

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Master Plan 2003 Update

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

Investigating Current Reality

The Master Plan process is now entering the current reality stage of investigation. This will provide a snapshot of the existing programs, services and infrastructure in Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. Before we can determine where we want to go and what is needed to get there, we need to know where we are now.

There are several streams of information that contribute to this process:

1. Staff and volunteers have been working on assessing the current reality for the past year in a variety of areas including organizational charts, financial and human resource management, volunteer management, environmental stewardship, youth, children's development, older adults, neighbourhood and community building, special events, sports, arenas and aquatics, heritage, and the arts.
2. Volunteers with partner non-profit agencies have met with staff in their respective areas to discuss the current operations. Topics have included policy development, programming, human resource practices, administration, budgeting, marketing, as well as others. The groups that have met include arts, heritage and nature park, community centres, and seniors.
3. The Cannon Johnston consulting team have created a current reality profile of Richmond. This includes:
 - a. Market Profile
 - b. Program Profile
 - c. Facilities Profile
 - d. Financial Profile

This document is currently in draft phase and will be released with the Master Plan.

4. Community groups in a variety of focus areas will be presenting to the Community Working Group on November 19th beginning at 5:45pm, in Council Chambers. Areas of focus include: Aquatics, Arenas, Arts, Childcare, Community Centres, Culture, Disability, Environment, Health and Wellness, Heritage, Seniors, Social Services, Sports, and Youth. A variety of groups providing programs and services have been grouped together and a lead organization (where applicable) has been identified to coordinate the presentations. This has been a substantial undertaking. Many thanks to staff and volunteers for organizing the presentations.

Master Plan Next Steps

1. Minoru Design Charette November 6th and 7th.
2. Community group presentations to the Community Working Group November 19th @ 5:45pm Council Chambers.
3. Continuing to gather information for a current snapshot of our existing services & facilities, including supply, financial, program & market profiles.

Want more information?

The Master Plan process and resulting documentation is available on the City Website at :

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

or contact **Denise Tambellini-Abraham at 604-276-4349**
 or **Cathy Volkering-Carlile, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services at 604-276-4068.**



Confirming the Values and Vision With the Community:

The values and vision were tested in several ways:

- A focus group of randomly selected residents was held in September which confirmed the work conducted to date.
- The Community values and vision were featured in a full-page advertisement in local newspapers with a fax-in feedback form.
- An open house was held on October 29th. The event drew over 100 people and the feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of the captured community values.
- The storyboards from the Open House are available on the City Website as well as a feedback form.

The feedback received to date have reinforced that we have captured accurate community values and vision. The values and vision will provide both a building block for our future direction and a measuring tool to ensure we are achieving results that are consistent with our community values.



A Future for Minoru Precinct

There have been numerous requests to City Council for expansion or retrofit of the buildings and park on the Minoru site. Some existing buildings are nearing the end of their life or may be moved off site, while the Public Safety building will be placed on site. Across the City there have been significant changes in demographics, and with the lack of green space and public amenities in the City core, a coordinated plan for the site is required to ensure we are making the best use of limited City resources and leave a legacy for future generations.

Representatives from a variety of sectors have been asked to contribute in a planning exercise to investigate options for the future of the Minoru Precinct. The goal of the exercise is to generate three distinct approaches for consideration as part of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan.

Minoru Park is currently considered a city-serving facility, as its sports fields, arts centre and open space draw users from all areas of Richmond. As the population of the surrounding area grows and other areas are developed as city-wide athletic facilities, it is anticipated that Minoru Park will become more strongly oriented to the local community of City Centre.

Neighbourhood Value: Minoru Park provides a focus for the City Centre area. Its civic and recreational functions, and its open green space provide an essential draw for residents in the heavily developed City Centre area. Its landscape also contains traces that have a direct association with Sam Brighthouse and other early settlers in the area. City Hall has been a presence on the site since the early part of the century.

City-Wide Value: The park draws users from all over the city because of its exceptional facilities. Park features such as the Gateway Theatre, the Richmond Museum and Arts Centre draw visitors from across the Lower Mainland. It continues to be an important civic space, a public open space that demonstrates a democratic tradition for the people of Richmond. It celebrates their city and their daily lives.

The design exercise will be conducted in the late fall and the results will be part of a future open house and of the PRCS Master Plan.