

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Master Plan?

The Master Plan is intended to be a strategic and directional resource that will guide policy development and decision-making. It is a comprehensive document to be used as a reference for all those involved in the delivery of parks, recreation and cultural services.

City council endorsed six guiding principles to be the foundation of any future service delivery system and these have been addressed through the Master Plan:

1. Ensure the City's ability to meet community needs.
2. Ensure that customer service is enhanced
3. Ensure financial sustainability
4. Set a policy framework for decision making
5. Value and encourage community involvement
6. Value effective partnerships

Why was it developed?

The City of Richmond has changed and continues to change with remarkable speed and complexity responding to societal, regional and demographic trends. To guide it's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services and ensure the sustainability to meet the quality of life needs for current and future generations, the City undertook a 10 year Master Plan Process.

Who provided the input?

The Master Plan is a result of valuable information and contributions made by staff, volunteers, organizations, professionals and citizens.

These included:

- A Community Working Group comprised of council members, City staff, and a diverse group of community representation.
- A Community Leaders Forum involving 34 community members.
- A Master Plan Steering Committee involving senior City of Richmond management staff.
- Over 150 community Organizations contributed throughout the planning process.
- Members of the public who participated in open houses, focus groups, forums, workshops, surveys and meetings throughout the planning process.

What does Live, Connect, Grow mean to me?

The three themes - **Live. Connect. Grow.** – are key components of a well-being framework. While each theme has its own outcomes and areas of focus, they enable everyone involved to contribute, to foster collaborative and complementary working relationships that achieve all of the desired outcomes and to eliminate unnecessary competition.

To Live – focuses on the basic physical, mental and spiritual “being” needs of individuals who want to live healthy, happy lives. It includes helping individuals and families develop personal life skills that are essential to a healthy lifestyle and a healthy environment.

Examples of desired outcomes in the “To Live” area would include:

- Richmond is an inclusive community, valuing and celebrating its diversity. Programs and services are accessible and affordable.
- There is increased awareness that participation in recreation, sport and cultural activities contribute to the healthy development of children and youth.
- Richmond is a caring community that ensures a variety of wellness opportunities for seniors.

Frequently Asked Questions cont'd...

Examples of how to achieve the “**To Live**” outcomes:

1. Ensuring that everyone is aware of the opportunities available, through promotion and marketing activities.
2. Providing safe, accessible and well-maintained spaces and places.

To Connect – addresses the needs an individual or family has to fit with their physical environment, with the people around them and with their community. It includes creating supportive environments for individuals to come together, for social groups and networks to form and flourish and for the many aspects of building a healthy, vibrant community.

Examples of desired outcomes in the “**To Connect**” area would include:

- Neighbourhoods in Richmond are safe, secure, accessible, connected and vibrant. There is a sense of neighbourhood.
- The City and the community work together to meet community needs.
- There are gathering places where people can come together.

Examples of how to achieve the “**To Connect**” outcomes:

1. Developing a strong volunteer program that provides increased opportunities for community involvement and developing strategies for groups – such as youth, adults and older adults – to become more involved.
2. Providing support to Not-for-Profit organizations, community groups and agencies that contribute to the desired outcomes.

To Grow – addresses the need an individual or family has to use discretionary time for fun and enjoyment and to enhance their skills beyond basic levels. It includes the concepts of inspiring or enriching and lifelong learning.

Examples of desired outcomes in the “**To Grow**” area would include:

- Arts, heritage, parks, recreation and sports contribute to increased tourism in Richmond.
- The community has taken advantage of the potential benefits and opportunities related to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Volunteer opportunities are available to enhance individual and group worth and development.

Examples of how to achieve the “**To Connect**” outcomes:

1. Promoting heritage and environmental stewardship.
2. Supporting and encouraging special events and festivals.

What is the timeline for implementing the Master Plan?

The 2005-2015 Master Plan will be implemented on a phased basis, reflecting need, capacity and opportunity. The Plan is broken down into key sections that include recommendations, desired outcomes for the 10-year plan, and initial actions that will be completed during the first 3 years of the plan. It will be a gradual process.

How will the Master Plan impact program and services?

In order to ensure that the broadest possible range of programs and services is available to Richmond residents and offered through a range of service providers, the City will play a leadership role in coordinating, facilitating and, where appropriate, providing programs and services.

This means that programs and services may be delivered by community organizations, agencies, or private sector providers, independent of the City, with the City, or by the City.

A number of philosophical and specific program outcomes need to be built into all aspects of program planning. These include:

- An Asset Based Approach – intentionally helping children and youth build resiliency in their lives.
- 20% More by 2010 - Increase Physical Activity in the Community – To combat increasing trends of physical inactivity and obesity in the general population, providing more opportunities for physical activity, building awareness of the importance of being physically active and developing and showcasing role models will be built into activities, places and spaces and marketing within the City. (Ex. Getting Richmond Moving).

In June 2005, the City officially accepted the provincial challenge to increase physical activity levels of its citizens and employees by 2010.

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- Cultural Harmony – To achieve the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee’s vision for Richmond to be “the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada”, principles of inclusion, cooperation, collaboration, dynamism, integration and equity will be incorporated into all planning, decision-making and service delivery.
- Literacy and Learning – literacy is an essential cultural, social and academic concept that involves not only reading, writing and numeracy, but also abilities such as viewing and representing, aural literacy including language, music and listening skills, cultural literacy including media and social literacy and critical literacy including civic skills. The City, in conjunction with others will ensure that formal and informal learning opportunities are available including non-traditional venues for learning, information sharing and exchange and increased literacy in many areas.

The City will play a leadership role in developing service plans in a number of key areas:

- Active Living and Wellness
- Sports
- Arts
- Heritage
- Environment and Nature
- Special Events and Festival
- Community and Neighbourhood Building
- Community recreation
- Volunteerism
- Childcare
- Youth Services
- Older Adult Services
- Specific Geographic Areas – City Centre, East Richmond

Examples of Desired Outcomes:

- The City has implemented and renewed service plans every 3 years
- All programs and services provide annual service reports
- There is a broader and more coordinated range of services that better meet the needs of the changing community.

2005-2008 – 3 year Action Plans (sampling)

- Implement Service Plans in the key areas mentioned above.
- Develop training and strategies to incorporate an asset-based approach for children and youth in all programs & services.
- Integrate sport and cultural development with economic, tourism and community development.
- Create capacity for cultural and sport tourism e.g. festival events, sporting competitions.

How will the Master Plan impact Parks and open spaces?

Parks, open spaces, trails and facilities give people places and spaces to relax, reflect and be active with friends and neighbours. Developing and promoting these resources increases access to physical activity and social gathering opportunities for citizens.

The City of Richmond has a responsibility to ensure its places and spaces are well managed, this includes ensuring that they are well maintained, safe and made available for appropriate use in the community.

In order to maximize the benefits to the community of the parks & opens spaces as well as ensuring future generations will also realize the benefits, the City will take a leadership role in developing and implementing the following strategies:

- Parks and Open Space Strategy
- Richmond 2010 Trails Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Natural Areas Strategy
- Civic Beautification
- Sports Field Strategy
- Waterfront Strategy
- Memorial Park Feasibility Strategy
- Parkland Development and Acquisition Cost Charge Policy

Frequently Asked Questions cont'd...

- City Centre Acquisition and Development Policy
The 5-year Parks Capital program is designed to support the development of new park and open space infrastructure, as well as the lifecycle replacements of assets within the parks and open space system.

Some examples of Major Parks Capital 2005 –2010 include:

- Garden City 21-acre community park development
- Steveston water park and vision plan implementation
- Richmond Memorial Garden Implementation
- Richmond High School artificial turf field
- King George Park Gathering Place

Examples of Desired Outcomes:

- Richmond will have attractive, connected, sustainable parks and open spaces.
- The City will have a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy to ensure that we have equitable distribution and access throughout the City.
- Richmond will have preserved cultural landscapes that help maintain connection with the past.

2005-2008 – 3 year Action Plans (sampling)

- Develop and implement the Minoru Park Strategy
- Develop a Parks and Open space Strategy
- Support the community-driven Outdoor Field Sport Strategy
- Implement recommendations of the Trails Strategy

How will the Master Plan impact facility developments?

Richmond's quality-of-life facilities and amenities are among British Columbia's best. Most are in the first half of their lifecycle, while some are nearing the end of their life. Others are heritage structures worthy of preserving and protecting.

Capital priorities: Years 2005 –2010

Britannia Heritage Shipyards - this important heritage landmark will continue to be restored as a regional attraction and community legacy.

Richmond Oval and Waterfront Park – This signature, multi-purpose facility will be Richmond's premiere sports, wellness and event centre. It will be an international destination and community-gathering place; the Oval and surrounding Waterfront Park will be a catalyst for a vibrant new urban neighbourhood.

City Centre Community Centre and Park (South)– This multi-use facility will be one of two community centres required to meet the program and service expectations of Richmond residents living in the City's core.

Capital Priorities: Years 2011-2015

Aquatic Centre – This new aquatic centre will replace the existing facility in Minoru Park. The Minoru Aquatic Centre is an older facility nearing the end of its lifespan. This new facility may be located on the Garden City Lands to ensure ready access for those living in the City's west and north sector.

Minoru Place Activity Centre Expansion – This popular facility will be expanded to better meet the needs of active older adults. The expansion of this facility is dependant on the new aquatic centre being developed away from Minoru Park.

Richmond Sports Tournament Centre – This new outdoor sports and tournament centre will be a venue for a range of outdoor turf and court sports to be located at the Garden City Lands. It is expected to include multiple artificial turf sports fields, spectator seating and a field house with spectator and user amenities.

City Centre Community Centre and Library (North) – Located in the north City Centre area, a combined community centre and Richmond Public Library branch, this facility will be an important learning and socializing place.

Performing and Visual Arts Centre - This new facility will provide additional space for City and regional residents active in the performing and visual arts.

Cultural and Heritage Facilities – Post 2010, the City needs to further investigate the demand and requirements for expanded cultural and heritage facilities in the Minoru Precinct including the Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Arts Centre and Richmond Public Library main branch.

Frequently Asked Questions cont'd...

Garden City Lands:

The Garden City Lands provide a significant opportunity for the City of Richmond. Significant public consultation will take place to determine the use of this land.

On City land, the City of Richmond has the potential to develop the following public amenities:

- Community recreation facilities, aquatic facilities, trade and exhibition facilities, public safety and cultural facilities.
- Greenways connecting the Garden City Lands with major open spaces throughout the community to the Richmond Nature Park to the east.
- Neighbourhood park space integrated with future development on the site.
- Sports fields and facilities, artificial turf field and diamonds, stadium, field house, track and field facility and tennis facilities.

Richmond's City centre will accommodate a major portion of the City's population and employment over the next two decades. Direct community benefits associated with the development of the Garden City Lands include:

- Needed community facilities including community safety, recreation and cultural facilities in the central area of Richmond.
- Improved economic development.
- A more equitable distribution of publicly owned space within the City to better meet the needs of a rapidly growing population.

Examples of Desired Outcomes:

- The City will have a business model for foundational planning and development of all facilities and amenities.
- The 2005-2015 capital program is included in the City's 5-year capital budget.
- The Richmond Oval project is complete and is a sustainable operation.

2005-2008 – 3 year Action Plans (sampling)

- Complete planning for City Centre facilities and park space
- Develop Garden City Lands Facility and Park Plan
- In all space planning, include space for artistic expressions
- Initiate feasibility studies for recommended capital projects
- Forward facility priorities to be considered in the City's five-year Capital Program.

How will the Master Plan impact volunteerism?

Volunteerism is a fundamental part of parks, recreation and cultural services system in Richmond. Volunteering is one of the primary contributors to building a strong community. As the community changes, so must the structure of volunteer opportunities and the strategies used for volunteer development.

The City of Richmond is committed to working with the community to develop and nurture a Volunteer Management Strategy to ensure meaningful and varied opportunities and strengthen the volunteer system in the community.

Will any changes impact the public?

Regardless of what changes are made, the public will see little outward impact in the way civic facilities are operated, other than a greater array of program choices, as new partners, including volunteer, social and cultural groups, with greater access to civic facilities, reach segments of the population that haven't been engaged in our existing programming.

Frequently Asked Questions cont'd...

What is the Asset Based Approach?

Our goal is to build service capacities that can effectively address a range of recreational, social and cultural needs of youth. We believe that these experiences have the potential for developing life long skills for youth.

The 40 Developmental Assets are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to affecting young people. These assets have the power to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

External Assets are the positive experiences young people receive from the world around them. These 20 assets are about supporting and empowering young people, setting boundaries and expectations, and about positive and constructive use of their time.

Internal Assets are about positive values and identities, social competencies, and commitment to learning. The internal Developmental Assets will help these young people make thoughtful and positive choices and, in turn, be better prepared for situations in life that challenge their inner strength and confidence.

We foster healthy youth development through an intentional asset based model. To influence any of the 40 Development Assets we:

- Build relationships that are grounded in mentoring, role modelling and engaging youth.
- Create recreational, cultural and social experiences.
- Work with other agencies and community groups.

What is Getting Richmond Moving?

“Getting Richmond Moving” is an initiative that supports the City’s commitment to increase physical activity by 20 per cent by 2010 and is aimed at connecting individuals in the community to active living, building bridges to remove barriers to an active lifestyle and engaging individuals in the community to become healthy role models.

Where are the fine details of the Master Plan?

Specific or detailed questions around individual programs and services are difficult to answer at this time. As the Master plan receives public and council endorsement, staff will be developing the strategies and service plans that will start to answer more detailed questions.

Where do I get more information on the Master Plan?

The complete Master Plan document is available on the City website at:

www.richmond.ca/parksrec/about/mandate/masterplan