



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** June 28, 2013

From: Mike Redpath, Senior Manager, Parks **File:** 06-2345-03/2013-Vol 01


Re: City of Richmond 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy

Staff Recommendation

That the 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy as outlined in the report titled "City of Richmond 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy" dated June 28, 2013 from the Senior Manager, Parks be endorsed as the guide for the delivery of Parks Services.


 Mike Redpath
 Senior Manager, Parks
 (604-247-4942)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE			
ROUTED TO: Engineering Sustainability Policy Planning Transportation	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
		REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW

Staff Report

Origin

On Monday, March 14, 2011, Council endorsed the following recommendation:

“That the seven focus areas and associated outcomes be endorsed as the foundation for the 2011 Parks and Open Space Strategy, as outlined in the staff report dated February 16, 2011 from the General Manager, Parks & Recreation, titled “2011 Parks & Open Space Strategy.”

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the City of Richmond 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy and to seek Council’s endorsement.

The Parks and Open Space Strategy supports the priorities of Council Term Goal #10 Community Wellness:

- 10.1 *Help children and youth build healthy habits.*
- 10.2 *Reduce barriers to living a physically active life for vulnerable populations and people living with a disability.*
- 10.3 *Create urban environments that support wellness and encourage physical activity.*
- 10.4 *Continued emphasis on the development of the City’s parks and trails system.*

Analysis

Background

Given that the parks and open space system is central to community life and is interconnected with many other City services, the strategy is intended to be used by residents and community partners, City Council, developers and landowners, and City administration and staff.

As stated in the February 16, 2011 report titled “2011 Parks and Open Space Strategy,” the purpose of the strategy is to:

- Enable balanced decision making;
- Explore innovation in resource management;
- Explore integration of solutions to emerging urban issues;
- Inspire community engagement and reflect community identity; and,
- Ensure the City is able to deliver great parks and a complete open space system.

1. Strategy Overview

The 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy is the City’s first comprehensive strategic plan for the parks and open space system since 1977. It provides a complete inventory of the system and the services provided by the Parks division. It outlines the context within which services are delivered, identifies the methods used to gauge service delivery levels and provides a review of the challenges ahead.

The strategy framework and the priority actions of the implementation plan were developed through collaboration with multiple City departments including representatives from each of the Community Services Department's divisions.

Since Council's endorsement of the strategy framework in 2011, community consultation was conducted to determine if the focus areas and outcome statements resonated with the community and to gain insight into what people valued most about Richmond's parks and open space system.

Feedback received through the consultation process has been incorporated in to the strategy document.

2. The Current Reality

Richmond's parks and open space system has grown and evolved over the past 105 years through community initiative, recognition of important landmarks, and systematic planning. It consists of parks, trails, heritage sites, greenways and neighbourhood links, waterfront destinations, public plazas and a developing urban realm. The 685 hectares (1695 acres) of open space and park land (including 373 acres of school properties) and the 50 kilometres of trails and greenways makes up the majority of the system.

The strategy provides an analysis of the provision of park land according to the City's standards. The findings are that while the majority of Richmond's neighbourhoods are well served, there are gaps, for example in the City Centre, that will be addressed (e.g., as per the City Centre Area Plan).

3. The Changing Reality

The timing of this strategy coincides with a transformative period of Richmond's history. Rapid growth and urbanization, an aging population, and increasing cultural diversity are just a few of the changes influencing the services provided by the parks and open space system.

The recently updated Official Community Plan (OCP) sets the directions for Richmond to move toward becoming a more sustainable community. The goals of the OCP for the City to be welcoming and diverse, connected and accessible, valued for its special places, and adaptable are incorporated within the strategy framework.

In the future, community need will be continually monitored and services adapted with the aid of demographic and community satisfaction information, as well as the collection of information through targeted public consultation. The use of the City's park provision standards will continue to assist in gauging allocation of resources while exploring innovative ways to deliver effective and efficient services in a growing and diversifying parks and open space system.

4. Implementation Plan

The strategy articulates the desired outcomes for the parks and open space system in the future. The strategy framework consists of seven Focus Areas and 23 Outcome Statements as outlined in Table 1 on the following page.

Table 1: POSS Focus Areas and Outcome Statements

Focus Areas	Outcome Statements
Health and Wellness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parks and open space system is inviting and welcoming to residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds. 2. Residents of every neighbourhood have equal access to safe and appealing outdoor places to engage in healthy active lifestyles. 3. The diverse interests of the community are reflected in the range of spaces and programs offered by the parks and open space system.
Great Spaces and Experiences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rich variety of great places, features and activities in the parks and open space system contribute to the City's vibrancy and identity. 2. The parks and open space system enhances Richmond's status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination. 3. The City's unique landscapes, food, arts, culture and signature events are supported and showcased. 4. Richmond's natural and cultural heritage is brought to life through active engagement, education and interpretation.
Connectivity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are well established pedestrian, rolling and cycling connections between every element of the City. 2. The System is inviting, accessible and safe, enabling residents and visitors to feel comfortable and connected to the community. 3. The system promotes a culture of walking and cycling and supports a range of active transportation.
Green Network	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature and natural areas are recognized as fundamental building blocks of a liveable and healthy city. 2. The parks and open space system includes a range of green spaces that support recreation, social interaction, and psychological and spiritual renewal. 3. The parks and opens space system contributes significantly to the conservation and enhancement of the ecological network.
Blue Network	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recreational and ecological values of the waterfront and waterways are celebrated and protected. 2. Richmond's waterfront provides a variety of activities and multiple destinations. 3. Experience of the waterfront and waterways reflects the cultural and ecological uniqueness of our island city heritage. 4. The parks and open space system integrates water into the urban fabric in creative and innovative ways.
Diversity and Multi-functionality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The system provides a variety of diverse open spaces that are flexible and able to respond to changes and community need. 2. Community objectives are met while the finite resource of park land and public open space are protected. 3. The City's sustainability is improved by the green infrastructure provided by the parks and open space system.
Resource Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parks and open space system is managed by a responsive organization that meets community needs. 2. Richmond's Park's division is innovative and efficient in its management of resources. 3. The system inspires shared stewardship between multiple stakeholders to foster pride, purpose and a sense of community.

A total of 146 priority actions have been identified within the POSS. The following is a summary of the key actions:

- Diversify the range of activities available in neighbourhood parks.
- Close the existing gaps in the system; the community park gap identified in the Blundell and Broadmoor neighbourhoods and, continue to acquire and develop parks in the City Centre.
- Create exceptional destinations by investing in the unique attributes of the City's major parks, open spaces, and waterfront.
- Update the 2010 Trail Strategy.
- Develop a policy for a one kilometre radius distribution standard for city-wide trails and greenways.
- Develop and implement a park system-wide wayfinding and signage plan.
- Establish a process to protect and manage ecological and natural areas in parks and open spaces.
- Develop an updated business plan for the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Park and National Historic Site.
- Deliver programs that respond to emerging community priorities including urban agriculture, wildlife management and companion animal services.
- Explore additional revenue generating activities.
- Establish park specific resource management plans.
- Update and expand the urban forest strategy.

Next Steps

Regular monitoring and performance reporting will be initiated to ensure community needs are being met even as the city grows and changes. Through a regular reporting cycle, progress toward the outcomes will be measured.

Financial Impact

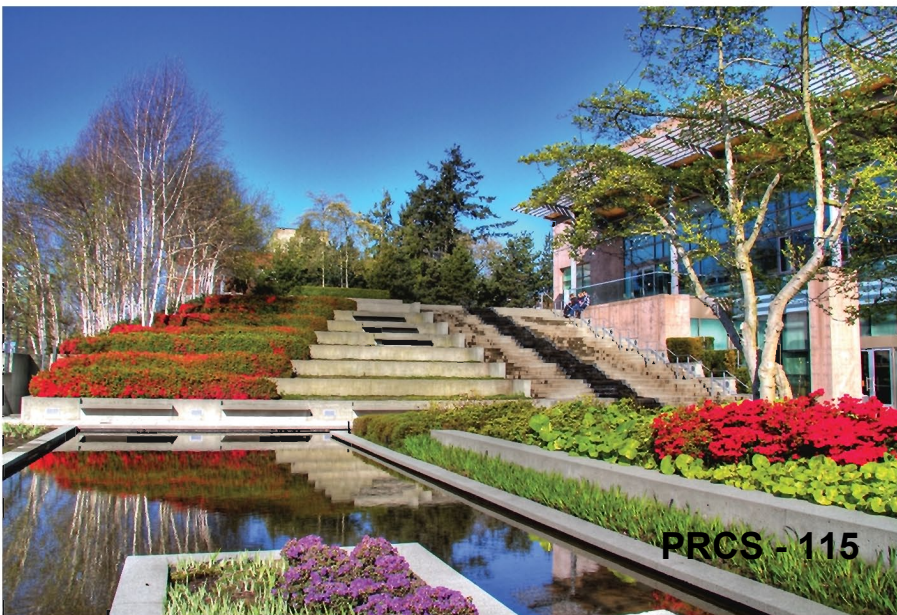
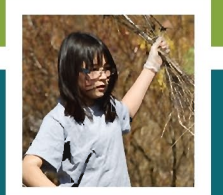
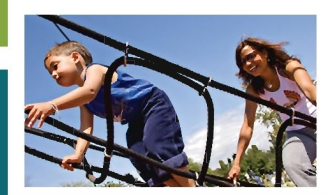
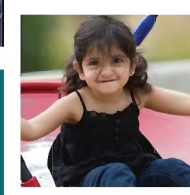
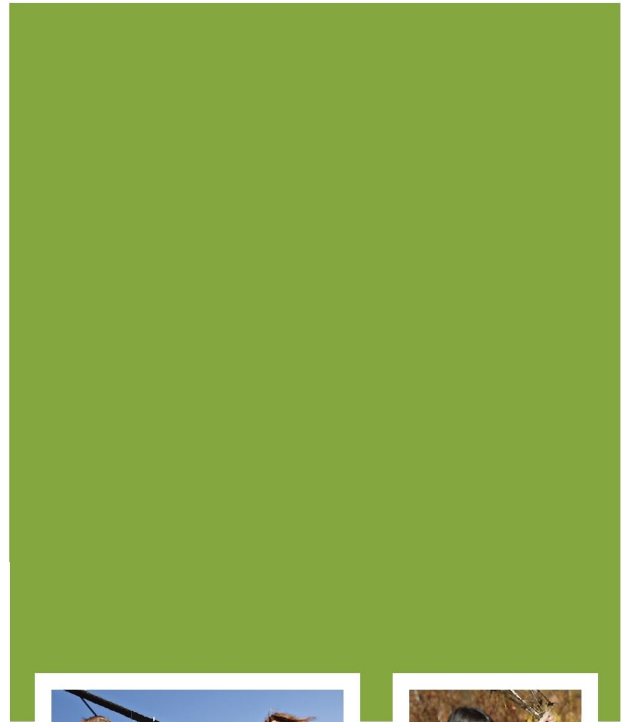
There is no financial impact to the endorsement of the 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy. The priority actions will be funded through the annual Capital Plan and Operating Budget submissions to be approved by Council.

Conclusion

Building on Richmond's vision to become the most appealing, liveable, and well-managed community in Canada, the POSS provides both a complete review of the evolution of Richmond's parks and open space system and sets direction for the future. The POSS will be utilized to guide future community engagement and consultation, to inform future planning, guide parks and open space resource management, and as the basis for future work planning. With this strategy, the City is prepared to meet the challenges of delivering excellent service in a changing and increasingly complex parks and open space system.



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City of Richmond
2022
Parks & Open Space
Strategy



Acknowledgements

This document was prepared by the City of Richmond Community Services Department, Parks Division.

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Our thanks to staff from across the City who collaborated with the Parks Division on developing this strategy.

City of Richmond 2022 Parks & Open Space Strategy

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Executive Summary

The completion of Richmond's 2022 Parks and Public Open Space Strategy is a significant milestone. This is the City's first comprehensive strategic plan for its parks and public open space system since 1977. The result of over 100 years of community initiative, foresight by successive City Councils, and systematic planning. As the first Parks and Open Space Strategy, this document endeavors to tell the whole story; the history, the state of the current system, how the system is changing and will change in the future, and what needs to be done over the next decade so that the community can continue to enjoy the benefits of healthy, vibrant parks, trails and greenways, natural areas, waterfronts and the urban realm.

Planning for the Next Decade

Richmond is in the midst of a transformation, becoming an increasingly urban, 21st century city while sustaining strong suburban and rural communities. The kinds of parks and open spaces and the kinds of services that are being provided are changing and diversifying as a result.

The city's growing and ethnically diverse population requires more and new services. Addressing the needs of an aging population and increasing levels of inactivity will require a shift in the approach to accessibility and programming of outdoor places. Changing technology and innovative practices present opportunities for more effective management of the system, and at the same time will require shifts in organizational structure and resources. A greater awareness of climate change and the City's commitment to a "Sustainable Richmond" means that there is greater impetus to incorporate multiple objectives within each part of the parks and open space system. These are concrete indicators of the kinds of changes and adaptations that are required.



The Parks and Open Space Strategy Framework

In March of 2011, Richmond City Council endorsed the Strategy Framework. The framework flows from the City's corporate vision to be "the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada". It consists of seven Focus Areas, each accompanied by several Outcome Statements that direct where priorities and resources must be focused in order to continue to provide a high quality parks and open space system into the future.

Strategy Framework

Focus Areas	Outcome Statements
Health and Wellness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parks and open space system is inviting and welcoming to residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds 2. Residents of every neighbourhood have equal access to safe, appealing outdoor places to engage in healthy active lifestyles 3. The diverse interests of the community are reflected in the range of spaces and programs offered by the parks and open space system
Great Spaces and Experiences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rich variety of great places, features and activities in the parks and open space system contribute to the city's vibrancy and identity 2. The parks and open space system enhances Richmond's status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination 3. The city's unique landscapes, food, arts, culture and signature events are supported and showcased 4. Richmond's natural and cultural heritage are brought to life through active engagement, education and interpretation
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Diversity and Multi-functionality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The system provides a variety of diverse open spaces that are flexible and able to respond to changes and community need 2. Community objectives are met while the finite resource of park land and public open space are protected 3. The City's sustainability is improved by the green infrastructure provided by the parks and open space system
Resource Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parks and open space system is managed by a responsive organization that meets community needs 2. Richmond's Parks Division is recognized for its innovation and efficient management of resources 3. The system inspires shared stewardship between multiple stakeholders to foster pride, purpose and a sense of community

Strategy Context

This document is written within the context of several overarching City policies and plans:

- the Official Community Plan, which contains policies regarding the provision of parks and open space;
- the City Centre Area Plan where most of the city's growth is occurring and where 136 additional acres of park and public open space will be acquired;
- the Development Cost Charges program that derives revenue for capital construction of city infrastructure and amenities in response to growth from each new development; and,
- the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Service Master Plan 2005-2015, which established the service delivery model for the Community Services department.



London Heritage Farm and community garden

In addition, the City's long-standing relationship with the Richmond School District has resulted in a high degree of cooperation in co-locating schools and parks and in shared use of facilities. School District sites comprise 22% of the total parkland in Richmond and are a critical part of the network of neighbourhood parks. The School District is one of the key stakeholders considered in the Strategy.

The Evolution of the Parks and Open Space System

This Strategy includes a thorough inventory of the whole system and all of the services delivered by the Parks Division, establishing the baseline for future decision making about priorities and resources. Parks delivers a broad range of services within the larger context of City policies (e.g., the Official Community Plan) and according to the Community Service Department's service delivery model. That model is based on a three-pronged approach to service delivery; working with others, being accountable and focussing on meeting community needs.

The evolution of the system, from the opening of the first school park at Mitchell School in 1908 to the first park bylaw in 1957 and the rapid growth of the system since, provides a fascinating perspective on the evolution of Richmond. Through the period of suburban expansion from the 1960's through the 1990's, the majority of the network of neighbourhood and community parks was established. Meanwhile, important landmarks like Minoru Park, the Richmond Nature Park, Garry Point Park, Terra Nova Rural Park and the Richmond Olympic Oval were secured and developed, showcasing Richmond's unique places and spaces. In

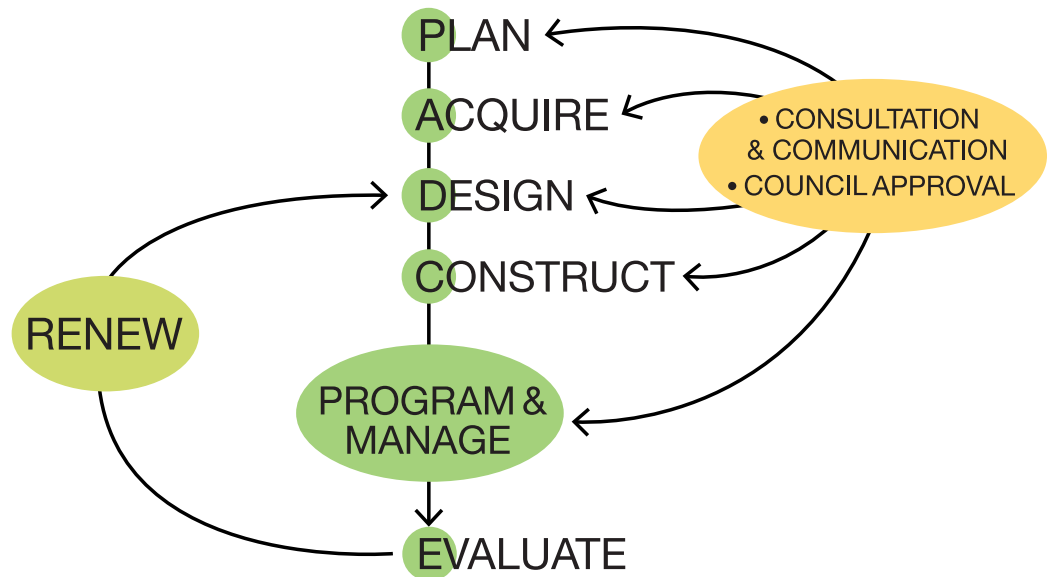


Minoru Lakes c. 1984

addition, the system is becoming increasingly sophisticated and diverse. For example, the development of artificial sports fields in several locations has enabled both increased access and play time for local sports organizations as well as the ability to host major sports tournaments. Public art has been integrated within several parks, for example the “House of Roots” at Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park, enriching people’s experiences. The range of programming opportunities is expanding offering more people more ways to become engaged with parks and open spaces.

Delivering Excellent Service

The Parks Division’s three sections, **Parks Planning, Design and Construction**, **Parks Programs**, and **Parks Operations**, deliver a broad range of services as shown in the diagram below. The Division is responsible for the management of a total of 685 ha. (1,695 acres) of dedicated park land, more than 50 km of trails, a variety of waterfront amenities and a rapidly developing urban realm.



Parks Division Services Diagram

Surveys and public consultation results consistently show that Richmond residents have a high level of satisfaction with the city’s parks and trails and they wish to see these levels of service sustained. Through the use of demographic information and a variety of methods to gauge community need, the Parks Division has been able to deliver excellent service. As the city grows and diversifies, our services must be responsive to changing community needs and expand into new lines of business. Public consultation and working with community partners is key to ensuring that our resources are targeted to deliver the greatest community benefit.

The City has adopted standards for the provision of parks and open space and the analysis in the Strategy indicates that while most of the city is well served, there are some gaps to be addressed. This strategy includes directions for addressing those gaps and introduces a new standard for access to the city-wide trail system in response to growing demand for more and convenient access to trails.



Garden City Community Park at the Play Environment

Given the changes in the community and the consequent changes to the parks and open space system, the services provided by the Parks Division are expanding. In the last decade the new parks that have been built offer greater diversity in programming opportunities and landscape types. The size and number of private development projects that include significant parks and open space has increased dramatically in the last 5 years requiring a new level of service. Over the next decade new activities and new programs will be introduced to engage the city's diverse population and will provide more opportunities for active living and connection to Richmond's unique environment. In addition, in order to address the increasing complexity of the system, new strategies for sustaining high-quality operations and resource management are being adopted.

Implementation Plan

The implementation plan highlights the priority actions that will be the focus of the Parks Division's work plans for the next ten years. The priority actions answer each of the Outcome Statements of the strategy framework. The plan will guide all annual and ongoing responsibilities (e.g., advanced planning and design, ageing infrastructure replacement, educational programs, annual maintenance programs). In addition, specific projects have been identified in the Implementation Plan.

Regular monitoring and evaluation will ensure the outcomes are met. With this strategic focus, Richmond's parks and open space system will be a key part of realizing the City's vision.



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1 The Parks and Open Space Strategy

Planning for the Next Decade

Richmond Facts

Land Area	130 sq. kilometres
Population	205,000
Number of Islands	17
Km of shoreline	80
% of Land Area within the Agriculture Land Reserve	38%
% of Land Area City Parks	5%

1.1 Experience Richmond

The City of Richmond is an island city located in the Fraser River Estuary with over 80 kilometres of shoreline. Lulu Island, Sea Island and the 15 smaller islands that are within the city boundaries were first settled for agriculture and the salmon fishery, but the construction of perimeter dykes and the internal drainage network has shaped the City. The city that has developed, since it was incorporated in 1879, has a mix of rural life, historic village, suburban and urban neighbourhoods, and industrial lands with strongly defined waterfront edges and protected agricultural land boundaries.

Richmond is experiencing dramatic change. It is growing rapidly with a current population of 205,000 that is projected to reach 280,000 by 2041. It is an increasingly diverse community where over 50% of residents are immigrants. The city is also experiencing dramatic change with the arrival of the Canada Line rapid transit line and the Richmond Olympic Oval, a legacy of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. As a result, Richmond's downtown is redeveloping according to the vision of the City Centre Area Plan to become a walkable community complete with a diversity of housing, jobs, and public amenities.

Parks & Trails Facts

<i>Number of parks</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>Total area</i>	<i>685 ha.</i>
<i>Number of Neighbourhood Parks</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Number of Community Parks</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Number of City-wide Parks</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Number of Sport Fields</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Trail Kilometres</i>	<i>50</i>

The parks and open space system in Richmond has evolved over the course of over 100 years to serve the needs of the community and encompasses the landscapes and special places that make Richmond unique. City-owned parks, from small neighbourhood parks to large natural areas, make up the majority of the system while other types of public open space (e.g. streets, plazas and other outdoor amenity spaces) are increasingly augmenting parks where higher density urban development is occurring. The city's many waterfront destinations, including the dyke trails, piers and floats, are an integral part of Richmond's identity and are of regional significance. Further, the City has made considerable progress in developing a network of trails, greenways and neighbourhood links, in an effort to develop connections between neighbourhoods, parks, community facilities, and major destinations. The system is continually being expanded and diversified in order to meet the needs of a growing and changing community.

The City of Richmond's many services are aligned with the Corporate Vision for Richmond to be "the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada". In the spirit of the City's vision, this Strategy celebrates the commitment of the community and the City to building the parks and public open space system, resulting in the priceless legacy of over 685 ha (1695 acres) of park land and over 50 km of trails. It looks forward to the challenges that will be faced over the next decade and provides a plan to guide decision making and allocation of resources so that Richmond's parks and open space system will continue to be valued by the community and offer excellent service to all Richmond residents.



City Centre Plaza on No. 3 Rd.



Middle Arm Waterfront Park at the Boaters' Row Amphitheatre and Sound Garden Play Area

1.2 Shaping the Future

As the City's first comprehensive strategic plan for its parks and open space system, this strategy represents a significant milestone. It traces the evolution of the system from the first playground to the current sophisticated, interconnected system of places and spaces that are integral to the quality of life in Richmond. It describes the services provided by the Parks Division, the vital role of our community partners, and the standards that have been established to meet community need. And it clearly defines the priorities and desired outcomes for sustaining and expanding a high quality system for the next decade.

Over the next decade the parks and open space system will:

- Provide more opportunities for people to feel connected to their community and to be physically active;
- Celebrate and showcase the City's great places and offer vibrant urban parks, complemented by an engaging urban realm;
- Provide an expanded trail and greenway system that significantly improves the walking, rolling and cycling network at the neighbourhood and city-wide levels;
- Integrate ecosystem services across the system and develop eco-corridors along trails, greenways and streets;
- Build on our "Island City" heritage to develop more unique waterfront destinations, focus on increased recreational access to internal waterways (sloughs and canals), and celebrate water in innovative ways in the urban environment;
- Incorporate a greater diversity of activities and functions to both accommodate changing and diversifying community needs and to advance the City's sustainability objectives; and,
- Operate with increasing efficiency and effectiveness through the adoption of innovative practices and new technologies.

Historic Plans and Strategies

1957: "Parks and Schools for Richmond", Lower Mainland Planning Board

1977: "1977 - 82 Parks and Leisure Services Comprehensive Plan", Richmond Parks and Leisure Services

1979: "Richmond Trails Plan", Department of Leisure Services

2003: "2010 Richmond Trail Strategy", Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Division

2005: "Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services: A Masterplan for 2005 - 2015", Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Division

1.3 Building the Strategy

An understanding of the needs of the community and the benefits that are derived from the parks and open space system as well as an understanding of the shifts that are occurring form the basis of the strategy.

1.3.1 Quality of Life and the Parks and Open Space System

What would the city be like without its parks and natural areas? And what would the community be like without places to play and socialize together? Parks and public open spaces are places people love, where they go to take pleasure in the companionship of friends and family, or to relax and enjoy moments of solitude.

A well-designed, well-connected system of parks and trails, greenways and streets, plazas and squares, waterfront and waterways, significantly contributes to individual and community wellness. In the last decade, greater diversity and multi-functionality have been introduced into the parks and open space system in Richmond in recognition of the following vital social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits the system provides:

- **Community building** – Parks and public open spaces help to build community by providing space for social interaction and providing activities and events that bring people of all ages and backgrounds together.
- **Improved physical and psychological health** – There is strong evidence that proximity to parks and access to nature is related to higher levels of physical activity and therefore better health outcomes as well as improved psychological health.
- **Ecosystem Services** - A healthy city environment is supported by key ecosystem services such as food production, water purification, clean air and protection of biodiversity.

- **Green Infrastructure** – From rainwater management systems to wastewater treatment to district energy utilities, parks and open spaces are increasingly becoming an integrated part of a more sustainable approach to urban infrastructure.
- **Climate Change Adaptation**– Parks and public open spaces can help mitigate the effects of climate change, increasing natural carbon storage (e.g., through bogs and the urban forest), contributing to flood mitigation and moderating the heating of urban areas.
- **Tourism** – Signature parks and public open spaces contribute to a city's unique identity and attract visitors bringing economic benefits to the local community.
- **Attracting business** – Businesses may choose their locations based on proximity to a park or open space where the quality of life is important for attracting employees.
- **Increased property value** – Parks have been shown to directly increase property values and stimulate investment in higher quality development in the areas surrounding them.

Over the next decade, the focus will be on delivering these benefits in the context of a changing community and an increasingly complex environment.

1.3.2 Trends and Change in the Parks and Open Space System

Richmond has gone through periods of profound change in the past and is in the middle of a transformational period now. In order to understand future needs and anticipate evolving uses, an understanding of the trends that will have the greatest influence on how services will be delivered in the future is essential. The most significant shifts that are occurring are identified below:

Demographic Trends

- **Richmond is growing** – Population growth and related development generates the need to expand the parks and open space system and increase the services offered.
- **Richmond residents are getting older** – With an ageing population, use of parks and public open spaces is changing, and the physical abilities of the elderly must to be met with innovative and targeted park and open space design.
- **Richmond is becoming more ethnically diverse** – Richmond's population continues to diversify culturally, bringing new expectations of the role of the Parks and Public Open Space System.
- **Physical inactivity** – Inactivity, especially among children and youth, is associated with rising levels of chronic diseases. Providing convenient access to safe and engaging parks and public open spaces is one of the measures required to encourage people to lead healthy, active lives.
- **Changing leisure trends** – People are increasingly choosing more informal, individualized activities and are seeking more experiential and educational opportunities.

Urban Development Trends

- **Richmond is becoming more urban** – With a shift to higher density urban development, especially in the City Centre, public open space plays a more important role in the lives of residents living in these neighbourhoods.
- **Focus on diversity and quality** – The limiting factors of cost and availability of land for parks and public open space is leading cities to focus on diversifying uses and increasing the quality of parks and public open spaces to meet growing community need. Accompanying this is an evolving definition of open space, where non-traditional open spaces such as rooftops, streetscapes and private amenity areas provide services complementary to parks and public open spaces.
- **Focus on walking, rolling and cycling** – With increasing knowledge of what makes a “complete community” and increasing awareness of the health benefits of alternative transportation modes, the importance of walking, rolling and cycling has been growing in Richmond and around the world.

Environmental Trends

- **Loss of Ecosystem Services**
– Rapid population growth and extensive development means that the parks and open space system has an increasingly vital role to play in providing the services that will contribute to a healthy city environment.
- **Local Food and Urban Agriculture**
– As people have placed a greater value on local food production, interest in the use of parks and public open spaces for urban agriculture uses have increased.



Terra Nova Rural Park volunteers working at the Sharing Farm

Resource Management Trends

- **Rising Maintenance Costs** - As the system grows and becomes more complex, operations and maintenance costs are increasing. The City will be challenged to develop strategies for shifting resources and adapting maintenance practices and to explore alternative funding sources to address rising costs.
- **Ageing Infrastructure** – Replacement of ageing infrastructure is an issue cities around the world are facing. Retrofitting and replacing park infrastructure (e.g. utilities, buildings and sports facilities) add considerably to the demands on operating budgets, which are typically structured to address regular maintenance activities.
- **Urban Forest Management** – The impacts of urbanization on the urban forest (e.g., loss of natural areas and the reduction of tree cover) place the challenge for sustaining a healthy urban forest into the realm of the streets, parks and public open spaces. As the urban forest on public land grows, managing for long-term health becomes imperative in order to manage costs.

1.3.3 Methodology and Process

Because the benefits of the parks and open space system can have such a positive effect on the quality of people's daily lives and because the system is so interconnected with many of the other services provided by the City, this strategy is written to reflect multiple interests and to invite continuing participation by all in realizing the outcomes.

The strategy has been developed for four main audiences:

1. **Residents and Community Partners** –The strategy proposes recommendations to resolve issues that have been identified by residents and sets directions for strengthening relationships with community partners.
2. **Developers and Landowners** – The strategy ensures that there is a clear understanding of the relationships between new development (residential, commercial and industrial) and the parks and public open space system.
3. **Council** – The Strategy has been developed to reflect Council priorities and to assist Council with decision-making, particularly through the 10-year Implementation Plan.
4. **Administration and Staff** – The strategy proposes directions and actions to address issues and emerging trends that will require collaboration between departments.

This strategy has been developed through the collaborative efforts of staff across all the divisions of the Community Services Department and across multiple city departments; Policy Planning, Transportation Planning, Engineering Planning, Sustainability and District Energy. That collaboration has yielded seven strategic focus areas along with a series of outcome statements, forming the strategy framework.

City of Richmond Council endorsed the strategy framework on March 14, 2011. Subsequently, the City solicited community input on the focus areas and outcomes at a series of neighbourhood meetings held in May and June of 2011. The meetings were used to gain insight into what people valued most about Richmond's parks and open space system and to confirm that the strategy framework resonated with the community.

Further work was completed on an update of the inventory of the system and an analysis of the system's strengths and weaknesses. Together with the preceding work, a 10 year Implementation Plan has been developed that will guide the Parks Division's actions and provide direction for the effective use of City resources as the community evolves.

Best Practice



Emery Barnes Park is Vancouver's newest downtown park. At 0.85 hectares in size, it functions as the neighbourhood's outdoor living room. It combines active uses like a children's playground, an off-leash dog park, space for games like soccer or Frisbee, along with gardens and seating areas. The most engaging feature in the park is the water feature, which runs the length of the park. The water splashes over rocks, runs along a channel with to its dramatic end in a plaza with continuous water display. The park was designed and constructed for \$5.5 mil.

1.4 The Strategy Framework: Focus Areas and Outcomes

Health and Wellness: Places and programs for physical, social and spiritual wellbeing

Convenient access to parks and open spaces is a strong indicator for healthy levels of physical activity and community cohesiveness. Access to places to walk, the most common reason people cite for visiting parks and trails, is a critical service the system can provide. Contact with nature and even simple green spaces with grass and trees have been shown to have profound psychological and physical benefits.

Community cohesiveness is stronger where there is an opportunity to engage in informal social contact, to play together, and where people of diverse ages and backgrounds can engage in shared experiences. The sports fields, playgrounds, places to walk dogs, community gardens, and public plazas play a central role in fostering a strong sense of community.

Achieving equitable and convenient access to parks and public open spaces for all residents is key to delivering the greatest benefit. In areas not currently well served with parks and open space, new parks, greenways and trails, and public squares must be secured to provide the same benefits to future residents.

Outcome #1

Our Parks and open space system is inviting and welcoming to residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds

Outcome #2

Residents of every neighbourhood have equal access to safe, appealing places to engage in healthy, active lifestyles

Outcome #3

The diverse interests of the community are reflected in the range of spaces and programs offered by the Parks and open space system

Great Places and Experiences: Promoting a vibrant and a 'distinctly Richmond' parks and open space system

Great places, where special experiences are shared, are an important aspect of the city's identity and community life. They motivate residents to get out and enjoy the city, to be active and to participate in community events, and they attract visitors from the region and beyond thereby contributing to the local economy through tourism. The vibrancy of Steveston Village and the iconic West Dyke Trail are treasured by Richmond residents and are some of Richmond's most popular tourist destinations. They are places that are rooted in the specific character of local cultures and landscapes, imparting a uniqueness and authenticity that is the signature of great places in other cities. In the future, the City will strive to protect those parks and public open spaces that capture Richmond's uniqueness and at the same time, will be challenged as the city grows and changes, especially in the City Centre, to create new places that are 'distinctly Richmond'.

Outcome #1

The rich variety of great places, features and activities in the parks and open space system contribute to the city's vibrancy and identity

Outcome #2

The parks and open space system enhances Richmond's status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination

Outcome #3

The city's unique landscape, food, arts, culture and signature events are supported and showcased

Outcome #4

Richmond's natural and cultural heritage are brought to life through active engagement, education and interpretation

Best Practice



Chicago's Millennium Park is a 10 hectare urban park that is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Chicago. The park features a variety of grand outdoor rooms containing monumental architecture and sculpture that animate the spaces and support year-round programs. The most notable aspects of the park are the Jay Pritzker Pavilion performance venue, iconic public art that is engaging and interactive, an outdoor dining and exhibition space that is converted into a free outdoor skating rink in the winter, and the quiet, contemplative Lurie Garden. The total construction budget was \$490 mil. The park is operated by a non-profit corporation whose annual operations and maintenance costs, including security services, were \$6,000,000 in 2009.

Best Practice



Qinhuangdao Red Ribbon Park in the Heibei Province of China is built along a reclaimed river corridor. The 20 ha. greenway provides access to the river's edge for walking, jogging, fishing and swimming and incorporates natural habitats along with recreation and education facilities. The central feature of the greenway is a 500 metre long red ribbon that integrates seating, environmental interpretation, lighting and a boardwalk. Four pavilions, in the shape of clouds are distributed along the ribbon, which provide protection from the weather, meeting opportunities, and visual focal points.

Connectivity: Linking people, community and nature

Cities and neighbourhoods that are well connected by pleasant, green pedestrian and cycling routes provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles, and improve the vibrancy and environmental quality of city life. Dense, mixed use neighbourhoods with a connected network of streets are primary determinants of walkability and neighbourhoods that also have a high number of parks and open spaces see more people walking to their daily destinations. Cycling increases the distance people are able to travel for their daily trips (e.g., 5 km.) versus using the car and when cycling routes are separated from traffic, more people are comfortable with riding regularly. Richmond, a city that is becoming increasingly urban, has the opportunity to close the gaps that exist in the current system of sidewalks, greenways, neighbourhood links and trails and to build a complete system of neighbourhood and city-wide connections.

Outcome #1

There are well established pedestrian and cycling connections between every element of the city (neighbourhoods, schools, civic spaces, neighbourhood service centres, parks, natural areas, streets, commercial areas and industrial parks)

Outcome #2

The system is inviting, accessible, and safe, enabling residents and visitors to feel comfortable and connected to the community

Outcome #3

The system promotes a culture of walking and cycling and supports a range of active transportation modes

Green Network: Creating a green, healthy and resilient cityscape

The words “green” and “natural” are used to describe everything from a simple park environment with grass and trees to a complex bog ecosystem like the Richmond Nature Park. That people desire contact with and benefit from experiences in green and natural environments is clear from a growing body of scientific research as well as the City’s own surveys and community consultations.

The green network, including urban parks, natural areas and the corridors that connect them (e.g., trails, greenways), offer benefits to human health and provide ecosystem services for a healthier urban environment. Natural areas in parks give people access to nature at the same time as supporting fish and wildlife. The urban forest, composed primarily of trees in parks and along streets, absorbs air pollutants, stores carbon and moderates the amount of heat absorbed in urban environments. The marshes along Sturgeon Banks provide flood protection. Stormwater captured in surface water features can be used as recreational and ecological elements in parks, while reducing the need for costly upgrades to the storm drainage system.

Traditionally, natural areas have been viewed as separate from the city but in considering the benefits and services provided by the green network, it will be increasingly important that ecosystem services are integrated within the urban fabric through the parks and open space system.

Outcome #1

Nature and natural areas are recognized as fundamental building blocks of a liveable and healthy city.

Outcome #2

The parks and open space system includes a range of green spaces that support recreation, social interaction and psychological and spiritual renewal.

Outcome #3

The parks and open space system contributes significantly to the health of the ecological network

Best Practice



Tanner Springs Park, in Portland’s Pearl District, is a 0.93 acre natural oasis in the city. All of the rain water that falls within the park boundaries is collected in a wetland that is the central feature of the park. The park is planted with native trees and grasses representing local native landscapes. A variety of seating options including stepped seating edges and benches distributed throughout the park provide very public observation areas and intimate gathering places. A floating boardwalk crossing the wetland brings visitors alongside a public art piece that incorporates salvaged railroad tracks referencing the former uses of the site. The park was constructed for \$3.6 mil. and was opened in 2002.

Best Practice



The recently developed Southeast False Creek Neighbourhood introduces multiple forms of connection to water and incorporates multiple public amenities for water-based recreation. A wetland in Hinge Park makes use of rainwater collected from the neighbourhood providing habitat and also integrating children's play. Along the waterfront is a 650 m. continuation of Vancouver's seawall providing access to an aqua bus stop, floats for recreational paddling, multiple view points and places to be at the water's edge as well as a naturalized shoreline featuring the very successful Habitat Island.

Blue Network: Transforming and celebrating our waterfront and waterways

The Blue Network is a fundamental part of Richmond's "Island City" identity. The Fraser River and its estuary defines the city's edges, and the network of internal waterways (sloughs, ditches and canals) are part of the city's physical, economic and cultural heritage. While the perimeter dykes and the drainage function of the internal waterways are fundamental to the city's flood protection, there is increasing focus on the waterfront and waterways for their rich natural environments and for recreational amenities, as evidenced by the popularity of the city's waterfront parks and dike trails, some of Richmond's most renowned destinations. The Middle Arm Waterfront Park, Terra Nova Rural Park and Garden City Community Park bring water and the waterfront into the experience and function of those parks. The success of these places highlights the need to explore opportunities to expand the role of the Blue Network in the parks and open space system.

Outcome #1

The recreational and ecological values of the waterfront and waterways are celebrated and protected

Outcome #2

Richmond's world class waterfront provides a variety of activities and multiple destinations

Outcome #3

Experiences of the waterfront and waterways reflect the cultural and ecological uniqueness of our island city heritage

Outcome #4

Our Parks and open space system integrates water into the urban fabric in creative and innovative ways

Diversity and Multi-Functionality: Meeting and integrating multiple community objectives and uses

The parks and public open space system plays many roles in the city, from providing social and recreational venues, routes for civic infrastructure and providing ecological services. City-owned parks are among the largest of the City's land holdings and are an increasingly valuable and irreplaceable investment for future generations. In addition, the urban realm (i.e., greenways, plazas and neighbourhood links) provides complementary services and connections to the parks system.

While parks in Richmond have traditionally served primarily recreational functions, people are increasingly seeking greater diversity in the types of recreational activities (e.g., community gardens, off-leash dog parks, places to practice Tai-chi) and opportunities for social interaction. At the same time, working landscapes like the urban forest, stormwater ponds and urban farms are being introduced into the system to improve the city's sustainability. Integrating this diversity of roles and services while protecting the integrity of the parks and open space system requires a balanced approach that will protect the community's investment for the future and serve current community objectives.

Outcome #1

The system provides a variety of diverse open spaces that are flexible and able to respond to changes and community need

Outcome #2

Community objectives are met while the finite resource of park land and public open space are protected

Outcome #3

The City's sustainability is improved by the green infrastructure provided by the parks and open space system

Best Practice



Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square is an urban plaza that is also connected to a major transit hub. The plaza is heavily programmed but also functions as the central downtown gathering place. Complementing the public programming are commercial activities including food services and other types of retail businesses. The square is operated by a non-profit entity that directs revenues from commercial rent to programming, maintenance, security and promotion.

Best Practice



New York City’s “High Performance Landscape Guidelines” and “21st Century Parks for New York City” acknowledges that given the challenges presented by expanding roles and finite resources, integration of park and open space planning, design, construction and maintenance practices is necessary. The guidelines identify three critical tasks to be addressed:

1. *Understanding the biophysical context of each park (e.g. soil, water, and vegetation) at a scientific level, where each component is optimized for maximum performance and ecological benefit.*
2. *Responding to the changing cultural and recreational preferences of each community, and engaging and educating local communities as stakeholders not just in the design process but also in resource management.*
3. *Collaborating with operations staff and other agencies to design resilient parks that save labour, reduce annual expenses, and require less frequent capital replacement.*

Resource Management: Responsive and collaborative stewardship

The parks and open space system is dynamic, with patterns of use and levels of demand changing with the seasons and as a result of changes in the community (e.g., demographic and cultural shifts, increasing density). Effective resource management means responding in a timely manner to emerging issues or changing community needs while maximizing results within the available budget with the appropriately skilled staff. The operational budget, which is derived from property taxes, user fees, grants and donations, must be allocated to a growing inventory of parks and open spaces and increasingly specialized services (e.g. artificial turf sports fields, community gardens). To ensure the quality of service is sustained in the future, the Parks Division has shifted from assigning resources by maintenance activity to individual parks or defined use areas (e.g., trail section). This approach coordinates regular maintenance activities with the specific character and function of each location. The focus in the future will be on measuring the outcomes of this shift in resource management to improve and sustain the quality of the parks and open space system.

Outcome #1

Our Parks and open space system is managed by a responsive organization that meets community needs

Outcome #2

Richmond’s Parks division is innovative and efficient in its management of resources

Outcome #3

Our Parks and open space system inspires shared stewardship among multiple stakeholders to foster pride, purpose and a sense of community

2 1908 to 2013: Richmond's Parks & Open Space System

The evolution of the parks and open space system in Richmond is part of the story of the evolution of the city. An understanding of the present day system, how it will expand as the city grows and how it is operated, is the starting point for setting the direction for the future. From the earliest form of public open space, the schoolyard, to the most recently developed greenway, the 5.7 km Railway Greenway, the evolution of the parks and open space system in Richmond has been driven by community initiative, recognition of important landmarks, and by systematic planning.

From the creation of new parks or public open spaces, to the activation and management that supports and sustains them, it is the responsibility of the Community Services Department, and especially the Parks Division, to balance the myriad of interests and influences at play. What follows is a comprehensive review of the planning processes, the approach to service delivery as well as an overview of the history of the system.

2.1 The Planning Context

The growth of the parks and open space system is planned in concert with the growth of the city. It is through systematic planning, and the relevant supporting policies, that a well-distributed, well-connected system of parks and open space is achieved.

i. Official Community Plan (OCP)

The OCP guides the City's growth through designation of land uses, locating civic infrastructure and public facilities, housing policies, targets for greenhouse gas reductions as well as policies regarding agricultural uses and ecosystem protection and enhancement. The Public Open Space and the Public Realm section in the 2041 OCP Update establishes the City's policies for the provision of parks and public open space and provides objectives for the protection and future expansion of the system.

ii. Development Cost Charges (DCC's)

New development typically means an increase in population and a resultant increase in the demand for municipal services. According to Provincial legislation, municipalities can charge developers a one-time proportional fee for the acquisition and development of parkland (as well as for sewers, drainage, water and roads). DCC's can be applied to acquiring land for new parks or to expanding existing parks in areas of the City affected by growth. They are also used to construct new parks or to add new features to existing parks. By law, DCC's cannot be used for parks operations and maintenance.

iii. City Centre Area Plan (CCAP)

According to the OCP, the majority of the City's growth over the next 30 years will occur in the City Centre. The CCAP shows in detail how much and where additional public open space will be secured or acquired. The City has already acquired 20 acres for future park and will continue to acquire land within the City Centre and citywide to accommodate the projected growth.

iv. City and Richmond School District Relationship

The City of Richmond and the Richmond School District have a long-standing agreement to co-locate schools and parks. The Richmond School District 38 elementary school and 10 secondary school sites comprise 22% of the total parkland in Richmond. Of the 48 school sites, 36 include property owned by the City. The cooperative relationship goes deeper with the joint use agreement where the Parks Division exchanges community use of school gymnasiums for school ground maintenance. In addition, the City and the Richmond School District both support school Parent Advisory Groups to enhance playgrounds and other park amenities.

2.2 The Community Services Department Service Delivery Model

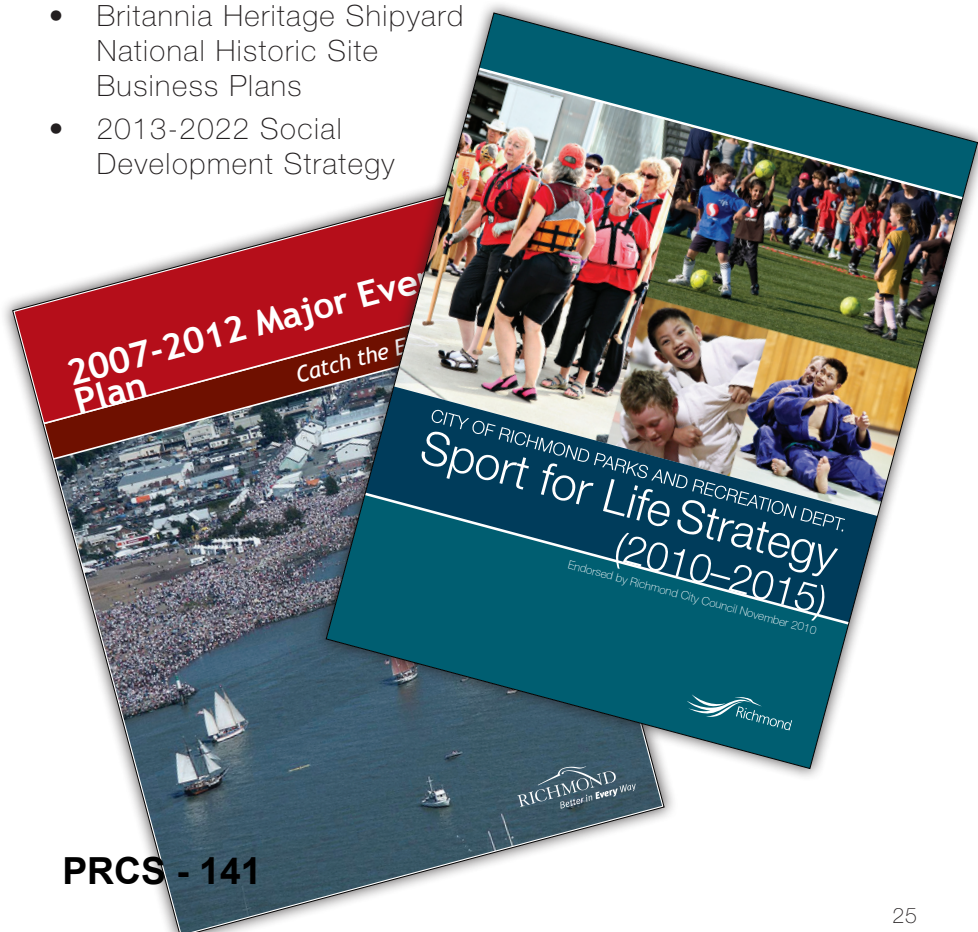
The Parks Division is one of the 4 divisions within the Community Services Department; Parks, Recreation, Arts, Cultural & Heritage Services, Community Social Development. The Department's programs and services are delivered according to the Well-Being Framework adopted in the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Master Plan 2005-2015. The framework describes the essential needs of well-being; healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment, a connected community, and opportunities for individual growth. The Master Plan established a comprehensive service delivery model based on the following three approaches:

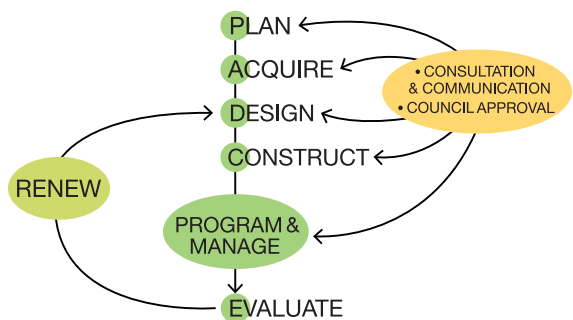
1. A Relationship-Based Approach describes how the City will work with others by valuing and encouraging community involvement and valuing effective partnerships.
2. Being Accountable in the context of parks and recreation services means providing the best services and programs possible within the resources available.
3. A Service-Based approach focuses on program and service priorities that;
 - Address community need;
 - Deliver the range of opportunities that will reach all segments of the community; and,
 - Ensure City and community resources are effectively allocated.

2.3 Related Strategies and Plans

The following is a list of City strategies and plans whose directions and recommendations are relevant to the effective delivery of services in the parks and open space system. See Appendix A for detail on the relevant directions and recommendations from each.

- PRCS Volunteer Management Strategy
- Older Adults Service Plan
- Youth Service Plan
- Community Wellness Strategy
- Richmond Sport for Life Strategy 2010-2015
- Richmond Field Sport Strategy
- Museum and Heritage Strategy
- Richmond Arts Strategy
- City Centre Public Art Plan 2011
- 2007-2012 Major Events Plan
- Waterfront Strategy
- ESA Management Strategy
- Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site Business Plans
- 2013-2022 Social Development Strategy





2.4 Parks Division Services Overview

The Parks Division’s services are organized around three sections, a) **Parks Planning, Design and Construction**, b) **Parks Programs**, and c) **Parks Operations**. The following is an overview of the Parks Division’s areas of responsibility and expertise.

PLAN

The establishment of new parks and public open spaces is initiated through the planning of new neighbourhoods or redevelopment of neighbourhoods. At the planning stage, location and function (e.g., neighbourhood, community, city-wide) are determined and the integration of new parks and open spaces into the neighbourhood and into the larger system is carefully considered. Parks Planning staff are responsible for providing guidance through area planning, rezoning, and development application processes. Refer to Appendix B for more detail about the processes.

ACQUIRE

As determined in the OCP, the projected population increase of 80,000 people over the next 30 years will mean expansion of the system by 133 ha. (330 acres) to meet the City’s current standards for the provision of parks and open space. A set of criteria, based on the City’s priorities, has been adopted to assist with planning for future land acquisition and to evaluate opportunities as they arise. The priorities are; acquisition of waterfront sites, accommodation of population and residential growth, completion of acquisition of existing parks, conservation of significant ecological features, response to public need, and acquisition of land being sold by other levels of government where it will have an impact on the system.

DESIGN

The design of new or the renewal of existing parks and open spaces is the product of a thorough understanding of the site and its context, knowledge of best practices, public consultation, and design expertise. Through the design process, a program (i.e., the mix of activities and elements) is developed and finally, a master plan is presented to City Council for approval. Parks Design staff provide the expertise to undertake design and to direct developers and their consultants in the preparation of master plans and detailed design.

CONSTRUCT

The Parks Division is responsible for the construction of parks and oversight of public open space constructed by others to ensure the City’s objectives are met. For City constructed projects, Parks and Public Works staff have expertise in the construction of all types of park and open space projects and the wide variety of program elements included (e.g., sports fields and courts, playgrounds and water parks, plazas and amphitheatres, piers and floats).

COMMUNICATE

Information about the system is communicated through reports and strategies presented to City Council, on the City's website, through information and marketing publications (e.g., maps, brochures), public open houses and other public forums, and through signage and interpretive features. The Parks Division is responsible for the graphics, mapping and technical production necessary to inform Council and the community about the parks and open space system.

PROGRAM

Engaging individuals and community groups in the activation of parks and open spaces is the responsibility of the Parks Programs section. Stewardship activities are offered through the Partners for Beautification Program while educational and experiential programs are offered at Terra Nova Rural Park and the Richmond Nature Park. The Programs section facilitates community events and a variety of urban agriculture initiatives including community gardens. It is also charged with a central role in urban wildlife management and companion animal programs and services.

MANAGE

Sustaining the quality of the City's parks, trails, boulevards and medians, the urban forest, and the grounds of City facilities is the responsibility of the Parks Operations section. From maintenance of park infrastructure, to the beautification of streets, to the management of vegetation along major infrastructure corridors (e.g., dykes and drainage ditches), the Operations section beautifies all parts of the City.

For more information on the Parks Division's services, please refer to Appendix C.

2.5 Community Relationships

The Parks Division works with a range of community organizations, non-profit organizations, sport and culture organizations, and individuals to augment City services and to provide services not offered by the City. These relationships add value to people's experiences and provide a multitude of opportunities for people to become engaged in parks and public open spaces.

- **Community Associations**
The city's 8 community associations assist with the understanding of the needs of individual communities and provide direct connections to community members for various outreach and consultation processes. They also participate directly in delivering programs and supporting capital improvements in community parks.
- **Sports Organizations**
The Parks Division works closely with outdoor athletic organizations through the Richmond Sports Council to build, maintain and allocate sports facilities.
- **Programming Relationships**
There are a variety of organizations that run programs, including school programs, in parks and related facilities (e.g., Richmond Nature Park Society, The Sharing Farm Society).
- **Licensees and Tenants**
Organizations that have lease or other agreements for use of park space or other City facilities (e.g., buildings) also offer some form of community benefit (e.g., the learn-to-row programs at the UBC M.S. Lecky Boathouse).

- **Partners for Beautification Program**

This City-run program offers stewardship opportunities and activities that provide a connection to nature for individuals and groups (e.g., corporations, cultural organizations, non-profit organizations).

- **Volunteers**

Volunteers assist the City in delivering programs and special events. While volunteers are an invaluable resource, expanding the capacity of the City and other organizations to deliver programs and events, the benefits of social interaction and engagement are an important part of community building.



Garden City Community Park: The bridge over the stormwater detention pond

2.6 The Evolution of the Parks and Open Space System

Richmond residents enjoy a wealth of parks that are treasured by the community and a network of waterfront trails that are a regional destination. The parks and open space system is comprised of parks and trails, greenways and streets, plazas and squares, waterfronts and waterways. The system offers 121 parks, a total area of 680 hectares (1680 acres), and over 50 kilometres of trails. Local neighbourhood parks are highly valued by the community, as are the City's special places; Garry Point Park for its waterfront location and spectacular views, the unique blend of natural features and agricultural activities at Terra Nova Rural Park, Minoru Park with its premier sports facilities and the peaceful, garden-like lakes area, and the Richmond Nature Park where one can experience and learn about Richmond's natural history.

The legacy of over 100 years of concerted effort by the community, the support of successive City Councils, and strategic planning and land acquisition has resulted in a system of parks, trails, and public open spaces that adds immeasurably to the quality of life enjoyed in Richmond.



Steveston Park Playground c. 1970

The Evolution of Richmond's Parks & Open Space System

1908 Mitchell School Opens

1944 Steveston Park Playground

By 1950 there were 8 neighbourhood parks and 3 community parks

1950's

1955 Richmond had a total of 20 acres of park at South Arm, Steveston, Brighthouse & King George

1957 1st Park Bylaw

- dedication of 60 acres for Minoru Park
- expansion of King George and Steveston Parks
- dedication of 10 acres for Hamilton Park

1960's

13 new neighbourhood parks

1960 Hugh Boyd Community Park

1968 Thompson Burnett Community Park

1970's Richmond Nature Park

and 14 new neighbourhood parks

1979 1st Richmond Trails Plan

1980's

11 new neighbourhood parks
Bath Slough, Horseshoe Slough and Shell Road Trails

1984 Garry Point Park

1990's

20 new neighbourhood parks
West Dyke, South Dyke, River Road, East Richmond, Steveston Greenways, South Cove & McCallan Road Trails

1995 Britannia Heritage Shipyards Park

1998 Terra Nova Natural Area

1999 McLean Park

2000's

5 new neighbourhood parks

2002 Development of Terra Nova Rural Park begins

2004 Imperial Landing complete

2005 Development of Garden City Community Park begins

2009 Richmond Olympic Oval

Riverside Spirit Square and Water Sky Garden complete

2010's

Middle Arm

Waterfront Greenway complete

- 1 new neighbourhood park
- Purchase of Railway Avenue Lands and the Grauer Lands

PRCS - 145



City of Burnaby

City of Vancouver

North Delta

Ladner

Vancouver International Airport

PRCS - 147

BLUE NETWORK

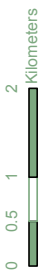
- F Float
- P Pier
- Marine Recreational Area

TRAILS

- Trails/Greenway
- Bicycle Route
- Neighbourhood Links

PARKS

- City Wide Park
- City Wide - Natural Area
- Community Park
- Future Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Regional Park / Conservation Area
- School Properties



Base data provided by the City of Richmond.
 Map created by Dillon Consulting (6/20/2012).
 Projection: UTM Zone 10N - NAD83.
 Path: C:\GIS\UTM46N - Richmond\road_147.r
 Map 1 - Current Open Space System_01.rvt, Edits.mxd

3 Service Excellence

This section outlines the ways in which community needs are assessed, how the standards used to determine open space provision are applied and how resources are allocated in order to provide an excellent quality of service to the community.

3.1. Assessing Community Need

3.1.1. Community Demographics

Population growth and changing demographics are key factors in understanding shifts in community need. Population growth drives the growth of the parks and open space system and new services are targeted at those areas of the city experiencing growth. In the last decade, the city's population has grown by over 22,000 people at the same time as 74 ha. (183 acres) of parkland have been added to the system. Over the next decade, Richmond's population is forecast to increase by approximately 50,000 people, with 75% of the growth occurring City Centre.

The effects of changing demographics vary across the city, and over time, so the demographic profiles of each area must be considered in assessing the types of services offered. However, the larger demographic trends of an aging population and increasing cultural diversity have implications across the system.

Ensuring that our services are responsive to these influences is approached in the following ways:

- Regular updates to the Land Acquisition Strategy to update priorities based on growth and development trends;
- Consideration of demographic profiles at the planning area scale when undertaking park capital projects; and,

- Public consultation to obtain a more nuanced understanding of local demographics is conducted with regard to particular services or in association with particular projects.

3.1.2. Community Satisfaction

Community Satisfaction measures peoples' perceptions of how well their needs are being met and the quality of services provided. This information has been collected through surveys and public consultation processes.

2010 Ipsos Reid Recreation and Physical Fitness Survey

This bi-annual survey conducted in municipalities across BC provides information on residents' activity levels and their level of satisfaction with the City's parks and recreation programs and facilities. The results that are specific to parks and trails in Richmond are as follows:

- 84% felt that access to paths, trails and green spaces are important to their physical fitness
- The top 3 types of outdoor activities are walking (50%), socializing outdoors (50%), and attending outdoor community events (49%)
- 91% are satisfied with the City's recreation facilities (which includes parks and trails)
- In response to the question "What do you like best about living in Richmond?" the strongest response was its "natural setting"

The value of this survey is that with its province-wide scope, it enables comparison with other municipalities on some of the basic services the system provides. The survey was first completed in 2006 and provides a good baseline for future evaluations.

PRCS Community Needs Assessment (2009)

The Community Needs Assessment, which is conducted every 5 years, gathers information on the awareness of, participation levels in, and satisfaction with the City's parks, recreation, sports, and cultural programs, services and facilities. In the 2009 survey, residents expressed a high level of satisfaction and so the overarching recommendation of the study was to maintain the current levels of service offered. Some of the findings that relate directly to the Parks Division services are as follows:

- 83% of residents feel that the City provides enough parks playgrounds and trails
- The majority of residents typically go to their neighbourhood parks for most of their outdoor leisure activities
- Trails are viewed as very positive assets and are used quite regularly by large parts of the population.
- Park usage appears to be influenced somewhat by dog off-leash issues.

Top Outdoor Activities (2009 PRCS Community Needs Assessment)

- 83% *Walk/run*
 - 56% *Socialize outdoors*
 - 49% *Attend outdoor community events*
 - 48% *Cycling for recreation or exercise*
 - 44% *Visit the Richmond Nature Park*
 - 40% *Play at a playground*
 - 39% *Visit museum/heritage sites*
 - 39% *Play outdoor sports*
-



Dolphin Basketball Classic at Thompson Community Park

The recommendations arising out of the Needs Assessment are:

- Continue to foster and encourage neighbourhood park use
- Showcase major parks for the higher quality amenities they offer
- Increase awareness of the Richmond Nature Park and what it offers
- Evaluate “dog off-leash” areas and policies, and consider adding off-leash areas as well as increasing enforcement
- Expand trails and trail connections to lead to increased usage.
- Create culturally relevant opportunities for groups to meet, exercise and socialise in neighbourhood parks

The Needs Assessment provides both quantitative and qualitative information that will inform the **Implementation Plan** of this Strategy and will form the basis for future monitoring and measurement.

2041 OCP Community Engagement

The recent update to the OCP was informed by extensive community consultation through 28 public open houses, city-wide surveys and online discussion forums. The findings were that residents generally desire the protection of the existing parks and open space system. The priorities relevant to the parks and public open space system that were identified to be included in the OCP Update were:

- improve streets and connectivity in neighbourhoods
- provide more parks and open space
- improve the ecological network and its services
- improve opportunities to access the shoreline

Focus Group Facts

*71 Participants at
7 Meetings with:*

- *Youth (city-wide)*
 - *Older Adults (City Centre)*
 - *Multi-cultural representatives (city-wide)*
 - *West Richmond Area*
 - *Thompson Area*
 - *South Arm Area*
 - *Steveston non-profit organizations*
-

Parks and Open Space Strategy Focus Groups

A series of seven meetings were organized in 2011 to obtain input on the Strategy from a wide cross-section of people from each of the Community Centre catchment areas. The participants were young to old, with varying interests and ethnicities. They were led through a series of exercises to gain insight into the seven focus areas of the Strategy and to provide information on their experience with the parks and public open space system.

Most people reported satisfaction with the system in its current form. Residents' favorite places in Richmond were overwhelmingly Steveston Village, the dyke trails and Minoru Park. Some of the insights, themes, and highlights from the meetings include the following:

- Provide opportunities for connection with nature and the natural environment
- Increase opportunities for seniors to remain active
- Increase communication, education and information (i.e. signage) to residents on current assets
- Continue maintenance
- Enhance existing parks with other features; washrooms, lighting, etc.
- Increase bike routes and trail systems
- Include places of solitude and sanctuary into the overall parks and open space system
- Increase education related to ecosystems, resiliency and ecological networks

The complete report on the findings of the neighbourhood meetings can be found in Appendix E

Emerging Priorities

Monitoring of demographic shifts and community satisfaction will continue in the following ways:

- Use of demographic data from the most recent census providing information at the planning area level;
- In 2014, the Community Needs Assessment will be updated for the whole Community Services Department;
- The use of focus groups and on-line tools to collect more detailed and targeted information; and,
- Measurement of usage rates of parks and trails.

3.2 Open Space Standards

The open space standards are benchmarks for determining the distribution and quantity of parks and public open spaces and are used to guide planning, acquisition and use. The most critical standard the system must meet is for the distribution of parks. Achieving convenient, equitable access is fundamental to effectively meeting community need. However, in growing areas of the city, it is necessary to increase the quantity of parks and open spaces and the quantity standards provide the means to secure adequate parkland.



Middle Arm Waterfront Park

3.2.1. Park Quantity Standard

The standard for quantity of park and open space is expressed as a ratio of hectares or acres per 1000 population. This type of ratio is used by Parks agencies across North America but is applied differently in each jurisdiction as it relates to the local context. In Richmond, the quantity standard is used for all of the types of municipal park and open space. The standard is based on the historic level of quantity of dedicated parkland, a level of service the community expects and supports.

Quantity Standard		
City Wide - 3.1 ha. (7.66 acres)/1000 population	City Centre* - 1.3 ha. (3.25 acres)/1000 population	133.5 additional ha. (330 acres) required for 2041 population of 284,000

**The higher population densities in City Centre mean that residents will have access to parks and public open spaces within 400 metres of where they live to the standard of 3.25 acres/1000 population. The balance of open space will be located elsewhere to meet the city-wide quantity standard.*

3.2.2. Park and Trail Distribution Standards

The standards for distribution are based on walking distances and are applied to neighbourhood and community parks and city-wide trails. Use of these standards ensures that all residential areas, and most commercial areas, have equitable access to the system. In addition to the walking distance, neighbourhood parks are also situated so that users do not have to cross major streets in recognition that neighbourhood parks are the most accessible to those who have the least mobility (e.g., children, seniors).

Distribution Standards			
Parks	Neighbourhood Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve an 800 m. radius • 400 m. radius in City Centre* 	Community Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve a 1.5 km. radius 	City-wide Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location determined by unique site attributes (e.g., waterfront)
Trails	City-wide Trails/Greenways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serve a 1 km. radius 	Neighbourhood Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no standard 	

The Distribution Standard is applied according to park/trail type. The park typology presented here is an update of the classification of parks and proposes a new standard for city-wide trails and greenways.

Parks and Trails Typology		
Type ¹	Sub-Type	Description
Neighbourhood Park ²	Urban Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller than 0.4 ha (1 acre). Providing for social gatherings, celebrations and passive recreation.
	Pocket Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller than 0.8 ha (2 acres). Providing small scale activities such as tot lots and gathering space.
	Neighbourhood Park (including school sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 0.8 to 8 ha. (2 and 20 acres). Providing for passive and informal active recreation incl. playgrounds and limited programmed sports and serve as neighbourhood gathering places.
Community Park	No sub-types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger than 8 ha (20 acres). Provide for active recreation uses incl. walking routes, destination playgrounds and fully programmed sports facilities, significant numbers of large-scale trees and features providing ecosystem services. Provide facilities and infrastructure for community scale events.
City-Wide Park	Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable size but ideally larger than 8 ha (20 acres) to function as hubs within the Ecological Network. Provide trails and interpretive and educational program opportunities.
	Linear Park ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable size but with a min. width of 10 m. Provide city-wide trail/greenway connections, include various neighbourhood amenities. May function as eco-corridors.
	Signature Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable size. Contain special facilities, unique landscapes and cultural features.
Trail	Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide recreational corridors, typically off-road, providing access to the waterfront, natural areas, parks, heritage sites and community facilities. Provide rest areas, and special amenities (e.g., piers) May function as eco-corridors.
	Greenway ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide corridors that link multiple destinations such as parks, natural areas, historic sites, and community facilities. Provide a higher standard of amenity incl. designated pedestrian and cycling lanes, special features (landscaping, public art, special furnishing and paving). May function as eco-corridors.
	Neighbourhood Link ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood pedestrian and cycling routes both on local streets and off-street (incl. trails through parks). Provide connections to local destinations (e.g., schools, parks, shopping)

Notes:

1. Iona Beach Regional Park and Sea Island Conservation Area are administered by other agencies and so are not included in the City's park typology.

2. May be partially or wholly located on private property where public access has been secured through legal agreement.

3. Exclusive of on-street cycling routes without enhanced pedestrian facilities

3.2.3 Analysis of Gaps

Application of the Distribution Standards to the existing parks and trails system reveals that while the majority of Richmond's residential areas and even most commercial and industrial zones, are well served by parks and trails, there are gaps that must be addressed. Service gaps are revealed by plotting the distribution standards on the park system map. The Gap Analysis provides direction for addressing these gaps. The maps on pages 43, 45 and 47 show the Gap Analysis. Refer to Section 4 -Implementation Plan for specific actions.

Neighbourhood Parks (Map 2)

i. City Centre

Gaps exist, temporarily, in the City Centre in areas that are being redeveloped according to the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP). As these areas redevelop, new neighbourhood parks will be constructed. There are several properties already owned by the City, as indicated on Map (2), which will help to close most of the gaps within the next decade.

The gap shown in the Eastern part of Lansdowne Village (between No. 3 Road and Garden City Road) will be served by open space that will be developed along with the redevelopment of the Lansdowne Mall site. The timing of that redevelopment is unknown at this time.

In Bridgeport Village, on the western shore known as Duck Island, a preliminary development proposal has been submitted to the City that includes significant park space and waterfront amenities that will fill the gaps shown in that area.

Community Parks (Map 3)

Traditional community parks were typically co-located with community centres and secondary schools and were largely dedicated to athletic facilities (e.g., sports fields and swimming pools). The new model for community parks incorporates some of the same features, such as destination playgrounds and community celebration facilities, but also includes a broader range of amenities. Since the community's focus has been on developing higher quality sports facilities in fewer locations (e.g., artificial turf fields at Hugh Boyd Community Park, Minoru Park, Richmond Secondary School, and King George Community Park), new community parks are not required to provide those facilities as their primary role.

i. City Centre

The future Middle Arm Waterfront Park, for which the City has already begun acquiring properties, will be both a city-wide destination park and will fulfill the role of a community park serving the western and northern sections of the City Centre. The area of Bridgeport Village that is not served by a community park is a non-residential area and, as noted previously, will see the development of significant park and waterfront amenities in the future.

ii. West Cambie

The need for a community park in this area has not previously been identified. Assessment of the need for a community park and a strategy for delivering the required services will be developed in the future.

iii. Tait Neighbourhood

The isolated nature of this small residential neighbourhood creates a challenge for delivering community level parks in a cost effective manner. The City has developed an adaptive strategy that capitalizes on new development on the North Arm waterfront. The development on River Dr between No. 4 Rd and Shell Rd., includes two waterfront parks and an upgrade to the dike trail that will provide gathering spaces, sports facilities and a destination playground. The developer is also contributing indoor community space that will be located at Tait Elementary School.

iv. Blundell & Broadmoor Neighbourhoods

The narrow gap that exists beyond the boundaries of the Steveston, Hugh Boyd, Thompson, and South Arm Community Park service areas will be addressed by increasing the range of community amenities offered at Blundell and London-Steveston Neighbourhood Parks. Both parks are larger than typical neighbourhood parks (11.3 and 17 ha. respectively) and offer numerous sports fields, sport courts and playgrounds. The City will undertake a planning process to determine what additional amenities will be required.

v. Kingswood and Woodward Neighbourhoods

These neighbourhoods fall outside the South Arm service area. To address this gap and to accommodate the growth occurring in the area, on the former Fantasy Gardens site, a new park (currently known as The Gardens Agricultural Park) will be developed. The original gardens will be restored and community gardens, celebration facilities, and a destination playground will be added to the park.

vi. Sea Island

This is a smaller neighbourhood surrounded by land controlled by the Vancouver International Airport Authority (YVR). The limited land base available to the City has made it difficult to provide a typical community park. The complement of park space in the neighbourhood, including the sports fields maintained by the City on YVR land, does provide a reasonable level of service. In the future, better connections to the City Centre will provide Sea Island residents with greater access to the major park and open space amenities located there.

Trails & Greenways (Map 4)

To date, the City has not adopted a standard for the provision of trails. The importance of walking, cycling and trails to the community merits increased focus on trail and cycling network improvements. Therefore, a one kilometre radius service standard is being proposed with this Strategy. This service area is applied to city-wide trails and greenways. With the future update of the 2010 Trail Strategy, the resultant gaps in the system will be addressed. Some steps to address the gaps will be implemented in the near future.

i. Railway Greenway

Development of the Greenway is underway providing service to a large area of West Richmond. Construction of the first phase will be completed in fall of 2013.

ii Lansdowne Linear Park

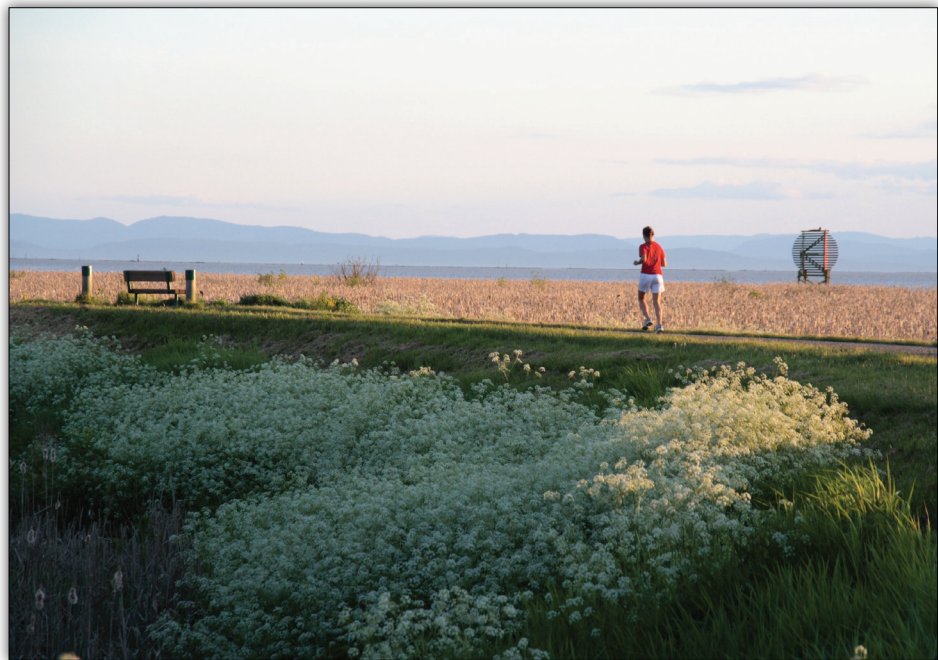
This park was identified in the CCAP to extend from No 3 Road west to the Oval and east to Garden City Road. With rapid redevelopment occurring in the Oval and Lansdowne Villages, planning for the Lansdowne Village West Blocks of this major link in the system has begun and will be implemented over time in concert with development.

iii. Garden City Road and Granville Avenue

Both streets have been identified in the 2010 Trail Strategy and the CCAP as major greenways. With the development of the Railway Avenue Corridor, there is the potential to develop a more significant cycling and pedestrian linkage across Lulu Island from Steveston to Bridgeport that would serve neighbourhoods in the City Centre and beyond. Further study is required to advance this concept.

Neighbourhood Links

There are a variety of small pedestrian links within neighbourhoods; City-owned walkways, trails through parks, and rights-of-way through private property. One of the objectives of the 2041 OCP is to “Improve walking, rolling and bicycle linkages within neighbourhoods to create safer, more convenient and attractive routes to multiple destinations a short distance from home”. The objective is supported by policies that support links across neighbourhoods, many of which can be achieved by improvement to streets and walkways through parks, while others can only be achieved through redevelopment. Completing linkages for each of the city’s 16 neighbourhoods will be the subject of further study so no standard for neighbourhood links is proposed in this Strategy.



West Dyke Trail: one of Richmond's iconic destinations

Map 2: Neighbourhood Park Service Areas & Gaps

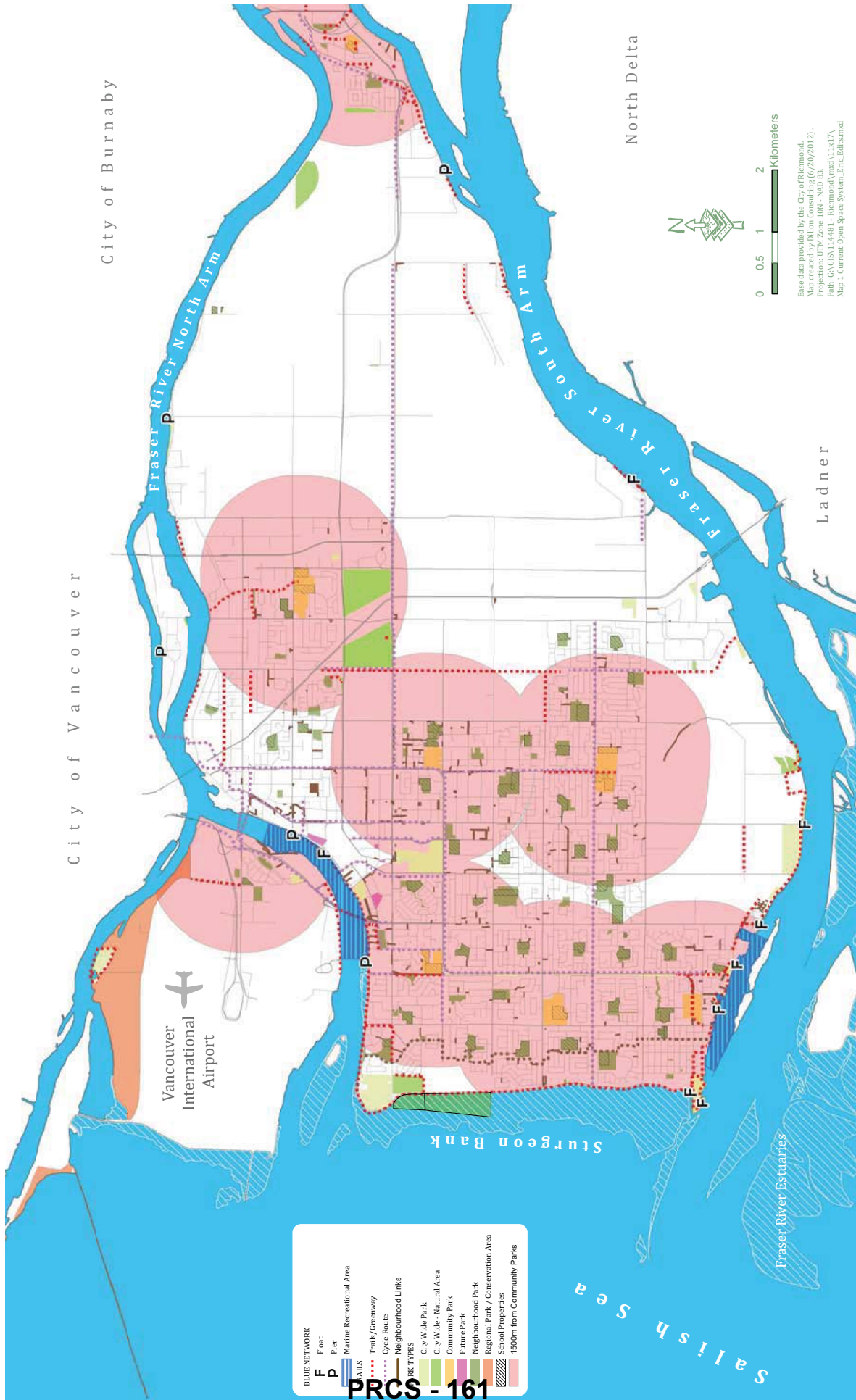


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PRCS - 161

Map 3: Community Park Service Areas & Gaps

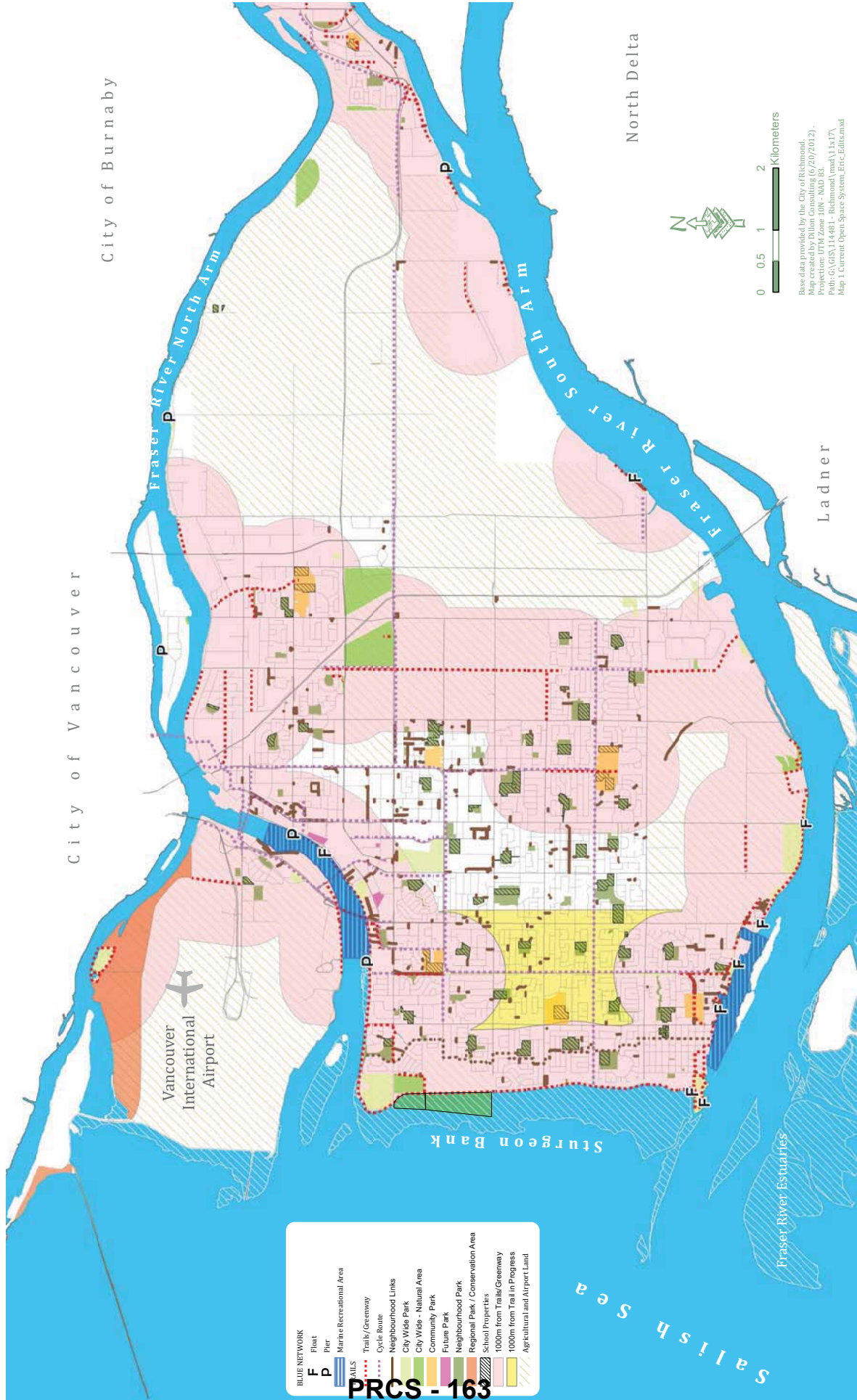


PRCS - 161

PRCS - 162

PRCS - 162
PRCS - 163

Map 4: Trails Service Areas & Gaps



PRCS - 164
PRCS - 165

3.3. Allocation of Resources

As outlined in Section 2, the Parks Division delivers services in Planning, Design, Construction, Programs and Resource Management. Parks Division services are deployed to provide high-quality places and experiences in collaboration with community partners to enhance the city's social, environmental and economic health.

3.3.1. Planning, Design and Construction Services

The services of this section include planning, landscape architecture, engineering technology, park/landscape construction, and graphic design. Parks staff are responsible for city-funded capital projects, development projects (that include design and construction of public open space), and for community initiated projects. Services are provided directly by Parks staff or through consultants and private contractors. Consultants and private contractors are used strategically to provide specific expertise and to increase the Division's capacity during periods of high volumes of work. When external resources are used, staff are positioned to maintain community relationships, ensure services are responsive, and to provide an intimate knowledge of place and community to each project.

City-funded Capital Projects

Planning, design and construction services are provided for parks and trails identified in the City's 5 -Year Capital Plan and according to the process described in the Parks Division Service Overview in Section 2. The average annual capital budget in the last 5 years for park land acquisition has been \$8.2 mil. and for park development \$3.5 mil. Park development projects can take from 6 months, typical for many small playground projects, to several years, especially for larger signature parks like Terra Nova Rural Park, from the beginning of the planning and design process to the official opening.

Urban Development Related Projects

Parks and publicly accessible open space can be provided directly through residential and commercial developments. The Planning and Design section reviews rezoning and development applications and works with developers to prepare servicing agreements for design and construction. In addition, field reviews during construction are provided to ensure that the City's requirements are met.

In the last 5 years, the size and number of development related projects has increased dramatically, and Parks services have expanded in response. There are currently 14 projects underway that will result in approximately 8 ha. (20 acres) of new parks and public open space that will potentially be completed within the next 5 years.



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Cambie Plaza at Middle Arm Waterfront Park

Community Initiated Capital Projects

Community initiated projects are supported by the City according to the following process:

- a) A community group submits a project idea to the City.
- b) The project idea is reviewed by the City to understand if it fills a gap in service and its relationship to current 5-Year Capital Plan priorities.
- c) A report is submitted to Council for approval of the project and approval for commitment of City funding for the project.
- d) Upon Council approval, the project is scheduled according to the 5-Year Capital Plan and Parks Design and Construction work schedule.
- e) Parks staff work with the community group and any other affected stakeholders to develop the project design and construction specifications.
- f) Staff provide construction resources to build the project and/or construction management services where private contractors are involved to implement the project.
- g) Staff work with community partners to provide communications throughout the project.

Typically, community initiated projects bring greater community engagement and support for projects as well as contributing funding to City capital budgets that would not otherwise be available (e.g., grants available only to non-profit community organizations).

Communication and Consultation

Through all stages of park and open space development, communication and consultation with stakeholders is a critical part of developing the goals and objectives for each project. A variety of forms of public consultation are used to inform the park master planning process for new parks or any significant park renewal process. The consultation may take the form of a series of public open houses, surveys seeking information on priorities and patterns of use, or neighbourhood meetings and design workshops with individuals that are representative of the wider community of stakeholders.

Internal stakeholders (i.e., other City departments), and especially Parks Operations staff, are engaged during the design phase to make sure that completed projects are aligned with City policy and operations budgets. The Operational Budget Impact, or the cost of operation and maintenance, is calculated and is submitted to Council for approval along with each park master plan.

Emerging Priorities

From urban farms to rain gardens and from sports venues to cultural venues, the increasing multi-functionality and the new roles that parks and public open space play in the city present exciting planning, design and construction opportunities as well as challenges. Future services will encompass sustainability and climate change adaptation, ecosystem services and green infrastructure. The focus on the waterfront and creating great places that are unique to Richmond will continue and there will be a stronger focus on planning for trails, greenways and neighbourhood links.

3.3.2. Programming Services

Parks programs are delivered in accordance with the Service Delivery Model described in Section 2. The type of programs offered in parks and other venues range from formal registered programs such as educational programs at the Richmond Nature Park to programs for informal park use such as dog off-leash areas and to community events of all sizes.

The City offers programs directly, in partnership with community groups, or facilitates programs offered by community partners. These programs are operated according to the following process:

- a) Identification of a gap or need for a program (by the City or community partner)
- b) Identification of opportunities to offer a program
- c) Identification of the resources required to run the program
- d) Determination of who the lead program provider should be
- e) When the program is lead by a community partner, agreements clarifying roles and responsibilities between the program provider and the City are completed
- f) The City monitors all programs for service performance
- g) Programs and agreements are reviewed and updated annually

Partnerships and Lines Of Business

A number of new partnerships and new lines of business have been introduced in the last decade expanding the range of program offerings well beyond the traditional adopt-a-park and interpretive programs. The rise of urban agriculture has resulted in several new partnerships and new program areas including the development of community gardens, the sharing Farm at Terra Nova and the facilitation of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Farm School initiative to help young farmers learn the art and science of farming. Parks programs has taken on responsibility for urban wildlife management and companion animal services including the contract for operation of the Richmond Animal Shelter. Programming of heritage sites, at Britannia Heritage Shipyards and the heritage precinct at Terra Nova Rural Park, provide opportunities for parks programs to expand its offerings in conjunction with community partners.

Emerging Priorities

In the next decade, program offerings will focus on those that reflect the City's cultural diversity, ensure opportunities for active living for all within our parks and open spaces and encourage knowledge, understanding and stewardship of the natural environment. In particular, partnerships with community groups to assist with reaching specific cultural populations, facilitating events and programs which celebrate the City's waterfront and developing opportunities for farming and urban agriculture will emerge as key focus areas for parks programs.



Hugh Boyd Community Park hosts many soccer tournaments at the 6 acre artificial turf sports complex

Annual Civic Beautification Numbers

- 30,000 bulbs planted
- 200 km. of medians and boulevards maintained
- 325 hanging baskets on city streets
- 1000 banners installed

3.3.3. Resource Management

Excellence in the operation of the parks and open space system is a product of efficient use of resources to deliver the greatest benefit to the community. A skilled and highly trained work force coupled with key community partnerships as well as employment of appropriate technologies and innovation are all essential to delivering excellent service. The areas of resource management provided by the Parks Operations section include Urban Forestry, Horticulture, Turf Management and Asset Management.

Expanding Roles and Increasing Complexity

The past decade has seen the development of new parks that are substantially different from traditional suburban parks in Richmond. These new parks, like Garden City Community Park, Terra Nova Rural Park and Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park, have a greater variety of assets and types of landscapes. This has introduced

greater complexity to the operation and maintenance of the system, which will continue, especially in City Centre where a greater variety of functions must be incorporated into each park and where higher usage rates will require a higher level of durability and more frequent asset replacement.

In addition, the role of Parks Operations has been significantly expanded beyond traditional parks maintenance to civic beautification of medians and boulevards, collaboration in maintenance of the public realm with other city departments and with private property owners, and a growing role in coordinating the expansion of the urban forest through urban redevelopment.

A further level of complexity has arisen from the restriction of the use of cosmetic pesticides, which will require a paradigm shift in the perception of landscape aesthetics in

the city. The prevailing aesthetic has grown up around the use of chemical fertilizers and cosmetic pesticides. A highly cultivated, horticultural landscape cannot be maintained in a cost efficient manner without them. At the same time, control of invasive plant species must continue for public safety and in parks with high ecological value (Natural Areas), to protect that value. In response, a new landscape aesthetic is emerging at the same time as Parks Operations is adopting innovative solutions to landscape management.

Emerging Priorities

This increase in complexity, coupled with the sheer increase in the size of the System (74 ha. or 183 acres of parkland have been developed since 2003) has created the need for new strategies for providing the community with high-quality service at the same time as the need to avoid dramatic operations budget increases. Steps that have already been taken include:

- Since 2002, maintaining permanent staff levels at 52 employees while increasing the numbers of temporary (seasonal) staff from 24 to 39 full-time equivalents;
- Reorganization of Parks Operations from geographical areas to portfolios of expertise, including Horticulture, Turf Management, Urban Forestry and Asset Management. This focus on specific functions will optimize staff's expertise and professionalism providing better, safer and more efficient services.
- Restructuring of the Operations Budget to facilitate more accurate program based tracking of costs for specific functions and for individual parks;

- Improved inventory data management;
- Deployment of mobile solutions to staff in the field (e.g., laptops, iPads) and,
- Calculation of operational budget impact submissions that reflect the new reality.

These changes allow for greater agility in adjusting the allocation of resources and facilitate greater accuracy in measuring resource management performance. The data collected now regarding the quality and condition of assets and their operational costs will form the baseline for future evaluation. Improved data management and meaningful evaluation in the future will require more sophisticated and targeted use of available technologies (e.g., GIS system, mobile technologies).



Richmond's Beautification Program includes the display of 30,000 spring bulbs along city streets



4 Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan will guide the provision of parks and open space services for the next decade. It describes the work program and priorities for all three of the Parks Division service areas.

The Implementation Plan does not identify funding sources for proposed changes in program services. These changes will be accommodated through realignment of existing budgets or addressed through the annual operating and capital budget processes.

Annual review of the Implementation Plan will be undertaken to address emerging needs and issues and to measure progress toward achieving the Plan's outcomes. The Implementation Plan is structured in the following manner:

4.1 Implementation Plan Framework

There are seven focus areas that encapsulate the benefits that the parks and open space system in Richmond delivers to the community

Health & Wellness

Great Places & Experiences

Connectivity

Green Network

Blue Network

Diversity & Multi-Functionality

Resource Management

Outcome Statements

Outcome statements describe the desired state of the parks and open space system in the future. These are the targets that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the priority actions.

Priority Action / Program / Initiative

These actions, programs and initiatives make up the specific work that will be undertaken in order to realize the stated outcomes. Collectively, these form the basis for each section's annual work plan.

Timeframe

The dates given indicate when an action, program or initiative will be completed. Many items are identified as 'ongoing to 2022' to indicate that they provide foundational direction which will guide actions throughout the life of the Strategy.

The timeframes are, in part, an indication of priority. They also reflect the magnitude of effort and resources required. Larger, more complex projects will have longer timeframes associated with them even though they may have a very high priority.

4.2 Focus Areas, Outcomes & Priority Actions

HEALTH & WELLNESS: Places and programs for physical, social, and spiritual wellbeing

terminology...

Wellness is viewed from both individual and community perspectives and is concerned with "the realization of the fullest potential of an individual physically, psychologically, socially, spiritually, economically, and the fulfillment of one's role and expectations in the family, community, place of worship, workplace and other settings" (Smith BJ, Tang KC, Nutbeam D. (2006) "WHO Health Promotion Glossary: new terms". Health Promotion International Advance Access Published September 7, 2006. www.who.int/health promotion).

Outcome #1

Our Parks and open space system is inviting and welcoming to residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Ensure parks are barrier free places for people of all ages and abilities	Ongoing to 2022
2	Provide increased opportunities for engagement through stewardship and events, public consultation, and programs	Ongoing to 2022
3	Increase the accommodation of youth through the development of targeted spaces and amenities (e.g., Thompson Youth Park)	Ongoing to 2022
4	Increase the accommodation of older adults through the provision of more resting areas along walking routes, more public washrooms, and incorporation of less strenuous activities within the system (e.g., gardening, nature viewing)	Ongoing to 2022
5	Develop more gathering and picnicking facilities for large groups (e.g., families, businesses, cultural groups) in community and city-wide parks	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #2

Residents of every neighbourhood have equitable access to safe, appealing places to engage in healthy, active lifestyles

Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1 Regularly review park distribution to ensure the standards are met city-wide	Ongoing to 2022
2 Conduct regular updates to the Park DCC program to respond to shifts in community need and changing land values	Ongoing to 2022
3 Endeavour to improve the accessibility and visibility of existing parks by acquiring properties to increase street frontage	Ongoing to 2022
4 Assess the need for community park level services in the West Cambie area and at Blundell and London-Steveston Neighbourhood Parks and develop plans for service delivery	2014- 2016
5 Increase the promotion of the use of neighbourhood school parks by neighbourhood residents outside of school hours.	Ongoing to 2022
6 Incorporate opportunities for physical literacy skill development and for unstructured play into the design of children's playgrounds	Ongoing to 2022
7 Identify appropriate locations to provide weather protection to expand the range of opportunities for health and wellness activities	Ongoing to 2022
8 Ensure new sports facilities and sports facility upgrades reflect current and emerging trends in sport	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #3

The diverse interests of the community are reflected in the range of spaces and programs offered by the Parks and open space system

Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1 Diversify the range of activities available in neighbourhood parks	Ongoing to 2022
2 Expand existing Nature Park programs into community and neighbourhood parks	Ongoing to 2022
3 Seasonally, review direct and indirect program offerings to ensure community needs are reflected.	Ongoing to 2022
3 Create more opportunities for nature oriented activities (e.g., fishing, wildlife & bird viewing, gardening) closer to more neighbourhoods	Ongoing to 2022
4 Support programs that encourage urban agriculture including 'learn to garden' opportunities	Ongoing to 2022
5 Develop a city wide community garden plan to identify locations for new gardens and new community partners	2013-2014
6 Develop opportunities for cultural programming in parks and other public open spaces	Ongoing to 2022
7 Consider dog off-leash areas within the development of new parks	Ongoing to 2022
8 Prepare a prioritized list of field sports facilities improvements funded by the Field Sport User Fee Reserve fund	2014-2015
9 Review parks that no longer require formal sport fields (incl. school sport field requirements by the PRCS - 173 District) and develop a program for renewal or adaptation	2015-2017

terminology...

Urban Agriculture is defined as "the practice of producing food within cities that encompasses a broad range of initiatives and production models that share the objective of providing urban residents access to fresh food grown in backyard gardens, roof top gardens, community gardens and urban farms". (Metro Vancouver. "Regional Food System Strategy". February 2011.)

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is the application of design principles in communities, neighbourhoods, homes and other buildings, streets and parks that discourage criminal activity.

Physical Literacy refers to the ability of an individual "to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person". (Physical & Health Education Canada. Physical Literacy. www.phe.ca)

GREAT PLACES AND EXPERIENCES: Promoting a vibrant and “distinctly Richmond” parks and open space system

terminology...

The Urban Realm

includes streets, plazas, squares, boulevards, and pedestrian and cycling linkages between and through neighbourhoods.

Event Infrastructure

refers to the spaces, structures and services required to support the staging of special outdoor events.

The Park Land

Acquisition Strategy

is the City’s long-term plan for the systematic acquisition of parkland in response to population growth.

Outcome #1

The rich variety of great places, features and activities in the parks and open space system contribute to the city’s vibrancy and identity

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Acquire signature places, especially along the waterfront (e.g., continue to acquire property for the signature waterfront park on the Middle Arm in City Centre)	Ongoing to 2022
2	Promote innovative, high quality design for the parks and open space system that reflects the City’s distinct island culture and landscape	Ongoing to 2022
3	Develop distinct identities for parks and open spaces in each neighbourhood/village	Ongoing to 2022
4	Develop a plan for new parks in City Centre to address their character, function and relationship to each other	2013-2015
5	Develop a guide for design and construction requirements for parks and open spaces associated with developments	2014

Outcome #2

The Parks and open space system enhances Richmond’s status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Create exceptional destinations by investing in the unique attributes of the City’s major parks and open spaces (e.g., renew existing features, develop new unique amenities)	Ongoing to 2022
2	Showcase permanent and temporary site specific public art in key locations and integrate public art into everyday experiences in parks and open spaces	Ongoing to 2022
3	Promote Richmond’s great outdoor spaces through web resources and various media	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #3

The city's unique landscape, food, arts, culture, sports and signature events are supported and showcased

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Improve the City's ability to host major events by integrating appropriate event infrastructure into key parks	Ongoing to 2022
2	Nurture community events by providing leadership, guidance and, where appropriate, resources	Ongoing to 2022
3	Increase the promotion of Richmond's special places and events	Ongoing to 2022
4	Review existing City produced park events and update to ensure they reflect Richmond's uniqueness	2013
5	Update web-based content and add mobile functionality to better showcase Richmond's unique places	2013-2014
6	Develop more on-line, interactive communication tools to increase awareness (e.g., Metro Parks iParks Navigator)	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #4

Richmond's natural and cultural heritage are brought to life through active engagement, education and interpretation

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Work with others to offer educational programs about Richmond's unique places and natural environment.	Ongoing to 2022
2	Set priorities for development of interpretive programs for significant natural, cultural and heritage sites	Ongoing to 2022
3	Develop and implement interpretive programs for each of the city's major waterfront destinations (e.g., Steveston, West Dyke, Middle Arm).	2014

CONNECTIVITY: Linking People, Community and Nature

terminology...

Ecological Network is a connected system of natural and semi-natural areas critical to the City's long term ecological health. It includes aquatic (freshwater and marine) and terrestrial ecosystems on both private and public lands.

Ecosystem Services are the dynamic, natural processes of the environment that significantly contribute to human well-being and enhance our quality of life.

Natural Areas are areas that have lesser amounts of cultural alteration and retain to some degree elements of their ecological function and biodiversity benefit. It should be noted that cultural and individual perception strongly influences what is defined as natural.

Biodiversity is the variability of living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are a part (UNEP) (abbrev)

Invasive Species are any non-native organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and can spread quickly to new areas of BC. (ISC Canada / IPC-BC)

Outcome #1

There are well established pedestrian and cycling connections between every element of the city (neighbourhoods, schools, civic spaces, neighbourhood service centres, parks, natural areas, streets, commercial areas and industrial parks) and to the regional system.

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Update the 2010 Richmond Trail Strategy	2015
2	Develop a policy for a 1kilometre distribution standard for city-wide trails and greenways	Ongoing to 2022
3	Improve and construct trail connections across the parks system to better support walking, rolling and cycling	Ongoing to 2022
4	Work with neighbouring municipalities to strengthen cross-boundary connections to the regional trails systems	Ongoing to 2022
5	Support the development of pedestrian linkages within neighbourhoods to key destinations through parks and through commercial and residential developments	Ongoing to 2022
6	In conjunction with YVR and developers, prioritize the completion of the trail & greenway links to the waterfront and bridges identified in the Middle Arm Open Space Master Plan Concept	Ongoing to 2022
7	Develop a plan for a major walking and cycling connection from Bridgeport to Steveston along Garden City Road to Granville Avenue to the Railway Greenway	2016
8	Strengthen neighbourhood links and add amenities along the Railway Greenway	2013-2015
9	Map current neighbourhood links, identify gaps and develop design guidelines for neighbourhood Green Links.	2015
10	Secure linkages across private property through acquisition or public rights of way agreements where gaps exist	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #2

The system is inviting, accessible, and safe, enabling residents and visitors to feel comfortable and connected to the community

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Increase the number of amenities along trails at key access points to increase comfort, accessibility and convenience (e.g., rest areas, washrooms, weather protection)	Ongoing to 2022
2	Develop and implement a wayfinding and signage plan for the parks and open space system	2014-2015
3	Create a plan and locate markers on major city wide trails to assist in the provision of services	Ongoing to 2022
4	Develop new trail standards to support use by the full range of mobility devices	2015
5	Provide lighting for those locations intended for night time use, primarily urban places where there are adjacent, complementary uses	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #3

The system supports a culture of walking and cycling and supports a range of active transportation modes

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Plan for children and youth as pedestrians and cyclists by addressing their safety, increasing their mobility and encouraging physical fitness	Ongoing to 2022
2	Increase programming on the trail system	Ongoing to 2022
3	Monitor usage of the trail system to better refine trail standards and programming	Ongoing to 2022
4	Work with others to promote Richmond as a cycling destination for both recreational cyclists and athlete training	Ongoing to 2022
5	Create a pilot a wellness walk in City Centre and evaluate the potential for expansion	2015

GREEN NETWORK: Creating a greener, dynamic and resilient cityscape

terminology...

Greenways are significant city-wide pedestrian, rolling and cycling linear corridors that link multiple destinations including parks, historic sites, natural areas, community facilities and amenities, residential and commercial areas. Greenways offer a higher standard of amenity including wider sidewalks and boulevards, designated cycling lanes, gathering/rest areas, special features (e.g., gateways, public art) and may also function as ecological corridors.

Trails are city-wide, recreational corridors that accommodate a wide variety of pedestrian, rolling, cycling and other non-motorized uses (e.g., equestrian) that are typically off-road and provide access to, or are in proximity to the City's major natural areas (e.g., the waterfront and natural areas like the Richmond Nature Park). These corridors also function as ecological corridors, linking hubs and sites in the Ecological Network.

Outcome #1

Nature and natural areas are recognized as fundamental building blocks of a liveable and healthy city.

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Provide more opportunities for people to experience nature	Ongoing to 2022
2	Provide leadership in education and awareness of Richmond's unique ecological assets and natural areas	Ongoing to 2022
3	Increase engagement with community groups interested in environmental stewardship through the Partners for Beautification program	Ongoing to 2022
4	Explore new ways to raise awareness of the value and function of Richmond's natural areas	Ongoing to 2022
5	Improve community awareness and the availability of programs which allow residents to understand our natural environment	Ongoing to 2022
6	Prepare a communication plan to raise awareness of the benefits of ecosystem services in the city	2014

Outcome #2

The parks and open space system includes a range of green spaces that support recreation, social interaction and psychological and spiritual renewal

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Identify and implement opportunities to bring the experience of nature into developed areas of the city as part of the Ecological Network Strategy	Ongoing to 2022
2	Ensure that Richmond's natural and cultural landscapes are protected and enhanced within the system	Ongoing to 2022
3	Carefully integrate recreational uses in natural areas to provide positive, restorative experiences while conserving ecological functions	Ongoing to 2022
4	Implement the urban wildlife management framework and its 4 pillars; education, habitat management, scaled intervention, research and monitoring.	Ongoing to 2022
5	Sensitively develop public use of the Grauer Lands on Sturgeon Banks and the Northeast Bog Forest	2013-2014

Outcome #3

The parks and open space system contributes significantly to the health of the ecological network

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Protect, sustain and enhance the biodiversity of natural areas	Ongoing to 2022
2	Integrate ecosystem services within urban parks, trails and greenways to contribute to the City's Ecological Network Strategy	Ongoing to 2022
3	Identify opportunities to adjust management practices to enhance the Ecological Network	Ongoing to 2022
4	Establish a process equivalent to the City's 2012 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Management Strategy to map, protect and manage ecological and natural areas within City parks and open spaces along with compensatory standards and guidelines.	2015
5	Develop an updated Urban Forest Strategy that recognizes its value to the ecological network	2013
6	Establish pilot projects for innovative management practices that will support ecological services (e.g. modified turf management practices)	2013
7	Develop a systematic approach to addressing invasive plant species	2014

terminology...

Neighbourhood Links are neighbourhood pedestrian and cycling routes that provide safe and convenient links to local destinations such as schools, parks, community facilities or neighbourhood shopping centres. Neighbourhood links follow local streets, sidewalks and lanes, travel through parks, and through private property (e.g., publicly accessible walkways through commercial and multi-family residential developments).

Cycling Routes are designated bike lanes on major thoroughfares and some major streets that feature signage, pavement markings and bicycle-friendly traffic signals

2010 Trail Strategy established a vision for Richmond's trail system of a "vibrant network of interconnected trails, greenway, blueways and cycling routes that will link people to each other, to their community and to Richmond's unique natural and cultural heritage."

BLUE NETWORK: Transforming and celebrating our waterfront and waterways

terminology...

The Waterfront in Richmond consists of a variety of experiences; the Fraser River foreshore, the West Dyke shoreline and the many character areas along the waterfront

Waterways are the City's upland watercourses, including sloughs, canals, ditches and wetlands that serve the critical functions of drainage conveyance and provision of irrigation, as well as providing diverse habitat value

Rainwater/Stormwater Management is the practice of collecting rainwater to reduce flows and improve water quality before directing it to the City's drainage system to prevent flooding, while working to preserve ecological values in open watercourses.

Outcome #1

The recreational cultural and ecological values of the waterfront and waterways are celebrated and protected

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Work with external agencies (e.g., DFO, Environment Canada) to protect and enhance the ecological values of the Fraser River, foreshore areas and Sturgeon Banks	Ongoing to 2022
2	Develop and deliver programs to interpret the rich history and environment of the waterfront	Ongoing to 2022
3	Work with other City Departments and community partners to protect and enhance ecological values of the city's waterways, bogs and wetlands.	Ongoing to 2022
4	Work with Engineering, Public Works and others to develop a plan identifying potential locations to create wetlands and ponds to expand canals and sloughs to achieve multiple benefits (e.g., rainwater management, ecosystem services, recreational programs)	2014
5	Develop and deliver water-based recreation and education programs and events in conjunction with partners (e.g., rowing, fishing, dragon boating, paddling, casual moorage)	Ongoing to 2022
6	Undertake dredging in Steveston Harbour to support waterfront programs, promote economic development and support a working harbour	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #2

Richmond's waterfront provides a variety of activities and multiple destinations

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Advance the objectives identified for the City's waterfronts in the Waterfront Strategy, the City Centre Area Plan and the Official Community Plan and the Middle Arm Open Space Master Plan Concept	Ongoing to 2022
2	Develop a program and dedicated funding source to retrofit and enhance existing waterfront amenities (piers, floats, beaches, boat launches)	2013
3	Contribute to the advancement of the vision for the Steveston Harbour Long Term Vision Plan	Ongoing to 2022
4	Deliver and support the City's signature maritime events	Ongoing to 2022
5	Develop and implement an updated business plan for the Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site which addresses the governance model for the site.	2013
6	Maximize public usage and programming of the restored Britannia Seine Net Loft.	2014

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
7	Enhance existing and provide new waterfront amenities to expand opportunities for public use (e.g., trails on dykes, plazas on pump stations)	Ongoing to 2022
8	Coordinate with other regional and international Pacific ports for joint maritime and waterfront event and programming opportunities (e.g., Pacific Host Port Alliance)	Ongoing to 2022
9	Enhance and coordinate program opportunities linking Steveston maritime destinations (e.g., Scotch Pond, Garry Point Park, Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Britannia, London Landing)	Ongoing to 2022

Outcome #3

The experiences of the waterfront and waterways reflect the cultural and ecological uniqueness of our island city heritage

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Develop design guidelines for the 10 City Centre Area waterfront destinations identified in the City Centre Area Plan.	2014 and ongoing
2	Develop an overall comprehensive waterfront interpretation plan with a Phase 1 focus on Terra Nova, Grauer Lands, the West Dyke and Garry Point Park and the Steveston Cannery Row.	2014 and ongoing
3	'Art on the Edge' - Enhance a strong sense of place and add a new layer of interest by developing a comprehensive 'Art on the Edge' plan promoting and integrating public art into waterfront.	2014 and ongoing
4	Work with Ducks Unlimited to develop a plan for the Grauer Lands that protects and enhances the ecological health and allows for a new experience by building a boardwalk into Sturgeon Banks.	2014 and ongoing

Outcome #4

Our Parks and open space system integrates water into the urban fabric in creative and innovative ways

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Explore best practices in innovative uses of water in parks, along greenways and streets (e.g., Water Sky Garden at the Richmond Olympic Oval)	Ongoing to 2022
2	Complete a redesign of the failing Minoru Lakes to restore its role as a premier water feature in the city centre	2015
3	Provide water-based recreation activities and safety programs on Garden City pond	2015
4	Upgrade the ponds in the Nature Park to better accommodate interpretive and educational programs and to enhance its destination status	2013-2015
5	Develop innovative methods to integrate water into play environments	Ongoing

terminology...

Civic Infrastructure

refers to the systems that convey public utilities like water, sewers, roads, power and storm drainage. Increasingly, cities are looking at green infrastructure for some of those systems (e.g., storm drainage) as an alternative to traditional grey infrastructure. Green infrastructure uses methods that mimic natural systems to provide services at a lower cost and to achieve multiple benefits.

Dogs in Parks Task Force

developed strategic directions to address the issues of design, education, partnerships, and enforcement related to dog management in Richmond:

1. Opportunities for accessible, off-leash use of open spaces for Richmond dog owners.
2. Effective communications regarding dogs in Richmond.
3. Effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of services and support for issues that affect dogs in the community.
4. Enforcement of dog-related bylaws is coordinated, consistent, and fair.

DIVERSITY AND MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY: Meeting and integrating multiple community objectives and uses

Outcome #1

The system provides a variety of diverse open spaces that are responsive to community need

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Increase the diversity of functions and activities available in neighbourhood parks	Ongoing to 2022
2	Update the criteria and priorities for neighbourhood parks under the Park Characterization Program	2013
3	Respond to community initiated capital requests in a systematic fashion; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the guide for community initiated capital requests • Develop a set of criteria for prioritizing requests and align with the City's Capital Program 	2013
4	Investigate the feasibility of a neighbourhood grants program for small capital projects (e.g., Vancouver's Greenest City Neighbourhood Fund) to assist community groups where appropriate	2014
5	Develop criteria for partnering with the Richmond School District to add value to school grounds as opportunities arise	2014

Outcome #2

Community objectives are met while the finite resource of park land and public open space are protected

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Continue to acquire land for park purposes and update the Park Land Acquisition Strategy regularly to address changing priorities and land values	Ongoing to 2022
2	Evaluate the impacts of proposed non-park uses on the protection of dedicated park land	Ongoing to 2022
3	Limit building footprints and other types of civic infrastructure in parks to functions that can demonstrably add community benefit while ensuring open space standards are maintained	Ongoing to 2022
4	Ensure civic infrastructure is appropriately integrated so that parks, community use and ecological values are not compromised (e.g., District Energy Utility infrastructure)	Ongoing to 2022
5	Work with park user groups to balance formal, programmed uses with informal use to meet community needs (e.g., reallocation of underutilized sports fields to other uses)	Ongoing to 2022
6	Work with the Richmond School District to maximize mutual objectives for open space and coordinate planning for growth	Ongoing to 2022

terminology...

Vancouver's Greenest City Neighbourhood Fund goals are to i) advance multiple efforts outlined in *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future Action Plan*; ii) promote participation at the neighbourhood level, and iii) to leverage other external funding, partnerships, and resources.

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
7	Update the Richmond Field Sports Strategy to include organized and non-organized sport uses, current trends and developments in sport	2015
8	Develop feasibility studies and business plans for additional revenue generating activities that provide community benefit and services not currently offered by the City (e.g., concessions, contracted services, retail services)	2014
9	Complete the development and initiate the programming of the Terra Nova Heritage Precinct	2013 - 2015

Outcome #3

The City's sustainability is improved by the green infrastructure provided by the parks and open space system

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Ensure sustainable resource use through appropriate level of park development and use of the lowest impact on operational practices and construction methods	Ongoing to 2022
2	Protect soil resources and capture soil being excavated for development	Ongoing to 2022
3	Adopt best management practices for rainwater/stormwater management in parks and public open spaces	2014
4	Conduct best practices research on the impacts of climate change on parks, ecosystems and the urban forest and adopt strategies for adaptation	2015 and ongoing
5	Manage the urban forest to maximize ecosystem services as an important component of civic infrastructure	Ongoing to 2022
6	Investigate methods to reduce the need for irrigation through innovative design and operations practices	Ongoing to 2022
7	Investigate the feasibility of separate locations for Parks soil processing and storage	2014

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Responsive and collaborative stewardship

terminology...

Resource Management Plans are park or area specific plans which describe the individual asset types present and the service level and maintenance activities required to sustain each asset type.

Playground Equipment Replacement Program is an annual Capital funding program that is dedicated to replacing playground equipment that no longer meets current safety guidelines

Development Cost Charges (DCC) are paid by development to cover the cost of expansion to municipal services including parkland acquisition and park development.

Urban Forest Strategy provides the framework for managing trees on City property (e.g., on streets, in parks)

Geographical Information System (GIS) is used to inventory and monitor all of the assets in the system.

Outcome #1

Our Parks and open space system is managed by a responsive organization that meets community needs

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Regularly review and update ongoing maintenance programs and practices to reflect current conditions and best practices to improve service	Ongoing to 2022
2	Conduct a comprehensive review of all agreements, update as necessary, and dedicate resources to contract administration	2013
3	Work with other Departments and Municipalities toward an update of the Provincial DCC guidelines to better reflect the range of service provided by the Parks Division	2015
4	Undertake a review of the planning and business processes for rezoning and development applications that involve parks and public open spaces to document and improve communication and implementation	2014
5	Develop and implement design initiatives and key preventative maintenance programs to reduce the volume of demand for service requests (e.g., shrub and flower beds, drainage)	2013-2014
6	Annually review and update the Neighbourhood School and Park Playground Replacement Program priority list	2013
7	Consistently manage the City's animal management contract and find opportunities for efficiencies	Ongoing to 2022
8	Implement the Animal Shelter Feasibility Study leading to the construction of a new animal shelter	2014
9	Document and review the value of caretakers to the City and ensure agreements are in place to mitigate risks	2014

Outcome #2

Richmond's Parks division is innovative and efficient in its management of resources

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Align resources to continually improve operational efficiency and quality of asset management to achieve the greatest community benefit in the most cost effective manner	Ongoing to 2022
2	Increase consideration of future maintenance requirements through appropriate design and quality of construction	Ongoing to 2022
3	Develop resource management plans for each park and trail (e.g., Terra Nova Rural Park, Garden City Community Park)	Ongoing to 2022
4	Ensure the quality of parks infrastructure through a systematic infrastructure evaluation process and a comprehensive, long term infrastructure replacement program.	Ongoing to 2022
5	Establish a dedicated resource management section to evaluate and monitor the quality of park infrastructure	Ongoing

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
6	Continue to work with commercial industry partners towards improving solutions, education, technology, products and methods of pest control without the use of cosmetic pesticides	Ongoing to 2022
7	Establish satellite Parks Operations locations at strategic civic locations	2015
8	Pursue alternative sources of funding, such as utility funding for infrastructure replacement, and grant initiatives at the Provincial and Federal level	Ongoing to 2022
9	Adopt best practices and assign resources for use of GIS systems to manage park, trail, urban forest and other open space assets	2014
10	Update and expand the Urban Forest Management Strategy	2014
11	Conduct an audit of the Boulevard Maintenance program to ensure current levels of service are consistent with the Boulevard Maintenance Regulation Bylaw	2014
12	Clarify the Parks Division role in managing new open space and amenities in the public realm including rights of way in privately owned publicly accessible open space	2014
13	Implement the deployment of mobile technology solutions for use by Parks Operations Parks	2013-2017
14	Review the status of the fleet of vessels at Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site and determine the best model for management of this resource.	2013

Outcome #3

Our Parks and open space system inspires shared stewardship among multiple stakeholders to foster pride, purpose and a sense of community

	Priority Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame
1	Align services with the Corporate Services Level Review	Ongoing to 2022
2	Quantify the benefits and maintain the existing cooperative relationship with the Richmond School District with regard to school grounds maintenance in exchange for community use of school gyms	Ongoing to 2022
3	Develop plans and priorities for stewardship projects for groups and individuals which provide value for both City and volunteers	Ongoing to 2022
4	Develop awareness and communication programs to foster stewardship and describe the benefits of the city's natural areas and the urban forest by residents and community groups	Ongoing to 2022
5	Rebrand the Partners for Beautification Program to re-engage the community	2013



South Dyke Trail and Gilbert Beach

4.3 Measuring Results

To ensure community needs are met, regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess the Parks Division's performance in delivering the services it is mandated to provide. The purpose of the monitoring is to:

- Ensure the system is meeting the City's standards for service;
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of methods of service delivery; and,
- Measure the progress toward achieving long-term outcomes

Performance will be measured in three ways:

1. Community Satisfaction
2. Service Standards
3. Resource Management Performance

Performance Reporting

Beginning in 2014, the Parks Division will begin to collect the appropriate data for performance reporting that will:

- Establish service baselines and targets;
- Provide an update on Capital Projects;
- Track changes in budgets and resource allocation;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs; and,
- Monitor progress on priority actions.

Performance reporting will be conducted every three to five years. The benefits of continually measuring results are improved performance, enhanced accountability, greater cost effectiveness and increased innovation.

4.4 Looking Forward to 2022

The Implementation Plan provides the priority actions for meeting community need and sustaining a high quality parks and open space system for the next decade. The Parks Division will align its annual work plans with the Outcomes and Priority Actions of the Plan. The Implementation Plan will be regularly reviewed and revised as required by changes in community need and the resources available in the Capital and Operating budgets.

Some of the key priority actions of the plan are:

- Diversify the range of activities available in neighbourhood parks
 - Close the existing gaps in the system
 - Create exceptional destinations by investing in the unique attributes of the City's major parks, open spaces and waterfront
 - Update the 2010 Trail Strategy
 - Develop a policy for a one km. radius distribution standard for city-wide trails and greenways
 - Develop and implement a wayfinding and signage plan
 - Develop park natural areas protection and management guidelines
 - Deliver programs that respond to emerging community priorities
- including urban agriculture, wildlife management and companion animal services
 - Explore additional revenue generating activities
 - Establish a dedicated resource management section
 - Update and expand the Urban Forest Strategy
 - Develop and implement an updated business plan for the Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site which addresses the governance model for the site.

In order to ensure that the Outcomes are met, regular reporting to measure results will be initiated. With this strategic approach, the parks and open space system in 2022 will continue to be treasured by the community and deliver excellent services.

Water Sky Gardens at the Richmond Olympic Oval



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Appendix

Related Strategies & Plans



Plan/Strategy Title	Key Direction/Recommendation
PRCS Volunteer Management Strategy	Increase organizational capacity and coordination for recruiting and managing volunteers
Older Adults Service Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure older adults are well-informed • Build a sense of belonging • Ensure easy physical access and provide comfortable places • Involve older adults through consultation
Youth Service Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure youth are knowledgeable about programs and opportunities • Increase the number of recreational, social, and cultural opportunities geared specifically to youth • Design and operate spaces that are welcoming and friendly to youth
Community Wellness Strategy	Create urban environments that support wellness and encourage physical activity
Richmond Sport for Life Strategy 2010-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Literacy • Provide an adequate number and quality of sport facilities to support expanding participation and the ability to host sport events
Richmond Field Sport Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quantity and quality of Richmond's outdoor field sport facilities for all field sport users • Ensure field sport development in Richmond is integrated with the City's economic, tourism and official community plan
Museum and Heritage Strategy	Develop a business plan, a conservation plan and an interpretation plan for each heritage site
Richmond Arts Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance public awareness and understanding of public art • Increase the amount of public art
City Centre Public Art Plan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situate art in strategic, high profile locations • Provide opportunities for "intimate" and "discovered" works
2007-2012 Major Events Plan	Continue to build our event hosting capacity
Waterfront Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a world class waterfront experience of vibrancy, excitement and beauty through series of linked destinations, landmarks, programs and activities • Maximize the ecological integrity of the City's waterfront by ensuring that opportunities to improve aquatic habitats are considered as an integral component of planning, design, and implementation of waterfront projects
ESA Management Strategy	Support ecosystem services
Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site Business Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term site preservation • Effective and efficient operations • An enhanced visitor experience
2010 Richmond Trail Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a trails hierarchy • Identified gaps in the network • Recommendations for planning, design and construction projects
Draft 2013 to 2022 Social Development Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality recreation, arts cultural and wellness opportunities • Developing and enhancing an appropriate range of parks, recreation and cultural facilities throughout Richmond.

Appendix

Parks & the Development
Approval Process

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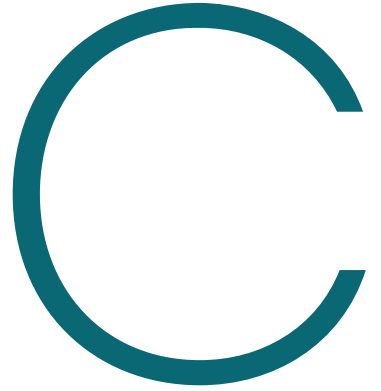
Parks Division Roles in the Development Approval Process	
Preliminary Rezoning Submission	<p>Purpose: to describe the development proposal's general compliance with the OCP/ Area Plan/ Zoning Bylaw.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes preliminary conceptual design for any parks or public open spaces (e.g., on-site walkways, plazas, greenways, neighbourhood links) • The Developer may be required to undertake public consultation prior to making a rezoning application <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial development proposal submission including conceptual plans, elevations, cross-sections, representative images 2. Staff/proponent meeting to discuss initial submission 3. Typically, 3 more submissions are reviewed before the rezoning submission is recommended to go forward
Rezoning Considerations	<p>Purpose: to describe legal requirements for rezoning (e.g., subdivision, road dedication, park dedication, registration of rights-of-way) and to describe the conditions that must be satisfied prior to the adoption of the rezoning bylaw (affordable housing, child care, public art)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe all the required covenants and legal agreements that must be registered on title (e.g., child care, affordable housing, live/work) • Describe the requirements for Right-of-Way agreements (e.g., pedestrian, cycling, vehicle, u/g utilities) • Describe the Servicing Agreement requirements for the design and construction of off-site works for streets (roads, sidewalks, boulevards, tree protection, tree replacement), greenways, parks • Describe which works require Letters of Credit • Describe the Development Permit conditions (density calculations, etc.) • Describe the Building Permit conditions <p>Note: a preliminary calculation of DCC's may be requested and has been provided in some cases but there is no consistent practice for doing so.</p> <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A formal Rezoning Application is made by the proponent 2. Staff review and comment and begin preparation of rezoning considerations 3. Legal agreements are drafted

<p>Rezoning Application</p>	<p>Purpose: Approval of rezoning bylaw by Council and rezoning conditions including the form of development and off-site works including parks and public open spaces.</p> <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff report to Council includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations regarding approval of rezoning application • Outline of conditions to be met prior to final adoption • Rezoning considerations 2. First reading by Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval or referral 3. Public hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in newspapers, mail-out to adjacent property owners 4. Satisfaction of rezoning requirements 5. Final reading and adoption of Rezoning Bylaw by Council
<p>Park Concept Approval</p>	<p>Purpose: To receive Council approval for the acquisition and development of dedicated parkland provided directly through development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the terms of acquisition, design, and park development (who builds what and in what phases) • Developer provides conceptual plan and cost estimate • Staff are responsible for calculating the Operational Budget Impact (OBI) associated with the new park development. <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff approval of the conceptual design and cost estimate 2. Calculation of the OBI 3. Staff prepare report to Council recommending adoption of the park concept and the OBI 4. Council approval of the park concept and OBI
<p>Servicing Agreement</p>	<p>Purpose: To describe and secure financing for off-site works (e.g., utilities, roads, parks, street trees) and some on-site works (e.g., pump stations, SRW's incl. publicly accessible open space and pedestrian links)</p> <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of detailed design drawings by Developer 2. Drawing review and mark-up by Staff 3. Revisions and resubmission by Developer 4. Detailed design approval by Staff 5. Developer prepares an updated, detailed cost estimate 6. Value of DCC's and the applicable DCC credits are calculated by the City (Dev. Apps) 7. Value of the letter of credit is established (typically at 150% of the value of the works) 8. Law prepares SA and any accompanying legal agreements (ROW's, covenants)

<p>Development Permit <i>(sometimes concurrent with preparation of SA)</i></p>	<p>Purpose: Approval of form of development, density, etc. as well as confirm compliance with DP conditions (ESA, Agriculture, hazardous conditions, tree preservation/compensation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of detailed design of off-site and on-site works • Potential reduction in the value of the letter of credit where sufficient detail is provided <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advisory Design Panel submission 2. Staff review and comment 3. Once ADP and staff comments have been addressed, submission by Developer to Development Permit Panel for approval 4. Submission by Developer of letters of credit and any required contributions (e.g., public art) 5. Staff prepare report to Council recommending approval of Development Permit
<p>Building Permit (BP)</p>	<p>Purpose: To confirm compliance with BC Building Code and relevant bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP drawings are not typically circulated to Parks staff • On approval of BP, construction may commence
<p>Park and Public Open Space Construction</p>	<p>Purpose: Construction of SA works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks responsible for conducting field reviews of works occurring on dedicated parkland to ensure compliance with SA agreements • Parks responsible for conducting field reviews of SRW works to ensure compliance with SA agreements • Parks supports Engineering Inspections in field reviews of off-site street works and on-site works (works not included in Parks SA agreements) • All street tree planting (e.g., trees planted within road ROW's) are inspected by Parks staff <p>Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tender of park construction drawings by developer/owner. Tender bid pricing is used to confirm the value of DCC credits <p>Parks staff work with Inspections staff to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Attend site meetings with contractors 3. Prepare of regular field review reports 4. Confirm all required permits are in place 5. Review site layout to confirm compliance with SA drawings 6. Inspect all excavation and site preparation 7. Inspect all materials delivered to the site 8. Review grading and drainage to confirm compliance with SA drawings 9. Commissioning 10. Sign-off on completion of the terms of the SA agreement 11. Submission of as-built drawings by developer/owner for record purposes 12. Maintenance warranty period – developer/owner is responsible for maintenance and replacement of any deficient work for a pre-approved period (e.g., 1 to 2 years). Parks staff inspect all park assets during and at the end of the warranty period.

Appendix

Parks Division Lines of Business



Parks Division Lines of Business

Each of the 3 sections within the Parks Division is responsible for multiple lines of business which form the basis of the annual work plans. The following is a summary of the lines of business and average annual service levels for each:

Planning and Design and Construction

- Support corporate/city-wide initiatives and projects (e.g., OCP Update, area plan updates, Waterfront Strategy, Lansdowne Rd. Transformation Project)
- Preparation and implementation of strategic plans (e.g., 2010 Richmond Trail Strategy, Urban Forest Management Strategy)
- Reporting to Committee and Council
- Parkland acquisition
- 5 Year Parks Capital Plan preparation (major and minor capital projects)
- Park and open space master planning and design for an average of 5 plans per year
- Review and preparation of agreements for development applications that include public parks
- Review and preparation of agreements for development applications that include publicly accessible open space (streetscapes, greenways, neighbourhood links, plazas, street trees)
- Park and open space construction management for 10 to 15 projects per year
- Preparation of park specific resource management plans to guide maintenance and operations
- Public consultation with residents and stakeholder groups on Major Parks Capital projects
- Communication and liaison with community groups, external agencies and other levels of government
- Information and Marketing – on-line communications, 12 brochures, 25-30 interpretive and directional signs, an average of 10 special event promotions and displays per year, 2 award submissions per year, 3 to 4 grant applications per year
- Mapping, GIS data base management and technical support
- Liaison with the Richmond Athletic Commission
- Waterfront and Blueways Program – management of construction and maintenance of Richmond’s docks, piers, and publicly accessible waterfront development and coordination of dredging in marine recreation areas

Programs

- Production of 15 to 20 parks and Corporate special events (e.g., Halloween Fireworks, Facility Openings, and Earth Day).
- Providing planning and operational support for 10 community special events.
- Management of 4 park community facilities (Terra Nova Rural Park Barn, Buemann House, Paulik Park Garden Centre, Woodward Landing / Girl Guide Camp).
- Facilitate delivery of community programs in parks and park facilities (65 programs engaging approximately 3500 people per year).
- Management of park caretakers (19 caretakers provide services valued at \$250,000 annually)
- Liaison and contract administration with community user groups - developing and maintaining user group agreements with 11 community groups
- Coordination of Richmond Street Banner Program - an annual public competition for production of 1000 street banners
- Coordination of the Partners for Beautification Program for approximately 60 PFB groups (residents, schools, businesses and community groups)
- Urban Agriculture – liaison with the with Richmond Food Security Society for management of 200 community garden plots at five sites
- Operation and Programming of the Richmond Nature Park and Kinsmen Pavilion in conjunction with the Richmond Nature Park Society




Operations

- Civic maintenance of parks, boulevards, medians, City facility grounds, trails, plazas, furniture and all existing infrastructure.
- Urban Forestry - maintenance of approximately 70,000 street and park trees and operations of the City tree nursery
- Horticulture – planting and maintenance of 300 hanging baskets, flower displays incl. 60,000 annual flowers and 30,000 Spring bulbs, shrub and perennial displays, hedges, 218 public walkways, indoor plants in civic buildings.
- Turf Management -
18 all weather sand based turf sports fields, 77 clay based sports fields, 8 artificial turf fields, 2 artificial bowling greens, 1 Pitch and Putt golf course, 500 acres of general grass mowing.
- Asset Management – maintenance of 15 public washrooms, 10 plazas, sport field lining and goal post maintenance on 77 fields, 80 waterfront amenities (bridges, piers, wood decks, boat launches, and walkways), 8 artificial sport fields, graffiti removal on all civic properties, landscape repair requests from Public Works and Engineering, all fencing and gates within the park systems, 1000 pieces of park furniture, 200 bike racks, 8 water features, 4 water play systems, 35 drinking water fountains, 160 irrigation systems, 55 play grounds, cleaning and safety checks of 6 dog off-leash areas, 69 tennis courts, 4 lacrosse boxes, 33 basketball courts, 37 bleachers, 46 parking lots, installation and removal of 1000 banners annually, 600' x 20' of floating docks, log and debris cleanup along the shores of the South Arm of Fraser River
- Construction and Maintenance - \$3 mil to \$5 mil in capital construction projects, retrofitting, rebuilding and repairing park assets and utilities, hanging and removal of festive lighting, weeding of all main road sidewalks, 42 km of dyke trails and 30 km of other trails
- Customer Service – response to 4000 public and internal customer requests.
- Integrated Pest Management - implementation of pest control best practices, products and equipment to address implementation of Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514 which bans use of traditional herbicides, insecticides and fungicides
- Invasive Species Management
- Wildlife Management
- Natural Areas Management - 337 acres of natural areas requiring specific and alternative management approaches
- Parks Small and Large Equipment Management - 131 large and 120 small pieces of Parks Operations equipment
- Contracted Services – maintenance of the grounds at Richmond Olympic Oval, Richmond School District office grounds, private school on Odlin Road, RCMP Headquarters, 7 Richmond Fire Halls, Steveston Harbour Authority Tin Shed site (3rd St. and Moncton Rd.)
- School Board Property Maintenance – maintenance of 373 acres of school grounds
- Salting and snow removal at City facilities and walkways and pathways
- Safety audits and staff safety training
- Special Events - set up, take down and traffic control at 30 major special events and 70 minor events (community, corporate and Parks events)

Appendix

Parks and Open Space System Inventory



Richmond Park Inventory			
Date	Park	Park Type	Acreage
1900s - 1920s			
1908	Mitchell Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	10.035
1920	Minoru Park	City Wide	65.417
1920	General Currie Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	5.413
1922	Lord Byng School Park	Neighbourhood	5.540
1928	Cambie Field Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	2.987
1930s - 1940s			
1939	King George/Cambie Community Park	Community	38.613
1943	Sea Island Community Centre Park	Community	0.336
1943	Burkeville Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	3.167
1944	Steveston Community Park	Community	30.655
1946	Sea Island School Park	Neighbourhood	3.440
1948	Grauer Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	11.030
1948	Palmer/Garden City Park	Neighbourhood	26.667
1950s			
1952	Richmond HighPark	City Wide	9.138
1954	Cook Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	8.690
1955	Tait Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	4.920
1957	Kidd Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	11.429
1959	Gilmore Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	11.020
1959	Dixon School Park	Neighbourhood	11.407
1959	Errington Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	8.410
1959	Garratt Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	4.000
1959	Tomsett School Park	Neighbourhood	6.030
1960s			
1960	Hugh Boyd Community Park	Community	42.245
1960	Ferris Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	7.844
1960	Walter Lee School Park	Neighbourhood	12.566
1961	Thompson School Park	Neighbourhood	7.800
1961	McKay Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	8.338
1961	Woodward School Park	Neighbourhood	9.190
1963	Kilgour Neighbourhood School Park	Neighbourhood	9.810
1964	Manaoh Steves School Park	Neighbourhood	20.403
1964	McDonald Beach Park	City Wide	26.142
1964	Heather Dolphin Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	2.000
1965	Gibbons VLA Park	Neighbourhood	1.810
1965	South Arm Park	Community	56.750
1965	London/Steveston Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	42.375
1966	Debeck School Park	Neighbourhood	7.600
1968	Thompson/Burnett Community Park	Community	27.199
1969	Bridge School Park	Neighbourhood	5.886
1960's	International School	Neighbourhood	3.861

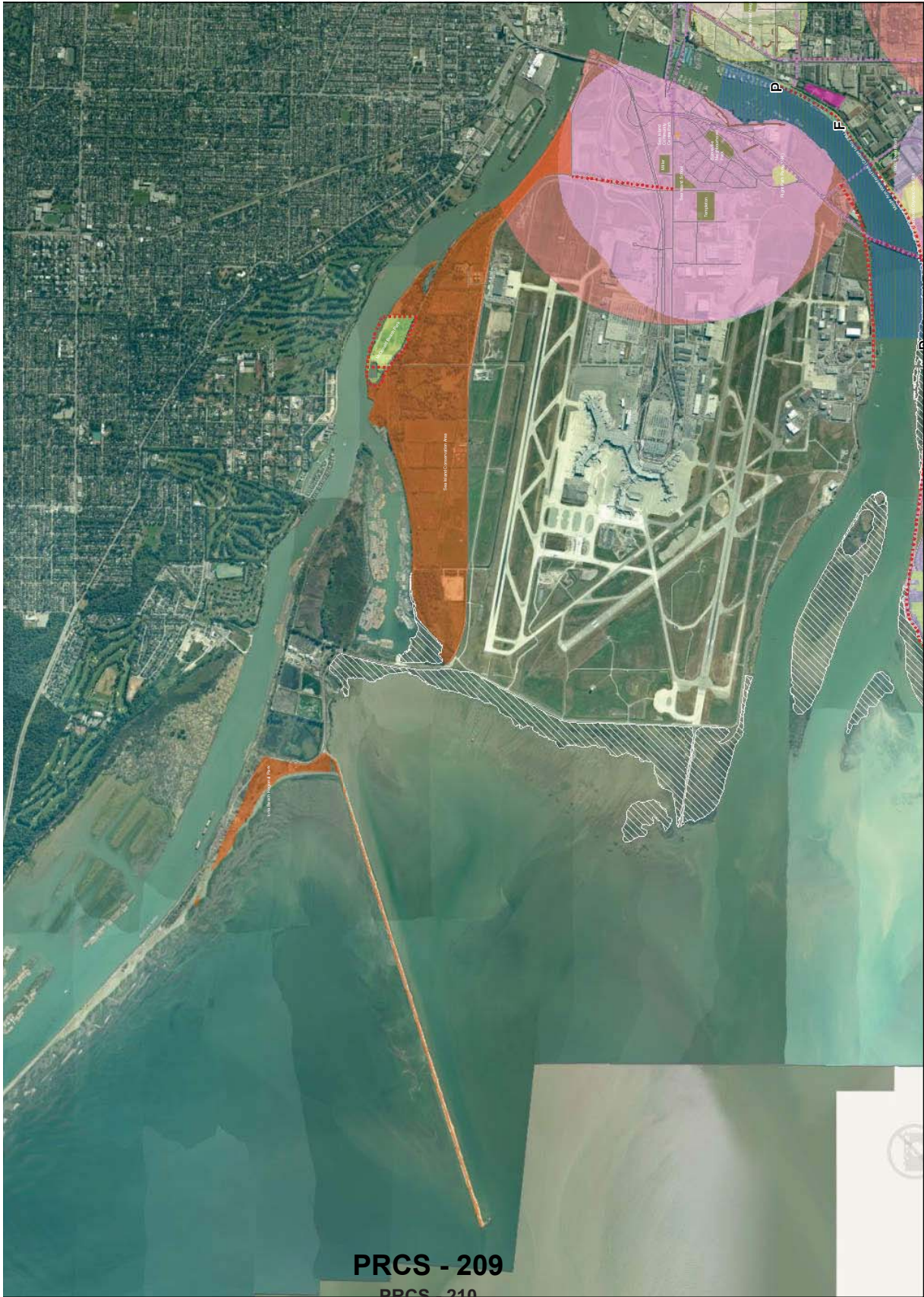
Date	Park	Park Type	Acreage
1970s			
1970	Richmond Nature Park West	City Wide - Natural Area	106.290
1970	Richmond Nature Park East	City Wide - Natural Area	106.106
1971	McNair School Park	Neighbourhood	21.768
1974	Maple Lane School Park	Neighbourhood	10.989
1974	Quilchena Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	12.139
1974	McCallan Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	3.514
1975	Mariners Village Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	2.234
1976	Morris Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	6.754
1976	Kingswood Neighbourhood School Park	Neighbourhood	8.140
1976	Brighthouse Athletic Park	City Wide	7.841
1978	Rideau School Park	Neighbourhood	10.729
1978	Marrington Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	2.369
1979	Albert Airey Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	3.616
1979	McKinney Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	9.888
1979	Westwind Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	13.210
1970's	Miller Park (YVR, soccer field)	Neighbourhood	3.200
1970's	Templeton Field (YVR, former rugby field)	Neighbourhood	6.970
1980s			
1980	Blundell Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	28.620
1980	Woodwards Landing	City Wide	6.238
1981	Diefenbaker Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	10.820
1981	Steveston Town Square	City Wide	0.202
1981	London Farm	City Wide	4.060
1981	Sandiford Tot Lot	Neighbourhood	0.951
1981	Parklane Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	4.746
1982	Tiffany Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	0.243
1984	Bath Slough Trail	City Wide Trail	3.400
1985	Horseshoe Slough Trail	City Wide Trail	
1986	Honda Park (private)	City Wide	
1986	Brighthouse Neighbourhood School Park	Neighbourhood	12.985
1987	5th Avenue Road End Park	Neighbourhood	0.363
1988	South Dyke Tree Nursery and Farm	City Wide	56.000
1988	Hamilton VLA Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	1.555
1988	Hamilton Highway Park	Neighbourhood	7.187
1988	CN Trail	City Wide Trail	12.985
1989	Garry Point Park	City Wide	74.342
1989	Shell Road Trail	City Wide Trail	
1980's	Bridgeport Industrial Park	Neighbourhood	2.590
1980's	East Richmond Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	3.898
1980's	North Arm Trails	Trail	

Date	Park	Park Type	Acreage
1990s			
1990	T. Homma Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	5.757
1990	Agassiz Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	1.639
1990	Kozier Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	0.777
1990	Richmond Street Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	0.363
1990	Fedoruk-Kartner Park	Neighbourhood	0.823
1991	McNeely School Park	Neighbourhood	9.776
1991	Talmey Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	9.911
1991	Garnet Tot Lot	Neighbourhood	0.339
1993	Wowk Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	8.958
1994	No. 7 Road Pier Park	City Wide	5.545
1995	Britannnia Shipyard Park	City Wide	7.950
1996	Anderson Neighbourhood School Park	Neighbourhood	6.030
1996	Odlin Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	6.333
1997	Dover Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	7.992
1997	Mitchell Island Pier Park	City Wide	1.374
1997	Mitchell Island ESA	City Wide - Natural Area	1.066
1997	Terra Nova Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	19.479
1997	Lang Park	Neighbourhood	0.350
1997	Great West Cannery Park (South Cove)	Neighbourhood	2.008
1997	Kilby Neighbourhood Park (Rose Garden)	Neighbourhood	0.358
1998	Richmond Skateboard Park	City Wide	0.391
1998	Terra Nova West Natural Area	City Wide - Natural Area	34.171
1998	Odlinwood Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	4.909
1998	Flight Path Park (YVR)	City Wide	0.531
1998	Hamilton Community Park	Community	12.400
1998	McMath School Park	Neighbourhood	18.352
1999	South Dike Trails (Dike Rd/Gilbert Beach to Woodward Landing)	Trail	
1999	Woodward Landing Park	City Wide	6.238
1999	No 3 Rd Doggy Park	City Wide	4.131
1999	McLean Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	10.725
1999	Terra Nova South Park	Neighbourhood	1.280
1999	Steveston Area Trails	Trail	
1990's	Fraserwood Park	City Wide	0.400
1990's	Lee Slough	City Wide - Natural Area	2.243
1990's	Woodwards Slough	City Wide - Natural Area	3.921

Date	Park	Park Type	Acreage
2000s			
2000	East Richmond (Hamilton, Graybar)	Trail	
2002	Odlinwood ESA	City Wide - Natural Area	1.672
2002	Toyota Park (private)	Neighbourhood	1.580
2003	MacNeill Neighbourhood School Park	Neighbourhood	14.857
2004	Imperial Landing	City Wide	6.498
2004	Terra Nova Rural Park	City Wide	63.000
2004	Birch Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	1.750
2005	Garden City Community Park	Community	24.310
2005	Katsura Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	1.839
2005	Paulik Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	6.188
2005	Bike Terrain Park Park (acq. 1994)	City Wide	1.048
2009	Model Airplane Park	City Wide	4.126
2009	West Cambie Greenway	Trail - City Wide	2.858
2010s			
2010	Richmond Olympic Oval Site	City Wide	10.500
2010	North East Bog Forest	City Wide - Natural Area	49.312
2010	Railway Ave Rail Row	Trail / City Wide	14.700
2011	The Gardens Agricultural Park	City Wide	12.200
2011	West Cambie Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood	5.793
2011	Middle Arm Waterfront Park (Cambie to No 2 Rd.)	City Wide	9.980
2012	Sturgeon Banks Natural Area (Grauer)	City Wide - Natural Area	126.970
2013	7300 Elmbridge Way (Pork Chop Park)	Neighbourhood	0.720
2013	Hollybridge Canal Park	Neighbourhood	2.090
			1695.616

Legend	
	Other City Owned
	Owned solely by the Richmond School District
	Privately owned

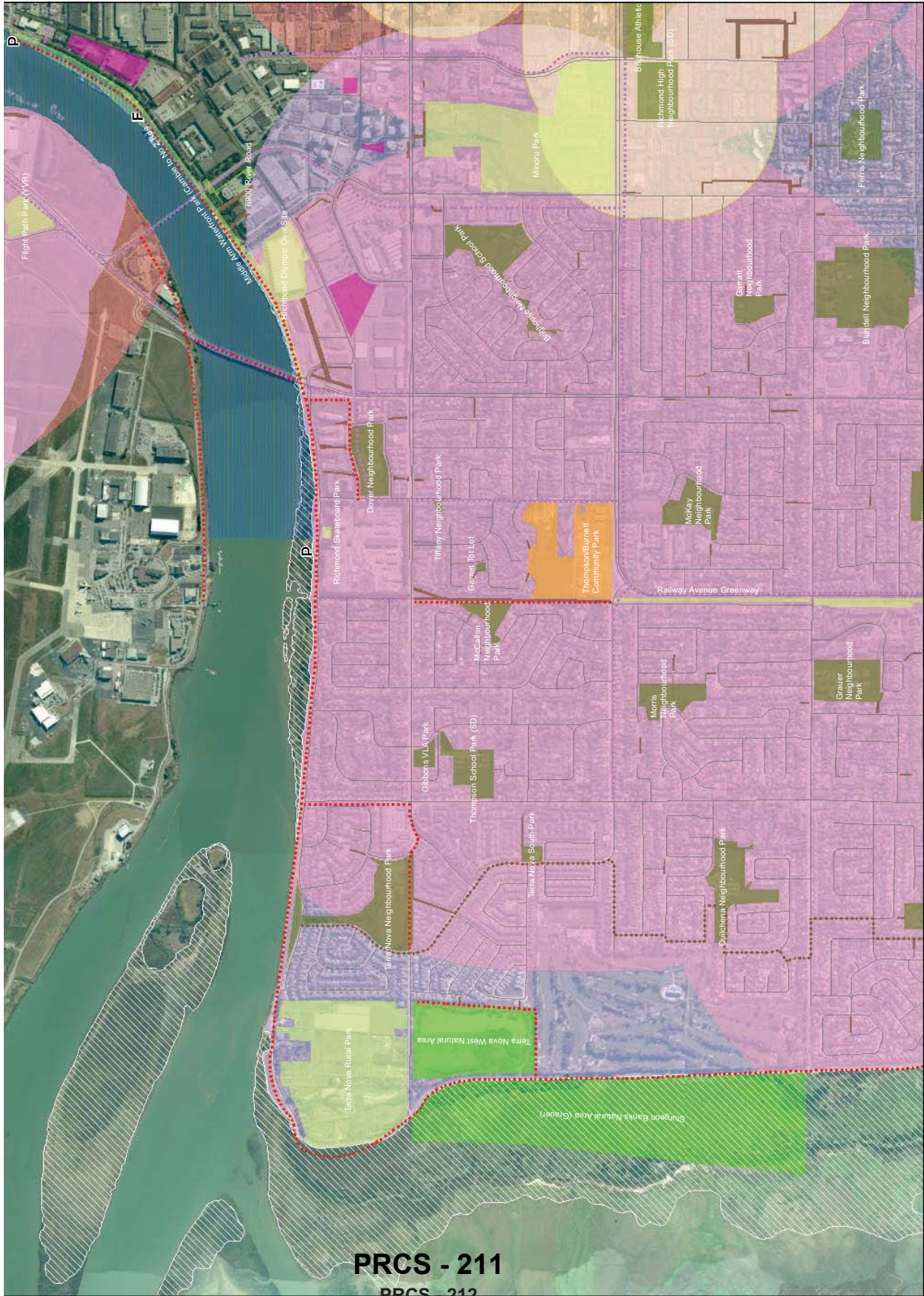
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Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: Thompson



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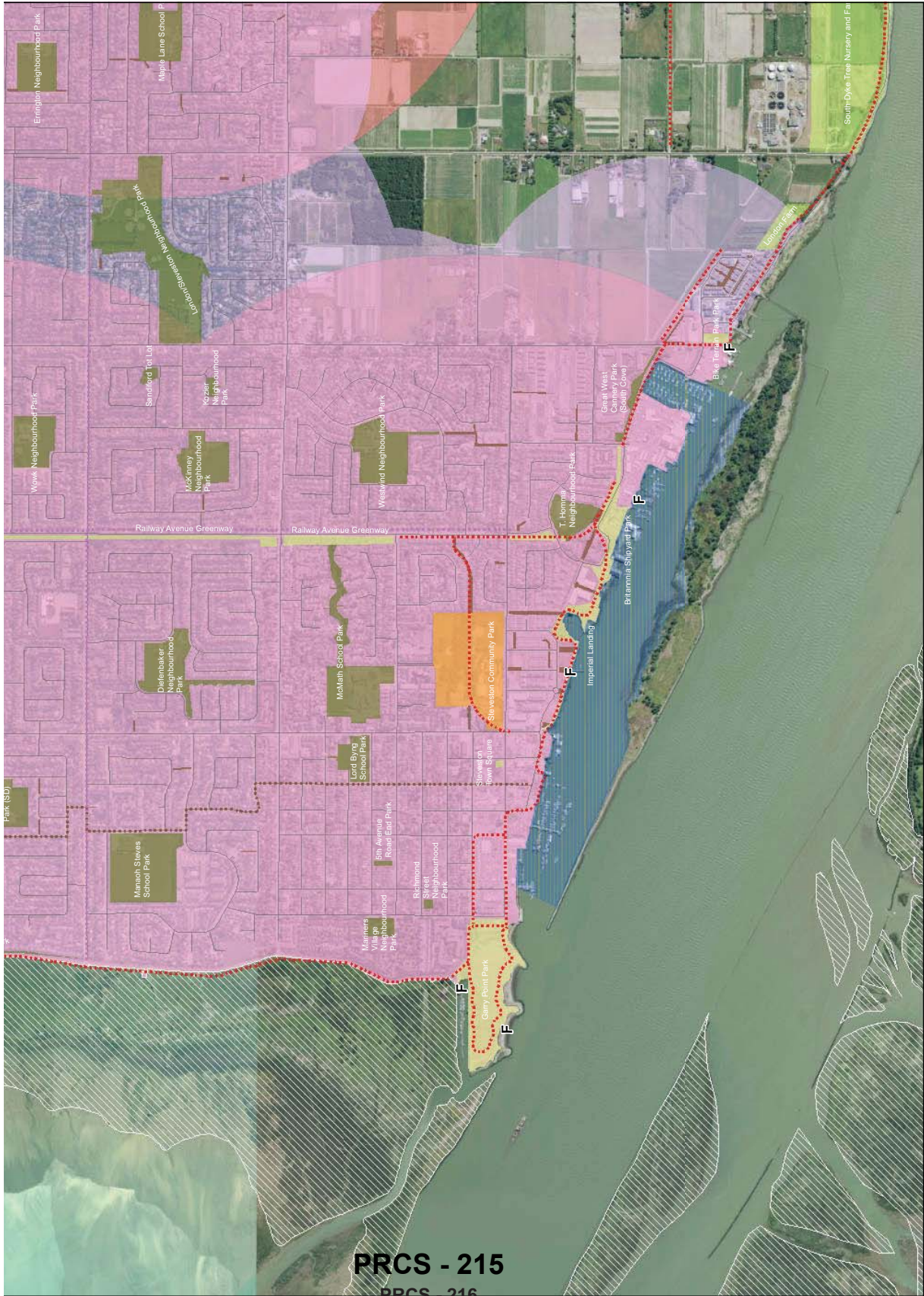
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Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: West Richmond



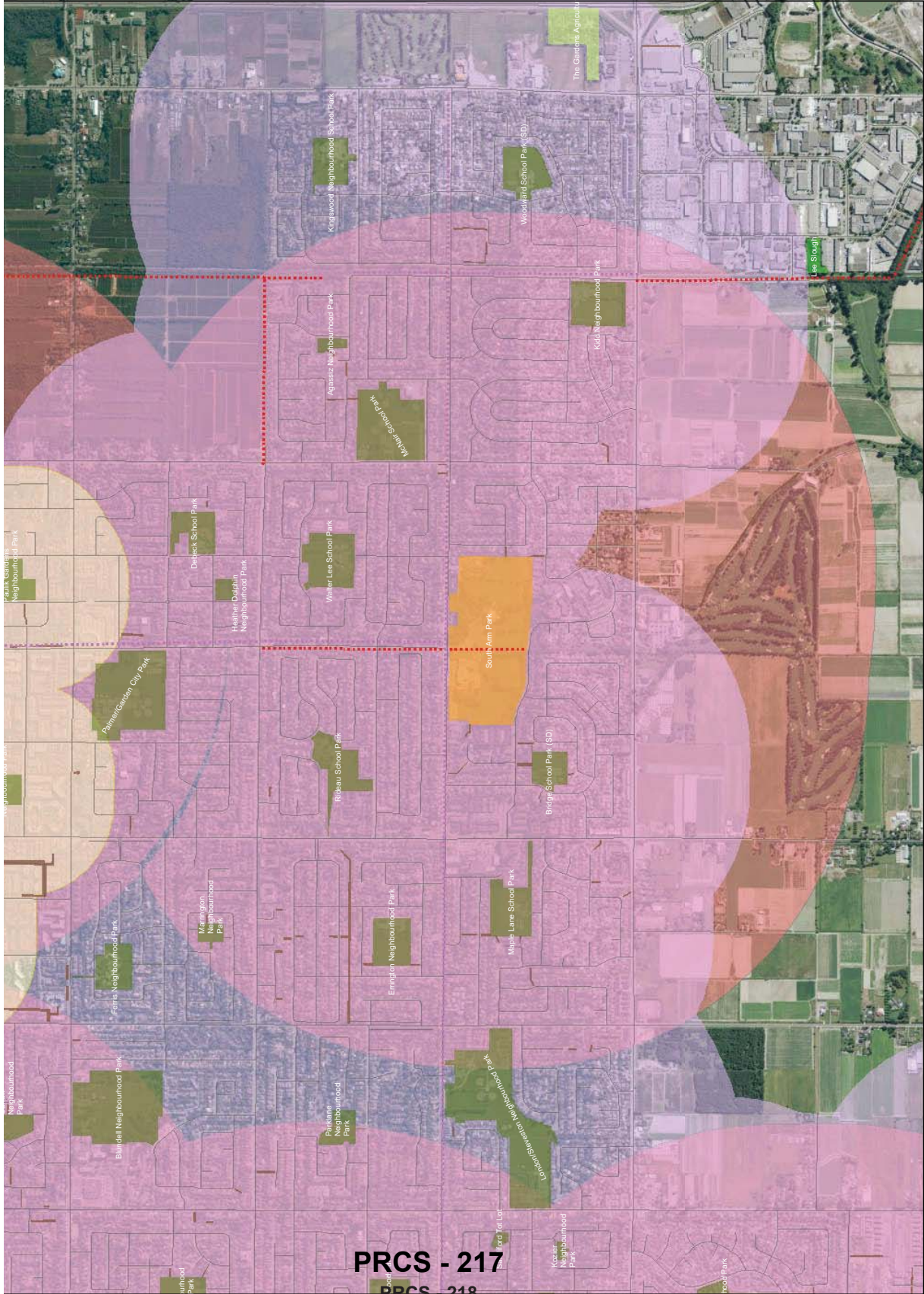
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Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: Steveston

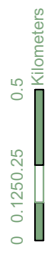


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Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: South Arm



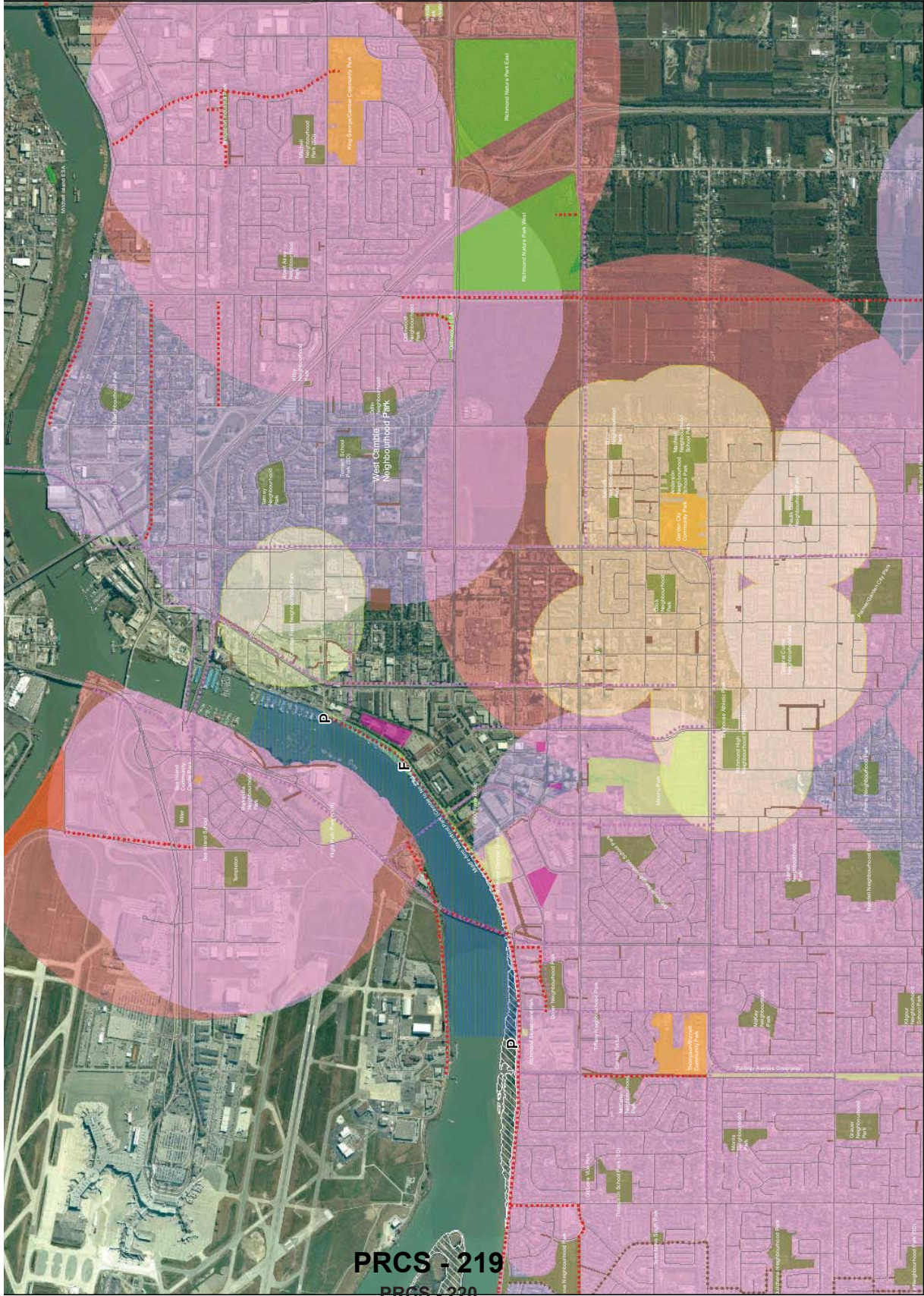
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- F Float
 - P Pier
 - Marine Recreational Area
- TRAILS**
- Trails/Greenway
 - Cycle Route
 - Neighbourhood Links
 - City Wide Park
 - City Wide - Natural Area
 - Community Park
 - Future Park
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Regional Park / Conservation Area
- 400m from Neighbourhood Parks in City Centre**
- 800m from Neighbourhood Parks Outside City Centre**
- 1500m from Community Parks**



Base data provided by the City of Richmond
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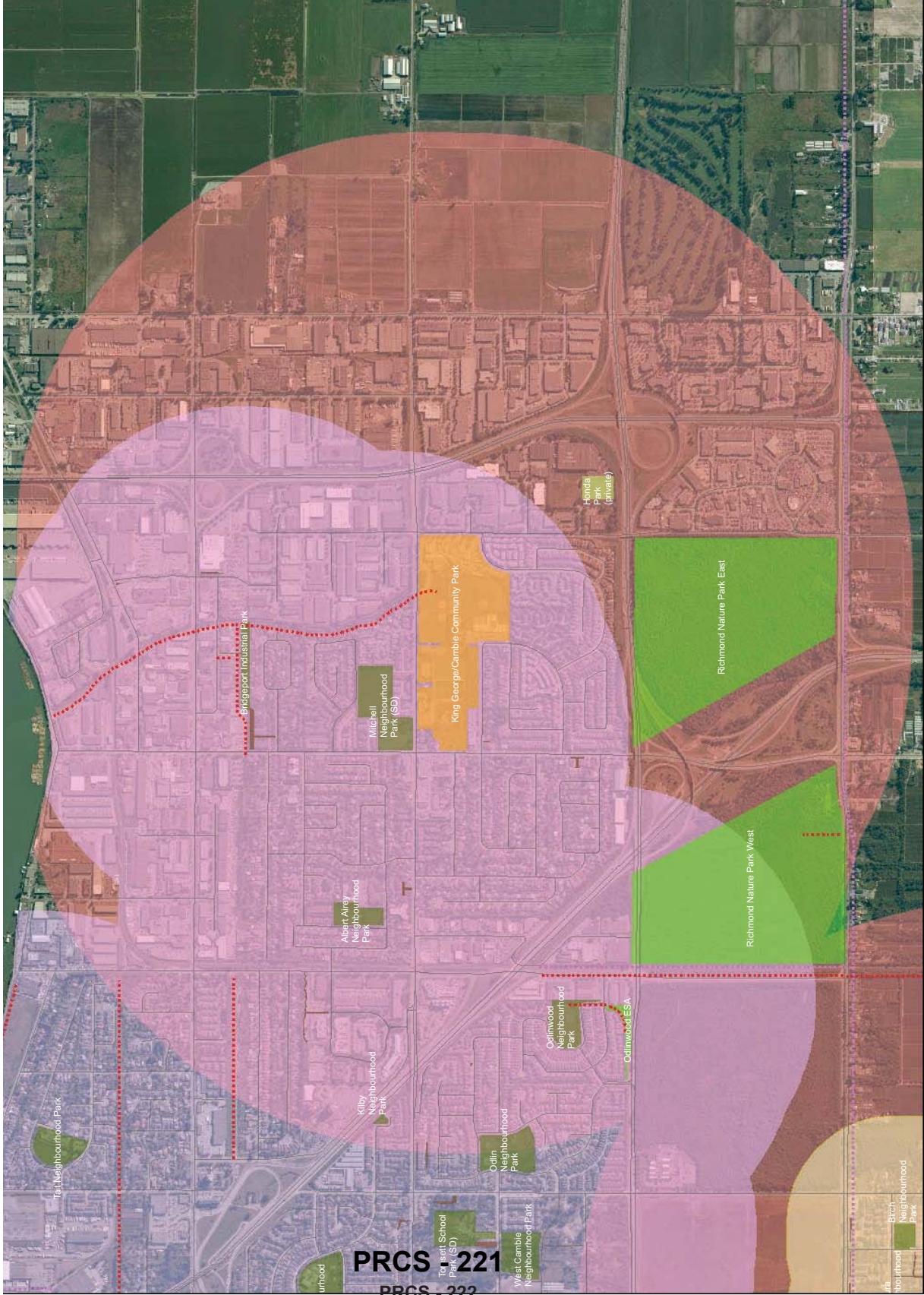
Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: City Centre



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PRCS - 221

Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: East Richmond

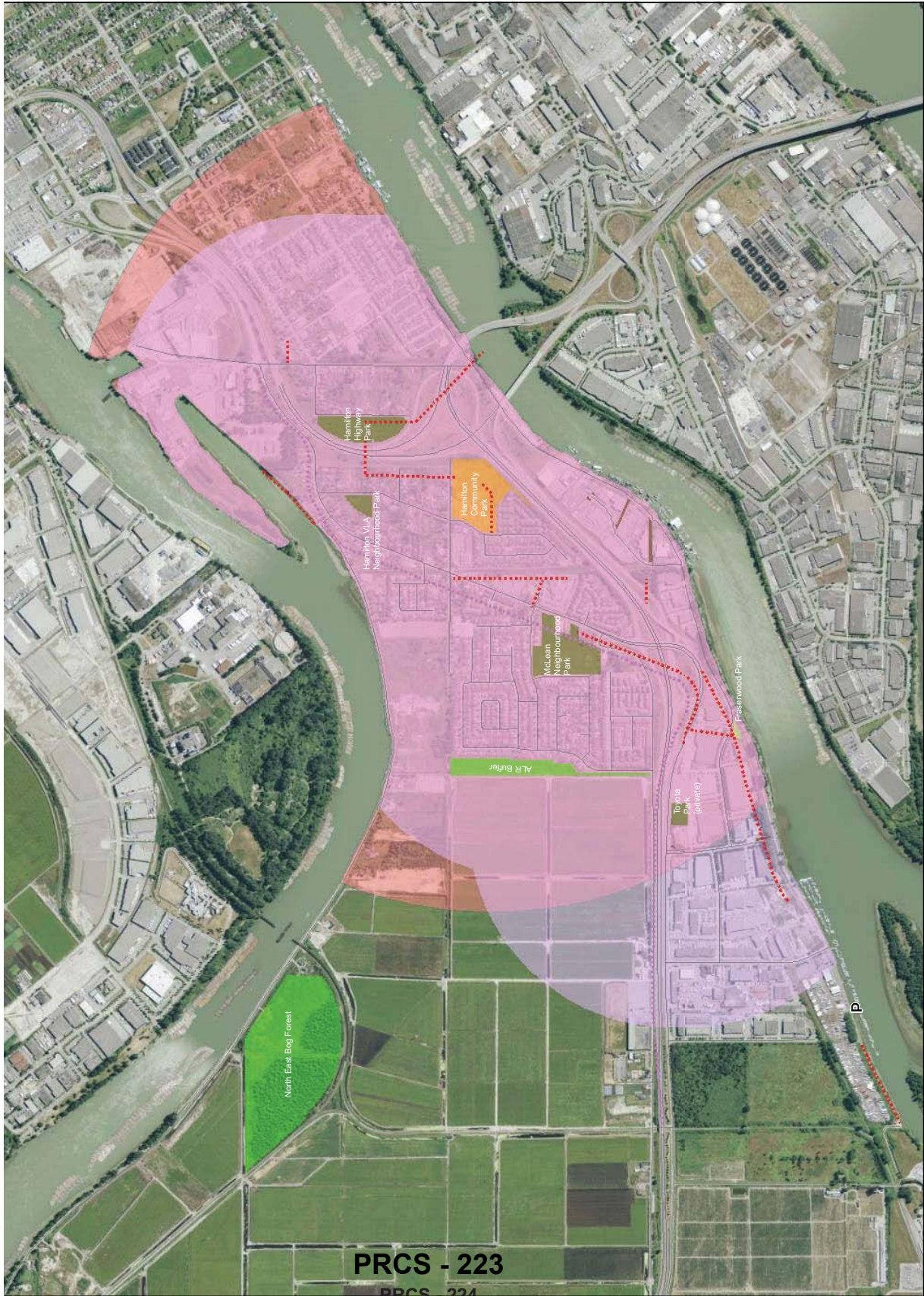


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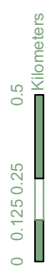
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Map 1 Current Open Space System, Eric. Edits.mxd

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PRCS - 223

Neighbourhood and Community Park Gaps: Hamilton



- BLUE NETWORK**
- F Float
 - P Pier
 - Marine Recreational Area
- TRAILS**
- Trails/Greenway
 - Cycle Route
 - Neighbourhood Links
 - City Wide Park
 - City Wide - Natural Area
 - Community Park
 - Future Park
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Regional Park / Conservation Area
- 400m from Neighbourhood Parks in City Centre
 800m from Neighbourhood Parks Outside City Can
 1500m from Community Parks



Base data provided by the City of Richmond Hill
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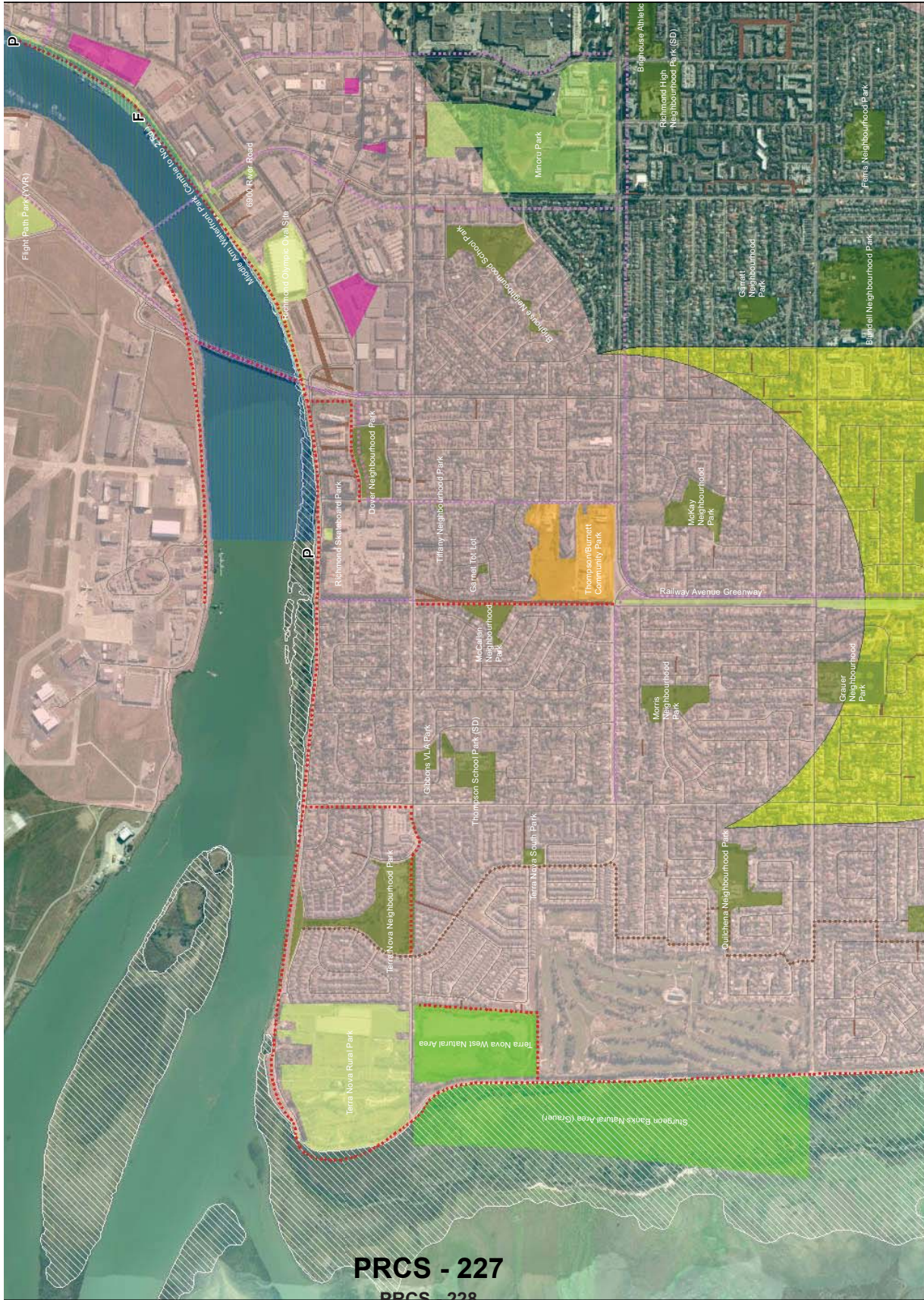
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Trails Service Areas & Gaps: Sea Island

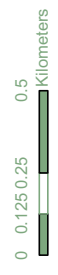


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Trails Service Areas & Gaps: Middle Arm / West Dyke



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 - P Pier
 - Marine Recreational Area
- TRAILS**
- Trails/Greenway
 - Cycle Route
 - Neighbourhood Links
 - City Wide - Natural Area
 - Community Park
 - Future Park
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Regional Park / Conservation Area
 - 1000m from Trails/Greenway
 - 1000m from Trail in Progress

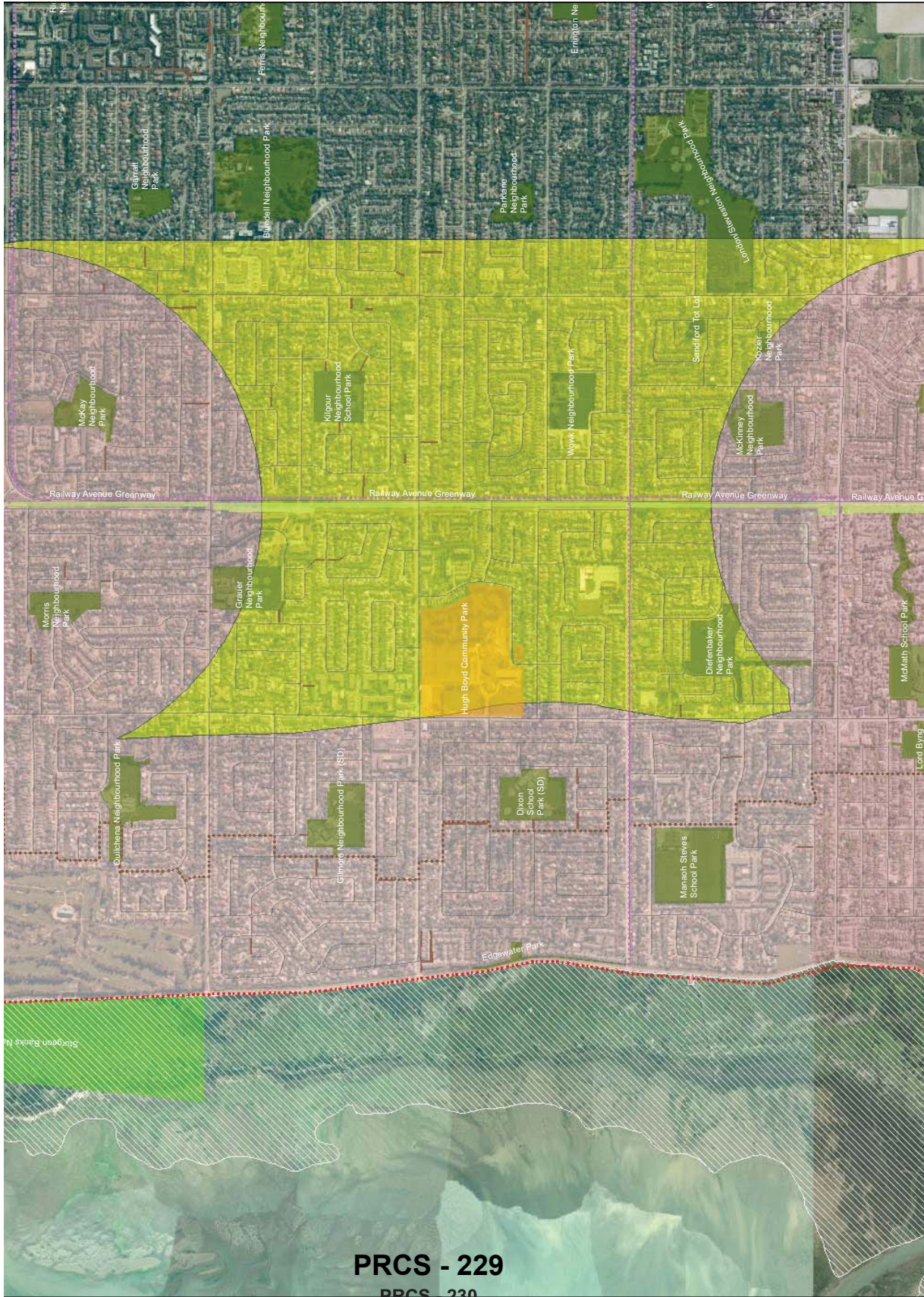


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 Map: Current Open Space System, ArcCatalog

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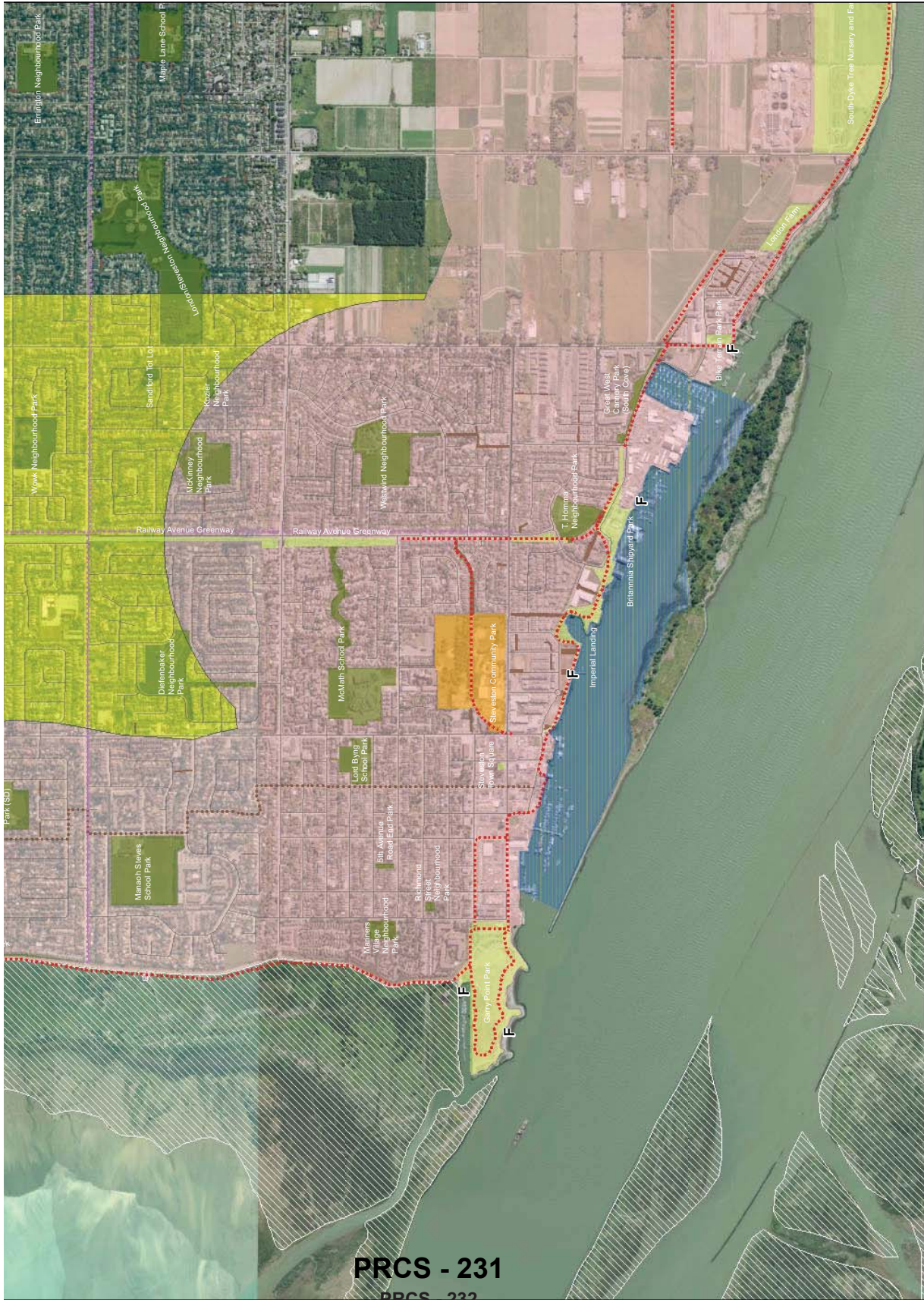
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Trails Service Areas & Gaps: West Richmond / West Dyke



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PRCS - 231

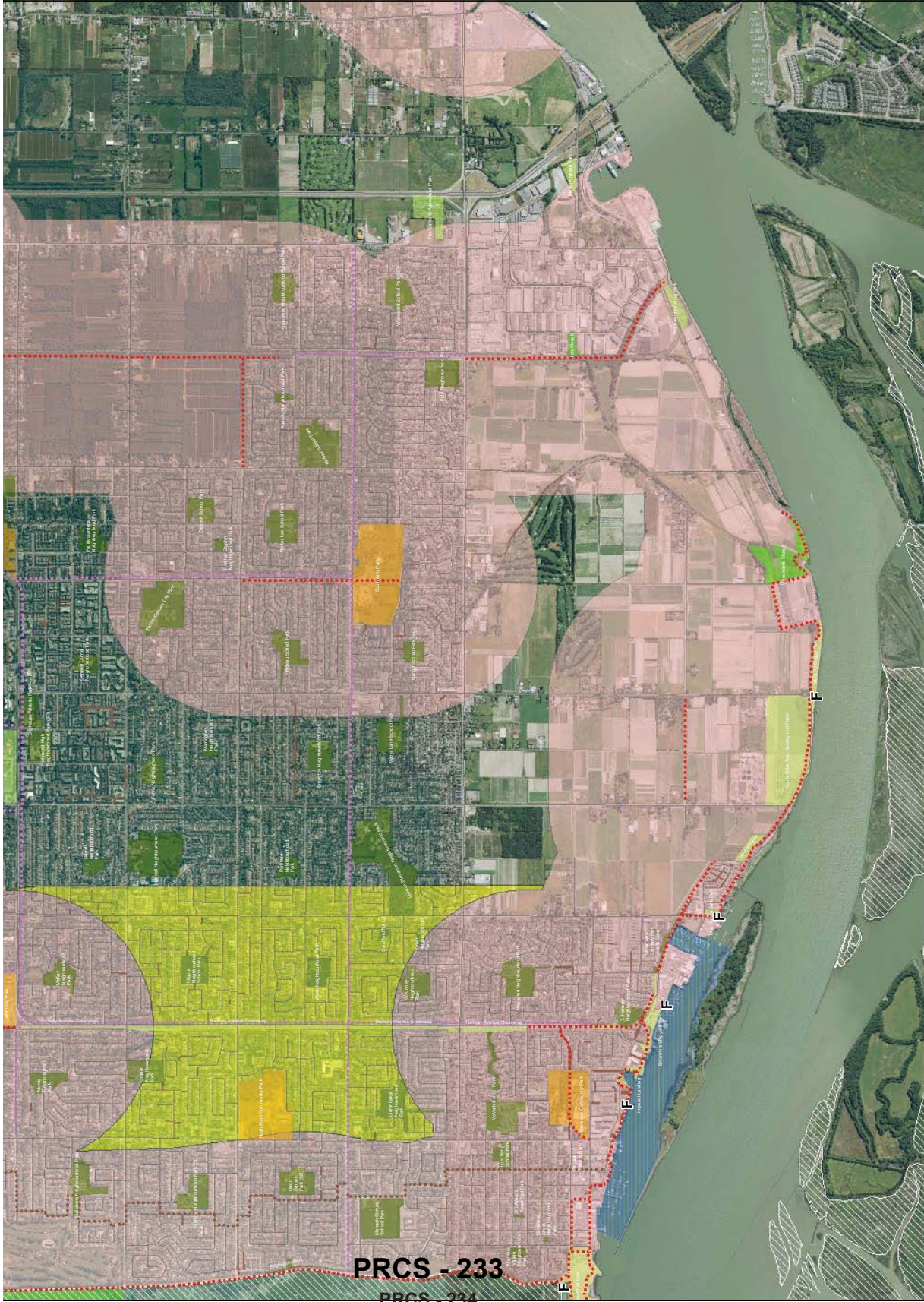
Trails Service Areas & Gaps: Steveston / South Dyke



PRCS - 231
 PRCS - 232

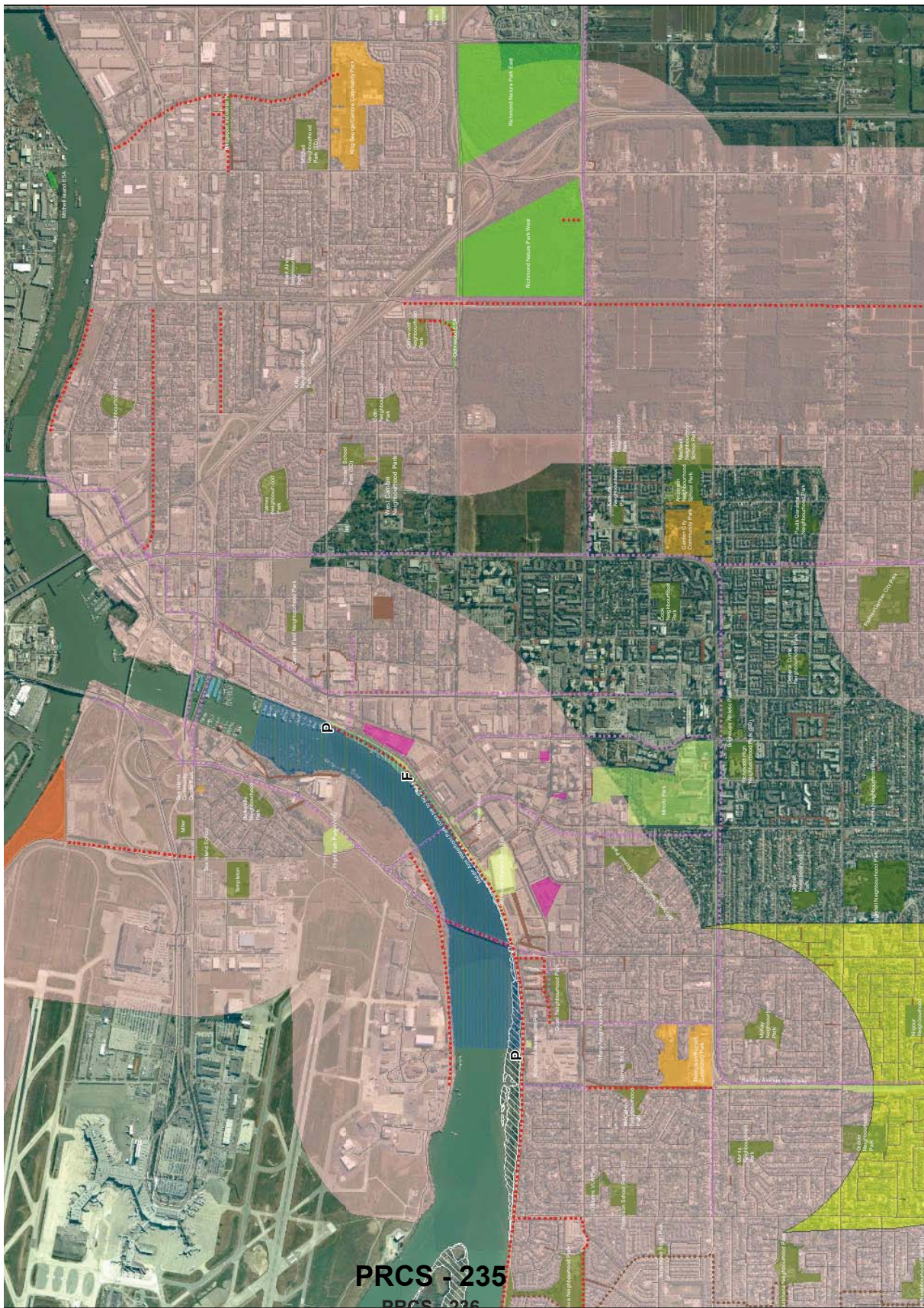
PRCS - 232
PRCS - 233

Trails Service Areas & Gaps: South Arm / South Dyke



PRCS - 234
PRCS - 235

Trails Service Areas & Gaps: City Centre



- BLUE NETWORK**
- F Float
 - P Pier
- TRAILS**
- Red dashed line: Trails/Greenway
 - Green dashed line: Cycle Route
 - Orange dashed line: Neighbourhood Limits
 - Yellow dashed line: City Wide Park
 - Light Green dashed line: City Wide - Natural Area
 - Light Orange dashed line: Community Park
 - Light Yellow dashed line: Future Park
 - Light Green dashed line: Neighbourhood Park
 - Light Orange dashed line: Regional Park / Conservation Area
 - Light Yellow dashed line: 1000m from Trails/Greenway
 - Light Green dashed line: 1000m from Trail in Progress



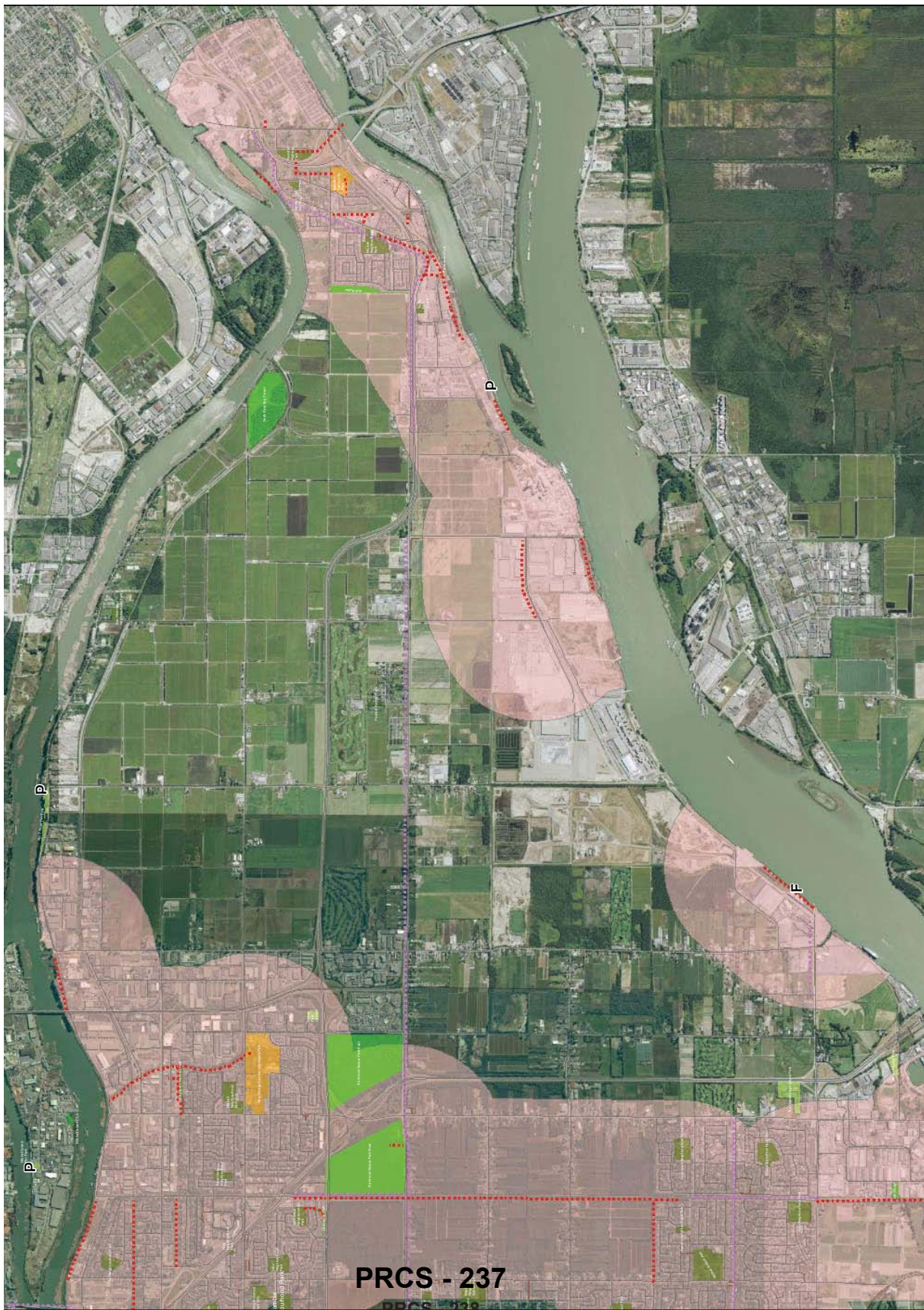
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Base data provided by the City of Richmond.
 Map created by Jillian Consulting (6/20/2012).
 Project: Parks and Open Space System Inventory
 Project: GIS 114463 - Parks and Open Space System
 Map 1 Current Open Space System_Eric_Edits_4/10

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 PRCS - 236

PRCS - 236
PRCS - 237

Trails Service Areas & Gaps: East Richmond / Hamilton

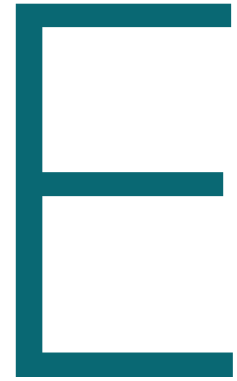


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Appendix

Public Consultation Report



PUBLIC CONSULTATION, JUNE & JULY, 2011

Richmond Parks + Open Space Strategy Summary Report



Prepared for the
CITY OF RICHMOND

Prepared by
CITYSPACES CONSULTING LTD.
Updated: November 3, 2011

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Phase One of Public Consultation for the Richmond Parks + Open Space Strategy consisted of a series of neighborhood meetings, organized through the Community Centre Associations by Parks and Recreation staff. A total of seven meetings were held during June and July 2011.

Intent of Neighborhood Meetings

The intent was inform and to obtain input on the Strategy from a cross-section of the people within the neighborhoods, from young to old with varying interests and ethnicities.

Meeting Agenda

Guided by a facilitator the meetings provided information on the process and the work completed to date. Participants were led through a series of exercises to gain insight into the seven focus areas of the Strategy. Participants were also provided an opportunity for further written feedback.

Meeting Attendees

All total seventy-one (71) people attended the seven meetings. A facilitator from CitySpaces Consulting, supported by a member of the team from Dillon Consulting, led the meetings. Richmond Parks staff attended all of the meetings.

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Overall Feedback

Most people were happy with the parks and open space system in its current form. Residents' favorite places in Richmond were overwhelmingly Steveston, the dykes and Minoru Park. Some of the insights, themes, and highlights from the meetings include the following. Provide opportunities for connection with nature and the natural environment;

- Increase opportunities for seniors to remain active;
- Consider a culturally themed, Chinese oriented, park;
- Increase communication, education and information (i.e. signage) to residents on current assets;
- Continue maintenance;
- Enhance existing parks with other features; washrooms, lighting, etc.; Increase bike routes and trail systems;
- Include places of solitude and sanctuary into the overall parks and open space system;
- Increase education related to ecosystems, resiliency and ecological networks.



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Feedback on the Focus Areas

The seven Focus Areas are Connectivity; Green Network; Great Spaces and Experiences; Blue Network; Health and Wellness; Resource Management and; Multifunctional and Diverse. Five of the Seven Focus Areas and their outcomes were reviewed at the meetings. The two not reviewed were Resource Management and Multifunctional and Diverse that focus on delivery of services and internal operations.

The participants provided comment on the outcomes most important to each participant. From the comments provided, actions were developed for utilization in the framework for the 10-year implementation plan.

Recommendations for Revisions to the Focus Areas and their Outcomes

In general, participants were comfortable with the seven Focus Areas and outcomes presented. Refinements have been identified but no substantive changes are required. Through the meetings it became clear, the Focus Areas and their Outcomes need to be reviewed to remove the use of jargon and simplify the language.

Additional Information provided from the Feedback Forms

Feedback Forms were handed out at all meetings with the exception the Youth Session, where it was felt the engagement in the session provided the necessary feedback. The intent with the Feedback Forms was to gain greater detail and insight on four topic areas including major parks; neighbourhood parks; trails, walkways and bikeways; and sustainability. Fifty one feedback (51) forms were returned and tabulated. The input gathered from the Feedback Forms was consistent with Discussions from the meetings.



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PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Phase One of Public Consultation for the Richmond Parks + Open Space Strategy consisted of a series of neighbourhood meetings, organized through the Community Centre Associations and Park staff. Key representatives from each neighbourhood were invited to participate in the interactive sessions held at the community centres. Participants included Board members, area residents, representatives from other community organizations and youth. Invitees were chosen, in order to achieve a variety of local and community opinions and ideas for the future of Parks and Open Spaces in Richmond. The intent was to obtain input from a cross-section of the people within the neighbourhoods, from young to old with varying interests and ethnicities.

The following outlines the meetings undertaken and their locations and dates.

- Youth Meeting, Olympic Oval Legacy Lounge, June 2, 2011 (11 participants)
- City Centre Community Centre, June 7, 2011 (10 participants)
- West Richmond Community Centre, June 14, 2011 (7 participants)
- Thompson Community Centre, June 9, 2011 (12 participants including Sea Island residents)
- South Arm Community Centre, June 23, 2011 (9 participants)
- Steveston Group of Eight, Harbour Offices, July 4, 2011 (approximately 10 participants)
- Multi-Cultural Group, Minoru Cultural Centre, July 27, 2011 (12 participants, all Chinese)

Due to an unprecedented number of events in June and July including Ship to Shore and OCP community events, the meetings at the Steveston Community Centre and Hamilton/East Richmond were cancelled, due to lack of attendance. Several attempts were made at re-scheduling. Feedback Forms were provided to each of these Community Centre Associations and input and feedback was gathered via the feedback forms.

Intent of Neighbourhood Meetings

The intent of the neighbourhood meetings was to:

- Provide an opportunity to understand the Parks + Open Space Strategy and why it is being done
- Inform the community on the process
- To gain input into preliminary policies called Focus Areas. The seven Focus Areas include Health and Wellness, Blue Network, Connectivity, Green Network, Great Spaces and Experiences, Multi-Functional and Diverse and Resource Management.



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Meeting Agenda

Guided by a facilitator from CitySpaces Consulting Ltd., the meeting followed the format below:

- Introduction and overview of the meeting;
- Roundtable exercise to identify people’s favorite outdoor places in Richmond overall, their favorite outdoor places in their neighbourhood, why they enjoyed these places and how they got there;
- Overview of the Strategy to date, including why it is being done, what the process is and an overview of the Focus Areas;
- Based on the responses from people’s favorite places, 2-3 Focus Areas were chosen by the facilitator. A second exercise was undertaken by participants. This entailed reading through the Focus Area Outcomes, choosing the most significant outcome from each persons perspective, identifying why it is important and how it could be implemented in the next 10 years.
- Feedback forms were provided with further detailed questions.

For a detailed summary of each meeting and a synopsis of the Feedback Forms please see the Meeting Minutes & Feedback Form Summation Report.

Meeting Attendees

According to the sign-in registration sheets, seventy-one people attended the 7 meetings held over June and July.

On hand, to inform on the project, to answer project process and municipal questions, was Jamie Esko, Park Planner. Jamie also coordinated all the meetings through the Community Centres. Other staff who attended the various meetings included:

- Mike Redpath, Manager of Parks and Recreation - attended the South Arm and Steveston meetings
- Clarence Sihoe, Park Planner - attended the City Centre and South Arm meetings
- Doug Shearer, Park Planner - attended the Youth and Thompson meetings
- Yvonne Stich, Park Planner - attended the West Richmond meeting
- Managers from each of the Community Centre’s where a meeting was held



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Project Team Attendees

Consultation Staff included:

- Colette Parsons, CitySpaces Consulting - facilitator for all meetings
- Alex Taylor, Dillon Consulting - attended the West Richmond, South Arm and Multi-Cultural meetings

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Overall Feedback

In general, most people were happy with the Parks + Open Space system in its current form. Some of the insights, themes and highlights from the meetings include the following. Residents favorite places in Richmond were overwhelmingly Steveston, in general, waterfront and dyke trails, and Minoru Park.

- There was a strong desire from the youth group to have a connection with nature and the natural environment. There was an overwhelming desire to go to quiet, natural, contemplative spaces. There was also a desire for places to have outdoor fires and covered outdoor spaces for year-round social gathering.
- The Seniors group from City Centre were highly active and are looking for opportunities to remain active. There was a desire for more washrooms, bike racks and adequately lit, wider and safe (i.e. separated) bike and community paths. Public transit to all parks was also a desire.
- The multi-cultural, Chinese group sees safety as an important factor in utilizing parks. They expressed interested in a culturally themed, Chinese oriented, park. Feedback regarding sustainability and “green themes” was provided yet it was evident that further work needed to be done to fully understand their definition of “green”.
- Greater communication, education and information (i.e. signage) to residents on the current assets. An on-line map tool was suggested so members of the public could click on a park name and all the services at that park would be indicated.
- Ensure, in the future, that park and open space assets are maintained to meet or exceed the current standards.
- Enhance existing assets, like parks and the dykes with additional amenities - washrooms, some commercial nodes along waterfront, seating areas, walking routes around existing parks
- Overwhelmingly, residents wanted to increase bike routes and trail systems making a cohesive cycling network to service centres and through the farm areas of Richmond. With the flat land of Richmond people saw an extensive network of trails, greenways and separated on street cycling routes (separate cyclists from vehicles) as a way to remain active, increase ridership, diminish the need for the automobile and reduce the size of the streets.



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- Include places of solitude and sanctuary into the overall parks and open space system
- The outcomes related to ecosystems, resiliency and ecological networks did not resonate with respondents.

It should be noted that the input gathered from the Feedback Forms was consistent with discussions from the meetings.

Favourite Places in Richmond

From the exercise to identify people's favourite outdoor places in Richmond or in their neighbourhood the overwhelming majority of people chose Steveston and the dyke system as their favourite places. In identifying Steveston, people felt there was a combination of elements from the Village and Boardwalk, to Gary Point Park and access to the dyke that made it a special place. The dyke system also ranked very high. As well, Minoru Park was highlighted as a favorite place in Richmond due to the variety of activities and facilities.

In people's neighbourhoods the dykes and Steveston continued to rank high. There was more diversity in the neighbourhood favorite places and usually it was the local park that people identified.

Below is a tabulation of the responses.

No. of Responses	FAVOURITE PLACE: Richmond
25	Steveston (dykes and Parks including Britannia Heritage Shipyard Park)
12	Minoru Park
8	Garry Point Park
8	Dyke System
6	South Arm Community Park
2	Terra Nova Park
2	Garden City Community Park
1	River Road
1	Finn Slough
1	McDonald Beach
1	Shell Road Trail
2	King George Community Park
1	Iona Island
1	Thompson Community Centre



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No. of Responses	FAVOURITE PLACE: Neighbourhood
8	Steveston - Boardwalk, Village and Garry Point
7	The Dykes
7	Minoru Park
4	South Arm Community Park
4	Garden City Community Park
4	Hugh Boyd Community Park
3	South Arm Community Park
2	Shell Road Trail
2	Blundell Neighbourhood Park
2	Thompson Community Park
1	The Steveston Docks
1	Parklane Neighbourhood Park
1	McKinney Neighbourhood Park & Playground
1	River Road
1	Kingswood Neighbourhood School Park
1	Terra Nova
1	Wowk Neighbourhood Park
1	Kidd Neighbourhood School
1	McKinney Neighbourhood Park



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Feedback on the Focus Areas

The seven Focus Areas are Connectivity; Green Network; Great Spaces and Experiences; Blue Network; Health and Wellness; Resource Management and; Multifunctional and Diverse. Five of the Seven Focus Areas and their outcomes were reviewed at the meetings. The two not reviewed were Resource Management and Multifunctional and Diverse that focus on delivery of services and internal operations.

The participants provided input on the outcomes most important to each participant. Participant comments are indicated in the comment column. From the comments provided, the consultant team developed a series of relevant actions.

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Connectivity - City Centre, Thompson, Multi-Cultural Group and Steveston

Three groups, City Centre, Thompson, and the Multi-Cultural reviewed the outcomes for the Connectivity Focus Area. The following is a synopsis of comments and potential actions.

No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
1	Connects every element of the city (neighbourhoods, schools, civic spaces, neighbourhood service centres, parks, natural areas, streets, commercial areas and industrial parks) in a legible manner	15	<p>Many participants found this outcome a significant one for the community and a future desired outcome. Specific comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Richmond is flat more walking and cycling paths will lead to greater use Ensure integration of Chinese values into trails, parks and open spaces. Need to connect to the vast number of people exercising in the malls. Communicate how people can move around The word legible needed to be explained to some participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand walking and cycling network to connect Richmond together Start with City Centre and work outwards Separate walking and cycling paths from traffic and provide adequate lighting, signage Determine needs of the multi-cultural communities and integrate their needs into trails, parks and open spaces e.g. consider an asian-themed park Set up an on line interactive map of parks, open spaces and trails e.g. BCSLA web atlas. This could be available at key destinations, like, shopping centres



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No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
2	Is accessible, inclusive, and safe, enabling residents and visitors to feel comfortable and connected to the community and the environment.	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By providing qualities expressed in this outcome will connect people together. People felt a park system that is accessible, inclusive and safe is a reflection of the social health of the community Safety is important to a harmonious society Park facility and environmental safety seen as important too 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure isolated dyke trails are connected into the overall system Consider age needs, physical needs, culture and language in the development of parks Emphasize comfort, accessibility, nature and convenience Consider balancing Outcomes 2 & 3 between human needs and environmental needs
3	Provides strong linkages between important ecological features to enhance citywide ecological function.	3	This outcome did not resonate as much with respondents. People wanted to better understand the impacts to Richmond's ecological systems on their day to day life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and communicate with citizens to raise awareness and build shared values regarding ecological features and functions within Richmond. Consider age, culture and language in communicating on ecological features and functions.
4	Promotes a culture of walking and cycling and supports a range of active transportation modes.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider foot and bike traffic only in congested areas, and shuttle services Punch streets and greenway through super-blocks Provide a safe bike route on every street Improve current walking and biking trails as not everyone owns a car 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the walking and cycling network to connect Richmond utilizing existing roadway width to introduce bike lanes, slow traffic down, increase physical activity and reduce air pollution. Separate walking and cycling paths from traffic and provide adequate lighting, signage. Copenhagen was cited as an example. Consider defining bike vs. walk areas on busy parts of the dyke

Health and Wellness - City Centre, West Richmond

Two neighbourhood groups, City Centre and West Richmond, reviewed the outcomes for the Health and Wellness Focus Area. The following is a synopsis of comments and potential actions.

No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
1	Is inviting and welcoming to residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be well maintained to encourage use • Need to think of who will be future residents and gear parks needs to those users i.e. Chinese, Japanese, East Indian • Shelter, trees, plazas and places to sit, increase walk/bike trails, bike racks, water fountains and recycling desired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the appropriate level of service for each park and communicate maintenance information with the Community • Work with ethnic communities to determine their needs in parks • Review existing parks to determine what additional features would make it inviting
2	Ensures that residents of every neighbourhood have equal access to safe, appealing places to walk, exercise, play, socialize and engage in a healthy, active lifestyle.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New communities should have the same access to safe and appealing parks as the older neighbourhoods. May not be possible to deliver this to all areas of Richmond • More pocket green spaces to rest along the way • More options for exercise for young and old. i.e. basketball hoops for youth and walking/playing games for seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine distance measures to neighbourhood parks and facilities • Increase neighbourhood parks as the population increases • Review existing parks to determine what additional features would add value to them
3	Provides a full range of spaces for gatherings, sports, events and quiet sanctuaries within the city.	8	The term sanctuary and providing it in parks seemed important to many respondents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing parks to determine how to incorporate the concept of sanctuary



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Great Spaces & Experiences - Thompson and Steveston

One neighbourhood group, Thompson, reviewed the outcomes for the Great Spaces & Experiences Focus Area. The following is a synopsis of comments and potential actions.

No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
1	Significantly contribute to the city’s vibrancy and identity through a rich variety of special places, features and activities.	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate the diversity of Richmond Increased cultural, heritage, and other events and activities Offer specialized facilities at major parks Add art to parks Utilize school spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community organizations to diversify events Incorporate meeting places and spaces, such as, covered seating areas, into existing parks Incorporate art into more parks Work with the School District to increase utilization of school space
2	Enhances Richmond’s status as an exceptional regional and international destination.	0	This did not resonate with respondents. Our sense is that people would prefer to have spaces and experiences for Richmond residents first. If that attracts others it would be a bonus.	Ensure experiences are developed first for the local community with an added benefit of drawing regional, national and potentially international attention.
3	Showcases the city’s unique landscape, food, arts and culture and supports the city’s signature festivals, sports, tournaments and events.	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desire for greater communications to highlight what facilities are available and what is happening Option to host tournaments and highlight what is unique about Richmond e.g. dragon boating on the Middle Arm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As discussed in Connectivity Actions, set up an on line interactive map of parks, open spaces and trails Ensure appropriate parking and street closures for events
4	Brings life to Richmond’s natural and cultural heritage through active engagement, education and interpretation.	5	Desire for greater interactive education and communications to highlight what is available and happening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider planning and investing in a communications tool to inform, educate and communicate Increase access to and content of heritage assets e.g. Britannia



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Blue Network - City Centre and Steveston

One neighbourhood group, City Centre, reviewed the outcomes for the Blue Network Focus Area. The following is a synopsis of comments and potential actions.

No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
1	Celebrates and protects the recreational and ecological values of our waterfront, sloughs, wetlands and canals	1	Ecology needs to be incorporated into all aspects of the City from the Centre out to the dykes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that ecology figures prominently in all aspects of Richmond's Parks and Open Spaces, not just the waterfront. Engage and communicate with citizens to raise awareness and build shared values regarding ecological features and functions within Richmond. Use interpretive signage as a communication tool.
2	Showcases a world-class waterfront that provides a variety of activities and multiple destinations	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People love the access to the dykes and the waterfront and are looking for ways to enhance it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider incorporating washrooms, art, lighting where appropriate, seating, access to touch the water, and other features.
3	Provides experiences of the waterfront and waterways that reflect the cultural and ecological uniqueness of our island city heritage	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep an aspect of the waterfront true to its natural, industrial and water related activities. Each neighbourhood should develop its waterfront so there are a series of experiences 	Establish waterfront guidelines, by area, to create a variety of experiences along its length
4	Integrates water into the urban fabric in creative and innovative way	3	There is a desire for access to the water through boardwalks or enlarge canals. Although others felt it was important to maintain and respect the industrial businesses along the water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide locations where people can interface with the water Improve the access to the water along the waterfront



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Green Network - West Richmond, South Arm and Steveston

Two neighbourhood groups, West Richmond and South Arm, reviewed the outcomes for the Green Network Focus Area. The following is a synopsis of comments and potential actions.

No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
1	Is an integrated green network of parks, plazas, streets, greenways, trails, urban forests, natural areas, playing fields, and gardens that form a fundamental building block of a livable, and healthy city.	5	Desire to have this done well, keeping standards up, maintaining what exists and improving to an even greater inter-connectedness between parks, plazas, streets, greenways, trails, urban forest, and gardens.	Ensure the appropriate level of service and maintenance information for each park is communicated to the local community
2	Protects and creates a range of green spaces from the built to the natural that supports recreation, social interaction, and psychological and spiritual renewal.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green spaces create inner tranquility which is needed in a city setting People value green spaces, farmland and natural areas and want natural settings Concern for both protecting and maintaining existing green spaces and for acquiring for the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to balance the range of parks, greenway and open space opportunities to ensure natural and agricultural settings are incorporated into the overall system Develop an appropriate interface with agricultural lands so that farming is integrated into the green network
3	Contributes significantly to the conservation and enhancement of the ecological network of resilient and healthy eco-systems.	0	This outcome did not resonate with participants	Consider a strong education program with the community to build awareness and understanding of the concepts of ecological networks, resiliency and healthy eco-systems.



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No.	Outcome	Total No. of Responses	Comments	Actions
4	Incorporate innovative ecosystem services, that ensure biodiversity, clean water and air and that are integrated with many other parks and open space uses.	1	Biodiversity protects habitats and environments. Improves water/air that we all drink and breath. Can innovative bylaws address the management of ecologically sensitive areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear guidelines for incorporating ecosystem services into park and open spaces. • Consider a recycling pilot project for Steveston



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Recommendations for Revisions to the Focus Areas

Overall the use of jargon in the outcome statements should be reviewed. Words like legible do not have clear meaning to all people. Consider the use of a glossary to explain the intent of words or terms if they need to remain in the outcome statements.

Connectivity - Outcome 1 & 2: Consider removing the reference to the environment in Outcome 2 and strengthening it in Outcome 1 as follows.

- **Outcome 1:** “Connects every element of the city (neighbourhoods, schools, civic spaces, neighbourhood service centres, parks, environmental and natural areas, streets, commercial areas and industrial parks) in an organized and easily discoverable manner.”
- **Outcome 2:** Is accessible, inclusive, and safe, enabling residents and visitors to feel comfortable and connected to the community.”

Health and Wellness - Outcome 1 is very similar to Outcome 2 in Connectivity. Consider removing Outcome 1 from Health and Wellness and strengthening Outcome 2 in the Connectivity Outcomes, building on previous changes above.

- **Connectivity Outcome 2:** “Is inviting, welcoming, accessible, inclusive, and safe, enabling residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds to feel comfortable and connected to the community.”
- **Health & Wellness Outcome 2:** As cycling was so strongly supported in the discussions consider adding it to this outcome as follows. “Ensures that residents of every neighbourhood have equal access to safe, appealing places to walk, cycle, exercise, play, socialize and engage in a healthy, active lifestyle.”

Great Spaces & Experiences - Outcome 2: While becoming an international destination may be a City desire, the respondents felt it was more important to focus on the locals and regional residents. It was felt that If international exposure comes out of it there is a benefit to the City but it should not necessarily be a focus. Consider revising as follows.

- **Outcome 2:** “Enhances Richmond’s status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination.

Blue Network - No further revisions recommended.

Green Network - Consider the following refinement.

Outcome 1: “Is an integrated green network of parks, plazas, streets, greenways, trails, urban forests, natural areas, (agricultural lands) that form a fundamental building block of a livable, and healthy city.”



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Conclusion

In closing, the meetings were well attended and were a success.

At the end of each feedback form the following question was posed. “Have you found this session informative? Engaging? Any suggestions for improvements?” The feedback from those that answered the question (approximately half the respondents) indicated overwhelmingly that they found the session engaging and informative. Specific comments included

- Small groups are good especially with all ages and ethnicities
- Better than anticipated
- Very engaging!

One responder indicated that they would have like more time for further discussion.

The multi-cultural group, predominantly asian, appreciated their own session and hoped, in the future, there would be opportunities for similar sessions to provide input.

The community input sessions were a success due to

- included of variety of people from all ages, ethnicities, social-economic backgrounds
- drew people in through through an icebreaker exercise to start the meeting
- provided succinct and defined information on a specific topic
- incorporated interactive exercises
- provided time for hearing varying viewpoints and allowing discussion

Also working through the Community Centres provided access to a group of individual community members representing the interests of each neighbourhood.

Future parks and recreation engagement sessions should work through the community centres to find the appropriate members of the public for participation, should incorporate a series information and engagements tactics to gain input and provide opportunities for small group discussion as well as general input through open houses or on-line surveys.



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Additional Information provided from the Feedback Forms

Feedback Forms were handed out to the various Community Centre and Stakeholder Groups with the exception the Youth Session, where it was felt the engagement in the session provided the necessary feedback. The intent with the Feedback Forms was to gain greater detail and insight on four topic areas including major parks; neighbourhood parks; trails, walkways and bikeways; and sustainability. Fifty one (51) feedback forms were returned and tabulated. The following is a synopsis of the findings. A detailed summary can be found in the Richmond Parks and Open Space Strategy: Meeting Minutes & Feedback Forms Summation Report.

Question 1: Major Parks	
Are you familiar with Richmond’s major parks?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 Yes • 4 Marginally/So-so • 3 Most of them
Please name a few you know.	The majority of respondents named Minoru (43 responses) and Gary Point Park (35) as the parks they were most familiar with. King George, South Arm and Garden City and Terra Nova Parks also received high responses.
Are there any barriers to using the major parks versus your neighbourhood park?	The majority of respondents (24) indicated that there were no barriers to using major parks in Richmond. Some respondents indicated distance (14), transportation (4) and parking (1) as barriers.
What kinds of events would you like to see in Richmond’s major parks?	The majority of respondents choose on events (33) including music, food, entertainment, multi-cultural events, sports (9) and family oriented activities (5) as some of the feature events they would like to see in the major parks.

Question 2: Neighbourhood Parks	
Name the closest neighbourhood park to where you live?	South Arm (10), Minoru (6) and Thompson (6) were the parks most identified. A variety of twenty other parks were identified.
Are there any barriers to using your neighbourhood park?	The majority of respondents (41) indicated that there were no barriers to using neighbourhood parks in Richmond. No other strong themes emerged out of this question.
What kinds of features or activities would you like to see in your neighbourhood park?	There was a variety of responses from people liking their neighbourhood parks as they are now (9) to events (music/ concerts/food/entertainment/multicultural) (13) to games and sports (8). People friendly places were cited (6) as well as better signage/lighting/maintenance (5) and new and upgrades to play equipment (4).



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Question 3: Trails, Walkways and Bikeways	
Do you walk or cycle in your neighbourhood and which do you do?	The majority of respondents identified both walking and cycling (42).
Do you have convenient access to a trail?	While the majority of respondents (27) identified that they lived close to a trail, a significant number (17) indicated that they did not have convenient access to a trail or the trail system.
What improvements would you like to see in your local trail system?	Some respondents (8) identified better integration/connectivity/accessibility as improvements. Others identified fountains/washrooms/seating areas (6) and better signage and lighting (5). One comment that came up in the feedback forms and was discussed at the meetings was the concept of a continuous walk along the waterfront without interruptions or dead ends.

The numbers related to questions on sustainability speak for themselves.

Question 4: Sustainability	Support	Non-support	Neutral
Are you supportive of the following sustainability measures in parks, open spaces and trails:			
+ Using park and other public open spaces for green infrastructure like stormwater management or alternative energy generation	38	3	7
+ Using parks and other open spaces (i.e. streets) for farmers markets	32	9	7
+ Utilizing parks and other city owned land for community gardens or urban agriculture	34	7	7
+ Increasing the number of walkways, trails and bikeways through neighbourhoods connecting to neighbourhood commercial centres, Canada Line stations and community centres	42	3	3



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A long form survey was provided to those Community Centres where meetings were not held due to scheduling and lack of participation. The long form surveys were given to the East Richmond/Hamilton and Steveston Community Centres. Several members from Steveston “Group of 8” also filled out the long form survey. Three additional questions were asked in the long form survey. They included:

- *Please write down your favourite outdoor space in Richmond:* Steveston and Minoru were identified.
- *Indicate why it is your favourite place:* Similar to the meetings it was natural beauty, socializing, access to water. Several people indicated Historical sites as why it was their favourite place.
- *Name your favourite neighbourhood park and why it is your favourite:* Gary Point and Hamilton Parks were identified.
- *What do you think could be done to improve parks and open spaces in your neighbourhood?* Either nothing or more trees, benches and maintenance were identified.



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