



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: January 5, 2015

From: Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks

File: 06-2345-03/2015-Vol
01

Re: 2013–2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update

Staff Recommendation

That the report “2013–2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update” dated January 5, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks be received for information.

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

On October 15, 2013, Richmond City Council endorsed the *City of Richmond 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy* (“The Strategy”). The Strategy supports the City’s corporate vision to be “the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada”. It was developed in the context of the rapid growth and change the city is experiencing, and the consequent expansion and diversification of Richmond’s parks and open space system. The Strategy establishes a strategic, outcomes-based framework that will enable the City to continue to meet community needs and sustain a high quality parks and open space system into the future.

Since the adoption of the Strategy, the Parks Department’s work plans have been oriented to the priorities identified within it. In addition, ongoing monitoring and measurement of performance toward meeting the Strategy outcomes is underway and will be reported on in the future. In advance of formal performance reporting, this report presents staff’s accomplishments toward the Strategy outcomes to date.

Analysis

2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy Framework

The Strategy Framework (see table below) has been adopted to guide the Department’s priorities and allocation of resources. For each of the seven focus areas there are several outcome statements that describe the desired state of the parks and open space system in the future. The Strategy’s Implementation Plan, organized according to the framework, identified priority actions for each of the outcomes and forms the basis for the Parks Department’s work plans.

Parks and Open Space 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 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 open 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 Department 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.

2013-2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update

This update provides the highlights of the progress made on the Implementation Plan since it was adopted in 2013. The highlights captured in the attached 2013-2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update (Attachment 1) are a small sample of the all of the actions that have been completed and the improvements that have been made to date.

Each of the Parks Department's three sections (Planning, Design and Construction; Programs; and Operations) have advanced projects and initiatives that are innovative, have increased community engagement and improved our effectiveness in delivering services. The extraordinarily popular Terra Nova Play Environment and the Railway Avenue Greenway are two examples of capital projects that address multiple outcomes. Recent shifts in operations practices, such as the reuse of mulched woody debris in parks and on trails, and implementation of a more efficient system for completion of developer funded street tree planting, are steps toward greater effectiveness and sustainability.

While each of the highlights included in the update represent progress, appropriate performance measures and indicators are being developed to aid future performance reporting. Future reporting will be comprehensive and will:

- Provide updates on Capital Projects;
- Track changes in budgets and resource allocation;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs; and
- Monitor progress on priority actions.

Due to the intensive effort required to conduct performance measurement, reporting is typically done on a three to five year basis. From the start of the collection of baseline data, the first performance report could be issued in 2017.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the recommendation of this report.

Conclusion

The 2013-2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update highlights the priority actions that have been completed to date and the improvements made to services since the adoption of the Strategy. From the landmark of the adoption of the Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan to the dramatic increase in the program opportunities at Britannia Heritage Shipyards Park, the actions taken are concrete indicators of progress toward the Strategy outcomes. As baseline data is collected and appropriate measures are developed, formal performance reporting will be conducted in the future to ensure the community will continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy and vibrant parks and open space system.



Jamie Esko
Park Planner
(604-233-3341)

Att. 1: 2013-2014 Parks and Open Space Strategy Update



2013-2014

CITY OF RICHMOND PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY UPDATE

Health & 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. The sports fields, playgrounds, places to walk dogs, community gardens, and public plazas all play a central role in fostering a strong sense of community. In addition, contact with nature and even simple green spaces with grass and trees have been shown to have profound psychological and physical benefits.

Outcome 1

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

Ensure parks are **BARRIER FREE** places



King George Park
**ACCESSIBLE
PLAY AREA**



Railway Greenway
MULTI-MODAL trail

Provide **INCREASED** opportunities for
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Public consultation for:

- Thompson Community Park
- Lang Park
- Garden City Bike Terrain Park

- Cambie/Mueller Park
- Kawaki/London's Landing
- King George Park Master Plan Update



INCREASE the
accommodation of
YOUTH

- Thompson Youth Park Phase 3 Complete
- Garden City Bike Terrain Park Opened
- Terra Nova Rural Park Adventure Play
- Minoru Sports Field Complex

INCREASE the
accommodation of
OLDER ADULTS

- King George Park Benches
- Terra Nova Freshly Aged Greenhouse Program



Outcome 2

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



Acquire **PROPERTIES** to
increase visibility
on park frontage

- Terra Nova Rural Park
- South Arm Community Park
- Cook Neighbourhood Park
- Cambie / Hazelbridge Park

**PHYSICAL
LITERACY
SKILLS** and
UNSTRUCTURED PLAY
are incorporated into playgrounds

- Terra Nova Adventure Play Experience
- Thompson Youth Skate Park
- Garden City Bike Terrain Park



Sports facilities reflect
CURRENT and
EMERGING
trends in sport

- Minoru Park Sports Field Complex
- Artificial Turf Fields

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

EXPAND

Nature Park programs into
COMMUNITY and
NEIGHBOURHOOD parks



- 'Learn to Camp' Terra Nova four times per year with partner Scouts Canada
- Raptor Festival in Terra Nova
- Geocaching and GeoQuest launched Fall 2014 in 30 locations across the City

CREATE

nature oriented
ACTIVITIES
closer to more
neighbourhoods



- King George Park woodlot cleaned, trails built for public access
- 'Nature on the Waterfront' and 'Learn to Fish' programs at Britannia Shipyards
- Hollybridge Pier design approved with construction in 2015
- GeoQuest - geocaching throughout neighbourhoods

DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES for



Arts & Cultural **PROGRAMS** Britannia Shipyards

Britannia Seine Net Loft restoration

Support programs that encourage urban agriculture



Ongoing, successful partnership with the
Sharing Farm, Kwantlen Polytechnic
University and Richmond Schoolyard Society

950 VOLUNTEERS





Great Places & Experiences

Promoting a vibrant and ‘distinctly Richmond’ parks and open space

Great places where special experiences are shared, are an important aspect of the City’s identity and community life. These are places that are rooted in local culture and landscape, imparting a uniqueness, vibrancy and an authenticity to the City. They motivate residents to enjoy the city, to be active and they attract visitors from the region and beyond contributing to the local economy.

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.



Acquire **SIGNATURE PLACES** especially along the **WATERFRONT**

- 2380 and 2400 Westminster Hwy, adjacent to West Dyke Trail purchased for inclusion into the Terra Nova Rural and Natural Area parks



INNOVATIVE
high-quality design
Middle Arm Hollybridge Pier

Garden City Lands
LEGACY
Landscape Plan



Provides a long-term vision for a unique blend of agriculture, ecology, culture and community wellness



Major park
CONSTRUCTION
projects completed or ongoing

- Middle Arm Oval Village Waterfront
- Terra Nova Adventure Play Experience
- King George Master Plan: Phase 1

Outcome 2

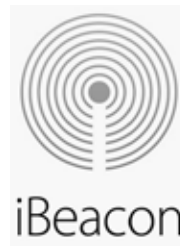
The parks and open space system enhances Richmond's status as an exceptional local, regional and international destination.

CREATE
exceptional destinations
RESTORATION
of Britannia Seine Net Loft



The Gardens
Agricultural Park
CONSTRUCTION

PROMOTE
Richmond's great outdoor spaces



iBeacon

New **TECH**
for interactive mobile tours
of Britannia Shipyards

GeoQuest:
a geocaching program
that encourages
EXPLORATION
of City parks using "smart" devices



Outcome 3

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

5.4 ACRES

of artificial turf fields at Minoru Park =
increased capacity
for field sport tournaments

- Soccer
- Field lacrosse
- Baseball
- Field hockey



Increased promotion of Richmond's
SPECIAL PLACES & EVENTS

125 YEARS
**BRITANNIA
SHIPYARDS**
1889-2014

along Imperial Landing
BANNERS
celebrated
Britannia's 125th Anniversary

INTRODUCED
Passport for Fun
during Ships to Shore



create Garden City Lands

INCREASE PROMOTION

of the Garden City Lands project with a project specific website

Outcome 4

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



Richmond Nature Park
HOSTED the BC
Royal Museum Birds of
Prey travelling display

OWL BANDING

in Terra Nova
Rural Park



2,275 participants in school programs
at Richmond
Nature Park



4,108

The number of tours
and programs at
Britannia Shipyards tripled



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.

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.

Improve trail **CONNECTIONS**



5km Railway Ave
Greenway
off-road
MULTI-MODAL trail

WORK

with neighbouring municipalities to strengthen connections to the regional trail system

- Experience the Fraser Phase 2 Concept Plan endorsed by City Council



Outcome 2

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

Provide **LIGHTING** in locations intended for night time use, primarily in urban areas

- Cambie/Hazelbridge lighting
- Minoru Park Sports Complex
- Oval West Waterfront



Pedestrian
RIGHT-OF-WAYS
in new developments
in City Centre

New **AMENITIES**
along the trail system



- seating and viewing platform at No. 1 Road Pumpstation
- Cannery Store washroom at Terra Nova Rural Park

Outcome 3

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



Work with others to
PROMOTE
Richmond as a
CYCLING DESTINATION for
both recreation and athlete
training

- Construction of the Railway Greenway supported by Translink and Provincial funding
- The North Arm and Middle arm Dyke Trails were added to the Experience the Fraser Concept Plan

INCREASED
programming on the
trail system

- Increased Britannia programs
- Imperial Landing recreational boat rentals
- Expanded Ships to Shore and Maritime Festivals





Green Network

Creating a greener, dynamic and resilient cityscape

The green network including urban parks, natural areas and the greenways that connect them offer benefits to human health and provide ecosystem services for a healthier urban environment. Natural areas are often considered separate from the city, however, it is increasingly important that ecosystem services are integrated within the urban fabric.

Outcome 1

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

Provide more **OPPORTUNITIES** to **EXPERIENCE NATURE**



600

trees planted along
Railway Greenway

Garden City Lands
LEGACY
Landscape Plan



- Over 33,000 people live within walking distance of the 70 acres dedicated for conservation of the natural environment



More programs to
improve community
AWARENESS
of our natural environment

- Nature of the Waterfront - free naturalist talks at Britannia Shipyard
- Richmond Raptor Festival at Terra Nova Rural Park - 1000 participants

48% increase
in **registration** for
Richmond Nature Park
programs and workshops



Outcome 2

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

The **City** and **Ducks Unlimited**
are working together to provide
**PUBLIC ACCESS &
EDUCATION**
at the Grauer Lands



Terra Nova Adventure Play
Environment is designed to
**REFLECT &
INTERPRET**
its environmental context

262 educational
Nature Park programs



**OWL
BANDING**

in Terra Nova Rural Park

- Monitoring movement and survival rates

Outcome 3

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



IDENTIFY opportunities to adjust management practices to ENHANCE the Ecological Network

- Natural Compost tea fertilizer used on the Railway Greenway trees to promote root growth

West Cambie Greenway

NATIVE PLANTING

and use of **RECYCLED**
wood chips from
fallen trees & branches



Old Field habitat MANAGEMENT to support raptors at Terra Nova Rural Park and Natural Area

Blue Network



Transforming and celebrating our waterfront and waterways

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, cultural and ecological values of the waterfront and waterways are celebrated and protected.

Work with external agencies to **PROTECT** and **ENHANCE** the ecological values of the Fraser River, foreshore areas and Sturgeon Banks



- Ongoing discussions with Port Metro Vancouver in support of habitat compensation program
- Ongoing work with Ducks Unlimited on Grauer Lands

DELIVER water-based recreation, education programs and events

 in **2013**
paid moorage offered at Imperial Landing

293 free
15-minute tours offered at **Britannia Shipyards**

BOAT TOURS

- Marine wildlife boat tours from Britannia Shipyards



Outcome 2

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

DELIVER and **SUPPORT**
the City's signature maritime events

2014 Ships to Shore
expanded to include more
boats, sites and
programming



..... **16%** increase in
volunteer hours
in support of Britannia's
programs and events

ENHANCE and
COORDINATE
program opportunities linking
Steveston Village
maritime destinations



- reciprocal and joint volunteer education tours with the Gulf of Georgia
- Vancouver Paddlewheeler - weekly public tour linking Steveston Village with New Westminster



Britannia Shipyards
National Historic Site
STRATEGIC PLAN
adopted by City Council, April 2014

Outcome 3

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

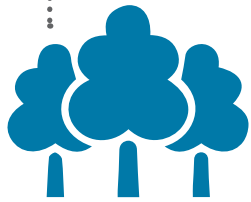
'Art on the Edge'

ENHANCE

a strong sense of place
and add interest by promoting and

INTEGRATING

public art into the waterfront



Mobile sculptural
PERFORMANCES
in Garry Point Park and
Terra Nova Rural Park

Maritime Festival
and Salmon Row
TEMPORARY ART
at Britannia Shipyards



Outcome 4

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

EXPLORE

best practices in

INNOVATIVE

use of water in parks, along
greenways and streets



Rain water gardens in

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Onni / Ora
- The Gardens

Hollybridge Canal
NATURALIZATION



Garden City Lands
LEGACY
Landscape Plan

- proposes preservation of the bog
and collection of water for irrigation
of farm areas





Diversity & 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. 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 responsive to community need.

Lang Park
UPGRADE PLAN
approved



Woodward School
PATHWAY and
TREE PLANTING
completed

Birch Park
BASKETBALL COURT
completed



Outcome 2

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

ACQUIRE LAND

for park purposes and update the Park Land Acquisition Strategy regularly to address changing

PRIORITIES
and **LAND VALUE**

5.73 **ACRES**
of park land **ACQUIRED**
at Terra Nova, South Arm,
Cook and the new
Cambie/Hazelbridge parks



ENSURE
civic infrastructure is
INTEGRATED
so parks, community use
and ecological values
are not compromised

- West Cambie District Energy Utility development Phase 2: construction in West Cambie Neighbourhood Park

Outcome 3

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

PROTECT and CAPTURE soil resources

"Black Gold" compost
now located at
the Works Yard =

INCREASED EFFICIENCY

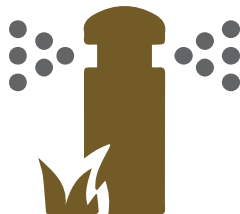


CLAY SOIL

material from Terra Nova
and Railway Greenway
used at Garden City
Terrain Bike Park

INVESTIGATE methods to reduce need for irrigation through INNOVATIVE DESIGN

- Pilot project to manage all irrigation sites from a central computer / field laptop



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. Effective resource management means responding in a timely manner to emerging issues or changing community needs while maximizing results within the available budgets with the appropriately skilled staff.

Outcome 1

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

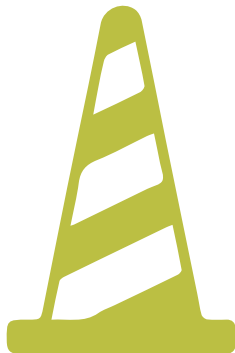


Review and update **MAINTENANCE** programs and practices to reflect current conditions and to improve service

- Implementation of turf management best practices regarding overseeding, aeration and top dressing to replace herbicides
- Improved drainage maintenance program to prevent situational flooding in parks

DEVELOP and IMPLEMENT design initiatives and preventative maintenance programs to reduce demand for service requests

- No. 3 Road boulevard redesigned for improved maintenance



Outcome 2

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

Pursue **ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES** for infrastructure replacement at the Provincial and Federal level



- Railway Greenway funding from Translink and the Province
- BC Tire Stewardship Grants for playground surfacing at King George/McNeely play areas



Continual improvement of **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY** and **QUALITY OF ASSET MANAGEMENT** to achieve the greatest community benefit in the most cost effective way

- improved efficiency for developer funded street tree planting
- 1065 street trees planted

Outcome 3

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

454 volunteers contributed **1348** hours



Partners for Beautification