

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Master Plan 2003 Update

Our Vision is for the City of Richmond to be the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada.

Master Planning-Building Blocks of Success

In February 2003, we began the Master Planning Process. The Master Plan will guide the delivery and provision of Parks, Recreation and Cultural services, (programs, parks and facilities) for the next ten years and beyond. The Plan's recommendations address issues such as how services are delivered in the city and the need for new and improved facilities as well as parks and trails. With the Master Plan in place, the City can make informed decisions about parks and recreation facilities based on community input and feedback.

With a long-term perspective, the Master Plan identifies the types of parks, recreation and cultural services, programs, facilities and venues the City will need to the year 2014. The Master Plan also provides direction on where these services should be located or offered, the potential providers, when services will be required and priorities for funding.

Impetus for the development of the Master Plan came from the City's recognition that there were changing and emerging parks, recreation and cultural needs within the community. The key to the planning process is gaining an understanding of the needs through research and public discussion forums.

The process is quite simple and investigates:

1. Where do we want to be in the next 10 years – Future Vision
2. Where are we now – Current Reality
3. What needs to happen to reach the Future Vision. Who needs to do what by when and what resources are required.

Many municipalities have conducted comprehensive Master Plans. The following examples will provide our staff and volunteers with cities that have gone through similar processes and a summarizing final report.

Port Moody, British Columbia

<http://www.cityofportmoody.com/NR/rdonlyres/3CA9125B-3C86-4727-AD39-86245A8B1C3E/11032/2003ParksRecMasterPlanfinal.pdf>

Seattle, Washington

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/publications/plan2000.htm>

London, Ontario

<http://www.city.london.on.ca/CommunityServices/Recreation/RecMasterPlanInfo.htm>

Sacramento, California

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/masterplan/>

Hamilton, Ontario

http://www.city.hamilton.on.ca/Parks/Programs/pdf/hamilton_master_plan_executive_summary.pdf

The consulting team is currently completing the community profiles for each planning area in Richmond. This will include demographics (age, education, family status), programs and services, facilities, park and open space. This will be used as part of assessing the current reality.

Community Working Group

The CWG held its fourth meeting on Thursday, August 21st. The group is working on finalizing the community vision for 2014. They are using information acquired from the Community Leaders Conference, presentations by staff, and outcomes from group discussions in order to come to a consensus. The Library Board presented an overview of the service they currently offer to Richmond and their vision for the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th at 5:30pm. The agenda includes delegations from the Healthy Community Project in East Richmond and a presentation from Gateway Theatre. Future delegations interested in presenting to the Community Working Group are asked to call Donna Lee at 604-276-4107, extension 3015. Record of meetings and agendas are available on the City of Richmond website at:

http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/leisure_index.htm



Master Plan Next Steps

Next steps for the Master Plan include:

1. Focus groups to test the community vision and current reality.
2. An in-depth analysis of our current services & facilities including supply profile, program profile & market profile.
3. Open Houses in the late fall and winter to get feedback on the findings to date.

Guiding Principles

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Delivery System

(Adopted by Council Resolution R 03 / 4-10 – February 24, 2003)

As we move forward, the following principles will guide the choice of service delivery:

- **Ensures the City's ability to meet Community Needs**
- **Ensures Customer Service is enhanced**
- **Values and encourages Community Involvement**
- **Values effective Partnerships**
- **Ensures Financial Sustainability**
- **Provides Policy Framework to Guide Decision-Making**

For more information call Denise Tambellini-Abraham at 604-276-4349 or Cathy Volkering-Carlile, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services at 604-276-4068.

