



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Electronic Meeting**

**Anderson Room, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

PRCS-4 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on April 29, 2025.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

June 24, 2025 (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room.

DELEGATION

- PRCS-8** 1. Kate Humble, on behalf of Parks Canada, to speak on the addition of a plaque recognizing the **National Historic Event** related to Tomekichi Homma at the Japanese Fishermens' Benevolent Society building.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Agenda
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Pg. # ITEM

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIVISION

**2. 2025-2026 ENGAGING ARTISTS IN COMMUNITY PROGRAM
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-089) (REDMS No. 7999500)

PRCS-38

See Page PRCS-38 for full report

Designated Speaker: Biliana Velkova

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects, as presented in the staff report titled “2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.



**3. PROPOSED PRACTICES TO ACCELERATE BLACKBERRY
MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND**

(File Ref. No. 10-6160-07-01) (REDMS No. 7808159)

PRCS-66

See Page PRCS-66 for full report

Designated Speakers: Chad Paulin & Egan Davis

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Option 1, as outlined in the staff report titled “Proposed Practices to Accelerate Blackberry Management in Richmond”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Climate and Environment and the Director, Parks Services, for the implementation of Himalayan blackberry management pilot program be approved.



**4. HUGH BOYD COMMUNITY PARK PLAYGROUND RENEWAL –
ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-HBOY1) (REDMS No. 8006401)

PRCS-77

See Page PRCS-77 for full report

Designated Speakers: Molly Liu & Jason Chan

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Pg. # ITEM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- (1) *That the priorities and scope as outlined in the Playground Renewal section in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services, be approved; and*
- (2) *That staff proceed with next steps as outlined in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services.*

☐

5. **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT

☐



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Chak Au, Chair
Councillor Michael Wolfe
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Bill McNulty

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on March 25, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIVISION

1. **RECREATION AND SPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE 2022–2024**

(File Ref. No. 01-0370-20-003) (REDMS No. 7969764)

Staff presented a video highlighting the Recreation and Sport Strategy Update (copy on file, City Clerk's Office).

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

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In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) Richmond offers a variety of programs through community centres and associations that are designed to engage and appeal to the City's large senior population, (ii) further information regarding the potential development of a covered lacrosse box, as identified in the sports facility needs assessment, will be brought forward for Council's consideration later this year, (iii) in addition to maintaining waitlists for programs that reach capacity, participation statistics are monitored and used to inform the planning of programs and services, (iv) the Barnsley Lifeguard Championship originated in 1936 and was hosted by Richmond for the first time in 2024, and (v) while Jumpstart is not a regular partner the City meets with, individuals are still referred to Jumpstart through the KidSport program for additional support.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) the involvement of all departments in the Official Community Plan (OCP) review, (ii) the depiction of parks in the OCP land use map, (iii) the possibility of increasing gym and sport court access for youth, (iv) the \$29 Summer Active Pass, which provides unlimited access to select drop-in activities, including swimming, skating, pitch and putt golf and more for a one-time price for those aged five to 18 years, (v) Bike to School Week and the potential to expand the program to further engage youth and students in active transportation education, and (vi) the Strategy's activities, which will benefit from sustained efforts through to 2026, with a progress update for 2025 and 2026 to be provided in Q1 of 2027.

It was moved and seconded

That the achievements document, Recreation and Sport Strategy Progress Update 2022–2024, Attachment 1, in the staff report titled “Recreation and Sport Strategy 2022–2024”, dated April 7, 2025, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be posted on the City website and circulated to key community partners including Richmond School District No. 38, Vancouver Coastal Health, Community Recreation Associations and Societies, and Richmond Sports Council for their information.

CARRIED

2. **STEVESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY INTERIOR ARTWORK CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-334) (REDMS No. 7990702)

Discussion ensued regarding (i) further refinements to the artwork design, (ii) the breakdown of the budget for the Steveston Community Centre and Library interior artwork, (iii) obtaining quotes from multiple vendors for the fabrication and installation of the artwork as part of the City's procurement process, and (iv) natural and accent lighting around the artwork in the facility.

It was moved and seconded

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That the concept proposal for the Steveston Community Centre and Library Interior Artwork, as presented in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Centre and Library Interior Artwork Concept Proposal”, dated April 7, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

CARRIED

3. RAILWAY GREENWAY LIGHTING – 2025 UPDATE

(File Ref. No. 06-2400-20-RAIL1) (REDMS No. 7980422)

Discussion ensued regarding (i) the difference between the current lighting proposal and the previous recommendation, (ii) the use of standard lighting rather than solar lighting where a longer continuous stretch of lighting is required or where adjacent lighting areas exist and can share a single service connection, (iii) the proposed distance between the standard pedestrian lights, (iv) the installation timeline, (v) the estimated cost, including the approximate proportion of solar lights versus standard lights, (vi) light shielding options including deflectors that can be added post-construction if necessary, (vii) the use of solar pedestrian lights as part of the recommended hybrid lighting approach, and (viii) the estimated lifespan of solar lights.

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) the decision regarding the specific placement of the lights is yet to be determined and will be made at the detailed design stage, with consideration given to minimizing light spillage impact on nearby residences and wildlife, (ii) during the 2024 public engagement process, a total of 529 people responded, with 78.5% in favour of lighting, and (iii) mitigation measures including utilizing luminaires with adequate house-side and up-light shielding and lighting controls will be considered through the detailed design stage.

Further discussion ensued regarding the cost of the lighting along the Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway (MUP), and staff advised that a memorandum outlining the differences in the project scope between the Steveston Highway MUP and the Railway Greenway lighting will be provided.

It was moved and seconded

That Option 1, “Hybrid of Standard and Solar Pedestrian Lighting”, as outlined in the report titled “Railway Greenway Lighting – 2025 Update”, dated April 7, 2025, from the Director, Parks Services, be endorsed.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllr. Wolfe

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4. MANAGER'S REPORT

(i) *No. 3 Road Bark Park Update*

Staff advised that the enhancements to No. 3 Road Bark Park were completed and the park reopened to the public on April 14, 2025.

(ii) *Nesting Activity*

Discussion ensued regarding the nesting activity of birds and urban wildlife in Richmond parks, and staff advised that, while such activity is not typically monitored, Parks operations crews on-site report observations and will continue to do so.

Further discussion ensued regarding Richmond wildlife.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (4:53 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Councillor Chak Au
Chair

Shannon Unrau
Legislative Services Associate



**Parks
Canada**

**Parcs
Canada**



To: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Committee

Date: May 14, 2025

From: Meghan Kate Humble – National Historic Sites Superintendent – Coastal BC Field Unit
Pierce Smith – Curator – Coastal BC Field Unit
Kelvin Higo – Chairman of the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Advisory Committee
Linda Barnes – President Steveston Historical Society
Tenney Homma – Proponent

Re: Approval to Install the National Historic Event Designation *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma*

Seeking Recommendation:

For approval to install, in partnership with the City of Richmond, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) National Historic Event Designation *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* in the front garden of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building (see Attachment 1).

Background

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the landmark court case *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma*. In 1900, Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma sought to secure the right to vote for Japanese Canadians. It was during a hostile, anti-Asian period in British Columbia when the White Majority and provincial politicians placed restrictions and legislation that affected the social, economic and occupational lives of Japanese immigrants. Homma believed being able to vote gave Japanese Canadians political voice to change racist laws and barriers.

This case was successful in the County Court of Vancouver and the Supreme Court of BC but was ultimately struck down by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in 1903 (the highest court of appeal at the time) in London, England. Almost fifty years later in 1949 and four years after Tomekichi's death, Japanese Canadians were granted their voting franchise. However, it wasn't until 1960 that equal voting rights were granted to all Canadians; further to this, specific Canada-wide voting rights were not solidified for Japanese Canadians until 1982 in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Location

In 2017 a plaque commemorating *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* was unveiled at the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre as a National Historic Event. The Peter A. Allard Law Building at UBC was the original recommended location for the plaque installation. However, in consultation with the Musqueam Nation, UBC asked that an alternative location be chosen.

Over the last two years Parks Canada staff have been working with Tenney Homma, Grace Eiko Thomson (original proponent), and the City of Richmond Cultural Heritage staff, to find a suitable location in Richmond/Steveston for this designation. We have identified a site for installation outside the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building (JBFS) in Steveston. This plaque placement requires a minor alteration to the exterior grounds outside the historic building. The changes to the landscape will be planned and designed collaboratively with the City of Richmond staff.

The plaque and stand as well as their maintenance are paid for and installed by Parks Canada. The proposal is to install it in front of the right side of the JFBS Building and can be completed in accordance with any requirements from the City of Richmond. The installation can be done by city staff or Parks Canada can pay for a contractor to do the work.

Community and Proponent Support

As an arrival in the early 1880's to this country, Tomey Homma was one of the first Japanese immigrants to settle in Steveston. He worked in the salmon fishery and helped organize Japanese Canadian fishers to demand fair prices and equal treatment from the canners. Homma was instrumental in the founding of Gyosha Dantai (Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society). In 1897, he was voted by his peers to be the society's first president. Homma made an enduring mark on the JFBS as it became an important institution in the Japanese Canadian community. He was instrumental in the creation of a community hospital, open to all, as one of its first activities. Later, he endorsed the construction of a school for Japanese Canadian children. Homma's community spirit shaped the development of the early Japanese Canadian community.

The JFBS Building is deeply rooted in the history of Japanese Canadian contributions to the Steveston community. This is where Homma undoubtedly spent time working on behalf of his fellow immigrants which continued even after he moved to Vancouver. This historic building stands as a fitting place to honor one of the most pivotal legal battles for civil rights in Canadian history in which the JFBS members supported and raised funds to help pay for Homma's legal costs.

There are additional reasons to install this designation at this site. It would create an added physical enhancement and attract interest to this heritage corner as seen in Attachment 2. The JFBS Building is currently located behind the Steveston Museum and across the street from the Nikkei Stories video about Tomekichi Homma titled *A Man of the Times*. Information about Homma will be centralized making it convenient for the public to learn about his life and achievements. The location of the proposed plaque site on Moncton Street is in the heart of Steveston; it will be in a high traffic area and readily visible for maximum viewing.

In terms of plaque location, two other sites were also considered. The Tomekichi Homma Elementary School has no direct connection to Tomekichi Homma's life, though it is named after him. Putting the plaque there would be redundant and would not have the same traffic of heritage-interested visitors. Similarly, the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre does not have the same tangible connection with Homma's life and accomplishments in this community. However, the JFBS Building was the centre of his greatest activity and provides a material, tangible connection between the fabric of the structure that was touched by his hands and the enduring legacy of his advocacy.

There is significant endorsement from local organizations, residents, and members of the broader Japanese Canadian community for the plaque to be placed at this location, as evidenced by the attendance here today and the letters of support provided.

Respectfully,

Meghan Kate Humble
Meghankate.Humble@pc.gc.ca
250-661-3781
National Historic Sites Superintendent

Pierce Smith
Pierce.Smith@pc.gc.ca
236-335-4090
Curator

Att. 1: Google Map image of the location of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building, photographs of the outside of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building from City Staff.
Att. 2: Support Letters from various community members and organizations.
Att. 3: Backgrounder about Tomey Homma.
Att. 4: Image of the plaque artwork and plaque text.

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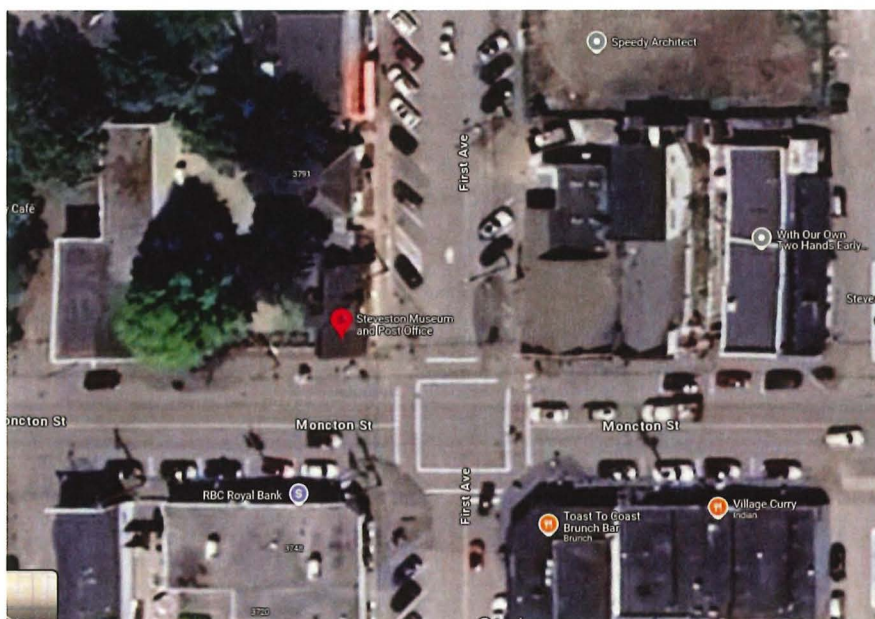
Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Att. 1 - Google Map image of the location of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building, photographs of the outside of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building.

Originally this building was located between the Japanese Canadian Language School and the hospital: two important JFBS projects which Tomey Homma endorsed, fundraised for, and helped build.



Picture 1 – Google Image of Installation Street



Picture 2 – Japanese Fishmen's Benevolent Society Building in Steveston



Picture 3 – Japanese Fishmen's Benevolent Society Building Front Garden



Picture 4 – Japanese Fishmen's Benevolent Society Building Front Garden

11005 Swan Crescent
Surrey, B.C. V3R 5B7

May 13, 2025

Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission
City of Richmond
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

Dear Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission:

RE: Support for Installation of Homma Plaque outside of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building (JBFSB) in Steveston

I am writing in support for the installation of the Cunningham V. Tomey Homma plaque (Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Parks Canada) outside of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building (JBFSB) in Steveston.

Tomey (Tomekichi) Homma fought for the voting rights of Japanese Canadians. This is significant if it was his only achievement, but he also did important work much earlier for the Steveston community.

Tomey Homma and other Issei (first generation Japanese Canadian) founded the first Japanese Canadian fishermen's association, Gyosha Dantai, in Steveston in 1887. In 1899, the association was registered as the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Association. Homma served as the first president and chair from 1887 to 1899. The association negotiated labour disputes, established the first hospital in the area which was open to all, the first form of public health care, and the first Japanese language school in Canada.

I also have a personal connection to Steveston. I am a descendant of Japanese Canadian fishers on my father's side. My Oikawa family came to Canada at the turn of the 20th century and settled on Oikawa Island. After 1942, the Oikawa name was removed and Don Island is the name currently on the charts. Former City of Richmond Councillor Harold Steves brought this history to the attention of the mayor and council.

Twenty years ago in 2005, the City of Richmond recognized the historical name, Oikawa Island. I also have a connection through my uncle Buck (Tatsuro) Suzuki who was a leader in the Japanese Canadian community in Steveston and fought to have the Japanese Canadian fishers included in the fishers' union. He also took on the challenge of protecting fish habitat at a time when most did not understand the dangers of polluting our water.

I serve on the board of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) as past president, and am currently working on projects in Surrey and Vancouver evolving from my work with the NAJC to set in motion legacy initiatives to honour our Japanese Canadian ancestors.

Tomekichi Homma's story is important to the Japanese Canadian community and all Canadians.

I urge you to support the installation of the plaque outside of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building in Steveston where Tomekichi Homma did so much good work.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L Oikawa'.

Lorene Oikawa

*Arthur K Miki, CM, OM
910-1395 Grant Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1Z*

May 12, 2025

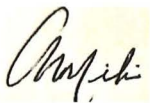
Letter of Submission for Richmond City Council

Re: Site Placement of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque
Commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's
Benevolent Society Building

As the former president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, I am very much aware of the contribution that Mr. Tomekichi Homma made in seeking justice for Japanese Canadians who were deprived of their right to vote. I had read during the redress campaign about his long struggle through different levels of courts only to be denied the right to vote by the Privy Council in England. As far as I recall, he is truly the first Canadian human rights advocate in Canada. His challenge, despite the hostile racist environment he faced, required courage and perseverance that needs be recognized as a reminder of such past injustices.

In 2017, I attended the unveiling of the plaque in Vancouver with Grace Eiko Thomson at the Nikkei Centre and was surprised to hear the original placement was rejected. Tomekichi Homma has played an important role in the history of the Japanese in Canada and his efforts and commitment to achieve equality is something that we are proud of. I urge the Richmond City Council to give the recognition Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma deserves as proposed in the placement of Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building. Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Miki', is placed over a small yellow rectangular background.

Art Miki

President of National Association of Japanese Canadians 1984-92

GEOFF MEGGS

819 Sawcut, Vancouver, BC

May 1, 2025

Councillor Chak Au, Chair,
Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee,
City of Richmond,
6911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond, V6Y 2C1

Dear Councillor Au,

I am writing to express my strong support for the placement of the plaque honouring pioneer Japanese Canadian resident Tomeikichi Homma outside the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society building in Steveston.

Homma was a remarkable individual whose community spirit shaped Steveston in many ways. As an early arrival to this country, he found work in the salmon fishery and helped organize Japanese Canadian fishermen to demand fair prices and equal treatment from the canners. This organization, the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society, quickly became one of the most important institutions in the JC community. As founding president, Homma made an enduring mark on the JFBS and drove forward the creation of a community hospital, open to all, as one of its first activities.

Homma believed that discriminatory voting laws that restricted Japanese participation in the democratic life of the province, as well as limited Japanese participation in many occupations, were an unacceptable barrier to full citizenship. In 1900, he resigned from the JFBS to challenge these laws and sought to register to vote in the federal election that year. His test case succeeded at the county and BC Supreme Court levels, only to be overturned by the Privy Council in London. This case, however, is considered the beginning of the battle to extend the vote to all Canadians without discrimination. No doubt Homma planned his case with his friends in the JFBS, probably in this building.

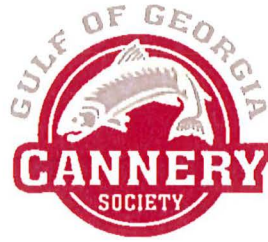
As someone who has done extensive research on Homma's life and work, I can think of no better way to honour this eminent citizen of your community.

Sincerely,



Geoff Meggs

cc: Todd Gross, director



May 9, 2025

Hello,

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society has a long-standing relationship with Steveston's Japanese Canadian community. Our exhibits, programs and events at the Gulf of Georgia National Historic site include stories of Japanese Canadian cannery workers and families. We were very pleased to hear of the proposed installation of a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque commemorating Tomekichi Homma's legal case.

The late Grace Eiko Thomson nominated Tomekichi Homma for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) designation. The extended Homma family and our organization support the plaque that commemorates the landmark legal case Cunningham v. Tomey Homma be placed by the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society (JFBS) building on Moncton St. in Richmond.

Examples:

- Placing the plaque at the JFBS building will serve as an educational resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers in a public space in the heart of historic Steveston.
- The plaque promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.
- As with other historic sites in Steveston, we collaborate to engage all visitors to Steveston. The placement of this at the JFBS building will not only enhance our visitors' experience but also strengthen connections within our community.

Conclusion

This year marks a significant milestone, the 125th anniversary of Tomekichi's prominent law case to secure the right to vote. It is a fitting tribute for the plaque to be permanently placed at the historic site in Steveston.

We strongly recommend Council members support the placement of the HSMBC plaque by the JFBS building. The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. This placement is central to the story of Tomey Homma, and the Japanese Community in Richmond that he fought for.

Perry Mazzone
Chair, Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

April 25, 2025

Jeff Chiba Stearns

8534 Timber Court, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4B6

Author: Tomey: The Unyielding Spirit of Tomekichi Homma

To Whom It May Concern,

As the author of the forthcoming graphic novel *Tomey: The Unyielding Spirit of Tomekichi Homma*, to be published by the National Coalition Against Anti-Asian Racism (NCAAR) in May 2025, I am writing to express my full support for the installation of the 2017 Cunningham v. Tomey Homma commemorative plaque in Steveston, Richmond.

I first became aware of Tomekichi Homma in 2023 when I visited Tomekichi Homma Elementary in Steveston where I spent three days delivering author talks to the students. I did not have any prior knowledge of Tomekichi Homma before visiting the school. While at the school I read about his remarkable life from a plaque on the library wall. I was amazed that as a prominent member of the Japanese Canadian community, I had never heard of the incredible impact Tomekichi Homma had on our building and shaping community not just in Steveston but nationally.

Now having spent the last two years meticulously researching Tomekichi Homma's life for my graphic novel, I have come to respect him as one of Canada's first and greatest social justice champions and civil rights activists.

Tomekichi Homma's story is often overlooked in Canadian history but prominent members of our Japanese Canadian community such as Art Miki, President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, 1984-1992 have been quoted in our book as saying, "Let us celebrate the courage and perseverance of the first Japanese Canadian human rights activist, Tomekichi homma!" While Maryka Omatsu, Canada's first female Judge of Asian heritage, has been quoted as saying, "Tomekichi Homma is a Japanese Canadian hero. His life was a struggle against racism for equality for all Asians."

We are recommending that this plaque be installed outside the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building (JBFSB)—a location that holds particular relevance, as Tomekichi Homma was instrumental in its establishment and the founding of Gyosha Dantai (Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society). In 1897, he was voted by his peers to be the society's first president.

The Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building is deeply rooted in the history of Japanese Canadian contributions to the Steveston community, and stands as a fitting place to honour one of the most pivotal legal battles for civil rights in Canadian history.

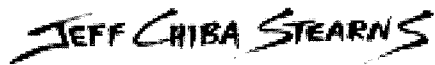
This installation will require an application for a permanent alteration within a designated Heritage Area, including modifications to the landscape outside the JBFSB. These thoughtful and respectful changes are crucial to ensuring that this nationally recognized historic event is commemorated in a meaningful and contextually appropriate setting.

In 2017, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized Cunningham v. Tomey Homma as a national historic event. The Government of Canada has acknowledged that "Tomekichi Homma's legal battle is known as one of the most significant acts of resistance to repression in the history of human rights in Canada." His unwavering demand for equitable treatment laid the groundwork for future movements and legal milestones, including the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.

It is essential that we preserve and share stories like Homma's to help future generations understand the struggle behind the rights and freedoms we enjoy today. The right to vote—once denied to so many—is now a constitutionally protected right, thanks in part to trailblazers like Homma. The proposed plaque is more than a marker; it is a call to remember, reflect, and continue striving for justice, freedom, and equality.

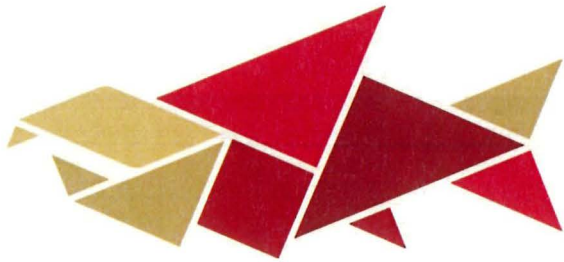
I respectfully urge the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission with the City of Richmond to approve the proposed location and installation of this plaque. There is no other location more fitting to honour a man who gave so much to building Steveston. This will be a powerful and permanent tribute to a man whose legacy continues to inspire future generations of activists and leaders.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEFF CHIBA STEARNS". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with some ink bleed-through visible.

Jeff Chiba Stearns

Author, Tomey: The Unyielding Spirit of Tomekichi Homma



STEVESTON

JAPANESE CANADIAN

CULTURAL CENTRE

May 1, 2025

To: Parks, Recreation, Cultural Services Committee

My name is Kelvin Higo and I am the chairman of the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Advisory Committee. This ad hoc advisory committee was established over 10 years ago to promote and protect the culture, history and traditions of our Japanese Canadian community.

We have been recently advised that Parks Canada, City staff and members of our Nikkei community have been working to install a plaque commemorating the 1900 Cunningham v. Tomey Homma landmark legal battle. This nomination was made to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada by the late Grace Eiko Thomson, a highly respected member of our Nikkei community.

My committee wishes to advise City Council of our support for the installation of the commemorative plaque acknowledging this historical event related to our Nikkei community and agree with its proposed location at the Fishermen's Benevolent Society building.

Locating this commemorative plaque at this location provides context with the adjacent building as well as recognizing the struggles of the Japanese immigrants to become Canadian citizens.

This year is the 125th anniversary of the historic legal case that sought the franchise for our Nikkei community and we feel it is fitting to install this commemorative plaque immediately so that this project is not delayed any longer.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Higo

Chairman - SJCCC Advisory Committee

1903-2055 Pendrell Street

Vancouver, BC V6G 1T9

May 1, 2025

TO: Richmond City Council

RE: Placement of Tomey Homma's Plaque at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building

Dear Council Members,

I am Canada's first female judge of Asian descent, now retired and a long-time activist for human rights. I am writing to support the Japanese Canadian community's proposal for the placement of Tomey Homma's plaque at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society's building on Moncton Street in Richmond, BC.

In the 1880's, Tomey Homma was one of the first Japanese to settle in Canada. He was a community leader, fisherman, newspaper publisher and advocate for social justice for Japanese (Chinese and First Nations) Canadians.

Homma is most remembered for the landmark decision of the UK Privy Council, in Cunningham v. Tomey Homma. The Privy Council overturned the decision of the BC courts and upheld the denial of the franchise and citizenship rights to naturalized and Canadian born citizens of Asian heritage.

Today, the Homma decision is studied as a racist legal decision in a dark period of British Columbia's history. A ceremony, mounting the plaque will acknowledge how far we have progressed from those days and would celebrate the life of a man who played a role in advancing rights for a more just Canada.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maryka Omatsu

April 30, 2025

ATTN: Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission, City of Richmond
RE: Support for the installation of the Historic Sites
Cunningham V. Tomey Homma plaque

I am writing on behalf of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (NNMCC) to wholeheartedly support the recommendation to install this designation at the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building in Steveston which remarkably, Tomekichi Homma helped build.

We have been eagerly awaiting proper installation ever since unveiling the plaque at the NNMCC in 2017. We applaud the efforts of Pierce Smith and Kate Humble of Historic Sites for continuing to work with our community elder Grace Eiko Thomson and Homma descendant Tenney Homma to find a suitable permanent location when the original location intended to be at the Law Building at UBC fell through. It is sad that Grace, who passed away last year, will be unable to see the final installation but I am confident her spirit is in full support of the plaque's placement in a suitable space with significant public access.

We strongly encourage you to approve this proposal and would be delighted to see this happen this year, which would be the 125th anniversary of the start of Homma's important court case.

Sincerely,



Sherri Kajiwara, Director | Curator
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre





Steveston Historical Society
3811 Moncton Street
Richmond, B.C. V7E 3A7
www.historicsteveston.ca

May 7, 2025

Attention: Mayor Brodie and Council

Re: Site Placement of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque
Commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's
Benevolent Society Building

On behalf of the Steveston Historical Society, we have been collaborating with Tenney Homma, the late Grace Eiko Thomson, and Rebecca Clarke from the City of Richmond to support the installation of a plaque commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's significant legal case. Grace Eiko Thomson nominated Homma for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) designation, and both the extended Homma family and our Society endorse placing this plaque by the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society (JFBS) building on Moncton Street in Steveston/Richmond.

We are honored to be considered as the site for this plaque, which the City of Richmond's Culture team plans to incorporate into the renewal landscape outside the JFBS building. This plaque will celebrate the history, heritage, and contributions of Japanese Canadians, enabling a broad audience to engage with this rich legacy. Located strategically across the street, it will also allow visitors to view the Nikkei Stories short video, "Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times," on their cellphones, providing centralized insights into Homma's life. Homma was instrumental in fundraising and supporting the construction of the JFBS building, serving as its President for many years.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Tomekichi Homma's landmark legal battle for voting rights, making it a fitting time for this tribute. We strongly recommend that Council members support the placement of the HSMBC plaque by the JFBS building, as it honors the historic struggle for fundamental citizenship rights and highlights the pivotal role of Tomey Homma and the Japanese community in Richmond.

Thank you,

Linda Barnes and Joanne Teraguchi
Co-Chairs
Steveston Historical Society

2025 Letter of Submission for Richmond City Council

Date: April 2025

From: Keiko Tenney-Sean Homma

3590 Benvoulin Road

Kelowna B.C. V1W 4M6

604.986.2459

Re: Site Placement of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque

Commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building

We respectfully acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territories of Indigenous peoples who are the traditional keepers of the lands and waters.

In 2017, a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating Tomekichi Homma and his court case, *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* was officially designated as a National Historic Event.

The Canadian Government determined,

"Tomekichi Homma's legal battle is known as one of the most significant acts of resistance to repression in the history of human rights in Canada. Homma's demand for equitable treatment influenced others to fight for equal rights, and, in retrospect, the court case has become crucial to our understanding of the context and events that led to the enactment of the *Canadian Bill of Rights* in 1960 and the entrenchment of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* into the *Constitution Act* of 1982..."

(Backgrounder *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma*, Government of Canada Commemorates *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* as a National Historic Event, Parks Canada Agency, News Release, Burnaby, BC, December 10, 2017)

My name is Keiko Tenney-Sean Homma, and I am the granddaughter of Tomekichi Homma.

The late Grace Eiko Thomson nominated my grandfather for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) plaque. The extended Homma family and I favourably support the plaque that commemorates my grandfather's landmark legal case *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* be placed by the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society (JFBS) building on Moncton St. in Richmond.

Background Information

Tomekichi (Tomey) Homma was one of the first Japanese to settle in Steveston in the early 1880's. The son of a prestigious samurai family, he was brought up to follow the samurai code of conduct, to loyally serve one's family and community. Tomey was well educated; he spoke, read, and wrote Japanese, Chinese and English. His upbringing shaped him into becoming a committed community leader who advocated for the rights of his fellow immigrants and

championed the emergence of the early Japanese Canadian (JC) communities in Steveston and later, the Powell Street neighbourhood in Vancouver.

During this time in British Columbia, racial prejudice and discrimination were common, and the presence of a hostile anti-Asian climate was dominant. Japanese immigrants encountered harsh political, economic, and occupational hardships and inequalities which affected and restricted aspects of their lives. Tomekichi believed this environment was inequitable and unjust, so he worked to change the widespread racial prejudice and restrictions of the time.

While residing in Steveston, Tomey became a naturalized Canadian citizen; a status he believed should democratically embrace citizens regardless of ethnicity, cultural traditions, and religion. However, under the racist provincial law of his day, an amendment to the *Provincial Elections Act* that disqualified Japanese Canadians from the vote; Tomekichi was denied the rights of full Canadian citizenship. During his time in Steveston, Tomey decided to wait until he could one day challenge this unjust law and fight for the voting franchise. In 1900, that day arrived. Tomekichi brought his case before the County and B.C. Supreme Courts, both of which ruled in his favour; however, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London England overturned these decisions. This judgement meant the B.C. government could grant or withhold voting rights based on race from both naturalized immigrant citizens and Canadian-born citizens. This legal ruling was the pivotal moment when racism, already written into legislation in Canada, was validated by the courts. Tomekichi realised that the inability to vote meant the Japanese would continue to face racial discrimination and restrictive laws and thus, remain second class citizens in Canada.

- The Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes *Cunningham v. Tomey Homma* as a key legal case that has significantly shaped human rights in Canada since 1900. It marked the beginning of the protracted struggle for civil and equal rights. (Oct. 2008)
- Andrea Geiger, historian, lawyer and professor emerita at Simon Fraser University researched and examined Grandfather's court case. She argued that the British Columbia courts correctly applied the existing law when they upheld grandfather's challenge to the Provincial Voters Act and that the Privy Council's decision was ill founded in its reliance on a phrase extracted from an 1863 American legal treatise that had, by definition, no bearing in Canada. (Tomekichi Homma *The Story of a Canadian*, 2008)
- As described by Geoff Meggs, an acclaimed journalist and retired politician who was Chief of Staff for former Premier John Horgan, "In the absence of those rights, Homma's community remained forever vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation, a reality underlined by the forcible dislocation and deportation of Japanese Canadians from the BC coast in the Second World War." (Jan. 2024)

Placement of the Plaque

- The Steveston Museum has exhibits about the Japanese community. The presence of the plaque by the JFBS building would be a welcome addition as Tomekichi was a prominent Japanese Canadian civil rights pioneer.
- This historic building is where Tomekichi worked and attended meetings and functions. In 1887, he helped organize the Japanese Canadian fishermen and cannery workers to

protect their economic rights by establishing the Japanese Canadian Fishermen's Association, serving as its chair until 1899 and provided social services for their emerging community with a hospital and school. His work helped shape Steveston's history and maritime culture.

- Steveston is where Tomey began his life-long fight for human rights and advocacy for social, economic and occupational equality. This is where he determined with the support of the fishing community that the fight for the voting franchise was crucial if the Japanese Canadians sought to achieve full citizenship as Canadians.
 - It was proposed to place the plaque by the Tomekichi Homma Elementary School however, as Geoff Meggs explains, "The association (JFBS) building was a place Tomekichi Homma undoubtedly visited many times. He helped organise the association and spearheaded fundraising both for the association and the hospital, which was nearby. This was also the centre of events during the salmon strikes of 1900 and 1901. Although Tomekichi Homma was then living in Vancouver, the association quickly turned its attention to his bid to win the vote as soon as the 1900 dispute was settled. It was here they raised funds to support the court challenge.
By contrast, the school is a welcome acknowledgement of Homma's career and importance in the community, but its location has no significance in his story. A plaque there would really be redundant, simply repeating what the school's name has already accomplished.
I strongly agree that the commemorative plaque to Tomekichi Homma should be at the JFBS Building rather than the school." (Geoff Meggs 2024)
 - The late Mr. Rintaro Hayashi, a revered Japanese Canadian community leader in Steveston, highly respected and honored the work of my grandfather. He nominated the school in Steveston to be named Tomekichi Homma. I know Mr. Hayashi would unequivocally approve and endorse the plaque placement at the JFBS building and view it as a significantly suited location.
- Placing the plaque at the JFBS building will serve as an educational resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers.
- The current renewal landscape plan outside the JFBS building could incorporate the plaque. The plaque would then be one of the first impressions of the Steveston Museum and an item of interest that visitors come upon. It could encourage the public to enter and explore the museum.
- The plaque promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.
- The plaque's location would be across the street where people can conveniently view the Nikkei Stories short video, Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times on their cellphones. Information about Tomey would be centralised for those who are interested in learning more about his life.
- The location of the proposed plaque site on Moncton Street is in the heart of Steveston; it will be in a high traffic area and readily visible and accessible.

Conclusion

This year marks a significant milestone...the 125th anniversary of Grandfather Tomekichi's prominent law case to secure the right to vote. What a fitting tribute for the plaque to be permanently placed at the historic site in Steveston.

The extended Homma Family, and I are strongly recommending City Council members to vote in favour of placing the HSMBC plaque by the JFBS building. The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. My grandfather believed the voting franchise was not a privilege but a fundamental, constitutional right. He understood that the ability to vote provided a powerful political voice to change discriminatory legislation and was a means to attain and protect justice, freedom, and equality in our democratic nation.

Cunningham V. Tomey Homma Plaque Inscription

Prominent Japanese Canadian Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma fought a landmark legal battle in 1900-1903 against a provision of the British Columbia *Provincial Elections Act*, which barred Asian Canadians and first Nations from voting. While he won in the lower and superior courts, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England, then Canada's highest court of appeal, upheld the Act, affirming the power of the provinces to disqualify voters on the basis of "race." The injustice of this legal precedent inspired generations of activists who fought to secure equal voting rights for all Canadians, which was achieved only in 1960.

Addendum

My mother's parents, Grandfather and Grandmother Yodogawa lived in Steveston before and after the war. Their seven children were born at the Japanese Fishermen's Hospital that Grandfather Tomekichi Homma helped establish. Other Yodogawa and Homma family relatives were born and/or received medical attention at this facility.

Growing up, I considered Steveston as my second home. I have fond childhood memories of spending time there. I remember hanging onto fishing nets hung high over wooden beams in the net house. My uncles and other fishermen pushed me, so I soared beyond the open exterior doors. Summers were spent in Steveston. I picked berries with cousins, played "jump the ditch" tag with them and walked to Moncton Street to purchase penny candy. I have relatives on my mother's side still residing in Steveston.

This quaint, vibrant village remains close to my heart and that of my grandfather's. I know Grandfather Tomekichi would be pleased that the Japanese Canadian community in Steveston has more than endured; it is thriving, keeping the sense of community alive and prosperous.

Keiko Tenney-Sean Homma

3590 Benvoulin Road

Kelowna B.C. V1W 4M6

604.986.2459



7 May 2025

489 Law Centre
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H5
Tel: 780.248.1516
Email: eric.adams@ualberta.ca

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Commemoration of Tomekichi Homma

I am honoured to write this letter supporting the placement of a plaque commemorating the life and accomplishments of Tomekichi Homma at the Japanese Fisherman's Benevolent Society in Steveston, British Columbia.

Simply put, Tomekichi Homma is a hero of Canadian history. It took remarkable vision, courage, tenacity, and open-heartedness to lead the legal campaign to recognize the rights of Japanese Canadians to vote in the early twentieth century. In doing so, Tomekichi Homma had to confront the entrenched racism of a legal system that denied the equal worth of every individual, and the discrimination of a political culture that vilified Japanese Canadians as unworthy members of the community.

Tomekichi Homma rejected Canada's legacies of racism in favour of a vision of Canadian rights, shared civic responsibilities, and diverse communities of mutual respect and flourishing. In 1903, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, then Canada's highest court, disagreed. It is a tragedy that Tomekichi's vision of Canada and the rights of its citizens was not fully accepted in his lifetime. His inspiring fight for change, however, would endure as a model, especially within the Japanese Canadian community.

The national plaque honouring Tomekichi's memory and legacy would be well placed at the Japanese Fisherman's Benevolent Society in Steveston – the site of significant moments of organization among the Japanese Canadian community in their fight for recognition of their status as citizens, including the right to vote.

As a legal historian and constitutional scholar, I applaud every effort to ensure that Tomekichi's story remains alive and visible for future generations. We need to remember our champions of the past, especially in the places where their voices mattered most.

Best,

Eric M. Adams

Professor of Law



Department of History

Academic Quadrangle 6026A, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
778-782-3521 (Tel.) 778-782-5837 (Fax) www.sfu.ca/history/ (Web)

12 May 2025

City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Attn: Richmond City Council

Re: Site Placement of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque
Commemorating Tomekichi Homma's Legal Challenge to the Provincial Voters
Act at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building in Steveston, BC

Dear Councilors:

As a historian and longtime student of Japanese Canadian history who regularly taught a seminar on Nikkei history in North America, I am particularly pleased to have this opportunity to write in support of the proposed placement of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Plaque commemorating Tomekichi Homma's early 20th century legal challenge to British Columbia's Provincial Voters Act at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building in Steveston, BC.

I first encountered Homma's case in 1996 when I visited what was then the Japanese Canadian National Museum (now the Nikkei National Museum) and recognized – at a time when there was as yet little information available about the substance of the case – that a profound injustice was done when the British Privy Council upheld the discriminatory provisions of the Provincial Voters Act after hearing argument in the case in 1902. The article I wrote after researching the case in depth, "Writing Racial Barriers into Law: Upholding B.C.'s Denial of the Vote to its Japanese Canadian Citizens, Homma versus Cunningham, 1902," was published in a volume of essays edited by Gail Nomura and Louis Fiset titled *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* by the University of Washington Press in 2005.

Born into a samurai family in Chiba, Japan, in 1865, Tomekichi Homma immigrated to Canada in 1883 at the age of 18. During his first years in Canada, Homma worked as a fisherman out of Steveston, B.C., where he helped to found the *Gyōsha Dantai* (Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society) in 1887, serving as its chairman through 1899. He joined with other community leaders in establishing a hospital for Japanese Canadian fishermen in Steveston and a Japanese language school in Richmond, B.C. Homma became a naturalized British subject in April 1893. Although he would expand his activities to include Vancouver in 1897, Homma maintained his close ties to Japanese Canadian community in Steveston whose members would be among his staunchest

Richmond City Council
12 May 2025
Page 2

supporters when he filed his test case challenging the racially discriminatory provisions of the Provincial Voters Act in October 1900.

Homma's effort to overturn the racially discriminatory provisions of the Provincial Voters Act failed only because the British Privy Council, then the final arbiter of cases arising in Canada, was willing to adopt an approach that was both legally and logically unsound in ways no one could have anticipated. While Homma had prevailed in B.C.'s lower courts, the Privy Council overturned their decisions, handing down a vague and poorly reasoned decision of its own that relied in significant part on a clause in an outdated U.S. legal treatise interpreting an article of the U.S. Constitution which, of course, has – by definition – no bearing in Canada.

Although Homma did not prevail, his courage in challenging an unjust law inspired generations of activists to continue the fight to secure equal rights for all Canadians.

Locating the plaque at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building in Steveston, BC, recognizes Tomekichi Homma's courage in challenging the racially discriminatory provisions of the Provincial Voters Act at a time when anti-Asian prejudice was rampant in BC; it also situates Steveston and its Japanese Canadian fishers at the heart of one of the most important early efforts to ensure that Canadians of all backgrounds would not be barred from voting on grounds of race but would have equal access to the franchise as they do today.

Very truly yours,

Andrea Geiger, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, History

Tomekichi “Tomey” Homma

Canada’s first

human rights activist

by GEOFF MEGGS

IF ANY ONE PERSON could claim to be Canada’s first civil rights activist, surely that person would be Tomekichi “Tomey” Homma, who in 1900 challenged racist provincial voting laws at a time when anti-Asiatic prejudice was at full and violent strength.



Homma twice won the right to register to vote in lower courts only to be defeated by a verdict of the highest court in the British Empire. In its decision, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) overturned its own precedent only two years earlier that denied the Province of BC the right to bar Chinese workers from employment in BC’s coal mines. It was a reversal that would deny the franchise to Japanese, Chinese and Asian Canadians for nearly 50 years, a verdict that had repercussions across the empire from South Africa to India and Australia.

As the Government of Canada acknowledged in 2017, in marking Homma’s challenge, “the JCPC’s decision had a lasting impact on Canadian federalism because it legally defined the vote as a privilege that a province could grant or withhold on the basis of race, from immigrant citizens or Canadian-born alike. It also validated in law a long tradition of racial, ethnic,

class, and gender exclusions in Canada's voting history. Moreover, it served as precedent in future legal challenges against anti-Asian legislation.”

Despite his ultimate defeat, Homma remains revered to this day in the Japanese Canadian community for his selfless sacrifice in their fight for fundamental rights and freedoms. As one community historian put it, he was “surely the foremost advocate and activist of Nikkei civil rights, and without peer.”

Homma valued the right to vote not just as a doorway to employment – many jobs required the incumbent to be on the voters list -- but for “its more cardinal substance, such as the right to elect and be elected to public office.”

For all these reasons, Homma warrants full acknowledgement in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. As a naturalized Canadian, he expected and

The Privy Council “defined the vote as a privilege that a province could grant or withhold on the basis of race, from immigrant citizens or Canadian-born alike.”

demanding the full rights of citizenship: the right to vote, seek office, serve on a jury. Under a provincial law of his day, he and his descendants would forever be denied those rights by reason of their Japanese ancestry.

In the absence of those rights, the Japanese Canadian community remained forever vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation, a reality underlined by the forcible dislocation and deportation of Japanese Canadians from the BC coast in the Second World War.

Homma’s story has new resonance today as hundreds of thousands of new Canadians, already admitted as permanent residents, wait years for full citizenship and the right to shape the future of the country they have chosen as their home. His struggle raises important questions about what it means to be a Canadian.

Homma first saw Canada from the deck of a steamship that diverted to Vancouver in 1883. He was headed to study at Oxford, but he decided to stay after seeing the tree-covered mountains around Burrard Inlet and new city lots being laid out in anticipation of the arrival of the railway. He became a salmon fisherman in the growing canning industry on the Fraser River.

The son of a samurai family, he was marked by great discipline, strength of character and commitment to community service. Within ten years of arriving in

BC, he was a respected leader of the growing Japanese community, a key figure in the emerging Japanese fishermen's association. Year after year, as Japanese, white and Indigenous fishers fought with the canners and each other for a living from the fishery, Homma was in the front lines, urging organization and solidarity among the Japanese and respectful relations with Indigenous and white fishers.

At the same time, Homma led a drive to build a hospital in Steveston, open to all, that would treat the many fishermen afflicted by diseases like typhoid and malnutrition. Fluent in Chinese and English, he provided translation and court interpretation for anyone who needed it. He founded an organization to fight for the rights of Japanese and launched a number of businesses in Vancouver's Chinatown, including a rooming house and a restaurant, to provide jobs to his compatriots.

Homma was outraged by changes to provincial law in 1895 that would deny Japanese the vote, even if naturalized and even if they were born in Canada. From the beginning, Homma saw the organization of the Japanese fishermen serving two goals: the protection of their economic rights and the expansion of their political rights through winning the vote.

On Oct. 19, 1900, just weeks after a lengthy and violent strike that ended in the deployment of armed militia to Steveston, Homma walked through the front door of the Vancouver Court House, stood before the elections officer and demanded to be registered to vote. As he expected, he was refused. He promptly demanded a judicial review, a court ruling on the validity of the elections officer's decision.

The judge who ruled in Homma's favour at his first court hearing warned that "the residence within the Province of large numbers of persons, British subjects in name but doomed to perpetual exclusion from any part in the passage of legislation affecting their property and civil rights, would surely not be to the advantage of Canada, and might even become a source of national danger." This prophetic warning went unheeded. Japanese Canadians faced constant reductions in their economic and political rights until they were finally forcibly taken from their homes, saw all their assets seized and were interned east of the Rockies. Homma himself died in internment in 1945.

Homma's fight for the franchise was taken up by others. Having defeated fascism, Canada had to acknowledge its own racist legal infrastructure. Homma's son Seiji was in the gallery at the Legislature in 1949 when BC finally granted Japanese Canadians the vote, four years after Tomekichi Homma's death in internment and half a century after he had taken up the battle for the vote.

Homma's challenge, issued at a time when racism in Canada was in full flood, reminds us that the right time to fight for the expansion of human rights, democracy and social justice is always now. Homma refused to wait and so must we. This uniquely admirable man showed the way.

Why should we care about Tomekichi Homma?

- He demanded his full rights as a Canadian citizen – to vote, to serve on a jury, to run for office, to work in any field he chose – in the face of constant, sometimes violent racist opposition
- He was respected and admired in the wider community, organizing an association to press for full rights for Japanese Canadians while acting as an interpreter and translator for Japanese and Chinese immigrants to Canada
- He challenged BC's racist voting laws with a grassroots campaign that won twice in lower courts before going all the way to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest court in the British Empire
- His story remains relevant today, 125 years after his historic court battle, as hundreds of thousands of newcomers to Canada wait years to achieve full citizenship, despite arriving as permanent residents, or remain without a path to citizenship through the Temporary Foreign Worker program.
- His story is a reminder that there is never a bad time to fight for human rights and social justice – the best time is always now

Copyright Geoff Meggs May 2025



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Att. 4 – Cunningham v. Tomey Homma Plaque Artwork



CUNNINGHAM V. TOMEY HOMMA

Prominent Japanese Canadian Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma fought a landmark legal battle in 1900–1903 against a provision of the British Columbia *Provincial Elections Act*, which barred Asian Canadians and First Nations from voting. While he won in the lower and superior courts, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England, then Canada's highest court of appeal, upheld the Act, affirming the power of the provinces to disqualify voters on the basis of "race." The injustice of this legal precedent inspired generations of activists who fought to secure equal voting rights for all Canadians, which was achieved only in 1960.

CUNNINGHAM V. TOMEY HOMMA

Éminent Canadien japonais, Tomekichi « Tomey » Homma mène une lutte judiciaire marquante de 1900 à 1903 pour contester la loi électorale de la Colombie-Britannique privant les Canadiens asiatiques et les Premières Nations du droit de vote. Bien qu'il gagne devant des tribunaux inférieur et supérieur, le Comité judiciaire du Conseil privé d'Angleterre, alors la plus haute cour d'appel du Canada, confirme la loi, affirmant le pouvoir des provinces de disqualifier les électeurs selon leur « race ». L'injustice de ce précédent juridique inspire des générations d'activistes à exiger le droit de vote pour tous les Canadiens, qui n'est accordé qu'en 1960.



Historic Sites and
Monuments Board of Canada
and Parks Canada

Commission des lieux et
monuments historiques du Canada
et Parcs Canada

Canada



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: May 5, 2025

From: Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
File: 11-7000-09-20-089/Vol 01

Re: 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects

Staff Recommendation

That the 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects as presented in the staff report titled "2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects", dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 2

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

Staff Report

Origin

Richmond's Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program creates opportunities for collaborative art projects involving community associations, schools, non-profit organizations and professional artists of all disciplines.

This report recommends three artist proposals for community public art projects in partnership with East Richmond Community Association, Richmond Public Library and Richmond School District No. 38.

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.

6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

This report supports the strategic directions of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 to:

- *Ensure affordable and accessible arts for all.*
- *Promote inclusivity and diversity in the arts.*
- *Activate public spaces through (and for) the arts.*

This report supports the Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023 and the action plan focus area #2 to:

- *Enhance physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities and provide opportunities to increase Richmond residents' sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods.*

Analysis

Background

The Engaging Artists in Community Public Art program invites professional artists to imagine innovative ways to engage culturally diverse seniors, adults, youth and children in the making of artwork to foster individual creative expression, multigenerational and cross-cultural exchange, and community building.

In the fall of 2024, staff invited interested community partners to participate in the 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program. The following three organizations and City Departments provided an expression of interest to work with an artist this year:

- Richmond School District No. 38 / Brighthouse Elementary School;
- East Richmond Community Association and Richmond Public Library; and
- Richmond School District No. 38 / Tomsett Elementary School in collaboration with the City's Engineering Active Transportation Program.

Terms of Reference and Artist Selection

The projects' Terms of Reference were developed in consultation with the selected partners. Profiles were included in the Artist Call to describe the three separate artist opportunities. This information assisted artists in choosing to apply for the opportunity that best matched their skill sets and interests (Attachment 1).

The Artist Call was issued on January 24, 2025 and closed on February 20, 2025. Staff received a total of 23 artist applications for three artist opportunities. The selection process for each opportunity was implemented in accordance with the terms of the Public Art Program Policy Administrative Procedures. All artist proposals were evaluated on the basis of artistic merit, appropriateness to the goals of the Community Public Art Program, community organization objectives, artist qualifications, and project feasibility.

The following three artist proposals were presented to the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) on April 15, 2025. RPAAC supported all proposed projects with no feedback.

Richmond School District No. 38 / Brighthouse Elementary School

The final artist selection meeting for the Brighthouse Elementary School artist opportunity took place on April 2, 2025. The selection panel included the following members:

- Vivian Cardey – Community Partner, Teacher, Brighthouse Elementary;
- Leah Scharf – Community Partner, Vice-Principal, Brighthouse Elementary;
- Susan Segers, Community Partner, Teacher, Brighthouse Elementary;

- Shelley Rotherburger – Artist and Community Member; and
- Nicole Lau – Artist and Community Member.

Artist Cara Guri was recommended for this artist opportunity. Cara is a professional visual artist and visual arts teacher with extensive experience supporting children of all ages in expressive art making. From 2022-2023, she was an artist-in-residence with the City of Abbotsford, where she created work inspired by the local community, culminating in an exhibition at The Kariton Gallery. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Cara's proposed project, *Growing Together*, will explore the interconnection and balance of the natural world with the role that humans play in supporting a thriving and sustainable ecosystem. Through a variety of artistic mediums, students will learn about different plant, insect and animal species in Richmond's natural landscape. The project will culminate in a legacy artwork informed by students and a school-wide celebratory gathering to share the project with the wider community. (Attachment 2)

East Richmond Community Association and Richmond Public Library

The final artist selection meeting for the P.A.I.N.T and Richmond Public Library artist opportunity took place on April 1, 2025. The selection panel included the following members:

- Rajiv Ashrafi – Community Partner, Richmond Public Library;
- Em Lee – Community Partner, East Richmond Community Association;
- Candice Yee – Artist; and
- Jade Balogh-Callow – Arts Professional and Community Member.

A member of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee attended as an observer.

An artist team comprised of Cheryl Hamilton and lisa g. was recommended for this artist opportunity. Cheryl and lisa are life partners and a collaborative artist team who grew up in Richmond and met while attending Hugh McRoberts Secondary School. Their multidisciplinary creative practice encompasses storytelling, sculpture, printmaking, zine making and stop motion animation.

Their proposed project, *Queers in Space* will involve a range of art activities to engage 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and youth allies from the East Richmond Community Association's People for Acceptance and Inclusion, Not just Tolerance (P.A.I.N.T) group, including digital story, animation, drawing, printmaking and zine making (creative writing and image making). Their approach to working with youth infuses positivity, joy and personal experience with the aim to create healthy connections and provide a starting point for young people to explore their own voices and identities through art making. Their project will culminate in a celebratory gathering and presentation to the larger community. (Attachment 2)

Richmond School District No. 38 / Tomsett Elementary School in collaboration with the City's Engineering Active Transportation Program

The artist selection meeting for the Tomsett Elementary School artist opportunity took place on April 3, 2025. The selection panel included the following members:

- Liliane Htan – Community Partner, Teacher, Tomsett Elementary School;
- Kirsten Wallace – Community Partner, Principal, Tomsett Elementary School;
- Arezou Nouredin – Community Member; and
- Terra Lucia – Artist.

A member of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee attended as an observer.

Artist Andrea Hoff was recommended for this artist opportunity. Andrea is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and scholar. Her socially engaged artist practice explores intersections of speculative futures, radical ecologies and neurodivergent narratives. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria and a Masters of Fine Art, Creative Writing, from the University of British Columbia.

Andrea's proposed project, *Our Storied Path*, will connect young learners' thoughts and feelings about the climate crisis with how active transportation can foster climate solutions and empower individuals. Students will engage in multiple artistic mediums and activities, including storytelling and ceramic-making projects. The legacy artwork will be created in collaboration with students and teachers, as well as Transportation Department and Parks Services.
(Attachment 2)

Next Steps

Following Council approval of the artist proposals, staff will work with the artists and community partners to execute contracts and develop work plans. The projects will move into the development phase with implementation completed by fall 2026.

Financial Impact

The Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program budget is \$36,000 and is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund. Each community art project will be allocated \$12,000. Richmond School District No. 38 is contributing an additional \$2,000 for the project with Tomsett Elementary School.

The budget is included in the City's 2025 Public Art Program operating budget. Any maintenance and repairs required for any legacy artworks will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program as part of the annual operating budget, unless otherwise negotiated with the project partners.

May 5, 2025

- 6 -

Conclusion

This year's Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program creates opportunities to support a diverse group of artists and with socially engaged arts practices.

Council approval is required to implement the three projects as part of the "2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects" that focus on youth development and Richmond's natural heritage, 2SLGBTQIA+ identities, and active transportation education.



Biliana Velkova
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: 2025 Engaging Artists in Community Program, Artist Call Terms of Reference
2: 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Project Proposals

call to artists



Hidden Stories of the Bioverse, Andrea Hoff collaboration w/ Dixon Elementary School, 2024

The City of Richmond Public Art Program seeks artists with socially-oriented and civic-minded practices for three opportunities in 2025-2026. Professional artists are invited to imagine innovative ways in which art can act as a catalyst to foster individual creative expression, build community and address topics of relevance working within communities.

- Opportunity A:** \$12,000 | Brighthouse Elementary School
- Opportunity B:** \$12,000 | P.A.I.N.T & Richmond Public Library
- Opportunity C:** \$14,000 | F.A. Tomsett Elementary School
- Eligibility:** Artists residing in British Columbia
- Deadline:** February 20, 2025
- Duration:** Spring/Fall 2025 – Spring/Fall 2026

Engaging Artists in Community Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

January 2025

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

BACKGROUND

The Engaging Artists in Community (EAC) Program supports artists with socially-oriented practices and encourages the development of a wide variety of collaborative practices. Community-based artworks can express a shared goal or theme and/or provoke dialogue on ideas related to cultural identity, social history or the environment. Artist projects can leave a physical or social legacy for the community and/or may include a community event to present the final work.

Projects will engage participants by providing them with a greater sense of self, identity, community and place through learning and experience of art-making experiences. The work must also be accessible for people living with disabilities and appeal to a diverse and local audience. Artists will also demonstrate the capacity to undertake and complete their proposed work within an approved timeframe.

PREVIOUS EAC PROJECTS

Applicants are encouraged to view previously commissioned projects here:

richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/publicart/artist-calls

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Open to professional artists and artist teams residing in British Columbia. City of Richmond employees, Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee members and artists who are currently contracted by the Richmond Public Art Program are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection panels consisting of a combination of artists, art professionals and community representatives will convene for each of the three opportunities. The selection panels will engage in a two-stage selection process to review all artist submissions. During the second stage, shortlisted artists or artist teams will be invited to an interview with the selection panel and will receive a \$250 honorarium. At the conclusion of the process, the panels will recommend one artist or artist team for each opportunity. Subject to approval by Council, each artist or artist team will be required to enter into a contract with the City of Richmond.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

- Artistic merit and clarity of the artist's Statement of Intent in response to the Partner Profile goals and objectives. The proposal should demonstrate artistic quality, innovation and creativity.
- Demonstration of artistic quality, innovation and creativity in applicant's previous work and experience.
- Community impact of work to connect diverse and multi-generational audiences with artists in creative dialogue, participation and awareness.
- Artist's capacity to work with community members, other design professionals and project stakeholders.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program Policy goals: [richmond.ca/ shared/assets/Public_Art_Program_Policy_8703_32088.pdf](http://richmond.ca/shared/assets/Public_Art_Program_Policy_8703_32088.pdf)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to: PublicArt@richmond.ca

- **INFORMATION FORM:** Please complete the information form attached to the end of this document.
- **STATEMENT OF INTENT:** One page (300 words max.), describing proposed approach to the project, relevant experience and skillsets, and how the proposal responds to the specific aims of the project opportunity.
- **ARTIST CV:** One page maximum. Teams should include one page for each member.
- **WORK SAMPLES:** Up to ten (10) examples of previous work. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information as captions on the bottom of each image page. If submitting digital video, please include link to YouTube, Vimeo or similar online platform. **Please do not submit digital video files.**
- **REFERENCES:** Three references who can speak to your abilities and accomplishments. Only provide contact name, title, phone number and email. References will only be contacted if applicant is shortlisted.

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

The City of Richmond strives to create artist opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to individuals of all abilities. If you are living with a disability and require assistance in completing the written application, please contact PublicArt@richmond.ca or Tel: 604-204-8671.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Support images and concept sketches are best formatted to landscape format.
3. Artist submission PDF file must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae.
5. All documents must be sent by email to: PublicArt@richmond.ca. Please include name and project when naming your file, e.g. Jane_Smith_EngagingArtistsCommunity_RFP

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and up to \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. Please be advised that all commissioned artists from this program will be required to complete Police Information Checks with the Richmond RCMP and Richmond School District 38, if applicable.
3. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obligated to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
4. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
5. Extensions to this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8671

Email: PublicArt@richmond.ca

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. Brighthouse Elementary School.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

Brighthouse Elementary School

Artist Opportunity

COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Richmond School District's mission is to cultivate a safe, accepting and engaged community that inspires a passion for lifelong learning. The values that guide its work to achieve the mission are: collaboration, creativity, curiosity, resilience, respect and equity for all.

Arts education plays a key role in the development of social-emotional competencies that enable young people to interact productively with others, build and express a healthy sense of self and community, and work effectively toward their goals. Art is valuable because it allows young learners to process their world and engage in critical sensory input.

Brighthouse Elementary School is located at 6800 Azure Road and is a five-minute walk to Minoru Park. The school has a population of 730 students. Sixty staff members serve a diverse population with many recent immigrants.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

The commissioned artist project will engage approximately 40 young learners in grades 1 & 2 (ages 6-7) and 5 & 6 (ages 11-12) on the topic of Richmond's native and introduced flora and fauna.

Artists with socially-engaged, multidisciplinary art practices including environmental art, storytelling, visual arts, digital media arts (to name a few) are invited to submit an expression of interest for this artist opportunity. Experience teaching or working with young learners would be an asset.

This project will offer students an opportunity to:

- lead a place-based art experience with culturally diverse students on the topic and theme of native and introduced flora and fauna;
- encourage and offer opportunities to express their voice, feelings and emotions, while creating a safe and inclusive space; and
- create a legacy work that encapsulates the collaborative process of creating and learning between the commissioned artist, participants, and the larger community.

The commissioned artist will have access to:

- Indoor and outdoor learning environments such as multipurpose classrooms, outdoor learning space, shared community park and Minoru Park.
- General office and art supplies including white board, flip chart paper, pocket chart, scissors, rulers pencils, markers, pencil crayons, crayons, glue sticks, paint, paint brushes, oil pastels, chalk and modeling clay.
- Space for temporary storage of artist materials and equipment.
- If required, a work space within the school with access to WIFI.
- Richmond Parks Services staff, who are subject matter experts on native and introduced flora and fauna in the area.

RICHMOND PARKS SERVICES

Richmond Parks Services is renowned for its high quality parks, trails, natural areas and vibrant urban realm. Preservation of wildlife habitat, the natural environment, and Richmond's natural and cultural heritage are cornerstones of parks and trails design and programming. The department provides pathways and amenities within urban settings that link people to each other, their community, and their natural environment while fostering healthy lifestyles.

call to artists

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a final legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to engage the larger community.
- The commissioned artist or artist team will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, creation, production, final community celebratory event/presentation, and a final legacy work to be installed and/or presented at Brighthouse Elementary school.
- The commissioned project will engage approximately 40 young learners (two classes). The artist may work with each class individually or as one group depending on the preference of the commissioned artist. Students with diverse needs will be supported by staff and teaching assistants.
- The implementation, project schedule, format and structure of the engagement sessions with young learners will be coordinated working with the participating project teachers at Brighthouse Elementary School.
- The commissioned artist/artist team will also create and maintain a project website blog to document the project.

LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team may work indoors and outdoors at Brighthouse Elementary, 6800 Azure Rd. Off-site activation or fieldwork may also be possible.

Please refer to Figures 2 to 7 for additional photos of activity spaces and off-site locations available to the artist for indoor/outdoor project activation.

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$12,000 and is inclusive of artist engagement work, art materials for engagement activities, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

Subject to the nature of the artist project and availability, there may be additional in-kind materials and resources provided by Brighthouse Elementary School / Richmond School District for implementation, installation or presentation of the project.

call to artists

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Richmond School District | sd38.bc.ca
- F.A. Brighthouse Elementary | brighthouse.sd38.bc.ca
- City of Richmond Public Art Program | richmond.ca/publicart
- City of Richmond Parks Services | richmond.ca/parks-recreation

PROJECT TIMELINE

The selected artist must complete all work by June 2026.

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2025
Finalist Notifications:	March 2025
2nd Stage Interviews:	April 2, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	September 2025
Completion:	June 2026

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they will be available for the second stage interview dates/times.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 2 & 3 Brighouse Elementary multipurpose gathering spaces



Figure 4 & 5 Brighouse Elementary outdoor activation spaces and community park.

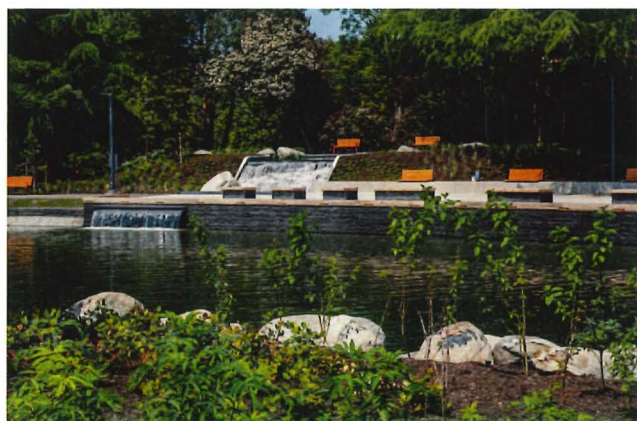


Figure 6 & 7 Minoru Park Lakes District.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. P.A.I.N.T & Pride Week at Cambie Community Centre.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

People for Acceptance and Inclusion, Not just Tolerance (P.A.I.N.T.) is a weekly 2SLGBTQIA+ youth drop-in program run by the Cambie Community Centre located at 12800 Cambie Road. The main goal of the program is to create a safe space where 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, ages 13-18 can find support and resources to help express themselves, connect with peers and feel comfortable and accepted within their community. The program leaders empower their youth to thrive and be who they are every day.

P.A.I.N.T meets every Wednesday at Cambie Community Centre from 3:30–5:30pm. Programmed activities include arts and crafts and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members sometimes stop by to provide further resources and information.

Richmond Public Library has been proudly serving the Richmond community since 1976 as an essential source of information and learning. The library is focused on championing intellectual freedom and freedom of expression, reducing and removing barriers to improve accessibility, and strengthening social and economic sustainability. With four locations across Richmond, its mission is to create opportunities to learn, connect and belong with a vision to inspire curiosity, transform lives and empower everyone.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

P.A.I.N.T & Cambie Community Centre | Richmond Public Library

Artist Opportunity

call to artists

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This artist opportunity is open specifically to artists or artist teams who identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ umbrella.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Artists with socially-engaged interdisciplinary practices incorporating digital mixed media, performance, sound, storytelling, installation art and/or visual arts are encouraged to apply.

This project will offer 2SLGBTQIA+ youth ages 13-18 an opportunity to:

- amplify their voices and participate in a collaborative art experience with the commissioned artist and community,
- foster allyship and develop safe and inclusive spaces within our city for queer youth,
- use creative forms of expression as a catalyst to connect with diverse youth, and
- create opportunities to learn, connect and build relationships with the larger 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

The following guiding questions may be explored in the artist project:

- *How can art foster spaces of deeper inclusion and belonging?*
- *How do we use art to activate and unite different communities?*

The commissioned artist will be supported by Richmond Public Library staff and the Cambie Community Centre Youth Development Coordinator.

Additional resources available to the artist include:

- Indoor/outdoor gathering spaces.
- Temporary storage space for artist materials and equipment.
- Basic office supplies, including photocopying and printing services.
- Digitization stations, Cricut Maker 3, 3D printers, musical instruments, podcasting equipment, laptops and printers (available through the Brighthouse Library).

call to artists

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a final legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to engage the larger community.
- The commissioned artist will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, production and presentation of a final legacy work.
- The commissioned artist will participate and present work for Richmond Culture Days (October 2025) and Richmond Pride Week (August 2025 and/or 2026).
- The artist will create and maintain an artist blog website to communicate and document the process and work created during the project.

LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team will work from the Cambie Community Centre, 12800 Cambie Road and the Richmond Public Library Cambie Branch, 11590 Cambie Road.

Please refer to Figures 2 to 6 for additional photos of activity spaces and off-site locations available to the artist for indoor/outdoor project activation.

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$12,000 and is inclusive of community engagement work, production/material expenses, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2025
Finalist Notifications:	March 2025
2nd Stage Interviews:	April 1, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	August 2025
Completion:	August 2026

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they will be available to attend the second stage interview date and time.

call to artists



Figure 2 & 3 Cambie Community Centre Games Room



Figure 4 & 5 Cambie Library Dream Room and Cambie Community Centre Board Room



Figure 6 Cambie Community Gathering Space, King George Park

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. F.A Tomsett Elementary School

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

F.A. Tomsett Elementary School

Artist Opportunity

COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Richmond School District's mission is to cultivate a safe, accepting and engaged community that inspires a passion for lifelong learning. The values that guide its work to achieve its mission are: collaboration, creativity, curiosity, resilience, respect and equity for all.

Arts education plays a key role in the development of social-emotional competencies that enable young people to interact productively with others, build and express a healthy sense of self and community, and work effectively toward their goals. Art is valuable because it allows young learners to process their world and engage in critical sensory input.

F.A. Tomsett Elementary School is located at 9671 Odlin Road. The current student population from kindergarten to Grade 7 is 487 students, with a staff of more than 60 dedicated educators and support staff. The catchment area is comprised of established and new neighbourhoods, including single-family homes and multiple family urban housing with places nearby to work, shop and play.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Artists or artist teams with socially-engaged, multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary artist practices in visual, design and/or performing arts (including but not limited to) storytelling, performance-based art forms, communication design, walking practices, sound-based practices, environmental art, therapeutic and installation art, digital mixed-media and photography are invited to submit a proposal for this opportunity.

The following guiding question may be explored in the artist project:

- *How can art raise awareness and encourage the use of active transportation options by students, families and the larger community?*

The artist project will offer young learners, ages 5–9, (K to Grade 5) an opportunity to:

- foster community belonging, connectedness and identity, especially among newcomer students and their families;
- participate in a place-based art experience with culturally diverse students on the topic and theme of active transportation;
- express their voices and emotions on climate change action and impacts within a safe and inclusive space for creative expression;
- create a legacy artwork that encapsulates the collaborative process of creating and learning between the commissioned artist, young learners, and the larger community; and
- learn how different groups in the community can collaborate with a common goal in mind.

RICHMOND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Encouraging active transportation (walking, cycling, and rolling) as a healthy and convenient transportation choice is an integral part of the City's community and transportation planning and plays an essential role in Richmond's Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2050.

Establishing comfortable community routes, awareness of the various types of walking and cycling facilities near schools, and an avenue for feedback on enhancements from a user's perspective, is an important piece of making connections whole.

call to artists

Artists will be supported by City staff, teaching staff and volunteers, and have access to:

- Indoor and outdoor spaces for hands-on art making and community engagement work.
- An on-site secure storage area.
- General office supplies, including photocopying and printing equipment.
- Office meeting/work space, if required.
- City of Richmond Transportation staff subject matter experts

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a final legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to engage the larger community.
- The artist or artist team will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, production and presentation work.
- The commissioned project will engage approximately 75 young learners (three classes). The artist may work with each class individually or as one group depending on the preference of the commissioned artist. Students with diverse needs will be supported by staff and teaching assistants.
- The commissioned artist will present the final legacy work as part of a school event in June 2026.
- The artist or artist team will also create and maintain a project artist blog to communicate and document the process and work created during the artist project.

LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team will be based at Tomsett Elementary, 9671 Odlin Road.

Please refer to Figures 2 to 8 for additional images of maps, activity spaces and locations available to the artist for indoor/outdoor project activation.

call to artists

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$14,000 and is inclusive of community engagement work, art materials for engagement activities, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

Subject to the nature of the artist project and availability, additional in-kind materials and resources for implementation, installation or presentation of the project may be available and contributed by Tomsett Elementary School.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Tomsett Elementary School](#)
- [City of Richmond Public Art Program](#)
- [Richmond School District 38 Catchment Areas](#)
- [City of Richmond Cycling Routes and Maps](#)
- [City of Richmond Community Energy & Emissions Plan 2050](#)
- [Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan](#)

PROJECT TIMELINE

The selected artist must complete all work by June 2026

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2025;
Finalist Notifications:	February 2025
Stage 2 Interview:	April 3, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	Fall 2025
Completion:	June 2026

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they are available to attend the second stage interview date and time.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 2, 3 and 4 Busy school pick-up & drop-off zone



Figure 5 & 6 Alexandra Park w/ Alexandra District Energy Utility Facility.

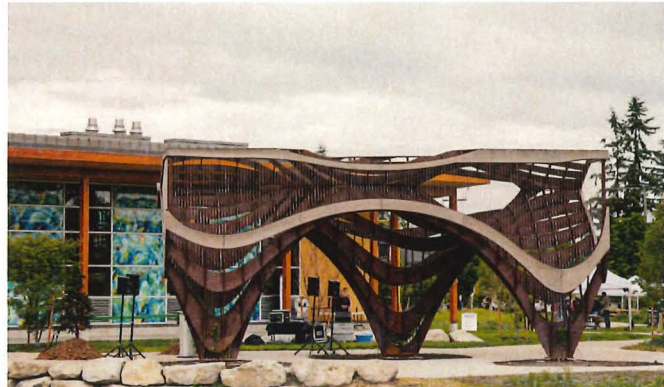


Figure 7 & 8 Alexandra Greenway | *Pergola Garden*, Nicolas Croft/Michaela MacLeod, 2022 | *Current*, Andrea Sirois, 2013.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

Attach one (1) copy of this form as the first page of the submission.

Please indicate which opportunity you are applying for:

☐ Brighthouse Elementary ☐ Cambie CC/Richmond Library ☐ Tomsett Elementary

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Emailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the checklist will not be reviewed.

Optional: Do you self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or underrepresented community?

(examples: Indigenous, person of colour, 2SLGBTQIA+, mixed ability, newcomer, Deaf, hard of hearing, living with a disability, etc.) If so, please specify:

If applicable, please indicate additional members of your artist team:

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity:

Would you like to receive direct e-mails from the Richmond Public Art Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit applications by email to: PublicArt@richmond.ca

Additional Information

Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the EOI as required. All submissions to this EOI become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright of the submitted documents. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

2025 Project Proposals

Growing Together

Richmond School District No. 38 | Brighthouse Elementary School

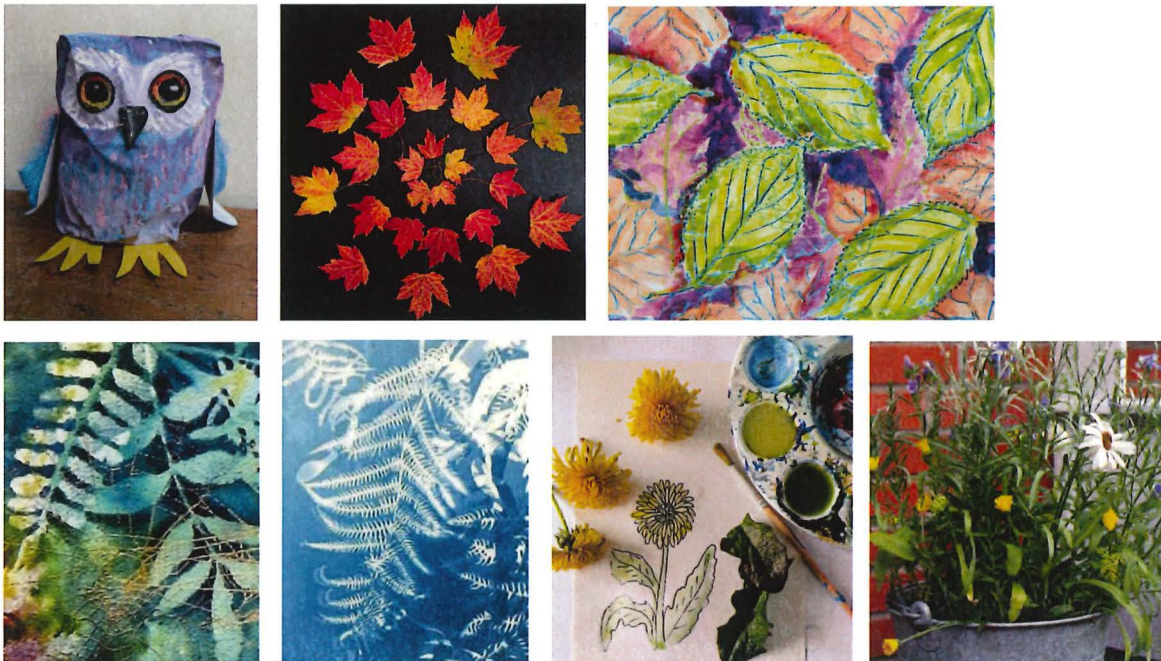
by artist Cara Guri

This community-engaged project will provide opportunities for young learners in Grades 1 & 2 and Grades 5 & 6 to explore Richmond's native and introduced flora and fauna.

Cara Guri is a professional visual artist and visual arts teacher with extensive experience supporting children of all ages in expressive art making. Between 2012-2024, she instructed art classes for ages 2-19 at Arts Umbrella in painting, drawing and mixed media with inspiring lesson plans and adapted activities according to specific learning needs. From 2022-2023, she was an artist in-residence with the City of Abbotsford, where she created work inspired by the local community, culminating in an exhibition at The Kariton Gallery. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Growing Together will explore the interconnection and balance of the natural world and the role that humans play in supporting a thriving and sustainable ecosystem. Through a variety of artistic mediums, students will learn about different plant, insect and animal species, how they are connected and affect one another, and what they need for proper habitats and successful growing environments. The project will culminate in a legacy artwork informed by students plus a school-wide celebratory gathering to share the project with the wider community.

Examples of proposed art activities:



From left to right: paper-based sculpture, ephemeral nature installations, watercolour resist leaf rubbings, plant monoprinting and cyanotypes, creating inks with invasive plants, planting a small wildflower garden

Queers in Space

East Richmond Community Association | Richmond Public Library

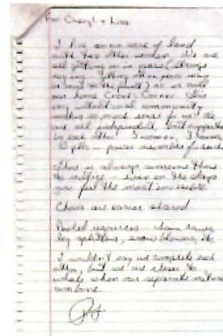
by artists Cheryl Hamilton and lisa g.

This project will engage 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and youth allies from the East Richmond Community Association's People for Acceptance and Inclusion, Not just Tolerance (P.A.I.N.T) group, in mentorship with 2SLGBTQIA+ mentors, using art and creativity to create safe queer spaces for youth wanting to develop their own voice through personal storytelling.

Cheryl Hamilton and lisa g. are life partners and a collaborative artist team who grew up in Richmond and met while attending Hugh McRoberts Secondary School. For the past two years, Cheryl has curated and produced a queer print exhibit and hosted workshops for first-time printmakers and zine artists. Artist lisa g. has had numerous digital storytelling artist residencies for the Vancouver Park Board, collecting community stories. As artists, they have both participated in the Queer Arts Festival in Vancouver.

Queers in Space will involve a range of art activities to engage 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and youth allies, including digital story, animation, drawing, printmaking and zine making (creative writing and image making). Queer stories are critical for understanding each other and building confidence. Their approach to working with community and youth utilizes positivity, joy and personal experience. Their aim is to create healthy connections and provide a starting point for young people to explore their own voices and identities through art making.

Examples of proposed art activities:



From left to right: storytelling through mixed-media collage, stop motion animation, poster screen printing and zine making.

Our Storied Path

Richmond School District No. 38 | Tomsett Elementary School

by artist **Andrea Hoff**

This community-engaged project will explore the topic of active transportation within the catchment area of Tomsett Elementary School, through sensory-based walks and creative expression activities including the tactile medium of clay and ceramics.

Andrea Hoff is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and scholar. Centred in community practice, her work explores intersections of speculative futures, radical ecologies, and neurodivergent narratives. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria and a Masters of Fine Art, Creative Writing from University of British Columbia.

Our Storied Path will connect young learners' thoughts and feelings about the climate crisis with examples of how active transportation can foster climate solutions and empower their own actions. The project will engage City staff including Transportation and Parks Services. Students will engage in multiple artistic mediums and activities including storytelling and ceramic-making projects. The legacy artwork will be informed by collaboration with students and teachers, City Transportation and Parks Services.

Examples of proposed art activities:



From left to right: ceramic tiles, mosaic tile, clay tiles and pavers in pathways and clay pinch-pots sculptures.



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: May 5, 2025

From: Chad Paulin
Director, Climate and Environment

File: 10-6160-07-01/2024-
Vol 01

Todd Gross
Director, Park Services

Re: Proposed Practices to Accelerate Blackberry Management in Richmond




Staff Recommendation

That Option 1, as outlined in the staff report titled "Proposed Practices to Accelerate Blackberry Management in Richmond", dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Climate and Environment and the Director, Parks Services, for the implementation of Himalayan blackberry management pilot program be approved.

Chad Paulin, M.Sc., P.Ag
Director, Climate & Environment
(604-247-4672)

Todd Gross
Director, Parks Services
(604-247-4942)

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Engineering Public Works Finance Bylaws	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Background

At the Open Public Works & Transportation Committee on October 18, 2023, Committee resolved:

- 1) *That staff review options to accelerate the eradication of blackberry; and*
- 2) *That options for hiring new staff that do not rely on volunteers or Parks staff be presented at the next budget process.*

Staff presented an option to accelerate blackberry management in the City's 2025 annual operating budget for consideration, and at the Open Finance Committee meeting, held on December 2, 2024, and it was further resolved:

1. *That staff look for strategies and options for more blackberry and other invasive species management and report back to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee.*

This report summarizes the City's existing blackberry management practices and outlines options for invasive species management, specifically blackberry, in the community.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

- 3.4 *Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

- 5.2 *Support the preservation and enhancement of Richmond's natural environment.*

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

- 6.2 *Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.*

Analysis

Himalayan blackberry (Blackberry) is a well-established invasive species in Richmond, native to Armenia and Northern Iran. While valued for its fruit, unmanaged growth forms dense, thorny thickets that outcompete native vegetation. Each square metre can produce 7,000–13,000 seeds, with the potential to germinate quickly or lie dormant in the soil. Blackberry also spreads vegetatively through root and stem fragments, creating challenges for land access, maintenance, and safety across parks, utility corridors, and transportation routes. Richmond's fertile alluvial sediments provide ideal conditions for Blackberry growth. The City's network of channelized watercourses, sloughs and dikes are excellent corridors for the movement of seeds, and Richmond's flat, open landscapes receive prolonged sunlight during the growing season, further promoting its spread. Controlling Blackberry is important because it can impede access to

infrastructure and natural areas, outcompete native vegetation and reduce biodiversity. The City's Invasive Species Action Plan (ISAP) guides invasive species management based on threats to human health and infrastructure, and available resources.

Current Invasive Species Management Practices

Blackberry is one of many invasive species established in Richmond. Similar to most municipalities in the Lower Mainland, blackberry is prevalent among many of Richmond's major transportation corridors, park trails, dikes and drainage canals. The City currently manages blackberry on City-owned property through various practices, policies and bylaws (Attachment 1) that overlap with several municipal services with an estimated annual cost of \$162,500 (Attachment 2). The City also dedicates approximately \$300,000 in capital funding annually to manage invasive species within the purview of the ISAP. Oversight of the invasive species management program is led by one dedicated staff member who coordinates the program across departments. Key management pillars include removal, restoration, and public education. The City also partners with non-profit organizations and volunteer groups through the Partners for Beautification Program to host stewardship events in parks. Though limited in scale, these activities support eradication, education and restoration of key park spaces. A summary of 2024 and upcoming 2025 events is provided in Attachment 3.

The ISAP outlines a strategic, risk-based approach to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective response to manage invasive species that is based on prevention, eradication, containment and control principles (Attachment 4). Under this framework, greater efforts are prioritized on the earlier stages of management to avoid the wide-spread distribution of an invasive species. Once a species, such as Blackberry, is distributed over large areas and abundant in the landscape, containment is no longer feasible. To maximize resources, the City prioritizes species management that pose a significant risk to public health, safety, and City infrastructure. Species such as giant hogweed, knotweed species, and parrot's feather are considered to be in the containment stage of management and are prioritized based on the significant risks they pose to Richmond's ecology and critical infrastructure. Knotweed has been treated on over 500 sites since 2015 due to its potential to erode dikes and damage building foundations. Parrot's feather has also been addressed to reduce localized flooding impacts.

Blackberry is listed as a *moderate priority species* in the ISAP, consistent with BC's *Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group* guidance. The widespread distribution of Blackberry places it within the control stage of management, suggesting that that eradication is no longer viable; instead, control and restoration are the primary management goals. Regionally, Blackberry is also recognized as a persistent and widespread species, with emphasis placed on restoring high-priority sites rather than full eradication.

Blackberry management on private property is managed through development and enforcement, while enforcement is carried out under the City's *Unsightly Premises Regulation Bylaw No. 7612*. Although Blackberry encroachment is enforced when necessary, the City's primary approach relies on education and voluntary compliance, not enforcement. In 2024, the City received 11 blackberry reports, which translates to approximately 5 per cent of all nuisance, vegetation calls.

Staff reviewed the blackberry management practices in neighbouring jurisdictions and found Richmond's approach to be consistent in both principle and execution. Continued alignment with regional and provincial best practices, combined with a focus on strategic site restoration and public education, remains the foundation of the City's management strategy.

Options for Blackberry Management in Richmond

Blackberry infestations present ongoing ecological and operational challenges. While pesticide use is recognized as an effective method for controlling large infestations, the City's Enhanced Pesticide Management Program prioritizes non-chemical approaches. Pesticide use was not included in the options presented below. However, staff note that future consideration could be given to piloting pesticide use to reduce costs. Options for additional blackberry management are outlined below.

Option 1 – Implement a Blackberry Management Pilot Program (Recommended)

This option proposes a one-year blackberry management pilot program focused on removal and ecological restoration at priority sites, followed by a two-year monitoring phase. The pilot would be funded with a one-time operating investment of \$100,000 in 2026, to be drawn from the anticipated 2025 prior-year surplus. The funding would be used for blackberry removals and restoration, while existing resources would be used for follow-up monitoring. The pilot program would be in addition to the current invasive species management program implemented by the City.

Under this approach, staff would identify a limited number of priority sites in fall 2025 focusing on high-visibility areas such as parks and multi-use paths. Then in 2026, the funding would be used for Blackberry removal at these sites, followed by native planting to support ecological restoration. For the two years following implementation (2027–2028), existing resources would be used to monitor and address regrowth.

At the end of the three-year pilot, staff would report back to Council with an evaluation of outcomes, including the success of blackberry removal and restoration activities, resource requirements, and any lessons learned. The report will also identify long-term management needs, potential cost efficiencies and considerations for expanding the program.

While this option allows for targeted improvements and supports visible restoration work, it is limited in scope and may not address infestations outside the selected pilot areas. The results from this short-term pilot can inform the feasibility and design of a larger program in future years.

Option 2 - Prioritize Blackberry Management with New Budget (Not recommended)

Option 2 proposes to prioritize Blackberry management City-wide by implementing an annual blackberry management program that focuses on long-term ecological restoration, maintaining safety and improving public access.

An annual program requires a one-time investment and annual funding. This includes a one-time capital-funded investment of \$160,000, plus an ongoing annual operating budget of \$545,723 (Attachment 5). The funding would support two additional staff and seasonal labour to plan and deliver annual management activities that cannot be absorbed with existing resources: one staff member to lead a two to three person seasonal field crew focused on Blackberry removal and site restoration; and one staff member to provide strategic oversight responsible for program planning, coordinating restoration and maintenance efforts, managing contractors and ensuring compliance with applicable senior government regulatory requirements. Blackberry growth on private property will continue to be managed through stewardship initiatives that include site visits, educational materials and best practices for invasive species control.

If endorsed, priority sites would be restored and maintained for three to five years to reach 'free-to-grow' status. Over time, these restored sites would shift into long-term monitoring and maintenance phases that will require additional annual operating funding to address persistent Blackberry re-growth. This annual, long-term monitoring and maintenance funding would be in addition to the annual operating budget described above. Long-term monitoring and maintenance program needs would be evaluated after three years as part of a report to Council.

Option 2 is not recommended at this time due to the significant ongoing operating and capital funding requirements, including the addition of new permanent staff positions. A pilot program will allow for the evaluation of enhanced removal efforts and accurate identification of resource requirements.

Option 3 – Maintain Existing Service Levels (Not Recommended)

Option 3 maintains the City's current blackberry management service levels with no changes to funding or staffing. The existing annual operating budget is approximately \$162,500, which supports activities such as mowing, restoration, enforcement, and public education (Attachment 2).

If approved, staff would maintain current practices and continue to work with local non-profit organizations and volunteer groups to manage blackberry in park areas. Development-related activities would also remain the primary driver of blackberry management efforts within the community.

Option 3 is not recommended. While this option does not require additional funding, and addresses immediate public concerns, it is primarily reactive and limited in scope. It does not adequately address the broader spread of blackberry across the City and relies on development and volunteer events to manage small-scale infestations. This approach also lacks a long-term restoration strategy for City assets and requires the unplanned allocation of resources to respond to complaints, making it unpredictable and inefficient.

Financial Impact

Should Council approve Option 1a one-time additional level request of \$100,000 will be submitted as part of the 2026 budget process to support the pilot program. If Council endorses

May 5, 2025

- 6 -

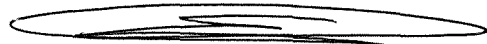
Option 2, an ongoing additional level would be submitted to the 2026 budget process for consideration. Option 3 has no financial impact.

Conclusion

The City currently manages blackberry in the community with a number of practices, policies and bylaws. However, many of the City's existing mowing and flailing practices only address immediate maintenance concerns and are generally ineffective for long-term management. If endorsed, the pilot program approach allows the City to evaluate the effectiveness of enhanced removal efforts before committing to a long-term program. The pilot will provide valuable data, support interdepartmental coordination, and inform future program development while minimizing risk and financial commitment. If endorsed, staff will report back to Council with results and recommendations for next steps.



Nadia Chan
Manager, Environment
(604-276-4241)



Egan Davis
Manager, Parks Operations
(604-244-1210)

Att.

- 1: Regulatory Information Related to Blackberry Management in BC
- 2: Current Annual Blackberry Management Program Costs
- 3: Invasive Species Stewardship Events 2024/2025
- 4: Risk Invasion Curve
- 5: Proposed Staffing and Funding Requirements Levels – Option 2

Regulatory Information Related to Blackberry Management in BC

	Regulation/Initiatives	Background/Opportunities
1.	<i>Community Charter, Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation</i>	Blackberry is listed as an alien species whereby “municipalities may regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to control and eradication of alien invasive species.”
2.	<i>BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group</i>	Considers blackberry as a Provincial priority invasive species listed within the Regional Containment/Control section. This section includes invasive species that are high risk and well established with objectives to prevent further expansion into new areas.
3.	<i>Provincial Integrated Pest Management Act/Regulation</i>	Herbicide use is only permitted outside of the Pesticide Free Zone (10 metres away from waterways).
4.	<i>Provincial Weed Control Act/Regulation</i>	Blackberry is not listed as a noxious weed, therefore herbicide use within the Pesticide Free Zone is restricted, as noted above.
5.	<i>City's Invasive Species Action Plan</i>	The plan considers blackberry as a moderate risk invasive species due to its wide expansion across the City. Many of the species listed within Appendix 1 of the ISAP are controlled in specific circumstances.
6.	<i>City's Unsightly Premises Regulation No. 7162</i>	Management of vegetation overgrowth.
7.	<i>City's Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514</i>	Restricts the use of traditional pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Amendments to the bylaw can be considered under regulatory authority of alien invasive species listed within Section 8 of the <i>Community Charter</i> .

Current Annual Blackberry Management Program Costs

Funding Source	Service	Current Service Level	Annual Cost
Drainage	Drainage and Dike Maintenance Blackberry is located along most of the City's dike and open drainage network. Overgrowth can impede flow, destabilize banks and limit inspection capabilities.	a) Control on City property and Right-of-Ways for maintenance and inspection through flailing and mowing and restoration b) Customer service/response to complaints/enquiries	\$12,500
Climate and Environment*	Development, Restoration and Public Engagement The City's Ecological Network includes riparian management areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas that make up private and public land. Development is administered through private building and development permits with conditions to fully restore these areas.	a) Public education b) Customer service/response to complaints/enquiries c) Control, treatment and monitoring: d) City property e) Support for private properties f) Enforcement	\$25,000
Parks Operations	Parks and Trail Maintenance Blackberry is in many parks and trails. Management can be complex due to ownership, access, safety and resource limitations. Efforts focus on maintaining access for users on an as-needed basis that typically includes flailing and mowing controls.	a) Public education b) Customer service/response to complaints/enquiries c) Control on City property and Right-of-Ways for maintenance and inspection through flailing and mowing and restoration	\$25,000
Parks Programs	Parks Partners for Beautification Stewardship Events Throughout the City's park system, volunteer invasive plant pull events are conducted with stewardship organizations such as Green Teams Canada and the Garden City Conservation Society.	a) Public engagement and education b) Project coordination and implementation (pre-event and day-of event) c) Park sites maintenance, habitat creation and environmental enhancement	\$25,000
Roads and Construction	Road and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Overgrowth in these areas pose a safety hazard by obstructing sightlines and encroachment onto bike paths, multi-use paths and sidewalks. Efforts focus on maintaining access for users on an as-needed basis that typically includes flailing and mowing controls. Enforcement is used to address overgrowth onto public land from private property.	a) Control on City property and Right-of-Ways for maintenance and inspection through flailing and mowing and some restoration b) Customer service/response to complaints/enquiries c) Enforcement for private property encroachment	\$75,000
	Total		\$162,500

*Developer costs have been excluded due to the difficulty in providing an accurate estimate

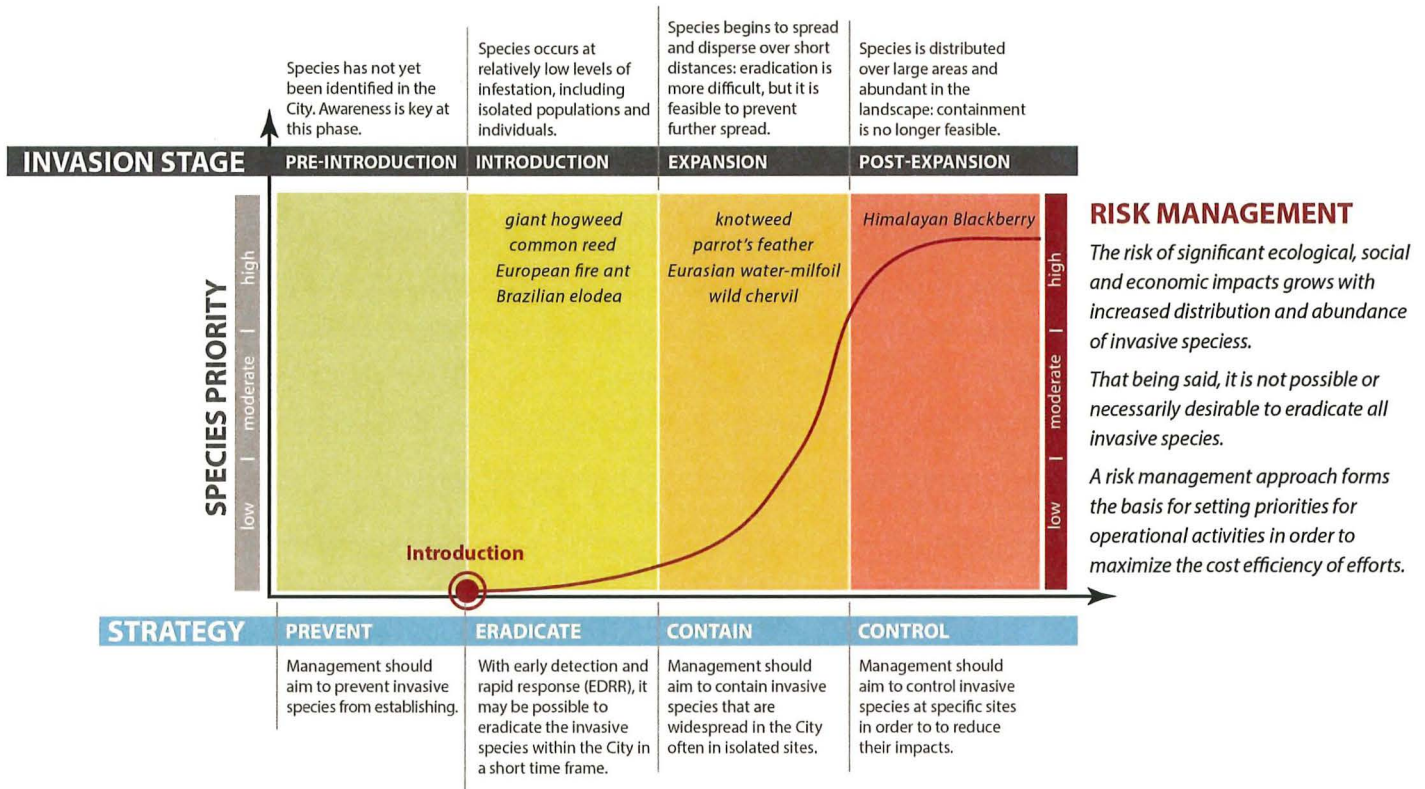
Invasive Species Stewardship Events 2024/2025

Events 2024	Background	Cost
March 9 and 23	Community event in cooperation with the Garden City Conservation Society and MLA Yao involving over 100 volunteers. Project involved extensive mechanical removal of Blackberry roots and vegetation and site preparation by staff for a subsequent Mini-Forest planting. March 9: Invasive Plant Pull March 23: Follow up Miyawaki Forest planting and invasive pull	\$5,000 (\$2,500 Grant included)
April 28	Earth Week Nature Park Blueberry Removal – 35 Volunteers, 14 cubic metres. Mechanical removal of roots and installation of landscape fabric to suppress growth. Lower Mainland Green Team lead.	\$5,500
August 9	Bark Park Fox Tail Pull – 5 Volunteers and 5 City staff working together removed all visible fox tail barley from No. 3 Road Bark Park. Ongoing collaboration with community wherein staff and community communicate, monitor and work together to respond to episodic occurrence of foxtail barley.	No additional costs (staff labour costs during normal working hours)
October 12	Blackberry Management Terra Nova, Lower Mainland Green Team lead. Mechanical removal, 52 volunteers, totaling 11 cubic metres. Protect area from further encroachment near the newly planted Miyawaki Forest. Hand removal.	\$5,500
October 25	TD Tree Days: 135 trees and shrubs – Terra Nova Park brush cut and tilled blackberry, blackberry monitoring will continue into 2025.	\$10,000, Grant included
Ongoing 2024	The Terra Nova Nature School (TNNS) organized several blackberry removals in and around the Edwardian Cottage. City supported with the removal of vegetative material.	No additional costs (staff labour costs during normal working hours)

Events 2025*	Background	Cost
April 22–23	Anderson Elementary School conducted an Earth Day event removing English Ivy from Garden City Park.	City support with staff time and lending supplies for the event.
April 26	Paulik Park Garden Club Invasive Pull	Disposal costs for volunteers.
April 27	King George Park – Blackberry Pull Lower Mainland Green Team Lead	\$5,500
September 13	King George Park – Additional removal of Blackberries with the Lower Mainland Green Team Lead	\$3,500 (with costs offset by an Environmental Enhancement Grant and staff support)
2025 Ongoing	Richmond Garden Club removing invasive plant material as part of their ongoing work at Paulik Park. City supported with the removal of vegetative material.	Volunteer driven. No additional costs (staff labour costs during normal working hours)
2025 Ongoing	Garden City Conservation Society monitoring and removing invasive species and weeds from the six Miyawaki Forest planting projects.	Volunteer driven; no cost to the City.

***Note:** Events identified for 2025 are those currently planned as of April 1, 2025. Additional events will likely occur as funding sources, project sites and community partners are identified.

Risk Invasion Curve



Proposed Staffing and Funding Requirements – Option 2

Anticipated Resources and Costs	One Time	Annual Ongoing	Requesting Department
a) 1 Regular Full Time Environmental Coordinator 2		\$149,961	Climate and Environment
b) 1 Regular Full Time Natural Areas Practitioner		\$164,866	Parks Operations
c) Parks Blackberry Management – Temporary Full Time Labour		\$100,000	Parks Operations
d) Roads Blackberry Management – Temporary Full Time Labour		\$100,000	Roads and Construction
e) Vehicle (1)	*\$160,000	\$28,896	Parks Operations
f) Cellular phones (2)		\$2,000	Climate and Environment; and Parks Operations
Total	*\$160,000	\$545,723	

*This one time will be capital funded from the Rate Stabilization Account



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Todd Gross
Director, Parks Services
Date: May 5, 2025
File: 06-2345-20-
HBOY1/Vol 01
Re: **Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the priorities and scope as outlined in the Playground Renewal section in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services, be approved; and
2. That staff proceed with next steps as outlined in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services.

Todd Gross
Director, Parks Services
(604-247-4942)

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Finance Department Recreation and Sport Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER <hr/>
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO <hr/>

Staff Report

Origin

Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground has long been a destination for the West Richmond Community. The playground equipment and surfacing are reaching the end of their lifecycles and are in need of a renewal. Council has previously approved Parks Capital Submissions in 2024 and 2025 to support the design and construction of this playground renewal.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the public engagement results regarding the playground renewal, present recommended improvements and outline the next steps towards renewal of Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

1.3 Increase the reach of communication and engagement efforts to connect with Richmond's diverse community.

1.4 Leverage a variety of approaches to make civic engagement and participation easy and accessible.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

Strategic and sustainable growth that supports long-term community needs and a well-planned and prosperous city.

2.3 Ensure that both built and natural infrastructure supports sustainable development throughout the city.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.4 Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.

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.

6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.

Analysis

Background

Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground was originally designed and built in the 1990s and serves as a key destination playground for the West Richmond Community. Centrally located within Hugh Boyd Community Park and adjacent to the West Richmond Community Centre, the playground features dedicated areas for children aged 2–5 and 5–12, and a sand play area. The playground's equipment and surfacing are rapidly approaching the end of their life cycles and need renewal to ensure that the playground continues to meet safety standards, accessibility requirements, community expectations and park service levels into the future.

Community Engagement Process

As part of the public engagement process, staff met with the West Richmond Community Association (WRCA) to gather their support, initial input, and suggestions for the Hugh Boyd Park Playground Renewal project.

Staff hosted a citywide public engagement process which included:

- An online survey available through LetsTalkRichmond (open from Monday, February 10, 2025, to Sunday, March 9, 2025);
- Two in-person open houses held at West Richmond Community Centre (9180 No.1 Road) on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00pm and Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 9:00 to 11:00am; and
- A meeting with the staff and educators of West Richmond preschool and childcare programs on Thursday, March 6, 2025, from 1:30 to 3:00pm.

The open houses, meeting with preschool and childcare educators, and online engagement surveys included information boards containing project background information and reference images to guide park design (Attachment 1). Participants were invited to provide input in several different ways, including voting on their favourite playground character, playground elements and completing a survey (Attachment 2). The open houses were an opportunity for staff to answer questions, engage in discussion and gather feedback.

Community Engagement Results and Summary

The input received via the meetings, open houses, hard-copy surveys, and LetsTalkRichmond website were documented and summarized (Attachment 3). Key findings are outlined as follows:

Playground Character

During the open houses, and through both hard copy and online surveys, participants were invited to vote for their preferred playground character for the renewed Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground. While opinions on visual style and color palette varied, most people voted for a design character that blends urban and natural elements. For detailed results, please refer to Attachment 3 – Survey Results.

Playground Elements

Participants were also asked to select their top three favorite playground elements from a list of options. The top three selected elements are climbing, swing, and slide. Other features that received considerable support included imaginative play, small water play equipment, such as water table, mister, pump and runnels, and monkey bars. Detailed survey results are available in Attachment 3.

Open-ended Questions and Conversations

Throughout the public engagement process, staff interacted with participants, preschool and childcare program educators, and board members of WRCA. Comments gathered through the open-ended questions of the online and hard copy surveys (Attachment 5), as well as through the meetings and conversations, have been noted and summarized below.

Feedback regarding existing playground conditions:

- Many play structures are aging, outdated or vandalized. Some elements have been removed without replacement.
- The rubber surfacing is significantly worn, and some people dislike or have concerns over gravel surfacing or engineered wood chip surfacing.
- Poor drainage causes pooling and unusable areas during rainy weather.
- The playground currently does not meet accessibility standards.
- The existing trees in the playground are highly appreciated by the community.

Suggestions for the future playground:

- Maintaining clear sightlines throughout the playground is important for parents and caretakers.
- Addressing drainage issue is essential.
- Use durable materials that will withstand heavy use and weather conditions.
- Enhance inclusivity by incorporating all-age-friendly and sensory-friendly play elements.
- While play surfacing options remain a topic of debate, rubber surfacing is generally the preferred choice over gravel or wood chips.
- Provide more picnic and gathering spaces.
- A fenced play area for younger children.

Playground Renewal

Based on the engagement results and the approved budget, the following priorities have been identified and are recommended for the playground renewal.

- Improve drainage conditions of the playground.
- Replace old playground equipment with new equipment to improve play opportunities and experiences for a broader range of ages and abilities.
- Upgrade playground surface to improve accessibility and safety.
- Enhance circulation.
- Increase seating and picnic opportunities.
- Retain as many existing trees as possible and replace only as needed.

The top three popular playground elements are climber, swing, and slide. Imaginative play and monkey bars are also supported by many participants. These will be incorporated into the future renewed playground. Staff will consider incorporating small water play equipment, such as water table, mister, pump and runnels during the detailed design and cost estimate processes.

The renewal will follow current best practices and consider circular economy principles. Redevelopment of the playground will ensure continued service delivery and provide opportunities to refresh and enhance their character and aesthetic in alignment with the local community. Maintenance, accessibility and safety concerns will also be addressed.

The existing site conditions, issues and future opportunities are identified and depicted in the Existing Conditions and Analysis diagram (Attachment 4). The project priorities and proposed approach are supported by the WRCA.

Next Steps

Should Council approve the priorities and scope as outlined, the next step in advancing the Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground renewal is to conduct drainage and grading analysis in late Q2 2025, followed by detailed design. The procurement for construction services will commence in Q4 2025, while the construction of Hugh Boyd Park Playground is anticipated to start in early 2026.

Notification of construction will be communicated through signs on site and letters to local residents. Council will be informed by a memo with a project update closer to the start of construction.

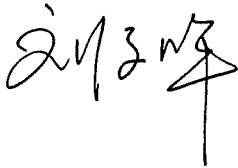
Staff will continue to collaborate with WRCA throughout the process.

Financial Impact

All recommended priorities for the playground renewal can be accommodated within the \$1.8 million funding that was previously approved by Council for the Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal (2024 and 2025) capital projects.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council approve the outlined playground renewal, and staff proceed with next steps. The playground's heavy use and long-standing presence underscore the need for renewal to better align with the community's evolving needs. Revitalizing based on public engagement feedback is key to the success of the project, ensuring that the playground continues to meet the needs of the community for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molly Liu', with a stylized vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Molly Liu
Park Planner
(604-233-3310)

- Att. 1: Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Open House Boards
2: Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Survey
3: Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Survey Results
4: Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Existing Conditions and Analysis
5: Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Individual Responses to Open Ended Questions of the Survey

Welcome!

Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal

Why are we here today?

Hugh Boyd Community Park playground has long been a destination for the West Richmond area. The playground equipment and surfacing are reaching the end of their lifecycle and are in need of renewal.

The goal of this project is to improve accessibility, enhance safety, and meet the diverse and evolving needs of the community.

We would like to hear your vision for the future of the Hugh Boyd playground. Your feedback — both today and throughout the public engagement process — will help shape the design of this exciting new space.

Thank you for your valuable input!

Playground Renewal Process

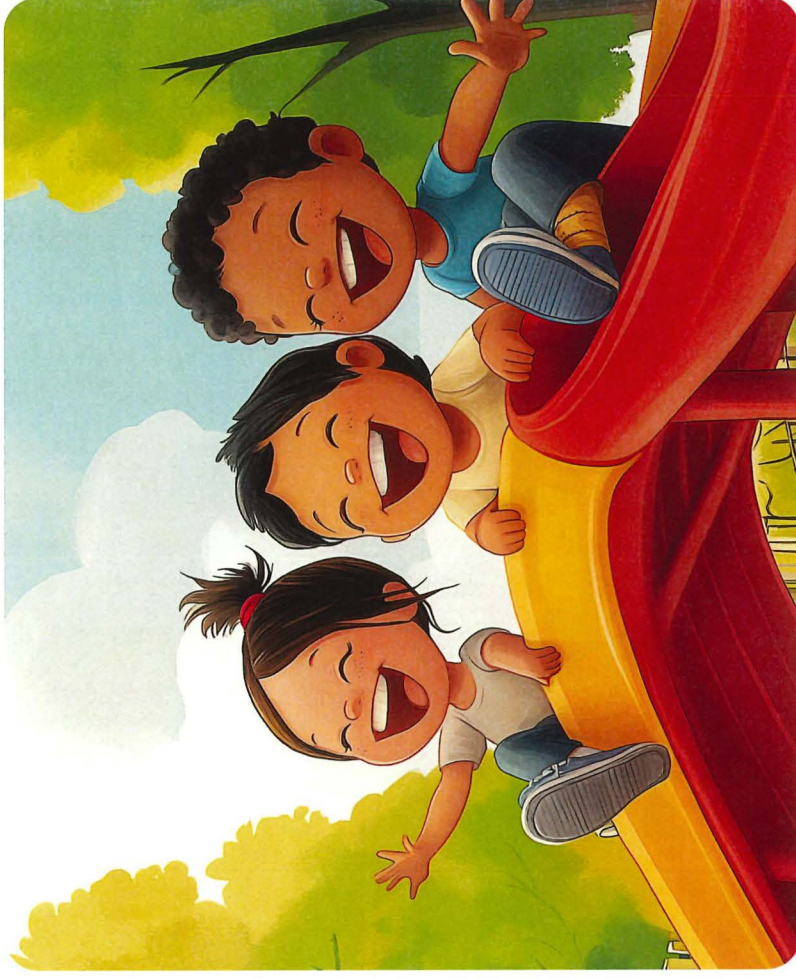
WE ARE
HERE

Spring 2025: Community Engagement

Summer 2025: Design Development

Spring/Summer 2026: Construction

Please note: this schedule may shift due to unknown factors such as weather and available resources.



For more information, contact project manager Molly Liu at mliu2@richmond.ca, scan the adjacent QR code or visit the project page at LetsTalkRichmond.ca/HughBoydPlayground

INTRODUCTION

Let us know your thoughts about the existing playground

Below is a map of the existing playground site. What is your favourite part and what is your least favourite part? Please write your ideas and thoughts on a sticky note and place them on this board.



5-12 year old play area



2-5 year old play area



Sand play area

Site Map

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Key Issues and Opportunities

This renewal process provides an opportunity to identify and address existing issues and opportunities. Feel free to add comments on a sticky note to the board to share your feedback and ideas.



Fig. 1 - Accessibility



Fig. 2 - Mature Trees



Fig. 3 - Shade Structure



Fig. 4 - Surface Condition

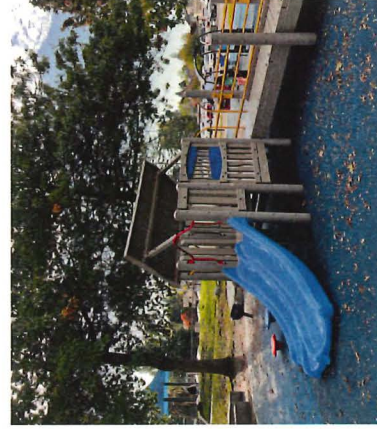


Fig. 5 - Playground Equipment

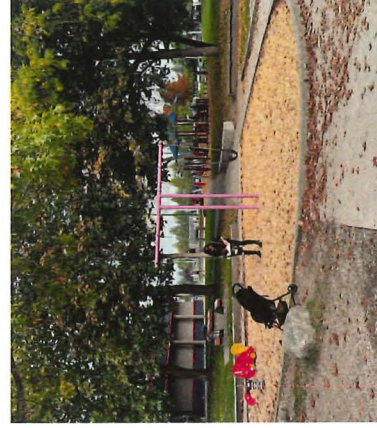


Fig. 6 - Playground Equipment

KEY ISSUES

- Most of the play equipment is reaching the end of its lifecycle.
- Play surfaces are worn out, hindering usability and accessibility for all users.
- Drainage issues exist on the west side of the playground.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Retain, protect, and enhance existing site features, such as the hill and mature trees.
- Replace uneven pathways to improve accessibility.
- Upgrade playground surfacing to improve usability and safety.
- Improve drainage issues.
- Update the play equipment and offer play opportunities for a broader range of ages and abilities.
- Introduce new signature play equipment and develop a unique character for the playground.

Imagine the Future Playground Character

Playgrounds can span a wide range of character styles, from very urban to very natural, and everything in between. Below is a range of images showing different styles of playgrounds.

Place a sticker dot on the image you think is most appropriate for the new Hugh Boyd playground.



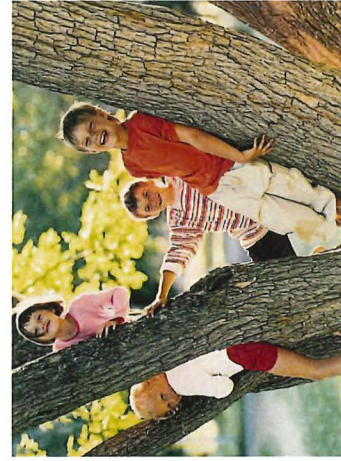
urban



PRCS - 86 mixed



natural



WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

Imagine Future Playground Activities

Below is a range of play elements and features that could be included in the renewed playground.
Place sticker dots beside your top three favourite elements.



climbing



boulders & logs



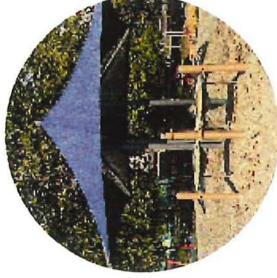
imaginative play



sand



swings



shade



spring toy and spinner



waterplay equipment



slide



monkey bars



playhouse



interactive play panels



outdoor musical instruments



ropes & net



art wall



seesaw



slide pole



other (please specify)



**City of
Richmond**

Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal Survey

Parks Department
6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

The City of Richmond invites the public to provide input on the renewal of Hugh Boyd Park playground.

Please review the display boards, and then take a few minutes to complete this survey. You can return the completed survey:

- to a City staff member by the end of this open house;
- by dropping it off or mailing it to Parks Services, City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1.

All surveys should be submitted by **Sunday, March 9, 2025**.

Feedback received will play a key role in shaping design and construction of the future playground at Hugh Boyd Community Park.

Playground Character

1. I would like to see the following options included in the future playground (select 1):

- ☐ Urban ☐ Mixed ☐ Natural

Playground Activities

2. I would like to see the following options included in the future playground (select your top 3):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkey bars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulders and logs | <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative play (e.g. boat or plane-inspired equipment) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive play panels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor musical instruments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swings | <input type="checkbox"/> Ropes and net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shade | <input type="checkbox"/> Art wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring toy and spinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Seesaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water play equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Slide pole |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slide | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

General Comments and Questions

3. I would like to share the following thoughts about the existing condition of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground:

4. I would like to share the following thoughts or ideas about the future of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground:

Tell Us About Yourself

5. Children under my care are (select all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0–2 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 9–12 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3–5 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 13+ years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6–8 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |

6. My postal code is (Optional): _____

7. I heard about this engagement opportunity via: (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LetsTalkRichmond.ca email sent to me | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting other projects on LetsTalkRichmond.ca | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit shelter ad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Richmond website (richmond.ca) | <input type="checkbox"/> On-site open house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postcard mailed to me | <input type="checkbox"/> Online news article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signage posted in the area | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posters at community centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

Thank you for your time.

Let's Talk Richmond

Report Type: Form Results Summary

Date Range: 10-02-2025 - 11-03-2025

Exported: 11-03-2025 11:15:13

Attachment 3

Closed

Online Survey

Hugh Boyd Park playground renewal

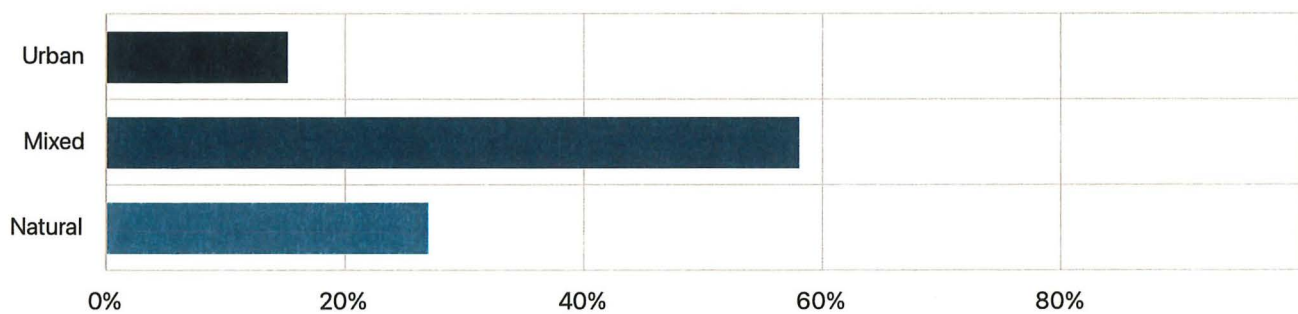
121

Contributions

Contribution Summary

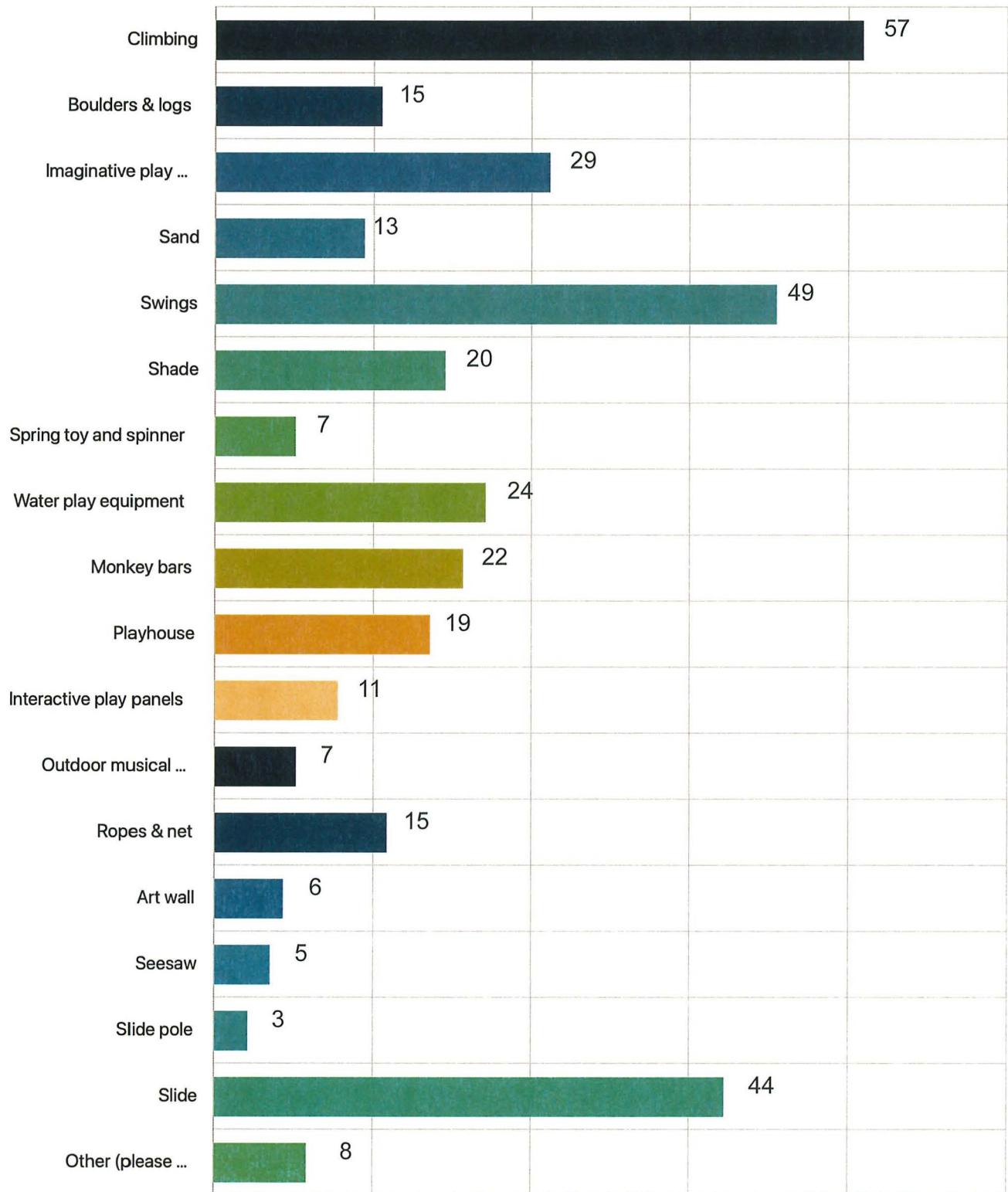
1. Playground Character I would like to see the following option included in the future playground (select 1):

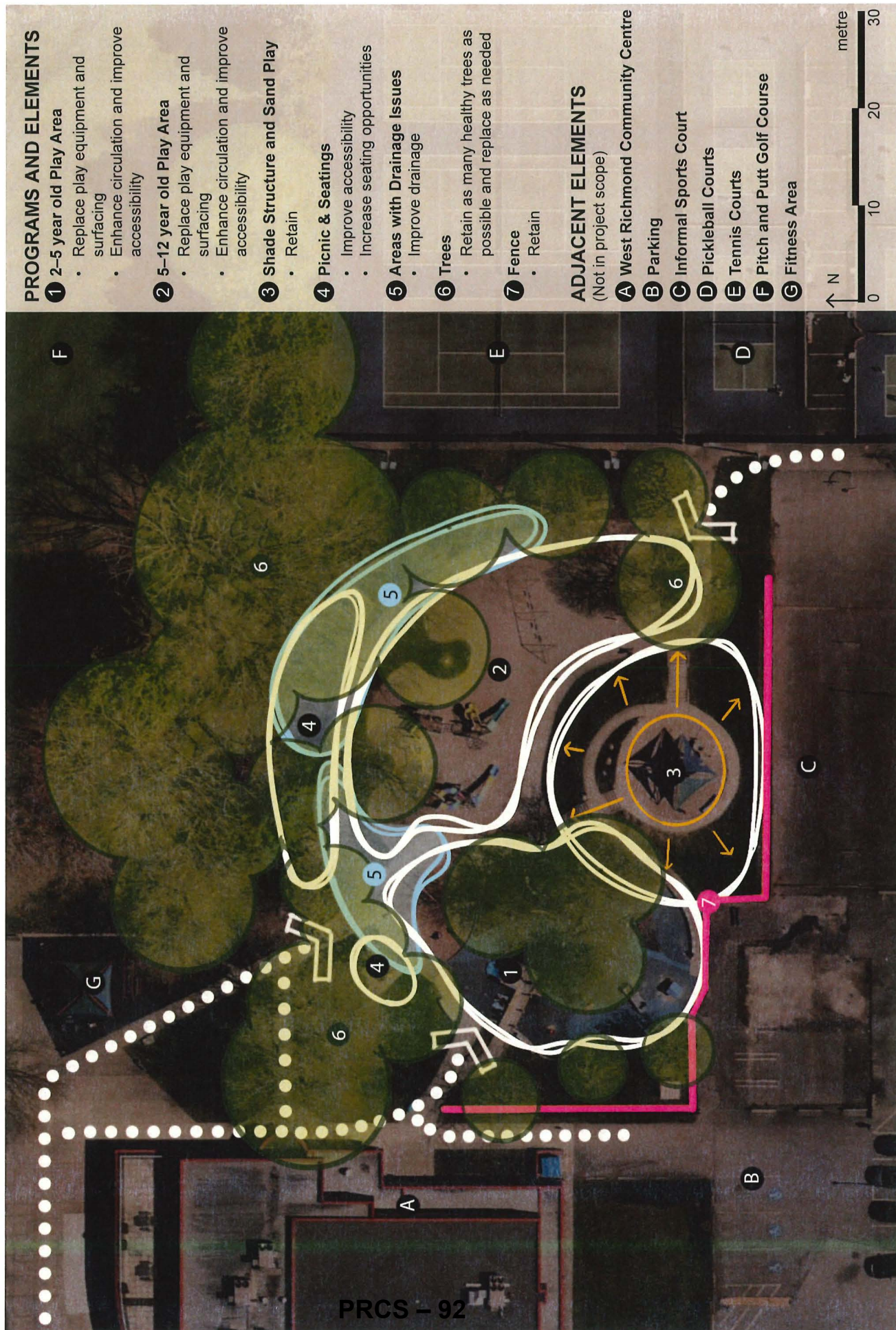
Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 119 (98.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Urban	15.13%	18
Mixed	57.98%	69
Natural	26.89%	32
Total	100.00%	119

2. Playground Activities I would like to see the following options included in the future playground (select top 3):
 Ranking | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 118 (97.5%)





Individual Responses to Open-ended Questions of the Survey

Question A: I would like to share the following thoughts about the existing condition of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground:

Individual Responses:

1	I think it's small as it is.
2	I think it's nice, but it's pretty old and run down.
3	As a parent, I like to walk around the playground and get exercise while I keep an eye on my children.
4	It looks kinda sad right now.
5	Needs replacing.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the structure are broken / damaged • The swings are old and broken • Main problem: drawing is all plugged. after rainy days the water is not draining and floods the playground • The seesaw springs are busted • The rubber ground has lots of broken pieces
7	Needs upgrading.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra picnic table for summer season • Extra trash cans
9	I think the condition is fine for a few more years - save us some tax dollars and delay it 5 years.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground is disjointed • Provide better sightline and supervision opportunities • Playground floods constantly preventing the ability to move around
11	There is concern for the safety of the children with the rock area as landing spots in the rock park are very thin. Equipment is damaged, weathered or limited. Drainage is a main concern in the rainy months that make it harder to engage in the playground.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing material not sufficient for safe landing if the children fall • Lack of shade • Steps are slick, no texture or grip • Sand box is less popular as it doesn't compact to build • Lack of fencing • Flooding and drainage is not sufficient
13	As a supervisor of the JR OSC program with children aged 4-8, our children heavily value the sand play that we currently have and having it only slightly covered allows for a lot of water play. The drainage at our playground is really rough when heavy rain hits us. We often have to sweep rocks into hotlines to keep kids safe. The kids heavily benefit from the shade given by trees.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park is tired and needs an update for sure • Landing surfaces need improvement

15	Existing characteristics of 5-12 year old play area should be preserved for maximum play opportunities. Mini slides and swings, and more imaginary play elements needed for the 2-5 year old play area.
16	My children use this park very often because they have gone to preschool at West Richmond and the older one now also goes to OSC there. This park is in very bad shape right now. I understand that there has been a lot of vandalism and we'd hope that the new park would be designed with that in mind.
17	It's dated and could use a reno.
18	Clean frequently.
19	Please improve the red fitness machines. Better outdoor adult machines would be great. Exofit fitness equipment makes some great stuff. Go to playquest.ca , adventureplaysystems.com , KOMPAN outdoor-fitness.com for example.
20	Love the cherry blossoms.
21	It really needs an upgrade.
22	Cannot have parks for kids when there are so many rats around. Just because you don't see them doesn't mean they are not there. It's dangerous. Dog faeces on these playgrounds is another problem. What is heartworm to a dog is heart disease to a human.
23	The park is good, quite small, the adults exercise should be moved to another place. Where they are located now near the playground they are basically being used for the kids not for the adults. Having some picnic tables is amazing during summer.
24	It's dated. Wood chips get scattered outside of play area and can create a mess. Loose grounds (wood chips / sand) may hide hazardous objects underneath (glass / needles) that can be harmful to kids.
25	Old
26	I enjoyed this park as a teenager, and I'm happy that it is being improved. Thank you city of Richmond!
27	Like the accessible entry by the toddler area. The sand at the top of the hill is a big hit with younger kids.
28	It was a great playground when it was build, but over time it's old and outdated and in some cases in need of repair.
29	It definitely needs an upgrade, we use it often and I worry about my daughter tripping on the uneven ground.
30	The current equipment consists of rigid, cookie-cutter plastic structures designed with a single intended use. However, children naturally explore and interact with playgrounds in creative ways beyond these intended functions. Unfortunately, this often leads to a higher risk of injuries, as the structures do not accommodate the dynamic and adaptive nature of play. Playgrounds should inspire free play, movement, and imagination rather than restrict children to predetermined activities.
31	This is a very convenient location as it is close to our house, but we almost never bring our kids there because the playground is very worn down. My kids said they are bored after about 10 minutes.

32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest issue = drainage plugging and overflowing on rainy days • Broken rubber floor • Not many shade areas • Broken slide structures
33	It's been such a shame watching the decline of the playground over the last three years. My little ones have grown up with it. I have a 6 year old and a 3 year old. They love the convenience of it as it's so close but now it's fairly unusable. They end up just running up and down the hill and using the big slides still available. We have been going to South Arm and Terra Nova parks instead.
34	Horrible!! It's been outdated for many years. Now, it's been damaged and the fun slide is gone.
35	I've lived just down the road for over 15 years, I have been taking my son to this playground for 10 years. The equipment is far older than what's being stated. That said, keeping the mature trees in any scenario should be a top priority as without them the water issues would be much worse. The low lying area by the workout equipment is constantly muddy, even in the driest of months. Unless other changes are made, this issue would be far worse without these trees.
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint is chipping off • It is a bit rusty
37	<p>What I like about the current playground is that it has a lot of shade. Good playground to go to during hot summers. Please keep the trees. And plant more trees.</p> <p>The foam flooring needs good repair. There's holes and it doesn't look nice.</p>
38	Currently, the playground is in poor condition, with most equipment reaching the end of its lifespan. Some structures are broken and unusable, making it less safe and enjoyable for children. I believe an upgrade is necessary to provide a safer and more engaging play space for the community.
39	One of the slide is broken and removed. No maintenance after that.
40	The current condition of the Hugh Boyd playground does not currently meet Childcare licensing standards as the larger play structure is not developmentally appropriate for preschool aged children. There is also no fenced area which creates a safety concerns for wandering children. These issues create difficulty for the preschool programs that run at the community centre to access play on the playground during their scheduled outdoor time.
41	It works but just needs updating.
42	The existing condition of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground seems old. I like the spacious area of the playground. The existing gravel on the ground poses a safety issue when kids fall.
43	The big swings are simple but great.
44	You even can not approach close to it after heavy rains. It is full of deep water.
45	I really appreciate that this playground has something for babies/toddlers to enjoy. The small little houses & slides are perfect for littles. The rubber padding is best. It is one of the only few playgrounds in Richmond that were truly accessible for kids 2 and under. Now that they're getting older and have little siblings, it's so great that I can watch my kids all in the same area. There's something for the older kids and a play area for the littler ones. It is the perfect size and space.

46	Needs repair/ replacement.
47	It's is good but it is old.
48	<p>The current mulch and gravel ground is not convenient. I've always seen mulch scattered everywhere on the playground equipment. I know kids got mulch splinter on their hands. When kids slide down the slider or sit on the equipment, mulch and splinter get on their clothes and pants.</p> <p>True story, one time I was at the playground with my kid, I heard three kids talking about how they disliking the mulch, and they said they would replace the mulch grouch if they could make the decision.</p>
49	The current condition of this playground is inadequate, as the equipment and facilities are significantly worn out. Furthermore, it is primarily designed for younger children, with very limited options for older kids. There is a lack of diverse play equipment and activities, restricting the overall experience for all age groups.
50	My daughters love going here to play but the playground is old, so we are happy to hear it is being redone.
51	This playground has been there since about 1990 and needs an update. While I like the fact it is geared to preschool age children which is appropriate being at a community centre I think the section for school aged kids could be updated.
52	Overdue for update. It's run down and many features are broken frequently.
53	The existing condition of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground could be improved in terms of safety, accessibility, and inclusivity. Some equipment appears worn, and additional shade and seating would enhance the experience for families. Upgrading the surfaces for better cushioning and ensuring all play structures are accessible for children of all abilities would be beneficial.
54	It needs to be redone. It's so hidden in the back, I'm not sure people know about it.
55	It is small, dark and hidden away.
56	The playground has been great for all ages and has a nice variety of equipment and structures. The trees have created nice shade for hot days in the summer.
57	Impossible to keep sand clean. The trees and hills are great!
58	Anything that spins causes nausea and headaches for many people including myself.
59	There has been a lot of vandalism at this park as slides have been destroyed, the seesaw was broken for at least 1 year, and the rubber material on the ground for shock absorption was destroyed. This is a park my family (we have 2 kids aged 4 and 8) goes to often. My daughter has gone to the West Richmond Community Centre's twos time program/preschool for the past 3 years. They spend time outdoors every class, and it's sad to see parts of the playground being destroyed by vandals.
60	The swings and slide are too old.
61	I attended high school at Hugh Boyd and have fond memories of the playground. I liked the open space, the simple play structures, and the trees surrounding that provided shades during the summer days.
62	Too old, not safe for children, need more playing items.

63	<p>It is quite run down, we go there a lot because we live nearby, but the playground itself isn't much use especially since they removed the tunnel in the playground, so the platforms do not connect with each other any more, so that limits the playability of the playground.</p> <p>Otherwise we like that there is lots of shade due to the big trees, and the benches around the whole park and some picnic tables are very much appreciated. The sand pit area is nice because there is shade there as well.</p>
64	This was the best playground for Littles in all of Richmond but it's gone to ruin now.
65	<p>I looked at the existing playground equipment today, especially the 5-12 year old play area. As a taxpayer, it does not seem worn out or nearing end of life to me. Indeed it looks like it has many years of service left to give. If the city wants to improve drainage or add a few items, that sounds fine. But tossing out useful equipment to spend money frivolously so you can re-imagine the playground does not seem like the right thing to do. No cost info provided. Not being transparent here!</p>
66	<p>The current condition of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground is quite poor. Many of the play structures appear worn out, with visible signs of damage and aging. The surfaces are uneven, and some areas pose potential safety hazards, such as loose or broken equipment. Additionally, the playground lacks modern, inclusive features that would better accommodate children of all abilities.</p>
67	<p>It's in sad shape :(</p> <p>Floods every rainy day.</p>
68	<p>My children have been using this playground for years and have loved it. We were there at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newest renovation. It is very disappointing that the elements chosen haven't stood up very well. Especially the rubber paving. The little kids play structure is still in good shape, although the teeter totter has been out of service so many times.</p>
69	<p>This playground was in disrepair for a long time. The broken items have been repaired/removed but the playground surface is worn out. This area is well used by pre/after school programs and families who are gathering for soccer on nearby field. I would retain the picnic tables nearby and walkways around the playground.</p>
70	Better drainage is required in this area.
71	A transitional space that I walk by.
72	<p>I like the different grounds like rubber, wood chips, pebbles and sand. I also like that there are options for the little and bigger kids. Picnic tables are awesome. I also appreciate that the playground is kinda enclosed. It's just old. But the idea behind it is still pretty awesome and versatile. It's super for our family.</p>
73	The existing park arrangement is good, no needed to make major changes.
74	Currently unusable when it's been raining.
75	The playground is great during the hot summer months. Often gets a nice bit of shade from the tree cover.
76	Keep it and maintain it regularly.
77	The play areas seem fine, although getting a bit old.
78	<p>The concrete ledges in this park could easily be converted into skateboard/scooter/BMX friendly obstacles. See Brewers Park and Norquay Park in Vancouver for examples of this.</p>

79	It is a fun, lively, colourful play park which needs refurbishing and replenishing of ground / underfoot areas.
80	The material used as a playground ground cover did not last as predicted. Normal wear and tear plus some vandalism resulted in earlier than expected damage. A much more resilient ground cover is required. Also, a better drainage system must be incorporated for the entire site, especially the pathways. Finally, shade trees and picnic tables plus benches must remain in the park so that families can enjoy the experience.
81	Broken down, outdated.

Note: The number of responses is less than the number of participants, as not everyone provided a response.

Question B: I would like to share the following thoughts about the future of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground:

Responses:

1	I feel like it needs more colour.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be bigger than the current one • Colourful • More things to do
3	More exercise equipment would be great.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fenced playground would be ideal • Better and more age appropriate structures / climbers for both young kids (0-5yrs) and older kids (6+yrs) • Some covered areas for picnic or quiet play • Sandbox area with some water ramps / tubes • Better swings with proper seats / safety features • Better drainage system and more frequent cleaning of the playground
5	Lots of parks in the trinities - Poco, Port Moody and Coquitlam are very urban and interactive for kids.
6	Maybe a gazebo or shaded area for picnicking.
7	Maintain the hill and mature trees.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more visibility / sightlines • Larger structure rather than smaller conjoined ones
9	Our children at JR OSC love opportunities for choice where they can engage in a variety of zones including sand, structure and possibly water. a natural-looking area would visually look inviting for families to play and engage in the space.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility equipment • Fence for play area • Better landing materials for parks • Textured materials for steps to prevent slipping

11	It would be nice to fully transition from rocks into soft padding. Love the trees and hope we keep them. Hopefully a good amount of swings but majority of my children would enjoy a large amount of space dedicated to sand play and the water play that comes with it.
12	Well used park; must consider it is used by childcare programs provided by West Richmond community centre and also the general public; high daily use from both groups.
13	As a Richmond resident, I noticed several playground renewals and newly built playgrounds in other neighbourhoods (Talmey Elementary, Alexandra Park, Odlin & Odlinwood Parks) have downsized significantly with limited height and climbing variations. This reduces accessibility for age groups and abilities. McNeely Elementary playground in Richmond, and Bakerview Park in White Rock are excellent examples of accessible and varied playground height and equipment that the City can refer too.
14	I think this park is pretty unique as it's so close to a high school. I have often seen the high school students using the playground. It would be nice if there were elements for all ages of children to enjoy, from babies to 18.
15	50 - 70% of the playground should be covered and if possible, so kids can still play in it when the weather is not as nice. Solar with decent illumination should also be of consideration so it could help putting electricity back to power wall to power the nearby community center or the new one coming.
16	Make it a rubberized floor throughout especially on kids' side.
17	Something like the one at Terra Nova or Thompson would be nice.
18	Would be thrilled to see outdoor music instruments or some integration of music on the playground.
19	Please take into consideration the local resident's wishes.
20	This cannot cost more than 20,000. And I'm being generous here. Give a kid a cardboard box you'll be very happy. But this is just another attempt for politicians to line their pockets with their friends? Hell no. I like to playground and Terra Nova that cost something like \$300,000. It's insane if that happens again it's grounds for fraud abusive power and hopefully jail time.
21	Consider how it can support gatherings. Picnic tables ideally with shade. A fence to keep kids container.
22	Maybe the playground could be more divided between small kids and some equipment / areas for kids such as 9 and above. More water equipment, a trampoline like the one that were first installed in the Garden City park, and a gaga ball pit (the kids loved the ones at school). Another suggestion is to be more inclusive having for example a swing for kids with special needs and wheelchair accessibility.
23	Have space that can be used for younger kids and older ones too, considering that it's close to elementary and high school.
24	Promote physical fitness.
25	Hope it would be modern style.
26	More inclusive play structure for children who use walking aids so these children can participate with peers on all structures not just ground structures.
27	The playground should be to inspire activity that will build coordination, agility, flexibility and create self awareness and group awareness.

28	I really like this playground because it is one of the few that has a designated area for younger kids. My daughter really enjoys the 2-5years area and I hope the new playground will still have something age appropriate and safe for little kids.
29	<p>A splash pad similar to that in Steveston would be amazing, especially considering how the summers are getting hotter and hotter.</p> <p>Natural play elements such as logs, boulders, and rope structures that allow children to climb, balance, and explore in various ways.</p> <p>Adventure-style playgrounds that provide multiple ways to engage with the equipment, promoting creativity and reducing the likelihood of injuries.</p>
30	We hope to see a visually appealing park with fun elements for the kids. We actually drive to Coquitlam sometimes because my kids enjoy the parks there. Example parks we enjoy and repeatedly go to: Mundy, Queenston, Riley, Sheffield.
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More shades areas would be good • A fenced playground • Water structures at the sandbox area (like Garden City) • Tube slides • More variety in swings • Some rubber ground and wood chips area • Zip line like Grauer school playground • Slide structure with some nets / resting area / hammock
32	We love the picnic tables and seating around cbe playground. It's a real hub for people to hang out, watch our kids play and see people passing by. We would have play dates with friends. Opportunities for shade would be important too. It gets very hot in the summer.
33	There are no official (safe/protected) bike routes connecting to it. Kids should be able to bike to parks. Almost every home on Princeton Ave has a driveway, so no need for on-street parking, add a protected lane from Railway Greenway on one side.
34	Please update the playground as soon as possible. This area has many young famines with young children. Also, many families have 1 child at soccer and the sibling will come to this playground. As the soccer field gain popularity, so should the family friendly infrastructure around it.
35	Stated in question 4.
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright and colourful play structures • Different structures for different ages • Easy to supervise children
37	<p>It would be nice if there are more swings added. As well as a zip line. And also a water stream feature that water can flow down from the top of the hill (like in Garden City Park). And also more park benches to sit on.</p> <p>Perhaps a larger playhouse for imaginative play. My kids love playing restaurant in the little house. And they also enjoy the small xylophone area. So a larger music play area would be great.</p>
38	Night lighting, adding bird houses for the resident birds. Park benches would be needed. Less tripping hazards.

39	Multi-age play areas with cover, water play options, sand play, slides, and essential playground equipment. Covered picnic areas would provide a comfortable space for families. Adding interactive or nature-inspired features would make it more engaging and accessible for all ages.
40	I really like the layout and equipment of South Arm park. Adding the water play equipment would also be a good idea as there's no water park in west Richmond.
41	Our playground space should serve a variety of ages as both preschool classes and out of school care services frequent this area. The play space needs to include a play area for younger children, meeting Childcare licensing standards. It has been strongly recommended by licensing regulations to have a fenced area of play for younger children and to have play equipment that is developmentally appropriate.
42	The more you can do to activate a child's imagination the better.
43	I would like to see more ropes and nets on the future playground. I would also like to see a playhouse on the future playground.
44	Please install a full-height bar so that an adult could pull up.
45	Requires good drainage system and shade. Please don't cut the trees.
46	I would like the future playground to have the same general layout as the current one, but with updated playground equipment, especially for the older kids. I would like to keep the soft padding in the toddler area and maybe update the rocks to wood chips? I would also like playground structures that do not consistently break (like the current seesaw).
47	Needs to appeal to a wide range of children so some natural/ wood/ climbing/ adventure activities and some traditional activities like swing/ slide/ water park
48	I think that they should add more exercises equipment.
49	We would love to see a nature-inspired treehouse in the playground. It could include wooden structures, climbing ropes, and slides that blend with the natural surroundings. This would provide a fun and adventurous play area while also encouraging kids to engage with nature.
50	I think it would be the best to replace the mulch and gravel grounds with poured-in-place rubber floors, tiles or something like that.
51	I am seeking an expansion in both diversity and size for this playground, particularly in this neighborhood, given the presence of a school and afterschool program within the community. It is essential to provide a balanced variety of play options that cater to both younger and older children.
52	It is very important to continue to have a playground in this area.
53	Richmond lacks accessible playgrounds for families with physical disabilities, primarily for walker or wheelchair users. If Boyd had an accessible playground, families would come from all parts of Richmond or beyond to enjoy it. It's about time Richmond had an updated inclusive play space.
54	Incorporate more natural features.
55	For the future, adding more inclusive play structures, sensory-friendly elements, and nature-based play areas would make the playground more engaging. Expanding shaded areas, picnic spaces, and water play features could enhance comfort and usability. Sustainable, durable materials should be used to ensure long-term safety and enjoyment. Community engagement in the design process would be valuable.
56	Removing the storage containers in the parking lot would make it a lot less claustrophobic.

57	I would like to see the gravel replaced with either the wood chips or artificial surface of the toddler area. It would be great if there was some lighting added for when it gets dark in the early evenings.
58	Please do consider accessible, fun activities.
59	I would like to see more natural colours of the surrounding environment with recycled materials as part of the playground.
60	It would be nice to replace the playground that currently has rocks, with a rubber material or woodchips. I would like to see the slides and tubes replaced at the least, but would appreciate more play structures. I think the smaller playground and sandpit are designed well.
61	I hope to add a water play area and replace the sandy ground with wood chips or other soft surfaces.
62	Fun and safe space for the children growing up in the Hugh Boyd neighborhood to come to and play.
63	Hope it's nice for all age of children to enjoy.
64	Water play would be nice, as our summers are getting hotter. More picnic areas for group gathering would be nice as well. Overall we are actually quite happy with what is present right now in the playground, but it has fallen into disrepair and certainly needs updating to make it useable for our kids and other children. It is not accessible either, as the small pebbles fill the pathway, and puddles are huge when it rains, so would appreciate better pathways with better drainage.
65	What I love about this playground is that it's secluded from roads. My toddler is a RUNNER and this is one of the safest playgrounds where they're nicely contained.
66	Ask the kids!
67	I believe it should be upgraded with modern, safe, and inclusive play structures. Adding soft, rubberized flooring would improve safety, while shaded seating areas would make the space more comfortable for families. Incorporating nature-inspired elements, interactive play features, and equipment for all age groups and abilities would create a more engaging and accessible environment.
68	Hope for a mixed use of age's equipment from toddler to preschool to school age, along with ample climbing, sliding, running, and green space for all. A fence around would be great, as numerous people currently walk through the playground with their big dogs.
69	It would be nice to have a toddler size area and an area for older kids.
70	More close to activity seating for parents/guardians of smaller children.
71	Put in long lasting elements to replace the ones that break too often. Repair the shade cloth on the sand area. Replace the above ground tunnels that were recently removed. A huge climbing rock will not wear out, and will be well loved.
72	Being adjacent to the high school the structures need to be VERY durable as the older kids are quite rough on the equipment!
73	Ample seating and picnic areas within the tree canopy in the area surrounding the play area would be ideal.
74	A playground for all age groups is designed to be inclusive, catering to children, teens, adults, and seniors. These multi-generational spaces promote physical activity, social interaction, and fun for everyone.

75	Please keep things interesting like those different grounds. Also some natural hills for running up and down is nice. Maybe a big structure like a boat or plane or rocket ship would also be nice.
76	The existing park arrangement is good, no needed to make major changes.
77	It's always good to upgrade these areas and make them more interesting and relevant for kids.
78	We don't visit the playground during peak periods, but there seem to be other playgrounds around that need updates more urgently (eg. Homma school, Dixon school, etc.). But perhaps this one is really well used due to its location?
79	Keep it and maintain it regularly.
80	Skateboarding objects and area would bring a bigger mix of ages and genders to the park.
81	Time to build some updated skatepark features in the City of Richmond. Make sure to include lots of trees, as there is a lack of shade everywhere here.
82	It is already quite safe as it is away from roadways, it has shade and is inviting. It is close to washrooms and the community center.
83	I hope the playground in the future will be a sustainable, safe and engaging park that will be attractive to all ages from toddlers to grandparents.
84	Fun for all ages.

Note: The number of responses is less than the number of participants, as not everyone provided a response.