



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** October 20, 2023

From: Keith Miller, Director, Recreation and Sport Services **File:** 11-7000-10-01/2023-Vol 01

Re: **Sports Facility Needs Assessment – Community Association and Society Engagement Update**

Staff Recommendation

That the prioritized sport facility and infrastructure list be received and endorsed for consideration in future corporate facility or park plans as outlined in the staff report titled “Richmond Sports Facility Needs Assessment – Community Association and Society Engagement Update”, dated October 20, 2023, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.

Keith Miller
 Director, Recreation and Sport Services
 (604-247-4475)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Facility Services & Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the September 24, 2019, Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Committee meeting staff received the following referral:

That Staff work with the Richmond Sports Council and other stakeholders to develop a City of Richmond sport facility and infrastructure priority list for consideration in future corporate facility or park plans;

At the September 28, 2021, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting staff received a secondary referral:

That East Richmond and Hamilton areas be included as potential sites for sport amenities in the Sports Council Facility Priorities Task Force.

At the June 10, 2019, Council meeting, staff received the following referral:

That the proposal and supporting documents from the Richmond Tennis Club be referred to staff to be considered with the City's Long Term Facility Plan.

At the July 17, 2023, Council meeting staff received the following referral:

That the staff report titled "Richmond Sports Facility Needs Assessment – 2023 Update" be referred back to staff for additional consultation.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of additional consultation on the sports facility needs assessment, along with recommended next steps for Council consideration. This report also includes consideration of the Richmond Tennis Club proposal and a review of projects that could be considered for the East Richmond and Hamilton areas.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #4 Responsible Financial Management and Governance:

Responsible financial management and efficient use of public resources to meet the needs of the community.

4.2 Seek improvements and efficiencies in all aspects of City business.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

This report supports the following action from the City of Richmond Wellness Strategy 2018-2023:

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

This report supports the following action from the Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024:

Active People and Vibrant Places: 4. Provide inclusive, safe and welcoming facilities and spaces for recreation and sports programs and services.

Background

In June 2018, Richmond Sports Council presented the “Richmond Sports Council’s Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2018” to the General Purposes Committee, which summarized a list of requests and recommendations received from their member organizations. Initial assessment of the list showed that a number of the items required further review to understand the need and the priority of each item. Furthermore, it was identified that in order to develop a comprehensive prioritized list of sports facility and infrastructure requests that meet both the current and future needs of the sport community, a more fulsome assessment was required.

To build upon the work completed by Richmond Sports Council in 2018, staff worked with a Facilities Task Force (the Task Force) made up of representatives from School District No. 38 (Richmond), Richmond Sport Hosting and Richmond Sports Council to complete an expanded stakeholder engagement with local sport organizations and user groups, and to develop a Sport Facility Prioritization Framework (the Framework) to rank identified projects. The criteria used in the Framework are outlined in Attachment 1 and a list of representatives on the Task Force can be found in Attachment 2.

In July 2023, the Sport Facility and Infrastructure Prioritized List (the Prioritized List) was endorsed by the Task Force and Richmond Sports Council as well as presented to Council. Subsequently, staff were directed to complete additional consultation on the Prioritized List with the community associations and societies that provide community recreation services at the City’s community centres and arenas.

It should be highlighted that several significant amenity replacement or improvement projects have been completed, or are in progress since this assessment began. Completed projects include synthetic sport field upgrades at multiple parks, the installation of nine pickleball courts, upgrades to sand fields, the resurfacing of the Clement Track at Minoru Park and the purchase and upgrade of the Richmond Curling Centre. In addition, the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre project is in progress and the Hugh Boyd Community Facility and Fieldhouse was approved by Council as a Phase 2 Major Facilities Project for the period of 2016–2026.

Analysis

Consultation Process

In September 2023, a survey to elicit feedback on the Prioritized List and identify any additional sport facility needs was sent to the following community associations and societies:

- City Centre Community Association;
- East Richmond Community Association;
- Hamilton Community Association;
- Richmond Arenas Community Association (RACA);
- Sea Island Community Association;
- South Arm Community Association;
- Steveston Community Society;
- Thompson Community Association; and
- West Richmond Community Association.

In addition to the survey, staff attended each of the above organizations' monthly board meeting to provide an overview of the project, present the Prioritized List, review the survey questions and discuss questions about the project.

Once survey responses were received, staff met and followed up with representatives from the associations/societies to present and discuss the findings as well as ensure their feedback was accurately captured.

Consultation Results

Survey responses were received from each of the association/society boards, and their feedback regarding sport facility needs is summarized in Attachment 3.

Of the nine respondents, eight of the community associations/societies supported the Prioritized List, with only the East Richmond Community Association indicating they did not, citing that the distribution of sport facilities in Richmond from west to east is unbalanced and suggesting that too much priority was given to baseball and softball facilities. Additionally, although the South Arm Community Association supported the list, they indicated that the Synthetic Turf Multi-Sport Field should be ranked higher than the Synthetic Turf Infield.

The majority of community associations/societies shared a desire to have facilities built in their neighbourhoods. Although site selection falls outside the scope of this project, these preferences will be reviewed further as part of a subsequent site assessment and selection process that will be required to determine recommended project sites for Council consideration.

Similar to the items identified in both the Richmond Sports Council's Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2018 and the expanded stakeholder engagement with the local sports community, all associations/societies expressed the need to maintain existing sport facilities and identified potential infrastructure improvements such as resurfacing and upgrading basketball and tennis courts, improving field drainage, upgrading lighting, adding water fountains and spectator seating, and improving site signage. Several items regarding general park amenities were also

noted, including additional multi-use pathways, green space, outdoor circuit training equipment, dog park improvements and trail maintenance. While these items are out of the scope of this assessment, staff will continue to address these needs in collaboration with local sport organizations and community associations through annual asset maintenance and aging infrastructure renewal projects and through the upcoming Parks Asset Management Strategy, which is currently being developed.

A few comments were received that expressed the need for facilities that are either already well provided across the City or are already in progress. For example, additional outdoor tennis and basketball courts are currently well provided across the City; although as many associations/societies noted, these existing facilities would benefit from enhanced maintenance and improvements, including resurfacing and upgrading of equipment and amenities such as nets and seating. In addition, the future Capstan Community Centre will provide an indoor gymnasium suitable for badminton, pickleball, basketball and other gymnasium sports.

No new major sport facilities and infrastructure projects were identified through the consultation with the community associations and societies, and all but the East Richmond Community Association endorsed the list as presented. Furthermore, findings from this consultation were shared with the Task Force and Richmond Sports Council, and both reaffirmed their support for the Prioritized List.

Engagement with the community associations/societies, confirmed that the projects identified in the proposed Prioritized List accurately reflects the needs of the Richmond community.

Sport Facility and Infrastructure Prioritized List – Priority Projects

Those projects that ranked highest are prioritized in Table 1. The relative rank of each of the 14 projects remains unchanged and was determined by assessing each project with the Framework's criteria using supporting research, data and information that was gathered about each project. The estimated cost was determined through a Class D costing exercise, which has a potential variance of up to ± 50 per cent. Project costs will also vary as the scope and program for each facility is confirmed. These projects are experiencing increasing participation rates, are demonstrating growth in demand, are multipurpose in nature, meet the needs of multiple sport and community groups, and/or may also offer opportunity for unstructured use, benefiting the overall community. These projects align with major facility and parks planning processes and are recommended to move forward in future corporate facility or park plans in the one to ten year timeframe.

Table 1 – Sport Facility and Infrastructure Prioritized List – Priority Projects

Rank	Project	Description	Estimated Cost (Class D Estimate)
1.	Outdoor Pickleball Courts	An outdoor pickleball venue holding nine courts with lighting, including court surfacing, lining and netting.	\$1.43M
2.	Athletics Track and Field Facility	A rubberized track facility with amenities to support athletic events and community sport, and recreation needs, including lighting.	\$13.5M
3.	Synthetic Turf Infield	A synthetic turf baseball and softball infield with a portable mound, full size backstop, and fencing.	\$520K
4.	Covered Lacrosse Box	A covered lacrosse box for year-round use with a sport court surface and lines for multiple activities (lacrosse, ball hockey, soccer, tai chi), lighting, boards, team and officials benches, and movable bleacher seating.	\$8.4M
5.	Synthetic Turf Multi-Sport Field	A synthetic turf field for soccer, football and other field sports, including perimeter and end zone fencing, team benches, officials’ area, and lighting.	\$4.3M
6.	Steveston/London Softball Diamond	A softball diamond at the north end of Steveston/London field with gyro infield, backstop, dugouts, lighting and seasonal fencing. Includes shifting existing soccer and football field to the southern end of the park.	\$2.3M

Sports Facility and Infrastructure Prioritized List – Projects for Future Review

Projects that ranked lower on the Prioritized List are outlined in priority order in Table 2 below and are not recommended by staff to move forward at this time. Staff will continue to monitor and review these projects and should factors change, such as an increase in community need, or partnerships or funding opportunities be identified, staff will re-score the project and if merited, present it along with the most recent evidence to City Council for consideration.

Table 2 – Sports Facility and Infrastructure Prioritized List – Projects for Future Review

Rank	Project	Description	Estimated Cost (Class D Estimate)
7.	Richmond Tennis Bubble	A seasonal covering for two existing outdoor courts for fall and winter use.	\$3.1M
8.	Rugby Change Room Facilities	A replacement change room facility to support rugby league play.	\$700K*
9.	Wrestling Mat Space	An indoor multi-purpose space for wrestling with appropriate storage for wrestling mats.	\$4.0M
10.	Gymnastics Centre	A replacement facility, double in size, with large floor, foam pit and apparatus areas, with kitchen area, change rooms, reception, administration, and viewing area to support recreational and high performance gymnastics.	\$2.65M – \$5.3M**
11.	Multi-Sport Fieldhouse	A multi-sport indoor field house with indoor playing surfaces, multi-purpose space that supports year round use by a variety of sports and community recreation activities, including tournaments and community events.	\$88.0M – \$142.0M
12.	Richmond Tennis Clubhouse Renovation	Renovation of the existing tennis clubhouse to replace aging infrastructure and improve accessibility for recreational and competitive use.	\$1.12M
13.	Outdoor Archery Range	An outdoor archery range that meets Federation of Canadian Archers standards for event hosting.	\$2.2M
14.	Archery and Air Gun Facility	A replacement facility for air gun and archery training and competition.	\$2.0M**

* A like-for-like modular replacement facility.

** Tenant improvement of a shell space, does not include ongoing lease costs for the space.

East Richmond and Hamilton

Potential projects that were previously identified for consideration in East Richmond and Hamilton areas include an athletics track and field facility, a synthetic turf infield, and a synthetic turf sports field. As an outcome of engagement with the association/societies, pickleball courts and a covered lacrosse box will also be considered in the Hamilton area. Further review, as described in the “Next Steps” section below, will be required to determine recommended project sites for Council consideration.

Next Steps

Project scoring is based on current data available at the time of project evaluation. As new information becomes available and/or circumstances change, the scoring and ranked order of the projects could shift. It is also possible that new sport facility and infrastructure priorities emerge as a result of changes in the sport landscape. If either of these occur, staff will score the project using the Framework and if warranted, present the project for Council consideration.

This evaluation is the first step in the planning process. Although each project will have its unique considerations, further detailed planning and analysis will be required for each project to move forward, including:

- Confirmation of sport participation levels, community needs and benefits;
- Program development;
- Site assessment and selection;
- Refinement of capital and operating costs; and
- Public engagement and consultation.

With this information, staff would then bring forward each project for Council consideration through a specific report(s) or capital submission as appropriate for each. As with all capital submissions, any project that moves forward will be further ranked using the Council approved capital ranking criteria. Depending on the type and size of each facility or infrastructure project, the timeframe for completion could range from approximately one to seven years.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The continued provision of modern and well-maintained facilities that meet the current and future needs of residents is fundamental to supporting sport and physical activity in Richmond. As the population grows, and as sport and active recreation opportunities in the City continue to evolve and diversify, so do the demands for new, refurbished, and diverse sport amenities. A prioritized list of sport facility and infrastructure projects have been identified through a collaborative and comprehensive process utilizing evidence informed criteria.

Participation in sport allows for physical, creative and social opportunities that contribute to building healthy, connected individuals, and livable, vibrant communities. Continued investment in Richmond's sport facility inventory will contribute to achieving the City's Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024 vision of being a leader in the planning and delivery of recreation and sports opportunities.

October 20, 2023

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Mandy Hadfield
Manager, Sport and Community Events
(604-204-8550)



Mandeep Bains
Manager, Community Services Planning and Projects
(604-247-4479)

- Att. 1: Sport Facility Prioritization Framework
- 2: Facilities Task Force
- 3: Sport Facility Needs Assessment – Summary of Community Association Feedback

Sport Facility Prioritization Framework

To provide transparency and objectivity in the evaluation process, projects were ranked using 10 weighted criteria that together provide an overall indication of the demonstrated need for a project.

Criteria	Description
City Policies and Strategies	Considers whether the project aligns with City strategies and community goals.
Multifunctional and Accessible	Considers whether the project is multipurpose, contributes to an equitable provision of services and facilities, and is accessible to the majority of community members as well as community sport groups.
Net Cost Impact	Considers the net cost impacts of providing the project to the community.
Demonstration of Market Need	Considers sport participation levels and the needs of the local sport community and sport user groups for the project.
Demographics and Population Growth	Considers Richmond's demographics, projected population growth and whether the project will provide an adequate level of service moving forward.
Sport Event Hosting	Considers whether the project would expand and enhance the City's current sport hosting capacity.
Trends and Leading Practices	Considers whether the project aligns with trends and leading practices such as those addressing physical inactivity and National Sport Organization guidelines.
Regional Sport Amenity Inventory	Considers the project against provisions offered in the region to avoid duplication and oversupply of sport amenities that should be offered regionally.
Municipal Comparisons	Considers the project against the sport amenity provisions of contextually comparable communities to better align amenities that should be offered locally.
Partnerships	Considers existing partnerships related to the project that could enhance service levels and more efficiently leverage public funds.

Facilities Task Force

The Facilities Task Force included representatives from Richmond Sports Council, Richmond Sport Hosting, and School District No. 38 (Richmond).

Richmond Sports Council Representatives

Stuart Corrigan	Richmond Sports Council Chair
Serj Sangara	Richmond Sports Council Director
Puneet Bains	Richmond Sports Council Director
Bob Jackson	Richmond Sports Council Lifetime Member
Navi Sekhon	Richmond Sports Council Director

School District No. 38 (Richmond) Representatives

Nik Nashlund	School District No. 38 Athletic Liaison
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Richmond Sport Hosting Representatives

Pam Lacroix	Manager, Richmond Sport Hosting
Jordan Schulmeister	Coordinator, Richmond Sport Hosting

Sports Facility Needs Assessment – Summary of Community Association Feedback

The information below provides an overview of the feedback received from each of the community associations and societies regarding sport facility needs.

Organization	Supported the Prioritized List	Related Feedback
City Centre Community Association	Yes	Suggested City operated badminton courts within the City Centre area.
East Richmond Community Association	No	<p>Suggested a need for more sport amenities in the East Richmond area including a synthetic sport field, tennis courts and 3 on 3 basketball courts.</p> <p>Indicated that the distribution of facilities in Richmond is unbalanced in the east and suggested that too much priority was given to baseball and softball facilities on the Prioritized List.</p>
Hamilton Community Association	Yes	Suggested a need for more sport amenities in the Hamilton area, including a covered lacrosse box, pickleball courts, an athletic track & field facility, and a multi-sport field.
Richmond Arenas Community Association	Yes	No additional feedback given.
Sea Island Community Association	Yes	Suggested a need for pickleball courts, and an athletics track facility.

Organization	Supported the Prioritized List	Related Feedback
South Arm Community Association	Yes	Suggested a need for pickleball courts and basketball courts. Indicated that the synthetic turf multi-sport field should be ranked higher than the synthetic turf infield.
Steveston Community Society	Yes	Suggested a need for pickleball courts and basketball courts.
Thompson Community Association	Yes	Suggested a need for a covered lacrosse box.
West Richmond Community Association	Yes	No additional feedback given.