

Cambie Road Mueller Development Park

The Mueller Park proposal offers its neighbourhood many features that have proved very desirable elsewhere in Richmond.

Richmond city centre's first urban parkette Lang Park was a good first attempt. It has a very small plaza, some seating, a blend of lawn and trees and flowers, and a nice water feature. It also has some adjacent complementary commercial business spaces. Adjacent Lang Centre uses Lang Park for community events.

However, it is too small to host medium size community events, and the plaza isn't large enough for youth to play basketball or ball hockey or other recreation.

Richmond City Hall's north plaza is a much more functional size (though unfortunately on the shaded and colder building side). Thompson and South Arm Community Centre's basketball court areas have shown what attracts youth (and a continuous multi court paved area would also allow use for ball hockey).

The well lit running track at Minoru Park is also extremely popular with the public.

The Mueller Development Park proposal appears to offer City Centre north the best features of these areas, providing opportunities to attract people of all ages. It is situated where it can be the upstream anchor of a public corridor past Aberdeen Mall to the Fraser River, as well as a path connecting Brown Road past Yaohan Centre to #3 Road, and also eventually the waterfront.

The features location, layout, and features included in Mueller Park are very well thought out but I have a few more suggestions.

The area suitable for basketball /ball hockey and public ceremonies and events should be the minimum slope for proper drainage. As well as these youth and adult recreations the area could also support badminton, outdoor table tennis, volleyball on the lawn, and other pastimes.

This property is too expensive and will be too intensively used to allow for community gardens, but some vertical gardening may perhaps be incorporated? Alternatively, the blend of deciduous and coniferous trees chosen to provide colour throughout the year could incorporate some fruit trees, and nearby residents could be involved with them and portions of the flower beds.

The circular path connects the park elements well, but northwest-southeast from #3 Road to Brown Road via the park will also be popular and may support additions.

Given all the successful elements of other local parks incorporated in this park proposal, the care that went into this parks planning, and its great location, I think Mueller Park will be a great addition for the new neighbourhood and employees of the neighbouring malls, and I look forward to seeing this park in operation.