live healthy and active lives in a cooperative, welcoming and inclusive environment, which promotes engagement, encourages lifelong learning, and values the contribution of older adults”. The Service Plan supports a beneficial and meaningful way for older adults to enjoy their lives, and provides the possibilities, promise and value of aging in their community.
- Richmond City Council endorsed the 2007 to 2012 Major Events Plan for Richmond in March 2007. The Major Events Implementation Plan, which is to be presented to City Council in 2008, is the result of a dynamic process whereby City leaders and staff, in consultation with Richmond citizens, articulated a shared vision for the future that enhances quality of life while still being faithful to other City strategies. The plan recognizes the primary need for the City to invest, and encourage others to invest, in the local art, sport, and volunteer sectors to sustain and build Richmond’s creative special events capacity
- New staff positions were added to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services team to further the City’s commitment to making Richmond a livable and appealing community. The new positions: Manager, Parks Programs, Volunteers Development Coordinator and Marketing Assistant will help PRCS continue to meet the needs of the community and provide high quality programs and services with partnering organizations.
- Richmond Public Library Services launched library services at Hamilton Community Centre on Thursdays and Saturdays. Services include: Library Card registration, book borrowing and returns, story time, children’s books, adult best sellers, and DVDs. For children: board books for babies, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, comics, selected non-fiction for adults: summer reads - mysteries, thrillers, romance, parenting, and CDs.

- PRCS youth + posi marketing campaign focusing on promoting the 40 Developmental Assets in youth has been well received locally and internationally. City staff are currently negotiating a co-branding arrangement with the Search Institute based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota to further the use of marketing materials in North America.
- The PRCS Volunteer Development Coordinator has been working closely with other City departments and staff in identifying and implementing a technology-based volunteer management system that will manage PRCS volunteers. Updated volunteer standards and policies have also been drafted and are being utilized in upcoming PRCS projects and programs.
- Through the City's operating budget, funding continues to be allocated to these popular major events in Richmond to help offset event insurance costs: Steveston Salmon Festival, City Centre Celebration, East Richmond Multifest, Thompson Nibbles and Bites, Halloween Fireworks, Nature Park Festival of Lights, Hamilton Community Picnic, Sea Island Burkeville Days.
- Both the Minoru Arena and the Richmond Ice Centre now have Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units on site in the event of a possible cardiac arrest. City of Richmond Arena Services staff have been trained and certified in the use of the AED units. The units are located in the administrative area at both facilities, along with signage and a localized alarm system for the public to activate in the event of a possible heart attack.



Steveston Salmon Festival

“ In order to ensure that the broadest possible range of programs and services is available to Richmond residents and offered through a range of service providers, the City will play a leadership role in coordinating, facilitating and, where appropriate, providing programs and services. ”



Minoru Chapel

Programs and Services

Overview

PRCS staff regularly assess market requirements, identify opportunities and work with other service providers to ensure programs and services address community needs and ensure that the broadest possible range of programs and services are available to Richmond residents. Staff continue to play a leadership role in fostering and facilitating new PRCS opportunities. Current and new service providers are encouraged to contribute to building the well-being framework: live, connect, grow. The four overarching outcomes (Asset Development, Increasing Physical Activity, Cultural Harmony, Literacy and Learning) are built into all aspects of programs and service.

Master Plan Recommendations

25. Implement Service Plans in the following key areas: Volunteerism, Youth Services, Sports, Arts, Heritage, Special Events and Festivals, Older Adult, Environment and Nature, Active Living, Childcare, Community and Neighbourhood Building and Community Recreation.
26. Implement an asset-based approach for children and youth. (in progress)
27. Develop and implement a marketing strategy for programs and services.
28. Encourage and facilitate partnerships between the City and other organizations in the delivery of quality of life programs. (in progress)
29. Emphasize and invest in programs and services with a wellness focus, which help individuals, families and neighbourhoods stay physically active and socially connected. (in progress)
30. Create capacity for a broad variety of events, tournaments, filming and special community activities. (in progress)
31. Embrace 2010 challenge – increase by 20% the number of Richmond citizens being physically active by 2010. (in progress)
32. Evaluate the impact of the Oval program and link with local community programming.
33. Plan for and implement the wellness, high performance sport and community program for post games use of the Richmond Oval. (in progress)
34. Create a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services system that is open, accessible and customer friendly.

Progress and Achievements

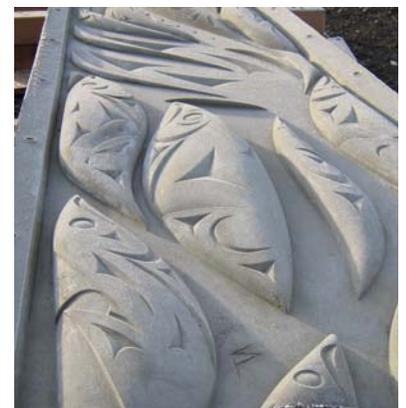
- Richmond broke trail once again in as it hosted the first Doors Open Richmond on April 26 and 27, 2008. This two-day event created an opportunity for residents and visitors to explore Richmond's unique culture and heritage from past and present to future featuring more than 30 sites. Doors Open provided access to everything from heritage landmarks to modern structures, hidden gems, places of worship, artists studios, museums and national historic sites with guided tours, displays and activities. And all for free.

- The Grade 5 Get Active! Pass was implemented in fall 2007 to encourage youth participation in physical activity. Research has shown that developing healthy lifestyles at this age – when children start to choose their own activities and are interested in an increasing number of social recreation programs – builds a pattern of physical activity and healthy living that they continue as adults. By offering free admission to drop-in activities, it is hoped this added incentive would attract more young people to recreational activities to support this trend towards active living. Currently, more than 600 passes have been issued.
- GO Day (Girls Only Lifestyle Expo), an event targeted towards inactive Grade 9 girls offered activity and healthy lifestyle workshops and focus groups to discuss barriers to physical activity participation. The goals of the day were to engage participants in activities that they will enjoy for the rest of their lives, raise awareness of the importance of physical activity, and develop healthy lifelong habits. The event was a tremendous success with over 100 girls from across Richmond attending. Currently, City staff are connecting with these girls to help them continue to be physically active.
- The Community Public Art Program was revised to provide more opportunities for community groups and artists to participate. This year we initiated our first community public art project with Richmond Hospital and look forward to expanding the program with them. The Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park Community Public Art Project by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew entitled, “Lulu a Memory Garden” has been designed and will be completed this year.
- Richmond Rocket’s Speed Skating Ability Competition was held on November 10, 2007 at Minoru Arenas. The event was the first competition sponsored by the recently formed Richmond Rockets Speed Skating Club and it was also the first speed skating competition ever held in Richmond. Over 100 athletes from B.C., Alberta and Washington State took part in the all day event.
- Richmond School District, Science World, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada, HSBC, Richmond Review, Aberdeen Centre and the City of Richmond partnered to launch a Science Expo and Careers Fair at Aberdeen Centre. High school students from the MacNeil Incentive Program and Science Academy, as well as Palmer Secondary proudly displayed their Science projects, met guest scientists and participated in Science World’s demonstrations.
- The Oval and surround precinct Art Plan implementation is progressing quickly. The buttress runnels, carved by artist Susan Point, are completed. Artist Janet Echelman was commissioned to work with landscape architects Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg to develop an art project in the eastern end of the site. ‘Sky Garden’ is currently being fabricated and due for completion in the fall of 2008. The Hollybridge vehicular and pedestrian bridge project designed by artist Buster Simpson was installed in June of this year.

Work has been started on the entry way project combining the Lobby and Legacy Plaza works into one project. Three artists are working on concepts and a recommendation will go to Council in September. Artists will soon be chosen for the artist in residence project to document to development of the Oval and Oval art projects and tell the stories of the area and activities now through the 2010 Games.

“The City will continue to emphasize and invest in programs and services with a wellness focus which help individuals, families and neighbourhoods stay physically active and socially connected.”

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Richmond Oval Buttress Runnels
Artist: Susan Point

Chefs to the Field, a celebration of food and organic growing took place at Terra Nova Rural Park in August 2007. Hosted by the Terra Nova Schoolyard Society in partnership with the City of Richmond, the event featured food samples from the Lower Mainland's top restaurants, as well as a chef's competition. The event attracted close to 1500 spectators and raised over \$10,000 for the Terra Nova Schoolyard Project and the Organic Friends of the Future Society.



Hollybridge Pump Station

- City of Richmond Roving Leaders continue to work with many youth from across Richmond in 1-1 and group settings. 2007 successes range from receiving a constant stream of referrals from a variety of youth serving agencies, helping many youth return or stay in school, bridging youth and their families to the many services the City and community provides, and using the recreational, cultural and social opportunities in the City to positively influence the 40 Developmental Assets in youth.
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- The Richmond Art Gallery curated the following 12 exhibitions at the Art Gallery in 2007. A popular addition to the exhibitions was Artist Talks, which brings together at least two artists to speak at each exhibition. Exhibition tours are now offered on an as-needed basis in Mandarin.
 - ♦ *Selfish*, Barbara McGill Balfour
 - ♦ *Tangible Shadows: Intersections*, Ian Johnston
 - ♦ *The Finn Slough Project*, Ingrid Koivukangas
 - ♦ *If Trees Had Tears*, Craig Sibley
 - ♦ *Flash: Richmond*, Kim Huynh
 - ♦ *Wreath/Wreathe*, Eliza Au
 - ♦ *RICHmond ARTS: "The Changing City"*, Juried Community Show and Market Day and Open Studio Event, Richmond Artists
 - ♦ *Shift: Working Through Repetition and Difference*, Tim van Wijk, Nora Blanck, Sylvia Kind, Jenny Judge, Philippe Sokazo,
 - ♦ *Of Landscape and Light*, Sara Angelucci
 - ♦ *Inside Out*, Gwenessa Lam, Janet Wang
 - ♦ *Mirror, Mirror 2007: Little Landscapes and Miniature Worlds*, Fundraising Exhibition & Silent Auction
 - ♦ *Procenium Home*, Erica Stocking
 - ♦ *Highlife*, Michelle Allard
- The U-ROC Youth and Asset Champions Awards celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a Gala event at Richmond Gateway Theatre. Over 140 youth, youth groups and adult mentors were recognized at the black tie affair. The event captured the elements that support youth from all corners of the city that form our "social capital" towards positive youth development.
- During 2007, Minoru Arenas was used by a variety of groups to host the following events: Karate BC Provincial Championships April 13-14, Karate National Championships July 12-14, Air Cadet Band Competition April 21, Kajaks Elementary Track Championships May 25-27, Circus Gatti May 31-June 1, Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life June 8-9, Cartwheel Gymnastics Recital June 10 and the Terminal City Roller Girls Roller Derby July 28. Each of the above provided opportunities for both Richmond residents and non-residents to take part in events within Richmond.

- Thompson developed an initiative to cater to those individuals with physical disabilities through the creation of an Adapted Fitness program. This program provides one-on-one training for people with disabilities and rehab needs with certified trainers. The program required Thompson to purchase specialized equipment: a Cybex functional machine, active/passive trainer (ABT) and ballet bar as well as the installation of automated entrance doors to the fitness room.
- A 24 Hour Hockey-thon was held in conjunction with Hockey Day in Canada, with the South Arm youth group, Mosaic helping to host the event. Over 60 people participated in the game and \$3000 was raised and donated to Canuck Place Children's Hospice. South Arm Community Association had tremendous local media coverage as well as being broadcasted and mentioned "Coast to Coast" on Hockey Night in Canada!
- Getting Richmond Moving focused on supporting Walk Richmond in the Summer 2007 by promoting the benefits of walking through a series of Community Scavenger Hunts called "Walk, Talk, Discover, Learn". These featured walks were hosted at the following popular open spaces in Richmond: King George Park, Terra Nova, Garden City and Paulik Park, and South Dyke Trail.
- Richmond Aquatics was proud to receive an award from the Life Saving Society for having the highest participation in Lifesaving Society's Bronze lifesaving programs. A total of 376 participants registered for lifesaving programs in 2007.
- Surfing Seniors, an Outreach Computer Program was implemented in West Richmond as a joint program between West Richmond Community Association and the City of Richmond. Receiving a \$20,000 grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the program is designed to bring a computer lab (up to 12 computers and projector), instructor and manuals to senior residences or groups around Richmond.



Getting Richmond Moving focused on supporting Walk Richmond in the Summer 2007 by promoting the benefits of walking through a series of Community Scavenger Hunts called "Walk, Talk, Discover, Learn".



Richmond Aquatics

Stewardship of all resources is a priority as is the preservation and protection of urban parks, open spaces and natural areas. The legacy of built assets is a source of pride and will be protected and enhanced with planned maintenance strategies in order to maximize the use of our facility investments.



Richmond Oval

Places and Spaces

Overview

PRCS staff continue to plan, develop and promote parks, open spaces, trails and facilities to provide people with places and spaces to relax, reflect, be active and connect with others. Stewardship of these resources and preservation and protection of urban parks, open spaces and natural areas continue to be priorities.

Master Plan Recommendations

35. Develop and adopt a Parks and Open Space Strategy.
36. Adopt the parks classification system that provides an integrated hierarchy of parks, natural areas and open space at four functional service levels: neighbourhood, area, city-wide and regional. (in progress)
37. Develop a framework to achieve well-designed and coordinated improvements to sidewalks, boulevards, streets and open spaces.
38. Develop a Natural Areas Strategy to ensure that natural areas are incorporated into the overall open-space network within the City.
39. Develop and adopt an Outdoor Sports Field Strategy. (in progress)
40. Encourage the development of welcoming passive gathering places and spaces in public facilities. (in progress)
41. Adopt and implement the City of Richmond Memorial Park Feasibility Strategy as a guideline for the City potentially providing a memorial park facility in the community in future and/or as a benchmark to evaluate private-sector proposals. (in progress)
42. Implement and fund the 2010 Trails Strategy. (in progress)
43. Implement the 2001 Urban Forestry Strategy, with a focus on tree retention, tree removal, hazardous tree policies, tree removal policies and establishing a city-wide tree plan. (in progress)
44. Continue and expand the beautification initiative to other areas of the City and coordinate beautification improvements around RAV. (in progress)
45. Continue to implement the existing Waterfront Strategy. (in progress)
46. Adopt and fund on-going capital to ensure upgrades, improvement and minimize risks to existing parks and open spaces.
47. Adopt and advance the acquisition and development of parkland through the 2021 Land Acquisition Development Cost Charge Program (DCC). (in progress)
48. When the Garden City Lands Mater Planning process begins, bring forward the PRCS Master Plan facility and park priorities for consideration within that process. (new recommendation)

Progress and Achievements

- Terra Nova Rural Park was recognized as a winner of 2 national awards in the past year. Canadian Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA) presented the City of Richmond with an Award of Excellence for Innovation for the Terra Nova Rural Park Plan: The Power of Community Engagement in September 2007. The City received this award for the planning and development of the park and the CPRA recognized the community's mobilization to protect the area from residential development and the City's leadership in purchasing the land. CPRA also appreciated how the biodiversity elements of the park were identified and the community was engaged in planning the development of the park.
- In May 2008, the City received the CAMA- Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators - Environmental Award for Terra Nova Rural Park, which recognizes local governments and chief administrators for excellence in creative and successful programs and projects. The goal of CAMA is to allow for exchange of ideas amongst peers. The Environment Award recognizes commitment to environmentally sustainable governance in protecting the environment.
- Richmond was pleased to win two prestigious awards at the International Awards for Liveable Communities. In this annual competition, referred to as the LivCom Awards, Richmond was named the overall winner for the Healthy Lifestyles award – beating all other finalists in all size categories. Richmond also earned second place in its size category for the Whole City Award and received gold level status from the overall judging.
- An update to the Waterfront Amenity Strategy of 2004 is underway. The focus of the update is to broaden the scope to include economic, social and environmental considerations and to reflect changes that have occurred since 2004, such as the construction of the Olympic Oval and the creation of an urban waterfront on the Middle Arm as described in the City Centre Area Plan.
- Thompson Community Association with the City of Richmond Parks Department installed a demonstration disc golf course behind Thompson Community Centre. The course will allow residents to try out this new sport by using this 6-hole course. Three portable baskets are also available to allow groups to expand the course to 9 holes.
- The planning and design was completed for an innovative new playground at Garden City Community Park and construction began last fall. Council and the community embraced the concept, for a playground that includes a rich diversity of creative play opportunities including water and other natural elements. City staff, City Centre Community Association board members, School District 38 administrators, PAC members, and a representative from Richmond Chinese Community Society participated on a playground committee to help guide the design. The project consultants and PRCS staff also facilitated 3 playground planning workshops at Anderson School with Kindergartens, grade 4s and grade 7s, to attain additional input from the children living in the neighbourhood. The official Play Environment Opening was held on June 14, 2008.



Minoru Park

Richmond was pleased to win two prestigious awards at the International Awards for Liveable Communities. In this annual competition, referred to as the LivCom Awards, Richmond was named the overall winner for the Healthy Lifestyles award – beating all other finalists in all size categories.

The East Richmond Community Garden is located in King George Park beside the East Richmond Hall. The Garden has been a community endeavour, with over 60 community volunteers giving their time to build the garden, including Cambie High School art and carpentry students, Reindeer Army members, youth from Turning Point Recovery House, local churches, and garden plot holders. The project also received a grant from the Evergreen Foundation and support from local businesses, such as RONA, Home Depot, West Coast Seeds and University Sprinklers.



No. 2 Road Pier

- The process has started for the South Arm Community Park Master Plan which will be completed by March of 2009. The purpose of the plan is to guide both short term construction projects, and the long term development of the park. A working committee comprised of South Arm Community Association Board members and Parks and Recreation staff is guiding the process. A community survey has been conducted asking for input on the current state of the park and what features should be considered in the future. Further consultation will take place in the form of focus groups and public open houses as the planning progresses.
- King George Park is home to a redeveloped playground that is universally accessible for children of all abilities and features some innovative play elements like a climbing net and climbing walls. Members of the East Richmond community participated on a committee to provide input on the playground design, which was lead by the Parks Department. The renewed playground now offers families a safe and fun play environment very close to the popular King George water park. It also celebrates our diverse community with a sign that reads, “play” in many different languages.
- The East Richmond Community Garden is located in King George Park beside the East Richmond Hall. The Garden has been a community endeavour, with over 60 community volunteers giving their time to build the garden, including Cambie High School art and carpentry students, Reindeer Army members, youth from Turning Point Recovery House, local churches, and garden plot holders. The project also received a grant from the Evergreen Foundation and support from local businesses, such as RONA, Home Depot, West Coast Seeds and University Sprinklers.
- Following the success of the Hugh Boyd artificial turf field complex, which opened in 2006, the Hugh Boyd Master Plan Update began in September 2007. The plan will address requirements for additional parking to accommodate the new artificial turf complex, and will include significant upgrades to the playground and the addition of a fitness circuit. Design for the park entrance at No.1 Road and Blundell Road will establish the park’s identity and seating areas and way finding signage will improve the visitor experience to the park. Implementation of the Master Plan Update will begin in 2008.
- Further upgrades to the Richmond Nature Park were initiated in 2007, including a welcoming and informative visitors plaza; the restoration of the wildlife garden, improved picnic and group gathering spaces as well as clear access to trail entrances. Construction of the improvements will be finished in 2008.
- The Parks Department continues to work on a number of major projects that enhance beautification and livability in the community:
 - ♦ Katsura Park in the McLennan North Planning Area
 - ♦ Birch Park in the McLennan North Planning Area
 - ♦ Riverport Waterfront walk and pier completed
 - ♦ Oval Site West Master Plan completed which includes significant waterfront park development that will express the history and character of the Fraser River waterfront. The park will be developed in the future as development on the Oval West site occurs. Parks supported the RFP process for the sale of the Oval West lands.
 - ♦ Pinnacle/SunTech development plan was approved by Council, and a new 1.5 acre City Centre Park was approved for future construction
 - ♦ The West Cambie area plan was completed, land assembly is underway, and a Local Area Development Cost Charge program was implemented to assist in the financing of parkland development, acquisition and civic infrastructure.

- The City assisted the Parents' Advisory Group (PAC) at Westwind School in their fitness initiative to build a 500 metre walking track around the park. The City contributed \$100,000 while the PAC held numerous fundraising events to contribute to the project's budget of \$145,000. The track will support school fitness programs and provide fitness opportunities for the entire neighbourhood.



Partners for Beautification

Through the Master Plan process, a number of community-based organizations that support and/or provide programs and services indicated that there is a need for additional access to facilities of almost all types. They are particularly interested in multi-purpose facilities that can be used for a variety of programs and services and prefer a blend of facilities that support neighbourhood, community and city-wide programs.



Britannia Heritage Shipyard

Facilities and Amenities

Overview

Through the Master Plan process a number of community-based organizations that support and/or provide programs and services indicated that there is a need for additional access to facilities. City staff are committed to evaluating PRCS facility lifecycles, strategically planning for future facility development and preserving and protecting heritage structures.

Master Plan Recommendations:

49. Adopt the development of new facilities as per the 2005-2015 proposals and include in the 5-year capital budget program. (Revised to include Minoru Place Activity Centre in 2005-2015 priorities)
50. Develop Facility Evaluation Framework for future facility development to assess how the City will make decisions regarding infrastructure investment. (new recommendation)
51. Adopt and fund a lifecycle program for ageing facilities. (in progress)
52. Adopt and fund ongoing capital to ensure upgrades and improvements to existing facilities.
53. Develop feasibility studies and business plans for all future major facility development.
54. Develop multi-use facilities and, where possible, co-locate them with other community service facilities.
55. Focus on City Centre improvements as a response to RAV and increased growth in the City Centre area. (in progress)
56. Invest appropriately (balance between lifecycle and expansion) in existing facilities, based on program demand and funding availability.
57. Prepare a plan for cultural and heritage facilities for the development of expanded theatre and performance space, expanded library, expanded art gallery and new City Museum reviewing the facilities in Minoru Park and need for expansion or relocation.
58. Seek external funding opportunities for future facility development.

Progress and Achievements

- Two major events occurred this spring under the banner of the Partners for Beautification Program. On May 16th, over 120 volunteers from the Microsoft Canada Development Centre worked for over six hours to help build a boardwalk in the Nature Park East. This boardwalk helps open up a portion of the park which was previously inaccessible during the rainy fall and winter. On May 30th, over 200 Telus volunteers from around the Lower Mainland converged on Terra Nova Rural Park to participate in four hours of stewardship activities including planting, clearing of invasive species and building new planting beds for the Terra Nova Schoolyard Project.

- Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) saw its home revitalized with the creation of new designated space. The Mike Roscoe Education Gallery, inaugurated in September 2007 provides visitors the opportunity to learn more about exhibiting artists and their practices. This designated educational space is supported by a memorial fund set up by the “Friends of the Gallery”. The Hope Smith Art Lounge and Media Centre, inaugurated in November 2007 is named after RAG’s founding Director and provides patrons with a newly created resource centre.
- The Richmond Arts Centre has created two new studio spaces: a Music Studio and Performing Arts Studio. Staff are also working with Youth Services to create a Media Lab and with Ian Lai, Chefs in the Fields, for a wheelchair accessible garden. Changes were made to accommodate increased demands in programming requests as well as the needs of the community and Arts Centre user groups.
- In March 2008, the Disability Resource Centre was relocated to a new City owned location on Number 3 Road to meet their expanding space needs. The new facility is considerably larger, has increased visibility for Richmond residents as well as being closer to accessible transportation. The new location will allow the Centre to continue to address the need for programs and services for Richmond residents with disabilities.
- PRCS is currently conducting feasibility studies for a number of new facilities: a City Centre Community Centre, Older Adults Centre, Aquatic Facility, a new Richmond Museum, and additional community space in Hamilton. Each of these feasibility studies will provide information on a recommended location, space planning and conceptual design, and project budgets for construction and operation. The specific funding for each facility, along with the proposed timing for construction, will be part of a separate process, once the feasibility studies are completed.
- Britannia Heritage Shipyard’s Historic Zone, Phase 2b was completed in mid-May 2008. The Chinese Bunkhouse received seismic stabilization as well as a new roof. Phase 2a - exterior restoration of the 5 buildings (Murchison 1, Murchison 2, Stilt 1, Stilt 2, Chinese Bunkhouse) has just begun. This phase includes seismic stabilization, exterior finishes, new windows and doors where necessary, new siding where required, interior restoration and refinishing where required. Completion of this phase is scheduled for end of September 2008.
- 1880’s Parson House Restoration has been identified as one of the most important buildings to restore within the Terra Nova Historic District (that includes 4 other buildings). The first phase of work included the architectural, structural, historic analysis and research in accordance with the Parks Canada Historic Places Standards and Guidelines. The second phase was to ensure no further deterioration and to secure the building until future use is determined.
- The design for the ‘barn’ retrofit to classroom, community kitchen, and public washrooms is complete. Staff are working to complete permitting, as well as rezoning and consolidation of the two adjacent properties. Anticipated construction is to start in winter 2007, with a targeted completion for summer 2008.
- In December 2005, a heritage house (built c. 1912) was donated to the City and moved to Garden City Park in January 2006. Restoration was completed in May 2007, when final approval for occupancy was received. The project received an award from the Richmond Heritage Commission in February 2007. The house will serve as a caretaker suite for the park.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is currently conducting feasibility studies for a number of new facilities: a City Centre Community Centre, Older Adults Centre (to replace Minoru Place Activity Centre), Aquatic Facility (to replace Minoru Aquatic Centre), a new Richmond Museum, and additional community space in Hamilton. Each of these feasibility studies will provide information on a recommended location, space planning and conceptual design, and project budgets for construction and operation.



Flash: Richmond Artist, Kim Huynh

There has been a long tradition in Richmond of relying on the strength of the community and community volunteers to assist in the provision of facilities and services. The City uses a variety of models to operate, maintain and program these facilities and infrastructure.

“The City serves its residents’ parks, recreation, cultural and heritage needs with a range of places and spaces, programs and services, provided both directly and in partnership with a variety of different organizations.”

Financial

Overview

PRCS staff are working towards achieving the two key directions provided by Council: Master Plan Guiding Principle, “to ensure financial sustainability, and the financial sustainability strategy which was adopted in 2003. Staff are committed to improving financial and operating performance, providing responsible financial management of facilities, assessing the financial effectiveness of current operating models, designing business principles to guide the department, improving financial reporting, and exploring all avenues for alternative funding to minimize the impact on the City’s tax base, expand fund development and build reserves.

Master Plan Recommendations

59. Improve financial and operating performance.
60. Ensure the City has responsibility for financial management of its facilities, staff and resources.
61. Assess the financial effectiveness of current operating models to benchmark their efficiency and effectiveness and to potentially restructure or adopt new models to meet any shortfalls. (in progress)
62. Design business principles to guide departments/units.
63. Improve financial reporting.
64. Explore all avenues for alternative funding to minimize impact on tax base, expand fund development and build reserves.

Progress and Achievements

- A Recreation and Cultural Services Financial Review was conducted in 2007 by City staff in collaboration with community partner organizations. A Steering Committee was formed to oversee the Financial Review process, which had a cross section of representation from community partners (Community Recreation, Culture and Heritage and Arenas) and City staff (from both the Finance and PRCS departments). The consultants worked with City operational staff and various Association bookkeeping staff to ensure a clear understanding of operational and financial practices. They used the information gained to develop standardized reporting formats. The recommendations are being implemented by both the City and partner organizations for the upcoming financial year. Changes to the system and templates will allow for financial information to be efficiently updated on an annual basis.

Looking to the Future

The Master Plan outlines how Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services will work with others to sustain and build a City in which individuals and families can reach their full potential.

In 2015, a decade from now, nearly a quarter of a million people will proudly call Richmond home. Richmond will be the community of choice for those who want to live and work in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

By continuing to embrace the future and working to achieve the Master Plan recommendations, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services will contribute to the well-being of individuals and the community so that both current and future generations have a variety of opportunities to LIVE. CONNECT. GROW.

“In 2015, a decade from now, nearly a quarter of a million people will proudly call Richmond home. Richmond will be the community of choice for those who want to live and work in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.”



City of Richmond

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