



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: August 29, 2019

From: Elizabeth Ayers
 Director, Recreation and Sport Services
File: 11-7000-01/2019-Vol 01

Re: **Community Services 2019 Summer Programs Update for Children, Youth and Families**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Community Services 2019 Summer Programs Update for Children, Youth and Families,” dated August 29, 2019, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be received for information.

Elizabeth Ayers
 Director, Recreation and Sport Services
 (604-247-4669)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with a review of Community Services' summer programs that took place in 2019. It outlines the services provided to children, youth and families, including the number of programs, participation numbers and the lasting impact they have on individuals, families and the community.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.

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

Provide inclusive, safe and welcoming facilities and spaces for recreation and sport programs and services.

This report supports the following focus areas from the City of Richmond Community 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.

Enhance physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities.

Analysis

Community Services, in cooperation with community partners, offers a wide range of summer programs and events for children, youth and families throughout the community. As in previous years, the 2019 summer season offered unique opportunities for programming:

- Children and youth are out of school;
- Warmer days allow for a wide variety of activities;
- Outdoor pools and school facilities are available;

- Longer days and better weather allow for family programming in the early evening; and
- Young adults and youth are available to work and volunteer in programs in the community.

These programs and events provide active, interesting and fun experiences for participants, connect children and youth to the community, and reinforce a sense of belonging.

In the summer, participants either register for daycamps, which generally occur on a daily basis each week; or registered programs, which are one to a few hours in duration and occur weekly over two or more weeks. Drop-in opportunities are also available throughout the summer.

In addition to the free opportunities available in Richmond, the City and its community partners provide the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program which increases the accessibility of summer programs for children and youth.

Daycamps

Daycamps perform two broad functions; they provide interesting activities for children, while also providing care for children of working parents. Table 1 below lists the participation data in 2018 and 2019 for registered summer daycamps and programs. The registration numbers indicate the popularity of summer programs for children and youth in Richmond. The fill rate reflects the percentage of participants filling available spaces in programs and daycamps.

Table 1: 2018 and 2019 Registration Data for Summer Programs

Year	Total Registrations	Daycamp Registrations	Daycamp Fill Rate in Percentage	Other Program Registrations	Program Fill Rate in Percentage
2018	29,709	12,303	90	17,406	79
2019	29,729	11,787	89	17,942	79

Overall, registration was on par with 2018, with a slight increase in program registrations and a slight decrease in daycamp registrations. The decrease in daycamp registration is at least partially attributed to a decrease in offerings, as some schools where daycamps have operated from in previous years were unavailable due to maintenance work. It is expected that access to these schools will resume in 2020; and therefore, program offerings will return to historical levels as well. Fill rates for daycamps and other programs remained consistent in 2018 and 2019. The fill rate for other programs is generally lower as each season, staff present a variety of new opportunities which may not have immediate popularity.

Registered Programs

Table 2 below lists the participation in programs by type. When compared to the previous year, program registration grew by 3 per cent overall. Swimming lessons, arts programs and sports programs received the most registrations, with the largest year-over-year increase to general interest (12 per cent) and nature, science and outdoors (14 per cent) program registrations.

Table 2: 2018 and 2019 Registration Data for Registered Programs

Program Area	2018 Registrations	2019 Registrations
Aquatics – swimming lessons	6,450	6,396
Arenas – skating lessons	916	890
Arts – dance, music, visual arts (drawing, painting) and performance (voice, theatre) lessons	3,757	3,970
Computers, Technology and Social Media	130	140
Cooking	447	401
General Interest (including Museum and Heritage programs)	787	880
Martial Arts	636	621
Nature, Science and Outdoors	491	560
Outdoors – hikes and water sports	88	29
Racquet Sports – tennis and badminton lessons	809	870
Sports/Fitness/Health – physical literacy, sports instruction (e.g., basketball, soccer, baseball, golf) and group exercises	2,895	3,185
Total	17,406	17,942

Drop-in Opportunities

In addition to registered programs, drop-in opportunities are available for children and youth, and their families. These include:

- The Summer Swim and Skate Pass, which offers unlimited swimming at all pools and skating at the Richmond Ice Centre was used by over 2,100 children and youth;
- Fitness and sport activities at community centres;
- Activities at the Richmond Museum, Britannia Shipyards, the Steveston Museum, the Steveston Tram and the Richmond Art Gallery where children and youth become aware of the arts, the history and the diversity of Richmond; and
- Opportunities at the Richmond Nature Park to meet the growing interest of being in a natural environment.

Free Family Programs and Events

There is a variety of free programs and events for children and families, which allow participants to enjoy physical, artistic and social activities. These opportunities include:

- Weekly, free drop-in programs offered in neighbourhood parks throughout the city and in selected housing complexes, which expanded to include park programming at McLean Park in the Hamilton area for children from six to 12 years of age;
- Weekly, evening programs for families offered throughout the summer by City Centre, Thompson and West Richmond Community Associations which include physical activity and arts opportunities along with entertainment such as music performances;
- Neighbourhood special events, such as West Fest (at Hugh Boyd Park) and Summer Fun Night (at King George Park) which include outdoor movies, physical literacy opportunities and information on community resources;
- The Art Truck, coordinated by the Richmond Cultural Centre, which provides free arts programming at special events and programs across the City; and
- The Physical Literacy Team, which promotes movement and physical skills through fun activities at special events and programs across the City.

These free programs provide the opportunity for children and families to meet new friends, connect and get to know each other, which leads to stronger and more connected, resilient neighbourhoods.

Employment and Volunteer Opportunities

The Richmond Volunteer Strategy is the basis for volunteer initiatives in summer programs. Volunteers, assisting paid staff, learn skills that help increase competence and confidence; these volunteer positions often lead to employment as a daycamp leader in future years. Many students, at the high school and post secondary level, find that the skills developed in summer programs, such as leadership and decision making, are highly valued in future careers. This summer, over 200 volunteers contributed over 6,000 hours of service altogether.

Program Highlights

Staff at facilities provided the following insights in summer programming:

“The Youth Integration Social program (for youth with developmental disabilities) provides a space for youth to be themselves and fosters growth and independence. It is wonderful to see how programs like this promote self-confidence – a former participant is now a volunteer leader in the program.” —Cambie Community Centre

“In response to requests for youth programs at our arenas, a new drop-in program called Youth Stick and Puck was created for 13–18 year olds. The program has attracted youth throughout the summer. Youth enjoyed the program and appreciated their concerns being taken seriously and acted upon.” —Arenas

“The Youth Art Collective decorated one of the pianos so enjoyed by the public.” —Richmond Art Gallery

“The Recreation Fee Subsidy Program provided opportunities for children to participate in our Summer Slam basketball program which previously they could not access. This program was a highlight of their summer.” —West Richmond Community Centre

“Being in a natural setting, even for a short time, spurs curiosity in program participants at the park.” —Richmond Nature Park

“The Make it Mondays family program provided art opportunities that inspired children and their parents to explore creative activities together.” —South Arm Community Centre

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Summer programs continue to be valued by the community. They provide opportunities for children and youth to meet new friends, and remain physically and mentally active while developing new skills and building confidence. Family programs also assist in connecting residents to build stronger and more resilient neighbourhoods. All of these opportunities are fundamental to achieving the City’s Recreation and Sport Strategy vision for Richmond to be a leader in the planning and delivery of recreation and sport opportunities, inspiring individuals and communities to be active, connected and healthy for a lifetime.



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