

## 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy

The 2022 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is a very comprehensive report which attempts to set out future Richmond park and open space need and composition. Overall the report notes population aging and changes in demographics and outlines well features rebalancing to be provided as space and connections are added or reworked.

However, I am concerned that conclusions which may fit the mature areas of Richmond suburbs and rural areas overall do not apply as well to already under served City Centre. Additionally, City Centre will also dramatically increase in need as it sees almost all Richmond's population growth over the next few decades.

City Centre is being developed with the expectation that residents will often walk or use transit or cycle to work and recreation. Southeast City Centre is one of the city's most densely populated areas in Richmond but it has few sports options and insufficient recreation and community options within walking distance. City Centre north has only experienced limited residential development to date, but many residents have been there for decades. Neighbourhood park and community options are almost nonexistent, and the area rated very low for community sense of belonging in a recent study by Vancouver Coastal Health. When population grows in future community, recreation, and sport areas are needed.

Given the high cost of land in City Centre, and shortage of land parcels large enough for sports use, care will need to be taken to find such locations across City Centre. Partnerships with the school district at well sized elementary schools such as Anderson /MacNeill and Talmey may be a desirable option.

City centre current and planned demographics also are different than other areas. Additionally, there are many community, sport, and recreation services in City Centre currently provided by private operators that may cease as they are priced out of the area by redevelopment.

In conclusion, the 2022 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy contains thoughtful consideration of current and future needs across Richmond.

However, the City Centre area is under served, increasing population rapidly, and changing in character to a dense walking/transit based urban form.

Large spaces will be expensive and limited, and concepts that work well elsewhere in Richmond will need to be adjusted to serve City Centre properly.