

Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan



City of Langley

THE PLACE TO BE



"Our mission ... to build a vibrant, healthy and safe community."

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The planning team thanks members of the community who contributed their time and knowledge for the benefit of this project.

Credits

Quotes in the margins are from community members who participated in the project.

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3D aerial photo images are by Catherine Berris Associates Inc.

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Executive Summary

Context

This document outlines a 10-year Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan that will provide direction to City staff and Council on the acquisition and development of parks and open spaces, recreation and cultural facilities, and the delivery of services to best meet the needs of the changing community. The PRC Master Plan was developed through a comprehensive public engagement process that included a community survey, 18 visioning workshops, and a public open house. The Master Plan reflects and is consistent with other City of Langley (City) plans and strategies.

The City's population, estimated at 25,081 in 2011, is mostly concentrated north of the Nicomekl River. There are concentrations of new immigrants north of the Nicomekl River, some of whom are refugees, with multiple barriers including language, income, health and cultural understanding. Other demographic trends include an increase in the number of older adults, more diverse "family" units, higher density neighbourhoods, and nationally, fewer children walking to school due to security concerns.

City of Langley residents are fairly active in parks, recreation and culture activities, and satisfaction with parks, facilities and services is generally high. On the community survey, satisfaction was lowest for safe places to ride bicycles, visual arts spaces such as galleries or workshops, spaces for youth activities, and performing arts spaces. The top priorities for improvement in parks, recreation and culture were the following:

1. more or better paths or trails
2. more or better recreation and culture programs including fitness, arts, crafts, health and wellness for different age groups

Many citizens do not distinguish the City of Langley from the Township of Langley when they visit parks or engage in recreation and culture activities, and most of the stakeholder groups span the City and the Township. For these reasons, it is important in this plan to consider the relationships and respective roles of the two municipalities. The Township is much larger in size and population. Having said that, there are certain unique and popular facilities and programs offered by or located in the City that serve both City and Township residents.

Vision

The vision, developed through the planning process, states that the City of Langley is a place where:

- people have healthy and active lifestyles
- a variety of safe, accessible, and affordable recreation and culture opportunities are welcoming to all
- residents have pride in the community and a strong sense of belonging
- the natural environment is respected, protected and enhanced for the enjoyment and benefits it provides
- the economy is stimulated by the parks, recreation, arts and culture amenities and services

The PRC Master Plan outlines values and goals that build upon the vision.

Recommendations

Recommendations address land acquisition, capital projects, operations, and programs and services. The following is a summary of the recommendations in the PRC Master Plan:

Trails, Paths and Sidewalks

Expand and improve the trail system and associated infrastructure. Maintain it appropriately and collaborate with others on the inter-related network of alternative transportation routes along roads.

Parkland

Relocate the proposed neighbourhood park north of the river, and acquire land along creeks and to provide road frontage for parks where possible. Amend parkland classification and the DCC bylaw to reflect this plan. Negotiate with developers for on-site green space in higher density developments and commercial and industrial developments.

Park Design and Development

Consider accessibility, security, creativity, sustainability, public art, and social issues in all park planning, design and operations. Prepare Park Master Plans followed by significant

upgrades for City Park and Sendall Gardens, and planning and design processes with community input for parks requiring moderate upgrades. Work with Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the school district regarding upgrades on their lands.

Outdoor Sports

Improve the condition and maintenance of existing sports fields. Consider building an artificial turf field and a new lawn bowling green and clubhouse in partnership with sport groups. Increase coordination with the Township and sport organizations.



Other Park Amenities

Plan and incorporate more urban agriculture, youth facilities, another dog off-leash area, and consider an outdoor fitness area. Increase operations related to playgrounds subject to illegitimate uses and dog management, the latter especially in Brydon Lagoon.

Environmental Stewardship

Plant more trees and native plants in parks and along roads. Continue to improve urban forestry and management of natural areas. Support environmental and community groups, and environmental education programs.

Park Maintenance and Operations

Review maintenance budgets, and increase maintenance and sustainability of operations.

Indoor Recreation and Culture Facilities

Complete the design for and build the new Timms Community Centre as soon as possible. Renovate the Douglas Recreation Centre to expand opportunities. Continue partnerships related to a performing arts and culture centre and the Langley Arts Council's efforts.

Indoor Recreation and Culture Programs

Restyle the health and wellness services, associated pricing and hours of operation in anticipation of the new Timms Community Centre. Continually update programs and services at all facilities, improving services for homebound seniors, and expanding community use of the Al Anderson Memorial Pool multi-purpose room, Nicomekl Elementary School, Sendall Gardens House, Michaud House, and other public schools. Encourage more community-focused programs and one-stop shopping at Twin Rinks. Extend the Langley Leisure Access Program to cover seniors at the Langley Seniors Resource Centre.

Festivals and Events

Support and expand special event programs.

Public Art Program

Encourage the expansion of public art, encouraging it as part of infrastructure projects.

Service Delivery Approach

Establish a staff position for culture.

Volunteerism

Improve the volunteer coordination system and support software.

Marketing and Communications

Expand the scope of the Leisure Guide and City website, update the online Leisure Guide, expand the use of digital media and smart phone apps, expand maps and wayfinding signs, explore ideas for raising the profile of the Nicomekl floodplain, prepare templates for promotion and marketing, seek earned media opportunities, and work with Kwantlen's communications program.

Fees and Charges

Review fees and charges in light of improved facilities in the future.

Financial Support Programs

Revise the Financial Assistance Program and associated marketing strategies.

Implementation and Funding

The relative priority, proposed phasing and capital and operations cost implications are identified for all of the recommendations in the PRC Master Plan. A proposed capital plan is also included. Enhancements to measurement tools will allow for better tracking of progress in relation to the recommendations.

The PRC Master Plan is intended to cover a 10-year timeframe. Certain changes in the City could trigger a need to revisit the plan in less than 10 years. The critical factor in implementing the PRC Master Plan is to remain committed to the goals, values and objectives in all aspects of parks, recreation and culture service delivery.



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Context and Purpose of Project

Context

The City of Langley's (City's) Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan (PRC Master Plan) was last updated in 2005. Since that time, demographics, needs and opportunities have changed, and many of the recommendations of the plan have been accomplished.

City Council, staff and residents share a vision of the City as a vibrant and flourishing community that is the "jewel of the Fraser Valley". The City's parkland, exceeding 120 hectares, contains a natural wetland of regional significance, other natural areas, and diverse parks. The City is known for its revitalized pedestrian-oriented downtown, a regional shopping centre, high-density residential development, and one of the most active industrial and service commercial land bases in the Lower Mainland. With a growing population and thriving economy, the downtown has gained status as one of Metro Vancouver's Regional City Centres.

The City has enjoyed steady growth since 1991, and the population is expected to increase further with development plans that integrate multi-family housing with multi-purpose buildings in and around the downtown area. The City of Langley is committed to strengthening its neighbourhoods as well as its downtown.

"I appreciate the efforts of the City looking to make improvements. Langley is a really lovely city, different from most locations in the Lower Mainland."

“Universal design for planning, design and use of facilities is an excellent priority in light of the growing number of seniors.”

The population of seniors is growing significantly, and so is the cohort of young families. Along with the growth, the City of Langley has managed to retain its small-town atmosphere and community spirit. Langley's clubs and organizations cover a wide range of activities for all ages and interests. The Langley Arts Council is a non-profit society that encourages and stimulates the development of the arts in the community. The Council is very active, sponsoring scholarships, grants, cultural and multicultural events and heritage conservation programs. Thirty organizations are currently affiliated with the Arts Council.

The City of Langley abuts the City of Surrey to the west, and it is surrounded by the Township of Langley to the north, east and south. Many of the sports, recreation, arts and culture groups operate within the 'Langleys', drawing members from and focusing their activities within both the City and Township. For this reason, this Master Plan refers to facilities and services in the Township, and in some cases, in Surrey. Residents will visit the park or facility that best meets their needs, regardless of jurisdiction.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project was to prepare a comprehensive and clear 10-year Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan that will provide direction to City staff and Council on the acquisition and development of parks and open spaces, recreation and cultural facilities, and the delivery of services to best meet the needs of the changing community.

1.2 Planning Process and Methods

Engagement Process

The PRC Master Plan is based on the needs and desires of the community, supported by professional analysis and comparisons with population and sector trends. Various methods were used to engage community members in the formulation of the PRC Master Plan. The following is a summary of the communications and engagement methods and tools:

- A press release regarding the project was sent to the local papers, emails were sent to interest groups, posters were placed in community facilities, a radio interview was conducted, and word-of-mouth was used to publicize the project – November 2012, January – February 2013
- A community survey was mailed to 2,000 randomly selected households, each of which was invited to participate in a web survey, with options for hard copy or telephone survey methods. This approach combines the convenience of a web survey with a statistically valid sample – November 12 to December 14, 2012. Appendix A contains a summary of the results.
- Visioning workshops were conducted with 18 different focus groups, two of which were for the general public – February 2013. Appendix B contains a summary of the results.
- A public open house was held to present and request input on the draft PRC Master Plan – June 2013.

In addition to the above, all draft documents were posted on the City's website, and the public was invited to respond.

1.3 Related City Documents

Many City documents provide the context for the PRC Master Plan, and this plan reflects and is consistent with those plans. The following is a brief summary of the most relevant City documents, listed by date beginning with the most recent.



Master Transportation Plan, in progress

Due to rapid growth and recent transportation system changes in the City and surrounding areas, the current Master Transportation Plan (MTP), adopted in 2004, requires updating. The new MTP, which is to be completed in 2014 by Urban Systems, is a multi-modal transportation strategy that will guide the development of the City's roadway network, transit infrastructure, bicycle facilities and road-side pedestrian systems over the next 25 years. There are opportunities for residents to provide feedback, including public events, a survey, and discussions with stakeholders.

<http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/index.php/news?view=newsitem&newsid=80>

City's Capital Improvement Plan, 2013-2022

This plan outlines proposed capital improvements and their costs for each City department.

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/2013_DRAFT_Capital_Improvement_Plan.pdf

Strategic Plan, 2013-2017

This plan outlines recommendations within seven key areas in which the City wishes to achieve better results in the future:

- Infrastructure
- Quality of Life in our City
- Communication
- Revitalization
- Environment
- Protective Services
- Organizational Development

<http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/index.php/city-hall/city-hall/strategic-plan>

Pond Management Strategies, 2013

This project, by Dillon Consulting Limited, involved an analysis and recommendations for three ponds, Brydon Lagoon, Seniors Centre pond, and Sendall Gardens ponds. The study identifies the relative priority of maintaining current stormwater management functions, improving the natural environment, and improving the human environment of each pond site.

Recommendations for capital and operations improvements are provided for each pond site, along with cost estimates.

DCC Bylaw, 2012

This bylaw identifies development cost charges (DCCs) for highway, drainage, sewage, water and park facilities. It proposes DCCs for an expansion to Brydon Park.

<https://langley.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentDisplay.aspx?Id=9041>

Wayfinding Strategy, 2011

The wayfinding strategy, by Applied Wayfinding Information Design, focuses on improving wayfinding for drivers to downtown and to downtown parking, helping residents to walk and cycle in the City, encouraging residents to visit downtown and City facilities, improving transit information, promoting Downtown as a shopping destination, and supporting the City's 'The Place to Be Brand' and its economic and development objectives.

The strategy is based on the premise that the design of information needs to be user-centered, accessible, coordinated, easy to use, and at the heart of journey planning in Langley.

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/wayfinding_strategy.pdf

Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, 2010

Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy sets the context for growth within the region based on five goals:

- Goal 1 – Create a Compact Urban Area
- Goal 2 – Support a Sustainable Economy
- Goal 3 – Protect the Environment and Respond to Climate Change Impacts
- Goal 4 – Develop Complete Communities
- Goal 5 – Support Sustainable Transportation Choices

<http://public.metrovancouver.org/planning/development/strategy/RGSDocs/RGSAadoptedbyGVRDBoardJuly292011.pdf>

Downtown Langley Master Plan, 2007, 2008, 2009

Phase 1 of the Downtown Master Plan was led by MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc. The Downtown Langley '3 C' approach was developed through public workshops and open houses and builds on the Downtown's previous successes and special qualities:

1. Concentrate commercial uses, residential uses, specialty uses, and arts and culture in the Downtown area
2. Connect the Downtown area to the surrounding community by a comprehensive transit, pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, and road network
3. Complement the existing character with appropriate intensification that fits and respects Downtown's unique scale while also adding significant public improvements like a new

"Thanks for taking my input into consideration."

arts and culture centre, children's museum, street improvements in the west and central Fraser Highway area and expansion of the Transit Exchange

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/dmp_phase1.pdf

The second document in this series, also led by MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc., examines the general redevelopment potential of 24 sites within the Downtown Special Design Districts in terms of urban design, land use and economic returns; includes further analysis of seven sites with the best potential and a diversity of site profiles; and provides materials that showcase the potential for prospective developers.

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/dmp_phase2.pdf

The final document in this series was led by Perry + Associates Landscape Architecture and Site Planning. The Public Realm Plan recommends a number of "big moves" to achieve stated design principles and public priorities. The big moves, which are intended to create a framework or structure for the downtown that reinforces the Master Plan, are as follows:

- Create a pedestrian-priority 'downtown core'
- Enhance the 'realm of influence'
- Designate gateway streets leading to the Downtown
- Designate 'greenway streets' extending from downtown southwards to connect with existing residential areas and the Nicomekl River greenbelt
- Reinforce and redevelop Innes Corners as the 'heart' of Downtown
- Redevelop McBurney Lane

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/dmp_phase3.pdf

City of Langley Cultural Master Plan, 2007

This study, by PERC Ltd., recommends that the City focus on working in a "Community Cultural Development" mode to enhance existing services, to make the current service delivery system work better, to facilitate new services, and to build capacity within the cultural community as a whole. Although the study concludes that new facilities and facility upgrades are required, these are not the focus of the recommendations, insofar as a number of developmental activities must first be undertaken to help create a demand for additional facilities. The specific recommendations of the study are listed below under the following headings, each of which represents a strategic direction:

- building leadership for culture in the community
- building awareness of culture in Langley
- enhancing cultural opportunities for all residents
- managing our heritage resources
- housing cultural services in our community
- resourcing our community's cultural activity

<http://langley2.xplorex.com/sites/langley2/uploads/1263243846817.pdf>



City of Langley Social Plan, 2007

This plan, submitted by SPARC BC (written by Istvanffy and Atkey), provides the City with guidance on how to meaningfully and effectively engage with social issues in the community. Despite the work that the City of Langley has undertaken to address a number of social issues in recent years, the process of developing the Social Plan highlighted a number of gaps that continue to persist. Recommendations for green spaces include more community gardens, raising awareness about parks, making better use of parks, reviewing development cost charges, density bonusing for community amenities, and promoting accessibility. Other recommendations relate to housing, homelessness, safety, and social services.

<http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/socialplanfinal.pdf>

Accessibility and Inclusiveness

This study, conducted by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) with input from a Steering Committee, is a comprehensive strategy to make the City of Langley accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities. An inventory of existing conditions, analysis of issues and opportunities, and a plan and implementation strategy are included. In general, City of Langley does a good job of accessibility and inclusion. The recommendations focus on indoor and outdoor municipal facilities and commercial establishments that support tourism.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, 2005

The Master Plan, undertaken by PERC and LEES and Associates, identifies requirements related to the provision of leisure services in the City. The following is a summary of the recommendations:

Recreation and Cultural Facilities

- Al Anderson Pool – Retain and upgrade the outdoor pool to meet appropriate standards
- Nicomekl School – Initiate discussions with others regarding the provision of recreation and cultural programs and activities
- Arts and Cultural Facility – Establish a Task Force to initiate discussions regarding the construction of a performing arts and cultural facility
- Timms Community Centre – Undertake a needs assessment related to the facility's expansion and continued use
- Multi-Purpose Sports Facility – Establish a Task Force to initiate discussions regarding the construction of a multi-purpose sportsplex

Parks and Open Space

- Parks for the Future – Focus on acquisition of parkland in the Nicomekl and Douglas neighbourhoods
- Park Facilities – Implement a program of park improvements
- Trails Development – Work with others to expand the existing trail and bike route network

- Urban Forest – Create an urban forest management strategy
- Dog Use of Parks – Coordinate a strategy to manage dog play and exercise areas
- Environmental Management and Planning – Create a long-term environmental management and planning strategy
- BC Hydro Right-of-Way – Address the City's long-term tenure and access to this corridor
- Integrated Pest Management – Implement the IPMS
- Safety and Security – Address nefarious activities that are occurring within the City's park system
- Youth Play – Create new youth play opportunities within existing parkland

Public Art

- Adopt a public art policy

Administration and Policy

- Joint Committee – Review the mandate and role of the current Joint Use Committee
- Commission / Council Role – Review and revise the mandate of the Parks and Recreation Commission as necessary
- Equity / Subsidies – Continue fees and charges policies that subsidize the participation of children and youth and families in local recreation programs
- Sportsfield User Fees – Develop and implement user fee policies related to the use of sportsfields
- Marketing / Image – Develop a more segmented and professional marketing program
- Partnerships / Coordination – Review and update current agreements between the City and local organizations
- Special Events / Festivals – Establish a Task Force of interested stakeholders groups
- Programming Strategies – Review services for young adults, active retirees, families and youth

http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/Reports/p_and_r_masterplan_2005.pdf

Nature Trail Network Plan, 2005

This plan, by Catherine Berris Associates Inc., provides a long-term strategy for improving the City's trail system. The plan identifies a proposed trail system and design standards for various trail types and support facilities. The plan addresses integration of nature trails with the on-street bicycle and pedestrian network, environmental considerations, and heritage resources.

Official Community Plan (OCP), 2005

This plan replaces the Official Community Plan Bylaw of 1999. The basic land use plan of a compact City core and surrounding high-density housing and associated policy framework of the previous bylaw are maintained. Updates reflect major studies and plans completed in the intervening years by the City, including the following:



- Neighbourhood Profiles (2001, 2004)
- Community Survey (2001, 2004)
- Watercourse Mapping Update (2002)
- Downtown Repositioning Strategy (2003)
- Industrial Land Use Study (2004)
- Master Transportation Plan (2004)
- Economic Development Strategy (2004)
- Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2005)
- Nature Trail Network Plan (2005)

<http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/index.php/business/official-community-plan>

Township of Langley-City of Langley Cultural Tourism Study, 2003

The City of Langley and the Township of Langley commissioned Grant Thornton LLP to prepare a Cultural Tourism Economic Impact Study for the Langley area. The purpose of this study was to perform an economic impact assessment for cultural tourism in the Langley area and to prepare recommendations for the two Councils. The recommendations focus on tourism and product development, marketing and human resource development.

<http://torc.linkbc.ca/torc/downs1/CulturalTourism.pdf>

Township of Langley Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2002

This plan identifies a vision, principles and strategic directions for parks and recreation, including provision of new parks and facilities in growing communities. Consideration is given to the strong inter-relationship with the City of Langley, and the plan recommends cooperation with the City through groups like the Joint Parks and Recreation Facilities Committee and respective commissions.

http://www.tol.ca/Portals/0/FileShare/ComDev/ocp_3.2.4%20Parks%20and%20Recreation%20MasterPlan2002.pdf



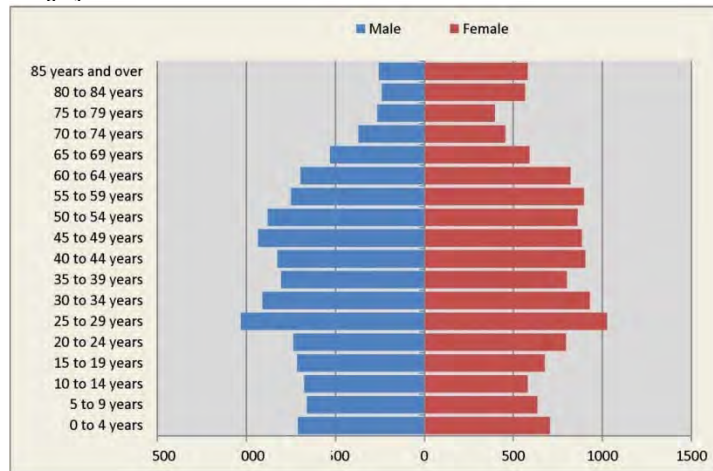
2.0 Setting the Direction

2.1 Demographic Trends

The population of the City of Langley was 25,081 in 2011, based on the 2011 census. This represents a 6.2% increase from the 2006 census, compared to a population increase for all of BC of 7% for the same time frame. The 2011 gender distribution was 47.8% (11,980) male and 52.2% (13,100) female, compared to a BC gender distribution of 49% male and 51% female. The median age in the City was 40.4, compared to a 41.9 median age for BC. The percentage of the City's population aged 65 and over was 16.9% (4,240), while the working age population (15 to 64) was 67.3% (16,880), compared to BC percentages of 15.7% for the population aged 65 and over, and 69% for the working age population. Figure 2.1 illustrates the proportionally high per cent of residents over 75 in the City compared to the province as a whole.

“Our community has many seniors and keeping them social and mobile is very important.”

Langley



BC

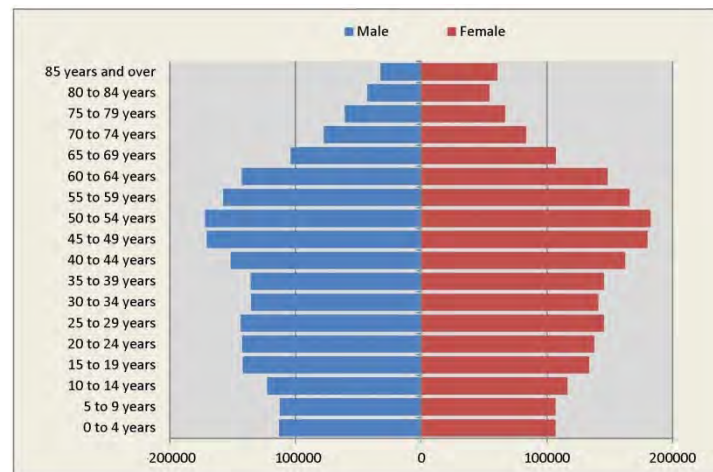


Figure 2.1: Population Characteristics in City of Langley and BC

Source: BC Statistics, 2011

The total number of census families in private households was 6,615, with 54.3% (3,595) of those being two persons and 45.6% (3,015) being families of three or more. A total of 64.2% (4,250) of families were headed by married couples, and 16% (1,060) headed by common-law couples, while 19.7% (1,305) were lone-parent families. In all of BC, 15.3% of families were headed by lone parents. The average number of children at home per family was one in the City of Langley, the same as the average for BC. In the City, 17.2% (4,325) of the population reported living alone, while 11.3% of the population of BC reported the same.

Of those that reported a single mother tongue, 83.8% (20,700) of the population of the City spoke English only, 1.4% (340) spoke French only, and 13.6% (3,370) spoke a non-official language only. This compares to the percentages for BC at 70.3% for English only, 1.3% for French only, and 26.5% for non-official languages. In the City of Langley, the three most common non-official language mother tongues were German at 1.7% (410), Spanish at 1.4% (345), and Sino-Tibetan languages at 1.2% (295) of the total population. In comparison, the

three most common non-official language mother tongues in BC were Punjabi at 4.5%, Cantonese at 3.2%, and Chinese at 2.9% of the total population.

Approximately 42% of the City's housing stock is rental (City of Langley Affordable Housing Study). This is the fifth highest proportion of rental housing in Metro Vancouver. About 8% of the total housing inventory is social housing. After the City of Vancouver, this is the highest proportion of social housing in Metro Vancouver. These factors are likely associated with a high rate of turn-over in residents.

The City of Langley and Metro Vancouver prepared estimates for population growth at five year intervals up to 2041 (Figure 2.2). The number of dwellings in the City will continue to increase steadily, with employment growing at a slightly slower rate (Figure 2.3). The population in 2041 is projected to be 38,005.

“Langley City is a great city and I've lived here for over 15 years. I applaud all efforts in making it an even better place to live!”

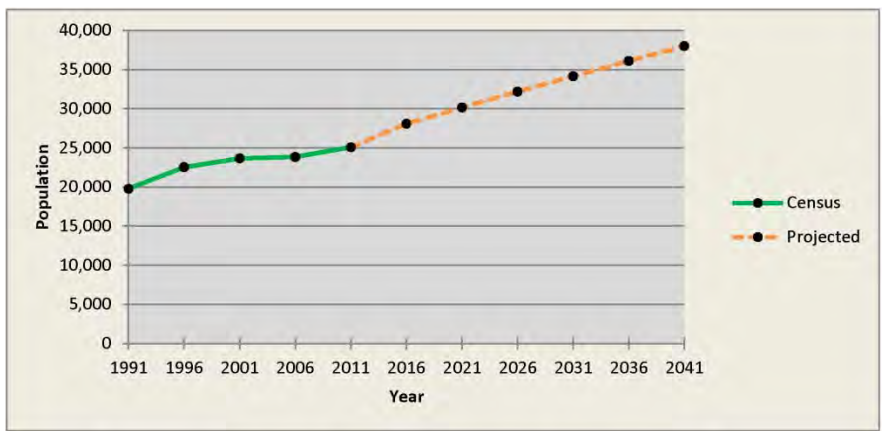


Figure 2.2: Population Projection
 Source: City of Langley, Metro Vancouver

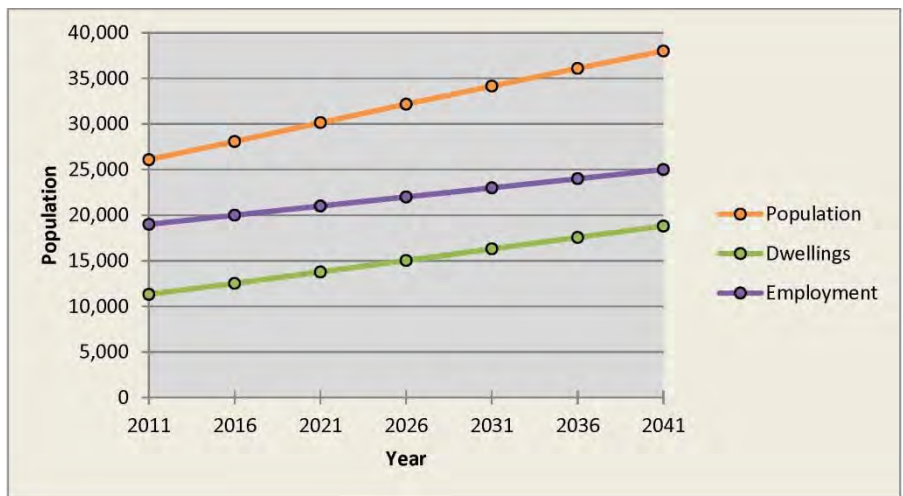


Figure 2.3: Projection of Population, Dwellings and Employment
 Source: City of Langley, Metro Vancouver

Since most of the land in the City is already developed, future population growth will rely on redevelopment and densification. The City estimates that the population in the downtown

commercial area will increase by more than three times by 2041. Population in other high and medium density residential neighbourhoods will also rise significantly while low density residential, urban residential and estate residential will remain almost unchanged (Figure 2.4).

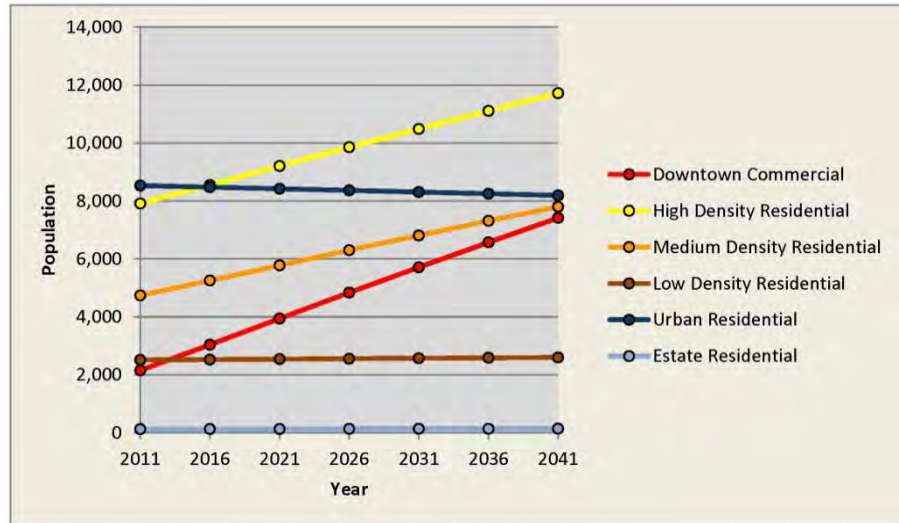


Figure 2.4: Population Growth by Land Use

Source: City of Langley

The downtown and all of the medium and high density areas are located north of the Nicomekl River, as seen in the land use designations in the OCP (Figure 2.5). This results in extremely different urban forms and character north and south of the river, and socio-economic patterns that vary accordingly.

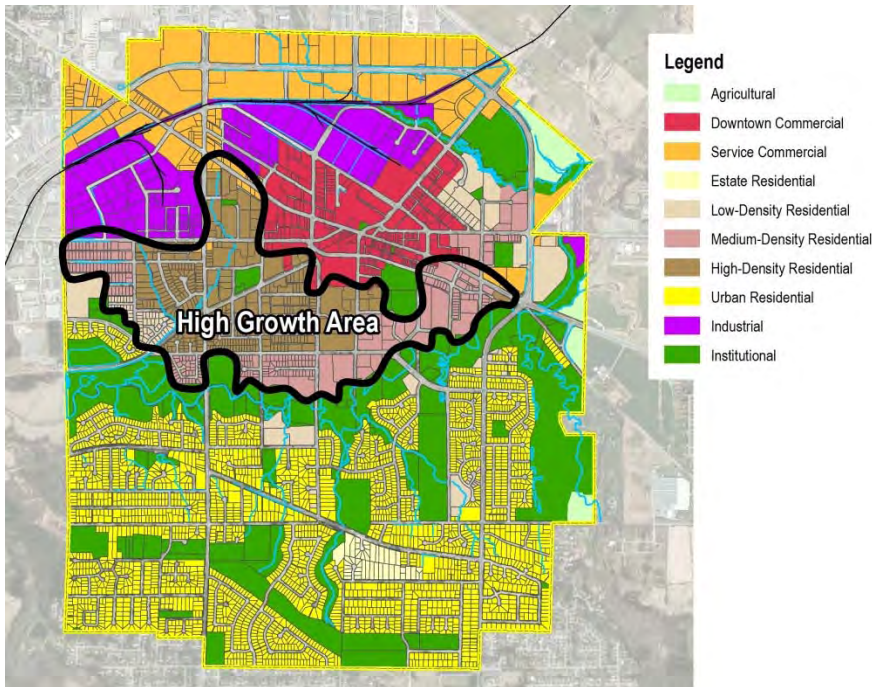


Figure 2.5: OCP Land Use Designations

The City's service area for parks, recreation and culture extends into adjacent areas within the Township of Langley and Surrey. These areas are projected to grow even faster than the City's population, and they already have many more residents than the City (Figure 2.6).

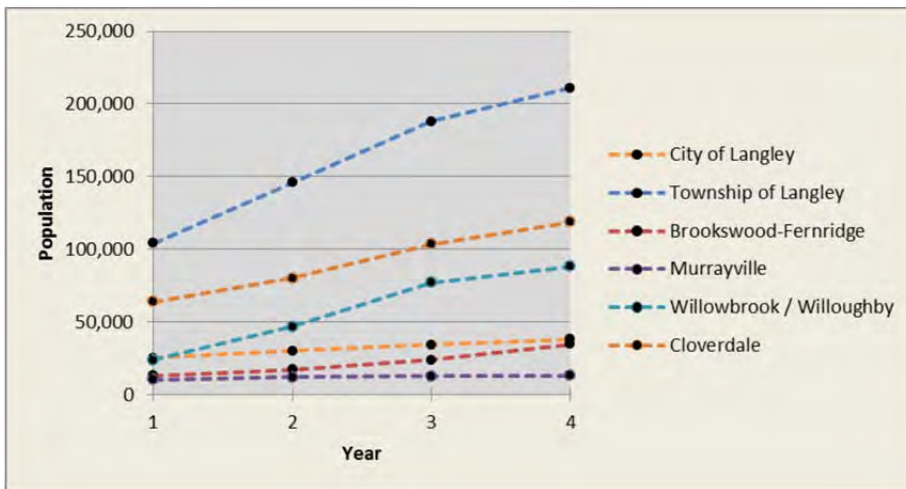


Figure 2.6: Population Projections of Sample Adjacent Areas

Source: City of Langley, City of Surrey, Metro Vancouver

The following are some of the key demographic trends and the implications for the PRC Master Plan:

- The major population growth area is north of the Nicomekl River, and it is composed of high density multi-family housing. This will result in a significantly higher proportion of the

population living in high density neighbourhoods in the future, and these residents will have greater needs for parks and recreation services. At the same time, the land value in this area will increase, making it more difficult to acquire parkland.

- There are concentrations of new immigrants north of the Nicomekl River, of all ages and from multiple countries, many of whom are refugees, with multiple barriers including language, income, health and cultural understanding. Most of these immigrants will live north of the Nicomekl River, where it will be most important to provide social and recreation services that can help them adapt to Western living.
- The increasing number of older adults means that services will be required to serve this population group, especially if older adults are going to be attracted to remain in the community.
- The “family” as a unit is becoming more diverse, and many families have only one parent in the household, making it important to serve the needs of the family as a whole and the children and youth specifically.
- The urban fabric is changing, with new forms of development, more multicultural residents, and increasing densities. This could require different types of parks, recreation and culture facilities and services.
- Increasing concerns related to safety and other factors mean that few children walk to school. This means that activity and fitness opportunities need to be provided through means other than walking to school.

2.2 Parks, Recreation and Culture Trends

In the past few decades, there have been significant changes in interests, amount and use of leisure time, and activity choices. Trends provide insight into potential opportunities and challenges in the parks, recreation and culture system. The following is a brief list of trends that are relevant to the City of Langley, based on literature, best practices, workshops, conferences and other sources.

Community Trends

- Hectic pace and varied work and leisure schedules
- Shift in demand from formal to informal activities
- More diverse activities
- Incorporation of lifestyle and wellness into daily routines
- Shifting populations causing growth in some communities and stability or declines in others
- Greater cultural diversity and populations with specific interests and needs
- Heavy reliance on transit for transportation and long or atypical work hours by much of the population leading to difficulties transporting children to programs
- Increasing disparity between the “haves” and “have-nots”
- Interest in environmental stewardship and adaptation to climate change
- Decline in volunteerism

Age-specific Trends

- Patchwork of early-childhood-development programs and supports
- Recognition of the uniqueness of “tweens”, those who are no longer children, not quite teens, often between the ages of 9 and 13
- Youth physical inactivity epidemic
- Healthier aging population with a wide range of “older adult” interests and needs
- Age-friendly communities, where the policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to help seniors “age actively”, living safely, enjoying good health and staying involved
- “Super seniors” in their golden years who live an active life with good health and vitality

Outdoor Recreation Trends

- Trail uses are the most popular activity
- Challenges related to parkland supply with increasing density
- Increase in dog ownership and resulting service demands
- Growing interest in urban agriculture
- Outdoor nature-based activities gaining in popularity
- Aging infrastructure, e.g., sports fields
- Expectation for access to artificial turf fields
- Importance of environmental stewardship and education

Indoor Recreation Trends

- Aging infrastructure, which poses major challenges and opportunities
- Changing preferences in recreation and cultural activities
- Expectation for green buildings and sustainable design
- Shift toward varied strategies for providing facilities (e.g., collaboration with not-for-profits, the private sector)
- Greater expectations for excellence
- Highly fragmented consumer demand

Service-delivery Trends

- Focus on delivering benefits
- Integrated solutions involving multiple services, ages and skill levels
- Family-centred activities
- Connections between health and recreation
- Flexible program times and formats
- Increased accountability to community
- More effort to partner with others, including schools
- Expanded use of technology



“We love Langley City and love our outdoor recreation that is available to us.”

2.3 Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Numerous national, provincial and municipal organizations have been engaged in research regarding the benefits of parks, recreation and culture. The “benefits” approach is a highly effective framework for planning and promoting services because it emphasizes that there are both direct and indirect benefits to the community from investing in parks, recreation and cultural facilities, programs, activities and special events.

The direct benefits accrue to those who participate in terms of healthy and active lifestyles, social and family connections, positive behaviours, a sense of competence, and disease prevention, among others. There are indirect benefits to the community as a whole, even for those who do not participate. This stems from the enhanced vibrancy of the community, strengthened social fabric, healthier business community, more employment opportunities, more local goods to be purchased, and enhanced tourism assets.

Active people lead healthier lives and have stronger connections to their communities. A powerful case exists that investment in recreation infrastructure is a preventative approach to health and social well-being that offsets spending on reactive infrastructure such as hospitals and jails.

At the national level, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) has an online resource that collects data to support the following eight benefits of parks, recreation and culture (<http://www.cpra.ca>), and the National Benefits Hub provides data on benefits (<http://benefitshub.ca>). The work and services provided through parks, recreation and culture:

1. Are essential to personal health and well-being
2. Provide the key to balanced human development
3. Provide a foundation for quality of life
4. Reduce self-destructive and anti-social behaviour
5. Build strong families and healthy communities
6. Reduce health care, social service and police/justice costs
7. Are a significant economic generator
8. Provide green spaces that are essential to environmental and ecological well-being, for the survival of natural species, the environmental responsibility and stewardship by humans and creating a sense of place

2.4 Community Input

Community Survey

There were 244 respondents to the community survey. The following are the highlights of the survey results. More information is included in Appendix A and the complete survey report is available from the City.

- Three-quarters of residents surveyed feel part of the community. This is fairly consistent with a Vancouver Foundation survey of Metro Vancouver that found one-third of the people surveyed say it is difficult to make new friends, one in four say they are alone more often

than they would like, and one-third of the people surveyed do not know if their neighbours trust each other. Most people in Metro say they feel welcome and that they belong in their neighbourhood. Homeowners feel this more strongly (76%) than renters (65%).

- Residents in the City of Langley have high participation in outdoor activities, with the top activities being running, jogging, walking or hiking, visiting parks, and community festivals and special events.
- Dog walking has the most frequent participation, followed by running, jogging, walking or hiking.
- Almost all households had visited a park or trail in the previous year.
- Satisfaction is very high for paths and trails, large popular parks, natural parkland, smaller parks near home, outdoor sports fields, and community special events.
- Respondents in households with children were also highly satisfied with: Al Anderson Memorial Pool, outdoor areas for social and cultural gatherings or festivals, spray parks, playgrounds, and maintenance of parks and trails.
- For outdoor recreation, survey respondents were least satisfied with safe places to ride bicycles.
- Participation in indoor activities is significantly lower than outdoor activities, with the top indoor activities being swimming, public fitness centre visits, and arts/culture programs.
- Nine out of ten households use indoor recreation and culture facilities; in the City, the ones used most were Al Anderson Memorial Pool (32% of households), and Timms Community Centre and Douglas Recreation Centre (both 24% of households). There is significantly higher use of some facilities in the Township; Langley Events Centre (61% of households) and WC Blair Aquatic Centre (48% of households).
- For indoor uses, satisfaction was quite low for visual arts spaces such as galleries or workshops, spaces for youth activities, and performing arts spaces.
- The most important barrier to participation was “no time, too busy with other things”. The next most important barriers, and ones that may be within the control of the City, were inconvenient program times, cost, lack of interest in what is available, inability to commit to multiple sessions, and lack of information.
- The top priorities for improvement in parks, recreation and culture were 1. more or better paths or trails, and 2. more or better recreation and culture programs including fitness, arts, crafts, health and wellness for different age groups.

Some of the results that vary with demographic variables have direct implications for the PRC Master Plan:

- The highest participation outdoor activities of the oldest survey respondents were visiting a park for walking, informal activities or play (91%), running, jogging, walking and hiking (78%), nature appreciation or wildlife viewing such as bird watching (48%), visiting a playground (48%), dog walking (30%), and visiting a water spray park (30%). With the large and increasing cohort in this age group, these are important activities to consider.
- Those households north of the Nicomekl River were significantly less likely than those south of the River to walk dogs (38% and 56%), play outdoor field sports (23% and 41%), play outdoor court sports (11% and 21%), visit a mountain bike skills park (8% and 19%),





and go biking (2% and 12%). While this may be related to socio-economic considerations, it is also important to consider the opportunities for these activities in the north part of the City.

Focus Groups

Focus groups provide qualitative input that allows for different insights, complementing the results of the community survey. There was also more focus on opportunities in the City of Langley in focus groups, whereas the survey included Township facilities and activities. A summary of focus group input is included in Appendix B and more complete notes are available from the City. The focus group input was used in the formulation of the vision, core values and goals of the PRC Master Plan. The following are the key perspectives of these groups on parks, recreation and culture in the City.

Strengths Related to Parks

- Variety of walking trails and park amenities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, fields, water parks, lawn bowling, bandstand, and the community garden
- Access to and amount of parks and outdoor areas
- Park maintenance
- Particular appreciation for the nature, wildlife and birds in the parklands
- Favourite parks mentioned in the focus groups were the dog park, Sendall Gardens, McBurney Plaza, City Park and Spirit Square

Challenges Related to Parks

- Safety and security, with many comments about homeless people, inappropriate activities, and the need for more bylaw enforcement
- Maintenance of sports facilities and trails
- Desire for more way-finding (directional) and interpretive signage
- Some park amenities are seen as needing upgrading, including playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, sports fields, sport boxes, shelters, and the community gardens
- Desire for more nature preservation and education
- Some interest in more dog off-leash areas

Strengths Related to Recreation

- Affordability
- Helpful staff
- Youth programs
- Al Anderson Memorial Pool
- Variety of programs, places and events
- Overall cleanliness and maintenance of indoor recreation facilities

Challenges Related to Recreation

- Lack of sufficient indoor space for recreation and sports, which limits the diversity and quantity of recreation programs
- Need to do more to promote the facilities and programs
- Some participants said drop-in programs are too expensive
- Lack of an indoor pool

Strengths Related to Culture

- Varied and popular community events
- Langley Arts Council
- Multi-cultural nature of the community
- Langley Community Music School
- Public art (murals)
- Partnership opportunities

Challenges Related to Culture

- Lack of an arts and culture centre suitable for visual and performing arts
- Funding for arts and culture
- Communication among organizations
- Need for more and better promotion and advertising of events

2.5 Relationships with the Township

Many citizens do not distinguish the City of Langley from the Township of Langley when they visit parks or engage in recreation and culture activities, and most of the stakeholder groups span the City and the Township. For these reasons, it is important in this plan to consider the relationships and respective roles of the two municipalities.

The Township, with a population of 104,177 in 2011, has four times the population of the City. It is also growing at a much faster rate. As such, the Township has facilities, programs, resources and capacity that are significantly larger than those of the City.

Having said that, there are certain facilities and programs offered by or located in the City that serve both City and Township residents. These include:

- Services for older adults at the Langley Senior Resource Centre
- Outdoor pool experience at Al Anderson Memorial Pool
- Dog off-leash park
- Lawn bowling at Douglas Park
- Some social services such as the Gateway of Hope, Stepping Stone, Langley Community Services
- Music education and performances at the Langley Community Music School
- Ornamental gardens at Sendall Park

- Youth services
- Baseball program based mostly at City Park
- New visual arts facility at the previous Coast Capital building

The Township has contributed funds to some of these programs and facilities. For many other activities, such as indoor swimming, soccer, football, adult slopitch, skate parks, museum services, cemetery services and various recreation and culture programs, City residents use resources and facilities in the Township or Surrey. The City provides resources to the Township to support McLeod Athletic Park.

Staff at the City and Township of Langley work well together and collaborate informally on many initiatives, some of which include Langley Community Partnership, Sport Langley (for sport tourism), KidSport, Langley Walk, trail planning, and the upcoming 2014 BC Seniors Games. Through an agreement among the City, Township, School District, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Trinity Western University, coordinated work is now underway to identify and evaluate options for a performing arts and culture centre.



3.0 Vision for the Future

3.1 Vision

A vision statement is an important planning tool because it provides clarity about the desired future as well as a rallying point for the community, Council and staff. The vision statement for the PRC Master Plan was generated from input received at the visioning workshops. It is written in the present tense since it describes how it is hoped the City's parks, recreation and culture will be described in the future:

The City of Langley is a place where:

- people have healthy and active lifestyles
- a variety of safe, accessible, and affordable recreation and culture opportunities are welcoming to all
- residents have pride in the community and a strong sense of belonging
- the natural environment is respected, protected and enhanced for the enjoyment and benefits it provides
- the economy is stimulated by the parks, recreation, arts and culture amenities and services

3.2 Values

The following values, which were derived primarily from focus groups, guide the PRC Master Plan:

"We love living in the City of Langley and plan to be here for many years to come. Love the trees, nature trails and strong sense of community."

"Many of the paths are wonderful in the city of Langley – especially the Nicomekl trails..."

1. Parks, recreation and culture services are inclusive, accessible, affordable and welcoming, accommodating all age groups and interests, and providing opportunities that address physical, financial and other potential barriers to participation.
2. Parks, recreation and culture services are socially supportive, promoting social connections, a sense of belonging, and community pride at municipal, community and neighbourhood levels.
3. Safety and security considerations are addressed in the planning and management of outdoor and indoor spaces.
4. Parks, recreation and culture services protect and celebrate our strengths, including natural areas, arts and culture, existing communities, festivals, the river, and heritage.
5. Parks, recreation and culture services offer community-based opportunities close to home in support of walkable communities.
6. Parks, recreation and culture spaces and facilities are interconnected, improving ease of travel between destinations, and providing connections with the river and creeks.
7. Parks, recreation and culture services foster a healthy community, encouraging higher levels of recreation participation and fitness.
8. Parks, recreation and culture services are proactive to growth, anticipating trends and providing facilities and services in pace with the development of new communities.

3.3 Goals

The following are the goals of the PRC Master Plan. The information is derived primarily from focus groups, and the structure is consistent with the Initiatives in the City's Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure

1. Provide new facilities that reflect current practices, demographics and needs.
2. Upgrade older infrastructure to better serve community needs and aspirations.
3. Improve the efficiency and use of existing facilities.
4. Increase the venues and space available for recreation, arts and culture programs and events.
5. Increase the connectivity of trails and the ability to walk and bike safely throughout the City.
6. Improve access to and from recreation and culture facilities.

Quality of Life in our City

1. Expand and modify programs and services to be more inclusive, accessible, affordable and welcoming.
2. Consider approaches that will foster a sense of community in all planning, design and programming.
3. Encourage and support facilities and services that cultivate the growth and expression of arts and culture.
4. Enhance community food security through more urban agriculture.

Communication

1. Improve and expand communication services related to parks, recreation and culture.
2. Promote healthy and active lifestyles.
3. Promote parks, recreation, arts and culture.
4. Improve way-finding with respect to parks, trails, and recreation and culture facilities.

“I love the amount of natural trails throughout the community.”

Revitalization

1. Encourage and support neighbourhood beautification.
2. Encourage and support revitalization efforts downtown that enhance parks and open space and walkability.

Environment

1. Protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including natural areas and the urban forest.
2. Celebrate the natural environment and the benefits it provides to the City.
3. Provide access to nature for all residents.
4. Encourage and support environmental education and stewardship groups and opportunities.

Protective Services

1. Improve safety and security in parks and open spaces.
2. Explore partnerships with organizations and the community to increase safety and security.

Organizational Development

1. Set achievable long term plans.
2. Foster volunteerism.
3. Improve financial assistance for programs.
4. Undertake prudent financial management.
5. Foster partnerships with the community, business and sport groups to achieve goals.
6. Develop and implement measurement tools.

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4.0 Parks and Outdoor Recreation

4.1 Trails, Paths and Sidewalks

Context

Running, jogging, walking and hiking had by far the highest participation of any activity in the community survey, with 90% of households participating within the past year. Paths and trails had the highest satisfaction of any indoor or outdoor amenity. “More or better paths or trails” was also the highest priority need expressed in the survey.

The Nature Trail Network Plan provides recommendations for off-road trails, and most of those recommendations are still relevant. The Master Transportation Plan (in progress) provides information and direction on existing and proposed sidewalks and bike facilities. On-road bicycle lanes exist or are currently being designed for: 208 Street, a portion of Langley Bypass, and portions of 203 Street, 201A Street, 51B Avenue, 48th Avenue to HD Stafford. Numerous other roads are considered to have bike routes as a “shared street lane” or “neighbourhood bikeway”.

The community survey included many comments on the alternative transportation network, including path, trails sidewalks and bike lanes:

- The number one priority is to add more trails and paths to achieve connectivity, including loops and links to community destinations, e.g., schools, library, downtown, surrounding communities

“Trails should be multi-use for all people including those with disabilities.”



- There are concerns about safety on busy roads for bikers and walkers
- The bike routes are not marked, the bike network is discontinuous, and recreational bikers are not comfortable biking on the busy streets, even where there are bike lanes
- There is interest in better patrolling of trails for improved safety and enforcement of bylaws
- Trails need to be more accessible, especially with the number of older adults and people with mobility challenges, e.g., resurfacing and improved drainage of some trails, especially in the floodplain
- Make busy trails wide enough for all users, including bikers
- There is interest in more trails with better lighting
- Trail maps, trail signs and marketing of the trail system is needed, including a sign to Sendall Gardens at the end of the floodplain
- Replacement of trail system bridges is needed (this is in the capital budget)
- There is a request for more stopping places along trails in the floodplain to provide resting points to enhance accessibility

The Township wants to connect to the Nicomekl trail in the future; there are connections now, e.g., under the Fraser Highway to Derek Doubleday Arboretum to the north. Other plans by the Township include: trail connections in the Brookwood/Ferridge area south and east of dog park, north-south along the Surrey-Langley border, a greenway with a separated shared use plan on both sides of 200 Street in newly developing areas, and bike lanes on new arterial roads. The City's Public Realm Plan and the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, among other documents, identify these opportunities.

Focus group participants identified concerns related to crossing 200 Street in the vicinity of the powerline, especially because of youth visiting Penzer Park. Options for a crossing in this location have been reviewed in the past, but a practical and cost-effective solution has not been identified.

Recommendations¹

Capital

- 4.1.1 Expand the trail system to provide connectivity, with links to potential destinations, e.g., parks, schools, downtown, per other City plans.
- 4.1.2 Work with Kwantlen Polytechnic University on the development of a trail along the creek through their campus.
- 4.1.3 Improve trails and sidewalks that require upgrading.
- 4.1.4 Design and build strategically located infrastructure to support the trail system, including benches, waste bins, bike racks, with lighting and public art on the highest use trails, per other City plans. (Signs are addressed in recommendations 4.3.4 and 7.3.5.)

¹ It is understood that the City is already pursuing actions that comply with many of the recommendations in this Master Plan. For that reason "continue to" is not included at the front of any of the recommendations.

Operations

- 4.1.5 Ensure that all trails are maintained appropriately, including trail resurfacing.
- 4.1.6 Provide a higher level of surveillance of trails, through volunteer efforts, to deter inappropriate uses.

Programs and Services

- 4.1.7 Collaborate with Engineering on the expansion of the on-road bicycle network.
- 4.1.8 Request that options for crossing 200 Street near the powerline be investigated in the Master Transportation Plan.

4.2 Parkland

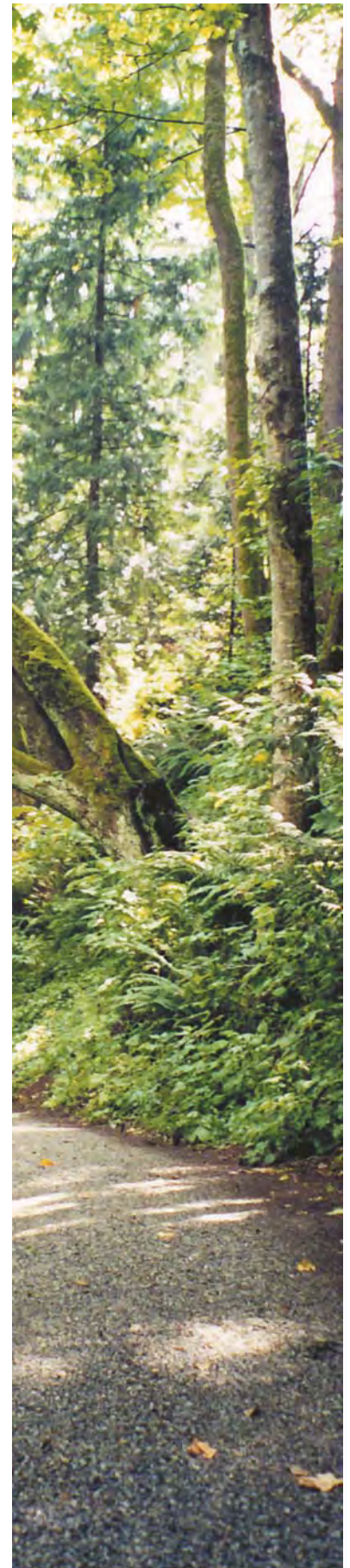
Context

The City of Langley has multiple types of parkland, each of which serves different needs and functions within the community.

Classification System

Most communities classify their parks and open space as a tool for planning, e.g., to help understand use patterns, for managing parks, to establish maintenance budgets. The following is a proposed classification system for parks and open space (see Map 1):

- **City-wide Parks** – city-wide parks draw visitors from the entire city and beyond. People may visit these parks due to the natural features, and/or the built facilities, cultural features and opportunities offered. City-wide parks draw people who specifically travel to spend time “in the park”, for activities as diverse as picnics, special events and sports. There are four city-wide parks in the City of Langley; City Park, Douglas Park (Spirit Square), Sendall Gardens and Dog Off-leash Park.
- **Community Parks** – typically at least 2 ha (5 ac), though some are smaller in the City, community parks serve several neighbourhoods, and include a range of recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, walkways or trails, parking lots, and sports fields. They are meant to form the visual, physical and social focus of the community. The community parks in the City of Langley include: Rotary Centennial, Linwood, Brydon Park, Conder, Buckley, Penzer and Portage Parks.





- **Neighbourhood Parks** – typically between 0.2 ha (0.5 ac) and 2 ha (5 ac), neighbourhood parks generally serve the catchment area of or similar to that of an elementary school. Neighbourhood parks typically include play equipment, pathways, open grass, and seating. They may also include other recreation or athletic facilities. These parks are meant to form the visual, physical and social focus of the neighbourhood. Access is usually by walking so neighbourhood parks don't require parking lots. The neighbourhood parks in the City of Langley include: Dumais, Michaud, Langley Prairie (undeveloped), Nicholas, Iris Mooney, Hunter and Linda Carlson Parks.
- **Natural Areas** – these parks include natural areas such as floodplain, pond, forested and riparian lands. Facilities such as parking lots, signs, trails, gathering areas, and washrooms support public access and use. People visit these parks to enjoy the natural setting. The Nicomekl Floodplain Park, Nicomekl Park, and other riparian corridors form the natural areas in the City of Langley.
- **Urban open space** – these plazas and other spaces downtown include special paving, ornamental planting, and street furniture. The urban open spaces in the City of Langley include Innes Corners Plaza, McBurney Plaza, and Legion Memorial Gardens.
- **Other open space** – these spaces include landscaped road-side areas, undersized parks, and corridors with trails that are not 'natural'. Some of the open space is mostly a visual amenity, but much of the open space in the City is actively used for walking, socializing, and enjoyment of the outdoors. The open space in the City of Langley includes Nash Tot Lot and the BC Hydro corridor.
- **School sites** – includes the green space portion of public school sites (school buildings and parking lots are excluded). School sites are considered in the parkland inventory because the land has park values. However, school grounds are separated from the park system analysis because their primary function is to serve the student community and the City has no responsibility and limited ability to influence the planning or use of these properties. The City has a small amount of green space owned by Kwantlen Polytechnic University, one middle school, and six public elementary schools.

Parkland Supply Analysis^b

The City of Langley has 32 parks and open spaces covering about 128 hectares. With the addition of public school sites, including Kwantlen Polytechnic University, there are 142 hectares of public green space (Figure 4.1).

Classification	Number	Area (ha)
City-wide Park	4	24.2
Community Park	7	14.8
Neighbourhood Park	7	3.3
Natural Area Park	8	73.0
Open Space	6	12.9
School Grounds	8	13.9
Total	40	142.1

Area for school grounds is the green space only, excluding buildings and parking lots

Figure 4.1: Parkland Supply

The amount of parkland in the City has not changed much in recent years, except for the acquisition of Langley Prairie Park. Even in the north of the City where significant new high-density infill developments have been built, only this one small park has been acquired.

The remainder of this subsection analyses the parkland supply using several different methods. Many municipalities use population-based standards to calculate and plan their supply of parkland, and this method was used in the 2005 PRC Master Plan. The additional analyses of area-based supply and spatial distribution can increase the understanding of parkland supply.

Standards are controversial, with some believing that the quantitative approach detracts from a qualitative consideration of parks and recognition that conditions are unique in every municipality. In B.C., even where standards are not embraced for their inherent value, they are often used to assist in the calculation of park development cost charges (DCCs).

In jurisdictions where parkland supply standards exist, they are usually used as a guideline, rather than a definitive requirement. Park supply standards can be applied in a flexible manner to ensure that a full range of park types is available to all residents. They enable a community to measure their supply over time, and to compare themselves with other communities.

Population-Based Parkland Supply

Population-based parkland supply is typically calculated on the more active types of parkland, excluding natural areas and open space. However, because the City of Langley is so compact, fully developed and because most of the natural areas and open space include trails or other amenities, all parkland is included in the analysis. Figure 4.2 illustrates the existing supply of the parkland in relation to population for the north-west, north-east and south areas of the City. School sites are not included in this analysis, as is typically the case.

Park / Open Space Type	North-west Supply ha/1000 pop	North-east Supply ha/1000 pop	South Supply ha/1000 pop	Total Supply ha/1000 pop
City-wide	0.00	0.47	2.18	0.97
Community	0.49	0.39	0.83	0.59
Neighbourhood	0.05	0.05	0.25	0.13
Natural Area	2.24	1.89	4.27	2.91
Open Space	0.01	0.04	1.31	0.51
Total	2.79	2.84	8.84	5.11

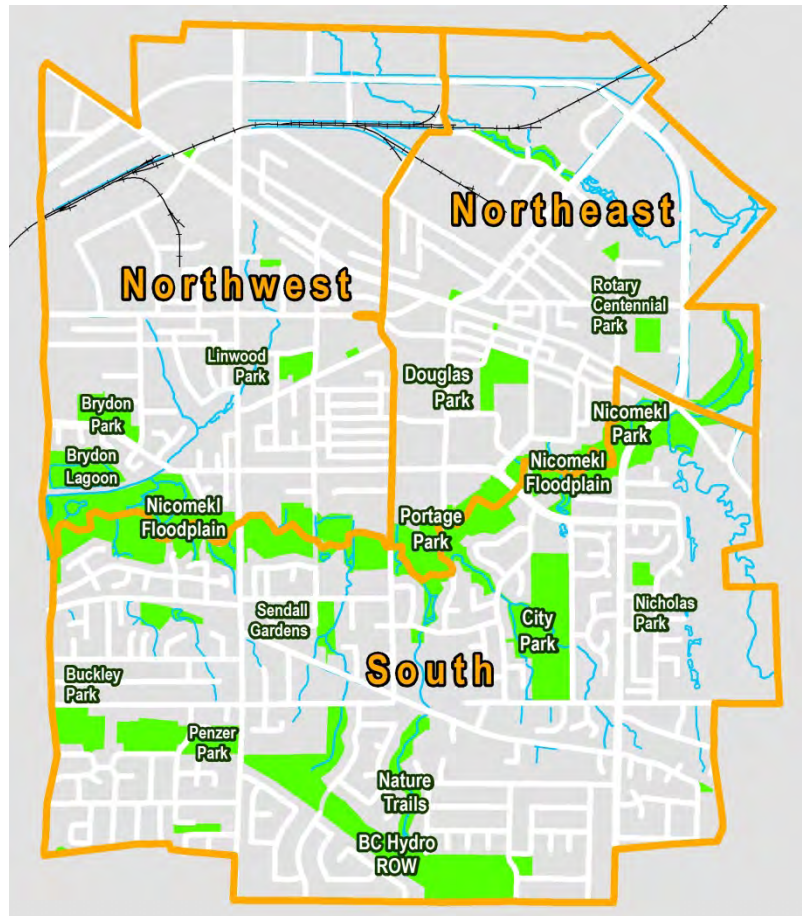


Figure 4.2: Population-Based Parkland Supply

The current supply is 5.1 ha/1,000 population. Assuming a population increase of 1 per cent annually, and if the City were not to acquire any additional parkland by 2023, the parkland supply would drop to about 4.5 ha/1,000 population. The City does not have a standard for parkland acquisition within its OCP.

For many years, the Canadian standard for supply of active parkland was 4 ha/1000 population (10 acres/1000) (not including nature parks and trails corridors). Many municipalities, particularly the ones with a large land base, still have population-based standards within that range. As many municipalities become denser, especially within downtown cores, population-based standards of supply have been decreasing. Municipalities

with smaller land areas, which are mostly 'built out,' cannot meet the traditional supply standards due to the high land values and lack of available undeveloped land. In many of those communities there is a focus on improving the quality of parkland and increasing the number and types of activities accommodated.

Figure 4.3 compares the City's population-based parkland supply with that of four Lower Mainland communities that are similar in population and overall urban form. These types of comparisons are difficult, as there is always variation in what the parkland numbers include with respect to park types, greenway / trail corridors, natural areas, etc. For example, Port Moody's parkland includes one very large natural park. The primary sources of information for comparison are municipal Parks Master Plans or annual data collected by CivicInfo. (<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca>) Some community master plans are quite old, and not all communities report to CivicInfo annually. For each municipality, the most applicable data was selected.

Classification	City of Langley	New Westminster ¹	City of North Vancouver ²	Port Moody ³	White Rock ⁴	Provincial Average ⁵
City/Municipal	1.0		0.7		1.3	1.04
Community	0.6		0.5			0.80
Neighbourhood	0.1		0.3		0.5	0.67
Natural Area	2.9		1.7			
Open Space	0.5				0.2	
Total	5.1	1.9	3.1	12.0	2.0	2.5

All numbers are in ha/1000 population

1 - From CivicInfo for 2011

2 - From Parks Master Plan 2010

3 - From CivicInfo for 2011, includes natural open space

4 - From Parks Master Plan 2007 (total parkland close to 2011 per CivicInfo) (n'hood includes open

5 - From BCRPA survey 2006

Figure 4. 3: Population-Based Parkland Supply Comparisons

The analysis shows that the City of Langley is doing well in terms of its overall parkland supply. The distribution between the north and south of the City does leave the north with significantly less parkland in relation to the population.

Area-Based Parkland Supply

Another way of measuring parkland supply is in relation to land area. Some municipalities have standards such that 12% of their total land area should be occupied by protected areas, consistent with provincial standards. This measure would typically include open space, natural areas and parks managed by other jurisdictions. Figure 4.4 illustrates the parkland supply by area. The City of Langley, with 12.5%, has sufficient parkland according to this measure as well.

Classification	Area (ha)	% of City
City-wide Park	24.2	2.4%
Community Park	14.8	1.4%
Neighbourhood Park	3.3	0.3%
Natural Area Park	73.0	7.1%
Open Space	12.9	1.3%
School Grounds	13.9	1.4%
Remainder of City	882.6	
Total	1,024.7	13.9%

Figure 4.4: Area-Based Parkland Supply

Parkland Distribution Analysis – Walking Distances

The third way to analyze parkland supply is by service area, or the distance people have to walk to access a park (Map 2). This analysis is conducted to determine a resident’s ability to walk to a park that meets local needs. This assessment of service area is approximate because the distances are measured in straight lines; in some cases walking routes are circuitous as major roads or rivers are a real or perceived barrier.

Ideally, every resident would have 5-minute walking access to a park (400 m). Parks under 0.4 hectares are shown with a reduced service area (100 m) since such parks only serve residents within the immediate vicinity. In some communities, different levels of park are assigned varied walking distances; this is not applied to the City due to the small size of the community.

Summary Analysis

The population-based supply analysis illustrates the major differences in parkland supply north and south of the Nicomekl River. The north-west and north-east quadrants of the City, the Nicomekl and Douglas neighbourhoods, have much less parkland than areas to the south. On the other hand, much of the area north of the river is within a 5 minute walk of a major park (Figure 4.5).

The walking distance analysis shows the lack of parkland in the service commercial and industrial areas in the extreme north of the City. Service commercial and industrial uses are highly auto-oriented; however, employees in these areas often appreciate outdoor spaces where they can eat lunch or go for a walk. Park space has not been a high priority for the City in these areas; the Nature Trail Master Plan addresses the potential for trails.

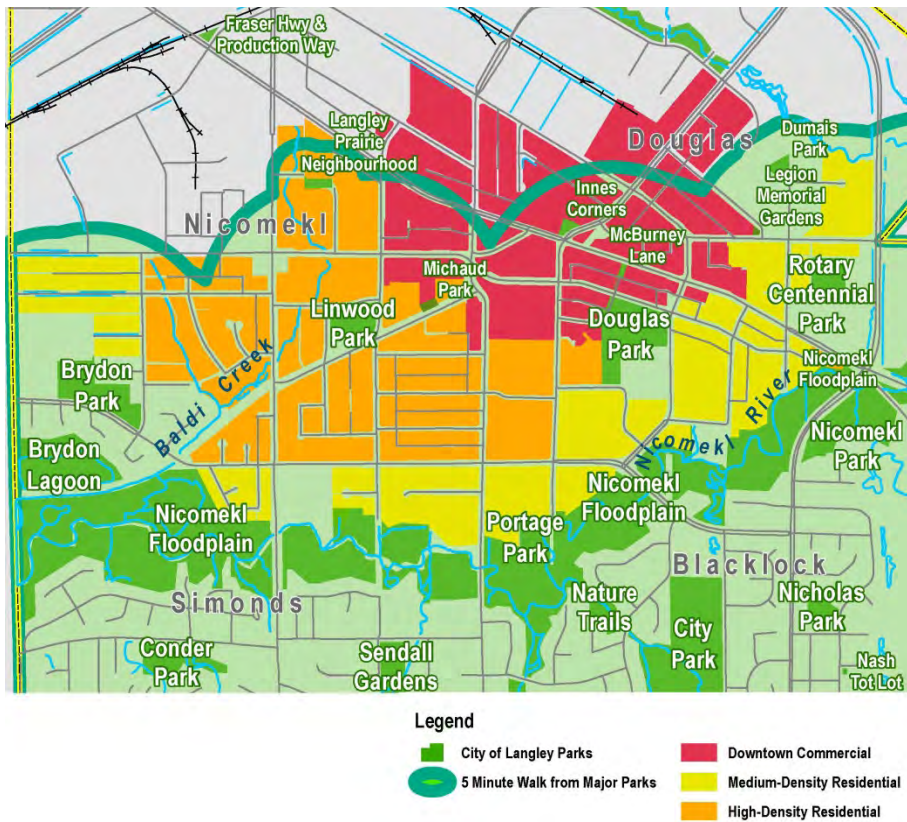


Figure 4.5: Walking Distances in High-Density Area

The City's downtown spans the Nicomekl and Douglas neighbourhoods, and much of the downtown is within walking distance of Douglas Park or Linwood Park. As described in the Downtown Master Plan and associated documents, the City has strategies to renew infrastructure including parks, trees, and pathways. The downtown will also be enlivened with the reconstructed Timms Community Centre.

The high and medium density multi-family developments surrounding downtown to the south and west are of greatest concern due to the significantly larger population anticipated in this area. It will become important for Brydon and Linwood Parks to increase recreation and social opportunities. Another neighbourhood park in the high-density or medium-density area would also help to meet needs in this growing community (Figure 4.6).

The parkland supply south of the Nicomekl River, in the Simonds, Blacklock, Alice Brown, and Uplands neighbourhoods, is very high and almost all residents are within a five minute walk of a park.



Figure 4.6: Proposed Neighbourhood Park Location

Parkland Acquisition

Through the Local Government Act, the City is entitled to acquire a 5% land dedication through subdivision or cash in lieu. Since most subdivisions of single-family lots in the City have been for small land areas, the City has typically taken cash in lieu. The City does not acquire 5% of the land area for multi-family developments, except where the City owns the land. This is how Langley Prairie and Dumas Parks were acquired.

The City has a development cost charge (DCC) program that includes DCCs for parkland. This program is currently being used to target parkland acquisition adjacent to Brydon Park. Based on the analysis of parkland for this project, the benefits potentially derived from expanding Brydon Park are not as great as the benefits related to acquisition of a new neighbourhood park. Potential locations for the new park are northwest of Portage Park or northwest of Brydon Park.

Divesting of “surplus” parkland was raised as an area to be explored in the PRC Master Planning process, though there appears to be only one open space that may qualify, the Nash Tot Lot. Due to its very small size and lack of amenities, this parcel does not have any significant value as parkland. Because of its location in a single-family neighbourhood, it lacks potential for uses that might be valued where green space is otherwise unavailable.

Recommendations

Land Acquisition

- 4.2.1 Relocate the proposed new parkland north of the river to a new neighbourhood park in a developing area, spaced at a distance from existing parks.
- 4.2.2 Take advantage of any opportunities to acquire parkland along creeks, especially north of the Nicomekl River, as the best way to achieve more connectivity and access to nature.
- 4.2.3 Attempt to acquire some land with road frontage for parks lacking that, through the development process.

Programs and Services

- 4.2.4 Adopt the revised parkland classification system and incorporate it in other City plans, standards and policies, as applicable.
- 4.2.5 In higher density developments, negotiate with developers to provide some on-site green space for use by residents, including seating areas, trees, garden plots, and dog relief areas.
- 4.2.6 In commercial and industrial developments, negotiate with developers to provide some on-site green space for use by employees and customers, including seating areas with trees.
- 4.2.7 Amend the DCC bylaw as required to support recommendations 4.2.1 through 4.2.3.

4.3 Park Design and Development

Context

City residents are generally pleased with the quality and diversity of the parks in the City. Many parks, especially the larger ones, are visited by most residents.

Safety and Security

Safety and security is the most significant concern in the City's parks. Homeless people camp in the floodplain where they can be well hidden amid the scrubland vegetation. In some cases, elaborate camps have been found, with battery-operated fridges and stoves. The City has a contract for removal of personal items from parks, but in the summer it is difficult to manage this issue.

Associated concerns include vandalism, break-ins, graffiti, litter left behind from inappropriate activities, and having to witness behaviours that cause people discomfort, especially when park visitors are accompanying children. Graffiti is removed from bridges one to two times weekly in the summer.

“The Floodplain Trails are unique – it should be Langley’s version of the Seawall where people go to walk...”

These issues are more significant north of the Nicomekl River. Some of the locations of particular concern include: under the 200 Street bridge, Linwood Park, Douglas Park and Rotary Centennial Park, though in the latter two parks, the situation is improving as more people are drawn to the parks.

Other Needs

The public indicated that certain parks and some park amenities need upgrading. There is also interest in more nature preservation and education and more dog off-leash areas. Some other challenges include the following:

- very few parks are based on universal design, i.e., accessibility for people with diverse physical and perceptual challenges
- many of the parks lack spaces for social or cultural gatherings and picnics
- there are few outdoor activities available during winter, especially when the Nicomekl trails are flooded
- there is not enough “green” sustainable design in parks
- creativity and stimulation to draw people into parks could be improved
- park way-finding signs are lacking, as are interpretive signs based on a common standard
- school sites have opportunities to be more park-like and to offer more community amenities; other municipalities work with school districts on upgrading and maintaining park sites, e.g., Township of Langley

In this section, comments are provided on individual parks. This information is based on a combination of public input, comments from City staff, and a high-level professional review of the parks. Figure 4.7 provides a summary of amenities to consider in parks; these are subject to community engagement.

Type	Name	Loop Path / Perimeter Trail	Walkways - New or Improved	Trees*	Plant Display Area	Playground - New or Improved	Spray Park	Youth Gathering Area	Outdoor Exercise Equipment	Sport Court	Artificial Turf Field	Sport Field Upgrades	Community Gardens	Community Food Production	Picnic / Seating Area	Picnic Shelter	Nature Interpretation	Washroom - New or Improved	Revitalize Bike Park	Dog Off-Leash Area	Revitalization of Pond Area	User Activated Lighting	Expand Park	Self-Off Parcel	New Master Plan	Park Planning
CW	Douglas Park (Spirit Square)	✓																								
CW	City Park		✓	✓																						
CW	Sendall Gardens		✓	✓																						
CW	Dog Off-leash Park																									
C	Rotary Centennial Park																									
C	Linwood Park																									
C	Brydon Park																									
C	Conder Park																									
C	Buckley Park																									
C	Penzer Park																									
C	Portage Park																									
N	Dumais Park																									
N	Michaud Park																									
N	Langley Prairie Park																									
N	Nicholas Park																									
N	Iris Mooney Park																									
N	Hunter Park																									
N	Linda Carlson Park																									
NAT	Nicomekl Floodplain Park / Nicomekl Par	✓																								
NAT	Brydon Lagoon																									
NAT	Other riparian corridors		✓	✓																						
OS	Innes Corners Plaza																									
OS	McBurney Plaza																									
OS	Nash Tot Lot																									
OS	BC Hydro corridor		✓	✓																						
School	Kwantlen Polytechnic University																									
School	HD Stafford Middle School																									
School	Elementary schools																									

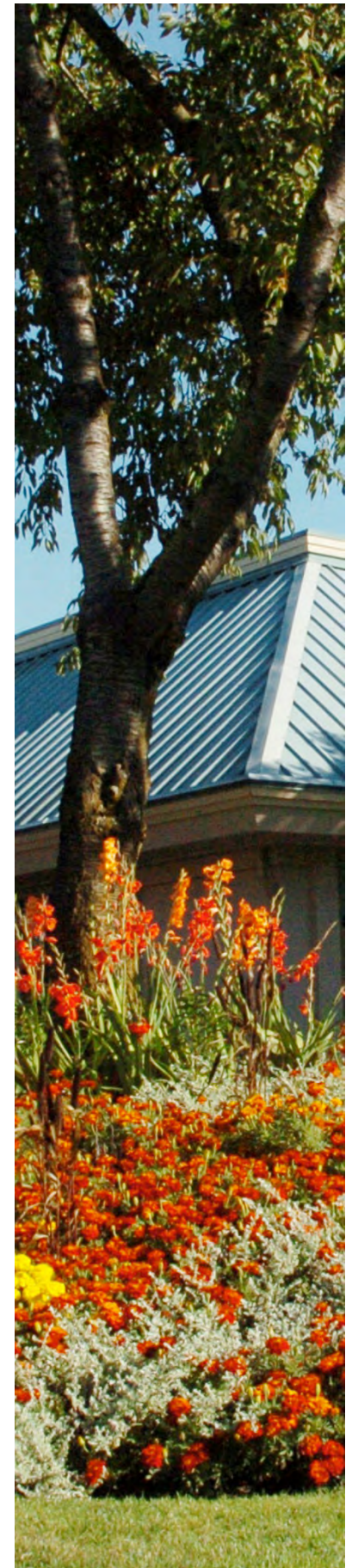
*Trees are identified on parks within the BC Hydro corridor. These trees need to meet size and location guidelines of BC Hydro.

Figure 4.7: Amenities to Consider in Parks

City-wide Parks

- Douglas Park (Spirit Square) – this is the City’s highest use park, recently upgraded with the event structure and cenotaph. The central location and adjacent Douglas Recreation Centre and school provide outstanding opportunities. Some challenges are complaints about noise during performances and sub-optimal use of the lawn bowling lease area. Options to consider include: new spray park, more tree planting (partly to replace trees lost to the event structure), more/better/toddler play equipment, more facilities for youth (e.g. youth gathering area²), more picnic areas, community gardens north of the lawn bowling clubhouse, replacement of the lawn bowling clubhouse for multiple groups (in partnership), an artificial carpet surface for lawn bowling (in partnership with the lawn bowling group), plus more event programming considering some lower volume performances, e.g., one-act plays, talent shows, mime, art displays, dance performances.
- City Park – this park is a focal point in the City, with multiple sports facilities, the highly popular Al Anderson Memorial Pool, forested creek areas, the Langley Community Music School and adjacent fine arts elementary school. Challenges include aging facilities (e.g., poorly draining sports fields, uneven surface on lacrosse box), underused facilities (e.g., horseshoe pitches), and a park that is mostly about 35 years old. City Park needs a new master plan to be prepared through a process involving existing and potential user groups and the surrounding community. Options to consider include: artificial turf field and

² A youth gathering area may be an open space with one or two basketball hoops, seating, some small skating features, etc.





upgraded sports fields (section 4.4), and other walking, play, gathering, nature interpretation and support facilities.

- Sendall Gardens – this is a hidden jewel, with two discrete areas – the ornamental gardens and the pond area. The beautiful gardens, house and Friends of Sendall Gardens group are excellent opportunities. Some challenges include erosion, siltation and the chainlink fence in the pond area, degrading paving, and invasive species. Options to consider include revitalization of the pond area and new community uses for the house and areas around it. A master plan is needed to plan the upgrading of these areas with community input, considering potential renovations or additions to the house (e.g., a solarium) to make part or all of it available for community use (see section 5.1). More information and opportunities for the ponds are identified in the Pond Management Strategy.
- Dog Off-leash Park – the “dog” park is an extremely popular location with facilities that support dog owners from the City and beyond. With the proposed area for small dogs, and Other options to consider include some user-activated lighting (possibly solar) and some small trees (per limitations under the powerlines).

Community Parks

- Rotary Centennial Park – this community park has a good range of amenities for its size. The primary challenge is the lack of exposure to a street, which is likely a factor in the vandalism that occurs here. The sport field is in need of upgrading. The main options to consider are expanding the park to a street in association with any future development surrounding the park and upgrading the field. Community gardens are also an option.
- Linwood Park – this is a pleasant park with basic recreation and sport facilities in a central location that will be surrounded by significantly more people. It has the potential and will be needed for expanded uses, potentially including a perimeter loop path, picnic shelter/gathering space, expanded playground, and community gardens (see section 4.4).
- Brydon Park – this older community park is partially developed and partly forested and it will be close to significantly more people in the future. The challenges include the older infrastructure and lack of irrigation. Potential options to consider include: improving the sports field including irrigation, replacement of the playground, addition of a perimeter trail that includes the developed and forested areas, and introduction of a nature interpretive program that could be offered in association with Brydon Lagoon and the Nicomekl Floodplain.
- Conder Park – this park, with a pond at a lower elevation, is used for play and some baseball. The infrastructure is older. Options to consider include an improved playground, improved sports field, community gathering space, upgrading of the washrooms in the longer term, cleaning up of the pond area, and more integration of the pond with the park, e.g., viewing into pond.
- Buckley Park – this low-use park has a small play area and two gravel fields under the powerlines, supported by washrooms and a soccer meeting room. The challenges are the low level of the lights due to the powerlines. Options to consider include an improved playground, community gathering space and a perimeter trail.

- Penzer Park – this park contains a mountain bike skills park and a sports field, both of which are rarely used. There are significant opportunities to revitalize the bike park through working with user groups such as local youth and the Langley Mountain Bike Association, organizing programs and events at the facility, and placing recreation staff at the bike park. Options for the sports field need to be identified with input from the community, and could include a sport court, basketball court or other facilities for youth, and a gathering space for youth.
- Portage Park – this community park is nestled within the Nicomekl Floodplain. It is a beautiful setting with the potential for more activities and use than currently exist. The park has no exposure to a major road; this makes for a quiet setting, but increases the risks of inappropriate behaviour. Options to consider include a picnic area with structure, sport court, dog off-leash area and plant display area (of native plants).

Neighbourhood Parks

- Dumais Park – consider more trees, a seating area, a perimeter path and community gardens in this small park.
- Michaud Park – this grassy area has the potential for more use due to its central location and future high-density surroundings. Options to consider include urban agriculture, social gathering space and/or a small dog off-leash area.
- Langley Prairie Park – this undeveloped parkland is essentially an open space corridor connecting two road ends. A plan has been developed for walkways, grass and trees, and funding is available for construction.
- Nicholas Park – play area was upgraded in 2013. Consider more trees and a washroom (porta potty in summer now).
- Iris Mooney Park – consider more trees in this tiny park that works well.
- Hunter Park – this mostly forested park offers nature and potential play opportunities. A new play area replaced the previous play equipment and the existing swings in 2013, with clearing of understorey around the play area.
- Linda Carlson Park – consider removing the chainlink fence around this forested area between the Dog Off Leash Park and elementary school.

Natural Areas

- Nicomekl Floodplain Park and Nicomekl Park – this area has outstanding natural and cultural features and opportunities to be a major destination within the region with connections to the regional greenway system. Consider working with environmental groups, Surrey, the Township, Metro Vancouver and Langley Tourism to explore opportunities, which may include special events such as Rivers Day, biking/walking programs and events, fish hatchery, birding programs (in association with Brydon Lagoon), and environmental display gardens.
- Brydon Lagoon – this site is becoming an important birding destination, with birders coming from significant distances. There is a significant opportunity to expand upon this use with marketing information, bird viewing shelters, and bird/nature education and appreciation



programs. Consider prohibiting dogs from Brydon Lagoon due to their interference with birds and birding activities. More information and opportunities are identified in the Pond Management Strategy.

- Other riparian corridors – consider trails adjacent to riparian corridors wherever enough space can be acquired. Particular links needed are along Logan Creek that runs from Twin Rinks behind Kwantlen Polytechnic University to the west, along Muckle Creek that runs north and south from Sendall Gardens, and along Baldi and Brydon Creeks in the Brydon area.

Open Space

- Innes Corners Plaza – this plaza with raised planters and fountains helps to identify the casino, but the design also supports loitering. Continue to manage plants for maximum visibility, but if this is not sufficient, consider design modifications more consistent with CPTED principles or the introduction of community-based food production.
- McBurney Plaza – removal of some parking has been proposed to strengthen the connection between Douglas Park and downtown, and to make this a more urban social space. A plan for upgrading the lane has been prepared.
- Nash Tot Lot – this space is too small to be an effective open space and because of its location in a single-family neighbourhood, it is not a suitable location for uses that can take place in private yards. Consider selling the land to a neighbouring parcel, using the proceeds for better parkland elsewhere, or consider a community agriculture plot.
- BC Hydro Right-of-way – this corridor has a continuous trail system linking several parks, serving as a key part of the City's trail system. Unfortunately the trail does not continue along the powerline beyond the City to the east or west. Options to consider along the corridor include additional recreation and sport facilities as noted for Buckley and Penzer Parks and connecting with regional trails. Another major opportunity is urban agriculture (see section 4.5).

School Sites

Kwantlen Polytechnic University – the most significant opportunity at this campus is a trail along the north side of Logan Creek, which could help to connect the trail system and provide nature education and interpretation value to the community and university students.

HD Stafford Middle School – this school site includes a trail along Pleasantdale Creek (see section 4.4 re: sports field).

Elementary schools – these school sites offer some recreational value to the community after school hours, however the playgrounds at the schools are not being upgraded.

Recommendations

Planning and Design

- 4.3.1 In all park planning and design, consider opportunities for universal design, and design per CPTED principles.
- 4.3.2 Design parks with the goal of increasing creativity, interest, and cultural reflection, e.g., more interactive play environments, allow children to experience more nature, water art, let parks flow out onto street, cultural art.
- 4.3.3 Introduce more legitimate uses into parks, such as dog off-leash areas and urban agriculture, particularly in locations with social issues.
- 4.3.4 Conduct a comprehensive Park Master Plan for City Park, including a full community communications and engagement process.
- 4.3.5 Conduct a comprehensive Park Master Plan for Sendall Gardens, including a full communications and community engagement process.
- 4.3.6 Conduct planning processes with community input for parks that need a moderate level of upgrade: Douglas Park (Spirit Square), Linwood Park, Brydon Park, Penzer Park, Portage Park, Rotary Centennial Park.
- 4.3.7 Plan upgrades, with community input, for parks that need a minor level of upgrade: Buckley Park, Conder Park, and other neighbourhood parks and open space.

Capital

- 4.3.8 Conduct major upgrades to City Park and Sendall Gardens, as described previously.
- 4.3.9 Conduct moderate upgrades to Douglas Park (Spirit Square), Linwood Park, Brydon Park, Penzer Park, Portage Park, McBurney Plaza, and Rotary Centennial Park, as described previously.
- 4.3.10 Conduct minor upgrades to Buckley Park, Conder Park, and other neighbourhood parks and open space, as described previously.
- 4.3.11 Develop new park acquired through DCCs.
- 4.3.12 Improve the diversity, appearance and environmental and social sustainability of existing and future parks, e.g., more trees, protect and enhance natural areas, more social spaces and gathering areas, more seating, attractive rainwater management features, and year-round uses.
- 4.3.13 Incorporate public art along the trail system, potentially as part of the way-finding system.

- 4.3.14 Encourage the school district to upgrade school sites, including play areas, through a joint use agreement where applicable, and contribute to these projects where there is community benefit.

Operations

- 4.3.15 Implement CPTED principles in park maintenance, and conduct regular safety audits of parks, improving safety as needed.
- 4.3.16 Work with community stewards to improve surveillance within parks.
- 4.3.17 Work with others to educate dog owners about the prohibition of dogs in the Brydon Lagoon area.

4.4 Outdoor Sports

Context

Sports Fields and their Use

“It would be nice to see some trails that are designated dog off-leash.”

The City of Langley has a number of sports fields and ball diamonds in parks and on school properties (see Figure 4.7). Many of the fields in parks require some upgrading, and most of the school fields need significant upgrading to meet typical standards for community use. The City used to contribute to the costs of the field at HD Stafford Middle School, but that no longer occurs. The City does contribute \$100,000 per year towards McLeod Athletic Park in the Township.

The following paragraphs summarize sports field activities in the City. It is difficult to consider the City as an entity unto itself in terms of these activities, because most sports leagues span the City and Township. The Langley Outdoor Field Sports Association is an umbrella group for field sports, representing about 20 sports. The City has not been attending this group's meetings in recent years.

Field	Size	Estimated Use	Comments
City Park – Barbour		High use for baseball April - Aug	Field has lights, fencing, poor drainage in spring
City Park – Robin Jaalaid		High use for T-ball April - June	Field is fenced
City Park – Caleb Cook		Moderate use for baseball April - June	Field is fenced
City Park – Blastball		Moderate use for baseball April - June	
City Park – Sand-based grass field ("sand" field)	70 x 142 m	Low use for soccer	Field was the previous football field, not readjusted for soccer
City Park – field north of "sand" field	58 x 97 m	Minimal	Field was the previous football practice field, needs upgrading
Buckley Park – Upper Field	73 x 102 m	Moderate use for soccer and rugby practice Sept - April	All-weather (gravel) field under powerlines, low height lights due to powerlines
Buckley Park – Lower Field	47 x 100 m	Moderate use for soccer practice Sept - March	All-weather (gravel) field under powerlines, low height lights due to powerlines
Linwood Park – Soccer field/ball diamond	70 x 70 m	Low use for soccer practice Sept - March, no use for baseball	Dimension includes overlap with ball diamond
Brydon Park	36 x 78 m	Booked, not used	
Rotary Centennial Park	50 x 90 m	Can be booked, was not in 2012-13 season	Dimension includes overlap with ball diamond, no longer booked, poor condition
Penzer Park	50 x 110 m	Booked for practice	Under powerlines
Conder Park	70 m rad.	Not booked, occasional use for baseball practice	Ball diamond
Douglas Park			Bocce Ball uses lawn bowling lease area

School Field	Size	Estimated Use	Comments
HD Stafford Middle School	50 x 130 m	Low use for fastball practice on two diamonds April - June	Could be 80 by 130 overlapping both diamonds
Douglas Park Elementary School-field west of school		Low use for Bocce in the Park, April to June	Field was recently fenced
Uplands Elementary		Low use for soccer practice Sept - March, low use for fastball practice April - June	
Alice Brown Elementary		Low use for soccer practice Sept - March	
Simonds Elementary		Low use for soccer practice Jan - March	

Figure 4.8: Existing Sports Fields

Baseball is the primary field sport activity in the City. The Langley Baseball Association (LBA), with about 470 children and youth players and increasing membership, is based primarily at City Park. Some games and tournaments are located at McLeod Athletic Park in the Township as well as at City Park. The LBA would like all play and tournaments centralized at City Park but the inadequate drainage on Cook and Barbour fields is a limitation. The group would also like improved facilities, including a clubhouse, washrooms, lighting, and maintenance. The LBA is an established organization in the community, and baseball programs are full. This is noteworthy as baseball participation is declining in many communities.

The Langley United Soccer Association is a large field sport group, with 2,200 minor and adult players, and rapidly increasing membership. Soccer is currently focused in the Township, especially because the Township has six artificial turf fields. Fall/winter is the primary soccer season, but most leagues have been expanding into a spring/summer season. Some soccer practice takes place at Buckley Park (about 20 hours/week), City Park (about 6 hours/week), with limited play at Linwood Park because the field is too small.

Cane ball is a game played by Karen refugees from Burma, of whom about 350 live near Douglas Park. The group plays cane ball at Nicomekl Elementary School.

Adult slopitch is extremely popular in the Langleys, and there are about 400 slopitch teams. All of the play occurs in the Township. Football also takes place only in the Township.

Various other sports use City fields on an occasional basis. For example, there is some rugby practice at Buckley Park. Douglas Park is used by a variety of groups such as Bocce in the Park and Special Olympics.

Most of the leagues indicate that their volunteer programs are excellent with solid participation.

If the City enhances some of its fields, e.g., baseball, and/or if an artificial turf field is developed, there may be some economic development opportunities related to sport tourism. This would best be coordinated through Tourism Langley and adjacent jurisdictions.

Potential Sports Fields

The City has minimal capacity to develop new fields. There could be space under the powerlines, but there are limits on the height of lights in those locations. The primary opportunities are therefore related to upgrading existing fields to achieve higher levels of use. A number of fields are potential candidates for upgrading if there is demand and if resources are available for the capital and operating costs. These include the Barbour and Caleb Cook baseball diamonds in City Park, and the fields in Brydon, Conder, Buckley, Linwood, Rotary Centennial and Penzer Parks. The Linwood Park field has been improved with irrigation; it now needs better drainage.

The City Park sand-based field is a good field, and it has capacity for more use, as does the field north of it, though the latter needs upgrading. HD Stafford's field may also have capacity for some community use, if maintenance can be improved.





Most of the elementary school fields are small and in need of upgrading, so their potential for community use is low.

Significant growth has been taking place in 8 on 8 soccer, which requires a minimum field size of 42 by 60 metres (up to 55 by 75 metres). The fields that could accommodate this activity include both Buckley fields, Rotary Centennial, Penzer, and HD Stafford.

The Soccer Association would like an artificial turf field in the City and is willing to consider that option in partnership with the user group if a suitable location can be identified (see analysis below).

Sport Field Booking

The City books the use of sports fields in City parks. Allocation is conducted via email with recreation staff, and there are no multi-group meetings. The City appreciates the knowledge about use of the fields that comes from booking them directly. The City has an allocation policy in which children have priority in bookings, followed by non-profit groups. Groups use block booking, and because there are no fees, bookings often go unused (see section 7.4 for information on fees)

Until three years ago, the Township booked the fields in City parks. The Township still does the booking for school fields in the City. With the current arrangement, groups wanting to book fields in the City contact City staff for park fields and Township staff to book school fields. The need to go to two organizations within one jurisdiction can be confusing and challenging for sport groups who are planning very complex schedules of practices and games.

It appears that the use of sports fields in City parks has been declining in recent years. The reasons for this are uncertain, but could include declining field condition, availability of better fields in the Township, or the inconvenience of having to contact two organizations for bookings.

Sport Field Maintenance

The City follows typical municipal field maintenance procedures. Maintenance has become more challenging recently due to a pesticide ban. The greatest challenge in maintaining the City's sports fields is that many of them require upgrading. Because of this, it is difficult to maintain them to a high standard; now use has dropped and upgrading and maintenance are difficult to justify.

The sand-based field at City Park is well maintained, however the previous football players used the field in the fall, whereas now soccer would like to use it in summer. The City has not changed its maintenance program to accommodate that shift.

Artificial Turf Field Analysis

Artificial turf is now an expectation for community sport since it can be used in almost all weather conditions, and it can accommodate five to six times the amount of use of a grass field. The City requested that the PRC Master Plan consider whether an artificial turf field

should be built in the City, and this was raised as a request by sports groups. The topic was also raised by the Township of Langley. With 80% of the population in the Langleys, the Township has six artificial turf fields and would be favourable to the next one being provided by the City. In the meantime, the Township and Rotary are exploring Milner Park in the Township as a potential artificial turf field for Challenger sport programs.

A primary question is whether there is a location suitable for this type of field in the City. Figure 4.8 shows the potential sizes of artificial turf fields. Some communities are building smaller artificial turf fields to support practice by all age groups and play by children.

Type of Field	Width (metres)	Length (metres)
Regulation Size	65	100
U 15/16	55	75
U 11/12	45	66
8 on 8 (minimum)	42	60
U 9/10	34	46

Figure 4.9: Potential Sports Field Sizes

The primary siting criteria for an artificial turf field include the following:

- Sufficient space available without displacing other important facilities, features or uses
- Adequate parking nearby
- Neighbours not so close as to be disturbed by lighting
- Ideally close to transit, trail and/or bike lane to support alternative transportation
- Close to washrooms
- Close to a road to enable surveillance
- Not under powerlines where tall lights are not possible

It is also an advantage to site artificial turf fields where they can be used during school hours as well as on evenings and weekends. For this reason, many communities have been building these fields on or close to schools, usually secondary schools. It is preferable to orient fields north-south to avoid sun in the eyes when facing to or from goals; however, this is not a requirement and some communities have built artificial turf fields that are oriented east-west.

There is maintenance required for artificial turf fields, which is different and less than for grass fields. However special equipment is required, which the City does not currently have.

There are three locations in the City that could be considered as potential sites for a regulation size artificial turf field. The locations are limited by the fact that an artificial turf field cannot be placed under powerlines due to the height of the lights. The options are as follows:

- Sand-based field at the south of City Park – Advantages include the size of the field and road exposure. The washrooms at the Al Anderson Memorial Pool could be made

available; however they are some distance away and paths to the washrooms are not highly visible so children would need to be accompanied. There is parking available in City Park; however it may not be enough if there are other events taking place. A major concern is the proximity of the field to residences that would be affected by the lighting, noise and traffic. Because of these concerns, this is not a viable location.

- H D Stafford Middle School – Advantages include the size of the field, the location on a school site enabling classes to use the field during school hours, and the availability of parking that would typically be available during field use times. Some challenges include the lack of washrooms accessible from outdoors (construction of these could be required), the lack of exposure of the field to a road, and the need to partner with another jurisdiction (school district). This field is also close to residences, back yards in this case, and residents would be affected by the lighting and noise. Because of these concerns, this is not a viable location.
- City Park west of Music School (Figure 4.9) – Advantages include the size of the space, proximity to washrooms and parking at the Al Anderson Memorial Pool, north-south orientation, and distance from homes. Potential challenges include conflicts with the Music School and displacement of the sports box (though this option could wait until the sports box is aging). This is a potentially viable location; it would need to include reconstruction of the sports box in another location, possibly east of the field.



Figure 4.10: Potential Artificial Turf Field Location

There are several other options related to artificial turf:

1. Build a smaller size field that can be used for practice and children's games.
The potential locations include:
 - a. Douglas Park in association with the reconstruction of the lawn bowling facility. The type of artificial turf for lawn bowling is different from the type for soccer and other field sports and it cannot be shared due to the very true surface required for lawn bowling. There is space, however for a separate artificial turf surface that could be built to a U9/10 size. This option is not viable as Douglas Park is an "urban" park and therefore not suited to this type of activity.
 - b. City Park field north of the sand field already has lights, is along a road, and is not far from washrooms. This field, which requires upgrading in any case, is 55 by 90 m (saving the very large redwood and silver maple trees), which could support play up to U15/16. This location is an option if a smaller field is acceptable to the sport user groups.
 - c. Linwood Park where this field could be built without limiting use of the ball diamond. The location north of the river would help to increase services for this population, however the grass field has already been upgraded and this park may be better suited to a community garden (see section 4.5).
 - d. There are other parks and schools that could accommodate this facility, but most are south of the river and/or the field would displace use of a ball diamond.

Courts

The Valley Ball Hockey Association, with 1,150 minor players, uses the City Park sports (lacrosse) box and the Douglas Park sports box for practice, using each for about 20 hours per week from March to June. This group would like another box. The group plays games indoors but there is no suitable floor for games in the City. The league cannot expand due to the lack of floor availability.

The Langley Minor Lacrosse Association uses the City Park sports box from March to June three evenings per week and on weekends. Sports boxes can be used for ball hockey, basketball, biking for small children, and other uses. There is a sports box in Brydon Park in addition to the one in Douglas Park.

Covering one of the sports boxes, most likely the one in Douglas Park, could extend the potential for play. This would need to be designed and monitored to discourage inappropriate uses.

Tennis players appear to be fairly well served with two courts in Douglas Park that are well used, and one court in Nicholas Park court that is used for tennis as well as ball hockey. There were some requests in the survey for more tennis and basketball courts, but not nearly as much demand as for other facilities such as trails.



Lawn Bowling

The Langley Lawn Bowling Club is the only club in both Langleys. Based in their facility in Douglas Park, the group has about 100 members which is typical for lawn bowling. This activity is very important to older adults, and the club currently appears to be actively engaging their members in lawn bowling and other social activities, attempting also to attract some younger members.

The lawn bowling club leases its green, clubhouse location and a large area north of it in Douglas Park. The group's facilities need upgrading, including the clubhouse and green. The group is interested in a new multi-purpose clubhouse shared with others, and an artificial green to expand the lawn bowling season and use, potentially associated with an artificial turf practice/youth field for soccer.

Indoor Sports Field

While the PRC Master Plan was being prepared, the City was approached by a private company with interests in building an indoor sports field in the City. A location in City Park was proposed by the company. Based on input during the PRC Master Plan process, sports groups would welcome this type of facility in the City. On the other hand, the general public would likely have strong objections to it being located within existing park space. Industrial land in the north portion of the City would be an appropriate location for an indoor sports field.

Recommendations

Capital

- 4.4.1 Improve existing sports fields.
 - Improve the drainage of the Barbour and Caleb Cook ball diamonds in City Park.
 - Consider improving the Brydon, Conder, Buckley, Linwood, Rotary Centennial and/or Penzer Park fields.
- 4.4.2 Consider building an artificial turf field in partnership with sport groups.
 - Consider a full-size artificial turf field or a smaller artificial turf field for practice and youth games at City Park as part of the park master planning process.
- 4.4.3 Consider rebuilding the lawn bowling green in Douglas Park with artificial turf and rebuild the clubhouse as a multi-sport facility, in partnership with the lawn bowling club and other use groups.

Operations

- 4.4.4 Improve the maintenance of sports fields, consulting with sports groups to identify needs.
 - Modify the maintenance schedule of the sand field in City Park to suit soccer.

Programs and Services

- 4.4.5 Coordinate the booking of fields with the Township in order to centralize booking for the sport user groups, strengthening communication and reporting about booking as part of this arrangement.
- 4.4.6 Attend meetings of the Langley Outdoor Field Sports Association to reestablish the City as an important participant.

4.5 Other Park Amenities

Context

Dog Walking

Dog walking is likely the most frequent activity occurring in the City, given that 48% of households participate, and 79% of dog walkers participate three times per week or more. The City collects 5 to 8 tons of dog waste/year and complimentary dog bags are sponsored by a private company.

The City's large dog park under the powerline has met with enormous success, and is visited by 40% of households. The dog park has a kiosk, washroom, wash station, and it is fully fenced with gates. The City plans to add an area for small dogs and staff has requested a reduction in the grass area mowed.

Dog walking is appreciated in most communities as a popular activity suitable for all age groups with relatively high benefits and low costs. Dogs often provide the impetus for people to visit parks, to exercise, and to socialize with others visiting the park. This in turn improves the health of both the individual pet owners and the community as a whole. Dog owners are often trying to meet multiple needs when visiting a park and may be trying to exercise their pets, get exercise themselves, and provide an outing for children at the same time.

On the other hand, the issues related to dogs in parks are complex and can be challenging to manage. They include concerns about the impacts of dogs on ecologically sensitive areas and wildlife, the perception of safety for other users, public health, conflicts between dogs, and conflicts among dogs and other user groups on sidewalks and trails.

There is a trend towards providing different types of dog off-leash areas within communities, including destination parks, off-leash trails, open unfenced grass areas, and smaller fenced parks or exercise areas in urban locations. Some communities provide dog off-leash areas that parallel parks, i.e., citywide, community and neighbourhood scale facilities. Due to the number of dog walkers, places to walk dogs off-leash would ideally be located within walking distance from most residents, but this cannot be achieved in many developed urban communities.

City of Langley residents provide two main comments related to dog areas: they would like to have more off-leash opportunities in a variety of locations and they would like more bag dispensers. Given that the only dog off-leash area is in the far south of the City, it is





reasonable to consider one or two more that may be located in the centre and/or north of the City.

There are also significant concerns about enforcement related to dogs. For example, dogs are not allowed on sports fields but residents report that this often occurs. Bylaw staff do not work on weekends, resulting in an enforcement gap between City and Animal Control.

Some requests were made for a dog off-leash trail. The powerline is a potential location for this since it is wide enough to accommodate two trails, one of which could be for dogs off-leash. Depending on other uses considered for the powerline, this is a possibility for the future, but it is not a high priority since a higher priority is to provide dog off-leash facilities north of the river.

Urban Agriculture

The City has one set of community gardens on 200 Street on the Nicomekl School site. There are 16 plots surrounded by a 3 metre high fence as protection from balls at the field. Because the gardeners need to walk across the school site from the parking lot, a criminal record check is required every year.

The City of Langley has entered into a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute of Sustainable Horticulture to assess the viability of an urban agriculture project within City limits. Based within a BC Hydro right-of-way, the demonstration project has the potential to meet identified opportunities highlighted under several goals in the City of Langley's Sustainability Framework. Some community members have concerns about health impacts of the powerlines, especially for staff or faculty who could spend long periods at the site.

In an era when more people live in cities than ever before, there is an increased importance to strengthen the connections between people and their food system. With rising food prices, climate change and environmental degradation, it is important to create resilient, bioregional food systems that are fully integrated within the planning, design, function, and economy of our communities. (kwantlen.ca/ish/research/agri-food.html)

The goals of the urban agriculture project are:

- To demonstrate leadership in sustainability
- To create an urban agriculture project in the City of Langley
- To convert underutilized land into a community amenity for local residents
- To demonstrate the potential of urban agriculture to contribute to the local economy through urban direct market agriculture and increased employment with green collar jobs
- To demonstrate the potential of urban agriculture to contribute to community resiliency through local food provision
- To provide a venue for experiential agriculture education and incubator farm space
- To partner with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, a leader in urban and suburban agri-food systems research and education

The preliminary plan includes demonstration, research, production and natural systems zones. Some of the proposed elements include a farmer's market, wheelchair gardens, a

children's demonstration farm, community and market gardens, flowering hedgerows, a compost biogas demonstration, and wetland.

There are two other trends in urban agriculture that may be of interest to City residents. One is community-based food production sites where groups work together to produce food on public land. Potential sites could include traffic circles, boulevards, road bulges, or planting areas in parks or around civic buildings. Another is a program in which individuals register to develop and maintain a garden along a road right-of-way. These are typically in traffic circles or road bulges, but other locations could be suitable as well.

Water Parks

The City has three water parks. The water park at Douglas Park needs replacement (see section 4.3), there is a small recently renovated water park in City Park, and a tiny water park at Nicholas Park.

Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Playgrounds exist in City Park, Douglas Park, most of the community parks, and some of the neighbourhood parks. The playground equipment is replaced and maintained as needed.

The play area at Douglas Park is based on universal design, and Linwood Park has universal design on one piece of play equipment.

The City does not currently have any outdoor exercise equipment; some requests for this were made during consultation. This type of equipment works best when it is located where there is high public use and where it is close to a recreation centre where activity programmers will bring classes out to use the equipment. Outdoor fitness equipment could be considered in any new park planning processes.

Picnic Shelters and Structures

Picnicking is an activity that can bring people together for high quality social and recreation experiences. It is particularly popular among certain cultural groups and it is a great activity for those with financial or other barriers. The City has one good picnic shelter in City Park that is rented out. It is very popular and is booked every weekend during the warm season, and most days throughout the summer. There is a significant opportunity to include another picnic shelter in Douglas Park, potentially close to the new sports clubhouse so it could be used separately or in combination with that facility.

The City also books the gazebo in Sendall Gardens, which is very popular for weddings and other special occasions. Groups renting the gazebo have indicated that an associated indoor space would be very useful for small receptions and event staging.

Youth Parks

The primary outdoor facility that caters mostly to youth is the bike park in Penzer Park under the powerline. The park includes biking features, a tool box, water, and a sign. There were



“I think it would be great if Langley integrated nature with the city more.”

some design issues that prevent the youth from using the park. There is no seating or gathering area or trails, which can be important parts of the youth park experience. The City has no skateparks, but there are three skateparks in the Township and a BMX track in Brookwood close to the City.

There is a trend towards multi-purpose youth parks, with potential facilities including skateboard, bike skills, multi-purpose/basketball courts, gathering areas, and walking trails. Efforts are typically made to appeal to male and female visitors. Youth parks are ideally located close to youth, e.g., close to schools, community centres and transit, and have good visibility for security surveillance and to support youth interest in “showing off.” Although some municipalities are concerned about the risks, there are relatively few injuries at youth parks. There is a need for helmet guidelines, and signs to address liability concerns.

Penzer Park is close enough to HD Stafford Middle School that the location should not be a limiting factor. When the bike park was first developed, youth were actively engaged and they used the park. Section 4.3 identifies opportunities for upgrading Penzer Park as a youth-focused park.

Ponds

Ponds are important features in several of the City’s parks, providing aesthetic and environmental values, as well as opportunities for nature viewing, education and interpretation. The pond study provides recommendations for Brydon Lagoon, the Seniors Centre pond, and Sendall Gardens ponds. The potential pond improvements will need to be considered and refined within the context of park planning processes for these parks.

Recommendations

Planning and Design

- 4.5.1 Participate in a feasibility study regarding the urban agriculture project under the powerline.
- 4.5.2 Engage local youth in a process to upgrade Penzer Park as a youth-focused park.
- 4.5.3 Encourage the planting of fruit and nut trees as part of urban agriculture projects, where there is a plan for appropriate maintenance and harvesting.

Capital

- 4.5.4 Build a new dog off-leash area north of the Nicomekl River, potentially in Portage Park.
- 4.5.5 Consider a new community garden at Douglas Park, Linwood Park (potentially with involvement by Stepping Stones), Rotary Centennial Park, and/or Dumais Park.
- 4.5.6 Consider some community food production plantings at Michaud Park, Innes Corners Plaza and/or Douglas Park.

- 4.5.7 Consider an outdoor fitness area in Douglas Park close to the Douglas Recreation Centre.
- 4.5.8 Make improvements to Brydon Lagoon, the Seniors Centre pond, and Sendall Gardens ponds.

Operations

- 4.5.9 Increase the frequency of maintenance in playgrounds, especially where illegitimate uses are more common.
- 4.5.10 Increase enforcement of the animal control bylaws, focusing on education, and consider additional staff for education in the summer.

4.6 Environmental Stewardship

Context

The City has a passionate and engaged group of citizens who are involved in environmental stewardship, including Langley Field Naturalists and Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS). These groups and others work to protect and preserve the natural heritage of Langley through education, cooperation and action. Both groups carry out conservation work, provide natural history education for members and the public, and serve as advocates for the environment in community processes. In 2012, LEPS obtained stewardship funds for a youth summer environmental employment program.

Much of the environmental stewardship work in the City of Langley is focused on the floodplain, including Brydon Lagoon, and the creeks. The City is hoping to update its mapping of environmentally sensitive areas, but this has not yet been funded.

Those who care about the environment have concerns about the lack of consideration sometimes shown to natural areas and vegetation. The concerns include illegal dumping, pollution that leads to watercourses, and trampling of sensitive areas by humans and dogs. A number of comments were made in the community survey about the importance of nature, and interests in extending nature into the City in a more apparent way.

Many urban communities recognize the importance of the urban forest, which includes trees within developed as well as natural areas. In the City, the high density areas and commercial and industrial lands are particularly lacking trees.

As densification occurs, it is typical for the tree inventory and the tree canopy to be reduced. Trees offer many environmental, social, health and economic benefits to communities. An effort was made to establish a tree protection bylaw, but it was turned down; it was considered too much regulation, and it was not considered important due to the lack of greenfield sites. The City has been exploring the planting of fruit and nut trees on public land, recognizing that there are challenges related to maintenance and harvesting (see section 4.5).

*“I love our little Langley City.
I hope it will be a place to be
for my children as they grow.
We need places and spaces in
our little city that are refuges.
Places that are green and wild.
Places to see plants,
animals, birds and insects.
Places to smell freshness,
see sunsets and touch earth.
We need places in our little city
that remind us we are
only one small part of greater
ecosystems in the world.
If our children and residents
experience nature they will
grow up learning to care and
enjoy the earth and hopefully
understand how dependent
they are on the natural world
for our survival.”*

Recommendations

Capital

- 4.6.1 Plant more trees in City parks and on road boulevards and medians, including in commercial and industrial areas.
- 4.6.2 Plant more native trees, shrubs and berries in City parks, along with management of invasive species, especially in Nicomekl Floodplain.

Operations

- 4.6.3 Continue to expand and improve the urban forestry program.
- 4.6.4 Manage natural areas to protect ecological values and to minimize the impacts of use.

Programs and Services

- 4.6.5 Continue to support environmental groups in the community.
- 4.6.6 Partner with community groups and schools on environmental education programs.
- 4.6.7 Increase information to the public about the values and resources of the urban forest and natural areas, including ways to help protect these resources from human-caused impacts.

4.7 Park Maintenance and Operations

Context

“We have great trails in Langley City. I would like to see maintenance of trails improve a bit... and really showcase these great trails and get more people out and walking them and getting to know their neighbours.”

Maintaining and operating parks and the assets within them involves significant responsibility and effort. Operations and maintenance are required for all parks and open space, no matter their level or type of use. Repair, upgrading and replacement also need to be considered. Responsibilities of parks operations include the maintenance of all trees on municipal land, which comprise a key component of the urban forest, and management of natural areas. Parks manages and maintains 1,800 street trees, 30 planters downtown, and 214 hanging baskets. About 50 new trees are planted annually. City staff often have to deal with debris that includes hypodermic syringes and broken glass.

With every park construction project, there is typically an associated need for an increase in maintenance budgets. The City recently experienced that with the 208 Street reconstruction. An excellent program in the City engages Kwantlen golf green students to help with turf maintenance, providing benefits for all.

Park maintenance is of keen interest to residents. In general, there is a fairly high level of satisfaction with existing maintenance. On the other hand, many suggestions were offered on needs for maintenance improvements. The following were some of the primary comments:

- repair portions of trails that are cracking or heaving

- more regular garbage removal from trails
- more cutting back of weeds and tall grass along trails
- remove leaves from trails in the fall
- plow the walkways in Douglas Park in winter
- remove graffiti and repair damage from vandalism more quickly

A trend in park maintenance is a focus on sustainability in operations. The Municipality has adopted or is initiating a range of sustainable practices, including:

- a pesticide ban was adopted for 2013; cutting down on chemicals makes it more difficult and time consuming to maintain grass fields
- integrated pest management
- LED lighting for Christmas lights
- use of mulching mowers and more mulching of planting beds
- reduction of water consumption by installing rain-sensitive irrigation systems linked to a weather station at Douglas Park and City Park to eliminate watering in the rain
- review of parks to identify areas where grasses can grow long to reduce mowing
- identification of potential locations for xeriscaping to reduce water use
- installation of recycle bins paired with new garbage receptacles

The Point of Pride is a program that empowers individuals and volunteer groups to keep their neighbourhoods litter free by “adopting” a park, street or trail. Volunteers help to remove litter in their designated location, including along watercourses.

Recommendations

Operations

- 4.7.1 Establish and review maintenance budgets for all new and improved park amenities.
- 4.7.2 Increase maintenance levels where it will increase park use, safety and security.

Programs and Services

- 4.7.3 Continue to increase the sustainability of parks operations.



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5.0 Indoor Recreation and Culture Facilities

5.1 City Facilities

Context

This section reviews the City's indoor recreation and culture facilities and the services offered in these facilities. The facilities were studied using information from the PRC Master Plan community survey, focus groups, statistics, staff interviews, and observations of the condition and functioning of the buildings. Section 6.0 provides commentary on program offerings in the City as a whole and at the various facilities.

The City of Langley owns and directly operates two recreation/community centres, an outdoor pool that includes a year-round indoor program space, and the house in Sendall Park. There are many other facilities within the City that offer recreation and culture services, and many of these facilities are operated by or with other organizations. On the whole, the public is quite satisfied with the indoor recreation and culture facilities in the City.

The residents of the City make use of a wide variety of public, non-profit, and private recreation and culture facilities in the City and the surrounding region, including facilities in the Township of Langley and the City of Surrey. While no formal agreements among the local governments exist, there is an understanding that residents of all jurisdictions cross municipal boundaries to use facilities. As a consequence, no non-resident surcharges are in place.

"I am looking forward to the new Timms Community Centre."



Recreation and culture organizations and the public do not tend to make distinctions between the Township and City with reference to programs, facilities, and venues. For example, the Langley Arts Council spans the City and Township in its interests and activities. For this reason, recreation and culture facilities in either Langley can be seen as a benefit to both Langleys. On the other hand, the City has a mission to provide a unique set of facilities and services that meet the specific needs of its residents.

Nine in ten (91%) of survey respondent households had visited one or more facilities during the past year, and four of the five top used facilities are outside the City. This is understandable given the larger population and resource bases of the Township and Surrey. For facilities or functions that require a minimum threshold of patrons to be successful, access to the regional market may be needed to support a viable operation. It is therefore critical that the City and Township coordinate their efforts with respect to facility planning. This coordination is well established.

Douglas Recreation Centre is a neighbourhood-oriented facility built in 1974 and renovated in 1996. Most clients walk to the centre and there is a strong focus on children's programming. The centre operates 6 days per week in winter and 7 days weekly from May to September. Visits to the centre over the last three years show increasing registrations and memberships and decreasing drop-ins and rentals (Figure 5.1). The centre hosts a very popular summer camp program.

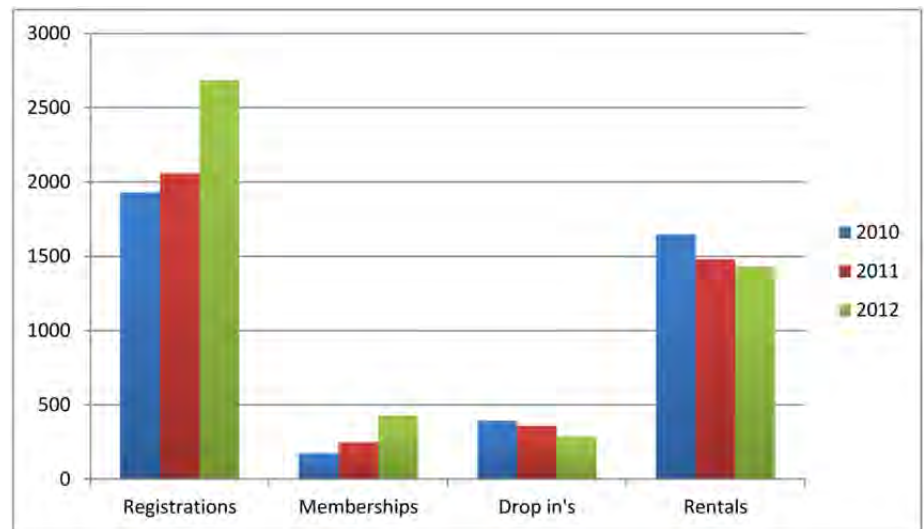


Figure 5.1: Douglas Recreation Centre Visits 2010 - 2012

Douglas Recreation Centre contains two multi-purpose rooms that are used for programs and rentals, a main hall that can be divided into two rooms, a small kitchen off the main hall, a licensed preschool, and office and storage space on the second floor. There is excellent access to the facilities in Douglas Park.

Although this centre is functioning reasonably well and meeting a number of local recreation needs, some physical alterations could increase its attendance. The following is a brief analysis of the strengths and challenges related to Douglas Recreation Centre:

- The childcare program is successful and is meeting a significant portion of the community demand. Replacement of the meeting room wall with a room divider would allow the childcare room and program to double in size to provide services to those children on a wait list. Two programs could use this space in the evening.
- The floor in the main hall is not appropriate for community sport and fitness activities. There are several products on the market that would expand the potential uses of the space and help prevent injuries.
- The second floor includes an office and storage room. It is used by summer staff, but only for storage 10 months per year. Since it had previously been a caretaker's suite it does not currently meet codes for public occupancy and there is no elevator or lift. Yet the space is quite functional and could provide offices for staff.
- During the winter,, the building is closed on Sundays. The community has indicated a desire for more family-oriented programs. Additional family-oriented special events, programs and rentals year-round would be well received by the community.

Timms Community Centre (temporary location)

Timms Community Centre is operating in a temporary location at an old Legion Hall, while a new Timms is being planned and designed. The current centre operates seven days per week and membership costs two dollars. Attendance has dropped since the centre moved to the temporary location (Figure 5.2). There is strong public interest in having the new facility built as soon as possible.

The temporary centre includes a small child-minding room, games room, fitness room (with an aerobics floor), weight room with 20 stations and free weights, stretching room and small kitchen. Various programs are provided for all age groups, some through a partnership with Fraser Health. Programs for teens and tweens are held on Saturday nights.



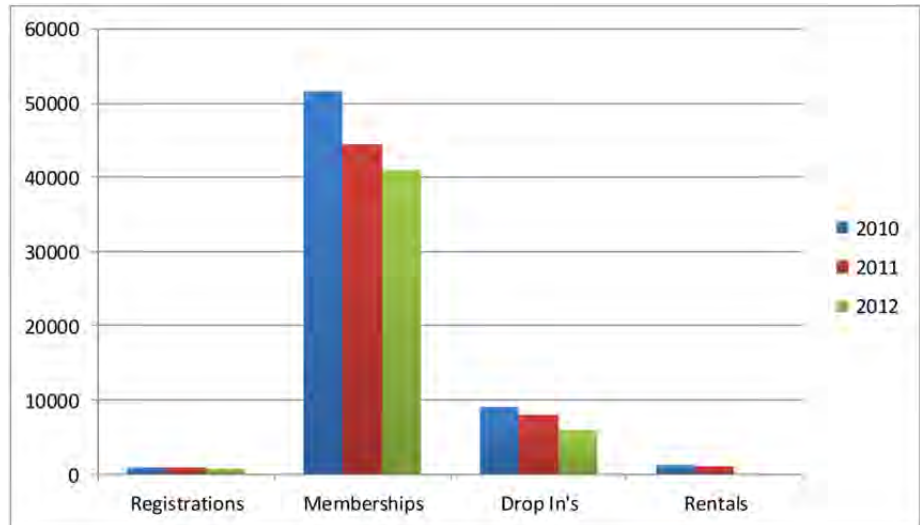


Figure 5.2: Timms Community Centre Visits 2010 - 2012

The City is planning to construct a new Timms Community Centre in the near future. The new 27,000 square foot building will feature the following:

- full gym
- 3 multipurpose rooms
- fitness centre, weight room and supporting change rooms
- large foyer to include a café, associated games room and social lounge, and amenities to support public art including an artist-in-residence facility

This new Timms will become the flagship community recreation centre in the City of Langley. One of the tasks for this PRC Master Plan was to provide input regarding the services and programs to be associated with the new building.

The following is a brief analysis of the strengths and challenges related to Timms Community Centre:

- There is an opportunity for the new facility to become a true community centre that serves as a social and cultural gathering space rather than just a traditional recreation centre that focuses on registered recreation and culture programs.
- The new building will be more successful if it continues to operate seven days a week, with extended operating hours to support a 'community meeting place' that encourages informality and intergenerational social connections in this downtown hub.
- There are high expectations that the centre will provide quality fitness and weight room offerings. This will require a significant upgrade in the style of the programs and the equipment allocated to this activity. It may also require more space for fitness rooms than planned. Currently 43% of City households have a member who works out at a public fitness centre, gym or weight room or takes a fitness class. Many of these people are travelling to facilities outside the city and some will likely shift their attendance to this new centre. The increases in population anticipated over the next 10 years in surrounding neighbourhoods will also result in additional attendance. The health, wellness and fitness

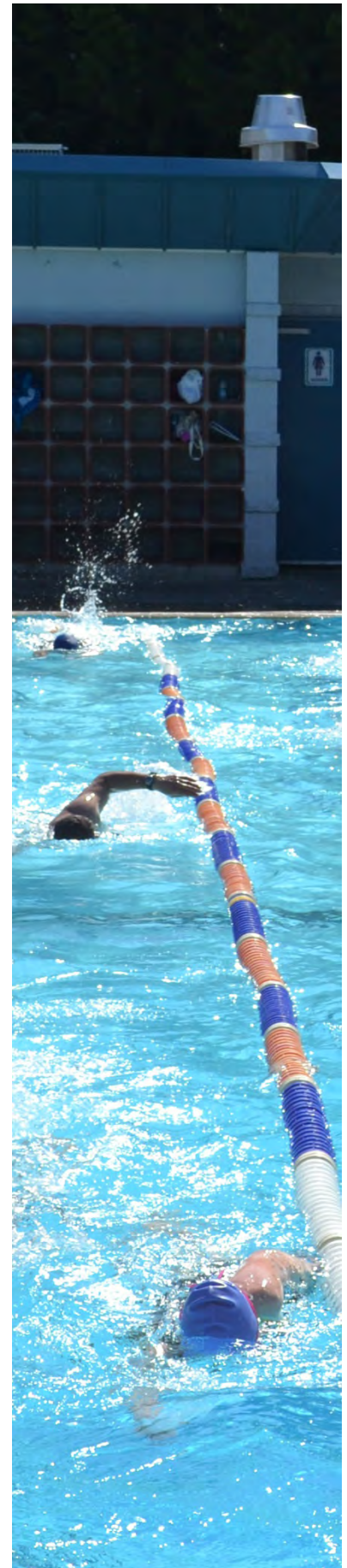
programs have the opportunity to serve all segments of the community, including younger adults who are least likely to feel part of the community, helping to link active individuals. It is best for the public sector to focus on market segments that are not currently being served adequately by the private sector. The fitness clients will require specialized fitness staff to be on duty for client support, personal fitness consultations, etc. Given the high demand for such services, these facilities should produce significant revenues towards the new centre's operating budget.

- There is very high interest in the proposed gym to support a multitude of programs ranging from indoor sports and fitness to programs and drop-in activities that support community building and multicultural and intergenerational activities. If bleachers are included, they should be of the fold-away style so as to maximize activities on the floor. The demand for bleachers should be reviewed since most community centres find that bleachers are not used at a level that justifies the expenditure or the required floor space.
- A number of different age groups have an interest in some form of indoor walking or running track for aerobic exercise especially during inclement weather. This amenity does not have to be a traditional track, e.g., it can be a looping meandering route through the facility.
- There are many working families (with dual and lone parents) in the community. In order for families to use this facility, both child minding and child- and family- oriented programs will need to be planned as a program package. One or more of the proposed multipurpose rooms could be designed to support child-oriented activities. Some of these child-minding opportunities could be offered either free or at an affordable rate.
- A number of community residents want to encourage more teen programming. This centre can become a hub for after school and evening teen activities supported by the efforts of the youth coordinator.

Al Anderson Memorial Pool

This facility was built in 1962, and renovated in 1992 and 2012. The primary feature is a 25-metre 8-lane outdoor pool with a depth of 1.5 to 3 metres. Around the pool is a large deck and grass area, and covered stands with 100 seats. The building includes office space, change rooms, a storage room, and the recent addition of a multi-purpose room and family change rooms.

Al Anderson pool is a highlight of the community recreation services with increasing use each year (Figure 5.3). Many focus group participants indicated that local youth “spend their summer at the pool”. This is a unique facility that does not follow a trend in other municipalities that sees outdoor pools and wading pools being replaced with spray parks.



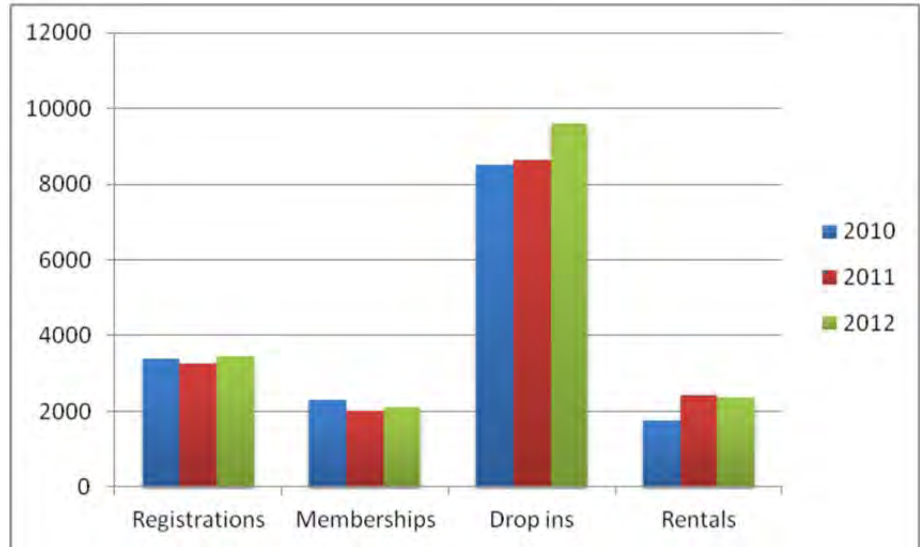
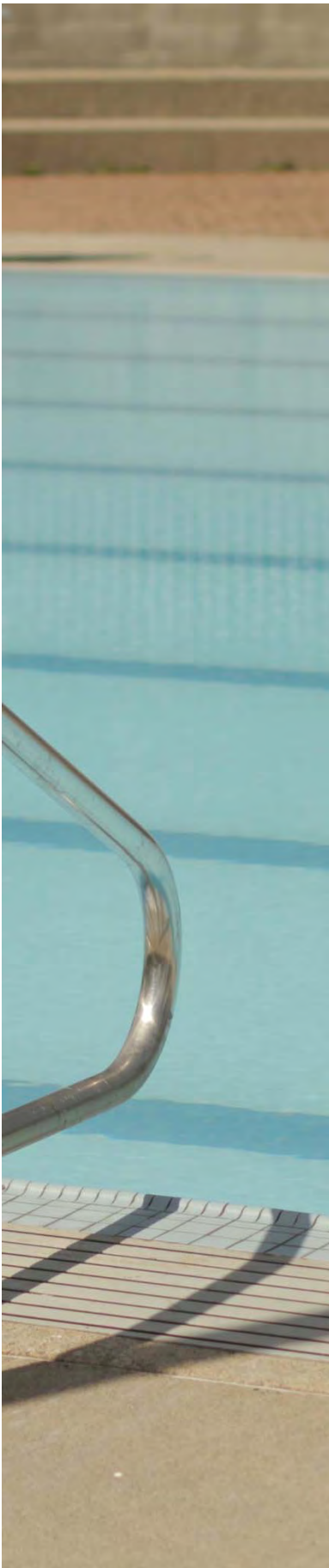


Figure 5.3: AI Anderson Memorial Pool Visits 2010 - 2012

The following is a brief analysis of the strengths and challenges related to AI Anderson Memorial Pool:

- The current programs and services are very well received.
- The multi-purpose room is available year-round for programs, rentals, and meetings; however its current use is very low and it could support a great many more programs and provide additional services to the community. The office is used year-round by the swim club.
- Because the City does not currently have an indoor pool, 48% of households are attending the WC Blair aquatic facility. There were a number of comments that the WC Blair pool was ‘aging’ and as a result fewer city residents are using the facility. There were suggestions that the AI Anderson facility should be enclosed to support a 12-month operation; however the City has already investigated this concept and there are significant challenges including cost, interest in retaining the pool as an outdoor experience in the summer, and the location of the pool within the riparian area of a sensitive fish-bearing creek (red coded). The option of enclosure or a retractable roof over the pool may need to be revisited in the future given the population increase planned over the next 25 years.

At this time, it is not feasible for the City to have an indoor pool and the City works with surrounding municipalities to ensure that its citizens have access to indoor pools.

Sendall House

The house located in Sendall Gardens has historical and character value, but it is not designated as a heritage site. In the past, a small concession was operated out of one room through a window.

The house was recently renovated to rectify code violations and make it habitable. It has been rented to a tenant who will help to oversee the park at all hours. This renovation does not

meet codes for public use. Another option would be to rent the house to a professional artist, creating an artist-in-residence/caretaker scenario, similar to the arrangement at the Michaud House. This would support Langley's artist community and it could help to animate the park.

There is demand for a staging area in Sendall Gardens to support rental of the gazebo for special events. The house could potentially be renovated to support such a use on the main floor, but the house is too small to combine that with someone living upstairs. Public use of the main floor and community offices upstairs would not allow for the caretaker function. Another opportunity could potentially be a solarium or other structure between the house and the greenhouse to support all types of public and private events, with the caretaker remaining in the house.

Recommendations

Planning and Design

5.1.1 Complete the design for the new Timms Community Centre.

Capital

5.1.2 In the Douglas Recreation Centre, replace the fixed wall between the childcare room and the meeting room with a retractable room divider to allow more flexibility in the use of these spaces.

5.1.3 Replace the floor of the main hall in the Douglas Recreation Centre with a material suitable for community sport and fitness activities.

5.1.4 Renovate the second floor of the Douglas Recreation Centre into usable office space if feasible.

5.1.5 Build the new Timms Community Centre as soon as possible.

- Build the fitness space so it can be expanded in the future, e.g., into an adjacent program room.
- Build the gym to support a multitude of programs ranging from typical indoor sports and fitness to programs and drop-in activities that support community-building, multicultural and intergenerational activities.
- Reconsider the installation of bleachers since they are rarely used at a level that justifies the expenditure; if they are included, select the fold-away style to maximize the gym space.
- Include an indoor loop for walking and other aerobic activities.
- Design one or more of the multipurpose rooms to support child-oriented activities.
- Design a space suitable as a hub for after school and evening teen activities, with potential use by seniors during the day.

Programs and Services

5.1.6 Work with surrounding municipalities on partnerships related to indoor pools.

5.2 Facilities Managed by Others

Context

There are numerous other recreation and culture facilities in the City in which the City has a role.

Langley Community Music School

The Langley Community Music School is located in City Park; the City owns the land and provides a tax exemption for its use. Owned and operated by a self-sufficient non-profit operation, with support from the Vancouver Foundation, the music school offers a broad range of classes to over 200 students and performances that are open to the public.

The building includes the Rose Gellert Concert Hall that seats 225, a large classroom seating 100, the Martha Schmidt Room that seats 75, and 16 teaching rooms. The 50 music instructors teach music programs that focus on classical instruction, also including parents and tots, Orff method, music therapy, and choral groups. Most services are provided on a fee basis, but bursaries are available. There is also a scholarship program for students pursuing post-secondary education in music performance.

There are two community concert series per year, and rentals to the Langley Community chorus that also performs. In addition to events at the main facility, the Music School hosts events elsewhere in the community, e.g., at the Langley Seniors Resource Centre and parks. There were 3,800 tickets sold in 2012 as well as many free events.

The Langley Community Music School is a strong community cultural organization with a stable membership. However, through the survey and the focus groups, it appeared that the school's engagement of City residents in programs and performances may be less than its potential, and most events are not full. Marketing is a primary challenge due to limited resources. Other challenges faced by the music school include noise during recital times, and broken windows from football and golf balls.

Langley Twin Rinks (Canlan Ice Sports)

This private facility built on public land is operated under a 30-year partnership agreement with the City, extending from 1994 to 2024. Twin Rinks is a 90,000 square foot facility with two ice rinks, eight dressing rooms, a restaurant with banquet facilities, pro shop, physiotherapy clinic, and outdoor beach volleyball and basketball courts.

Twin Rinks supports many types of skating and hockey programs, many of which are offered by the operators. The City purchases 28 weeks of ice time totalling 1,390 hours. There are 10 hours per week available for public skate, parent and tot, and youth drop-in programs. Funding is also provided by the City to community sport ice users including Langley Minor Hockey, Langley Girls Hockey and Fraser Valley Ringette.

The general public appreciates the public programs offered out of this facility but noted a desire for more public drop-in time on the rinks. There are a number of age groups such as seniors, youth and families that would like to access the ice for social and fitness opportunities. The user groups also expressed needs for more ice time and the operator is considering the addition of a third sheet of ice as the population grows.

Currently, the City, user groups and Canlan meet once annually to review allocation, funding and fees. Ice rinks in the Township are booked through the Township.

Langley Seniors Resource Centre

The Langley Seniors Resource Centre is an excellent facility with a vibrant atmosphere, offering meal services and a wide variety of adult day care, health, educational, recreational, social, food, outreach, cultural programs, and outings to cultural and recreational events to older adults. The centre, which is owned and operated by the non-profit Langley Senior Resources Society, has 1,000 members and an outreach program to another 400 seniors. The centre has many funding sources, including grants from the City for mortgage reduction and to offer 50% subsidized memberships to qualified members.

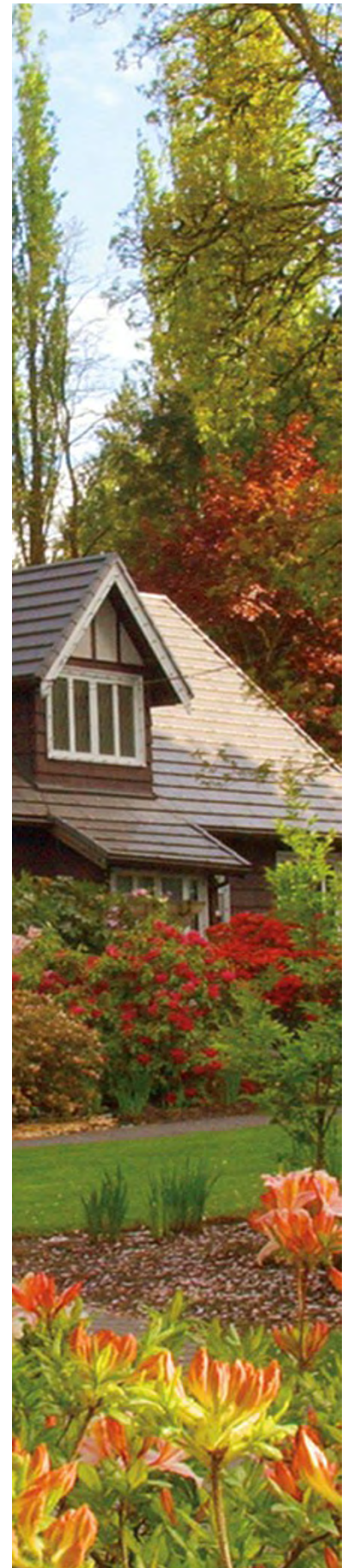
The City of Langley provides the centre an annual grant, property tax exemptions and the use of City land. City residents consume 45% of the services offered by the centre. The facility itself includes a main hall (small gym) that seats 170 at round tables, a stage, full kitchen, two lounges, games room, multi-purpose room, fitness space, and a computer room. In addition to serving its own needs, the facility rents space for community and private programs and events.

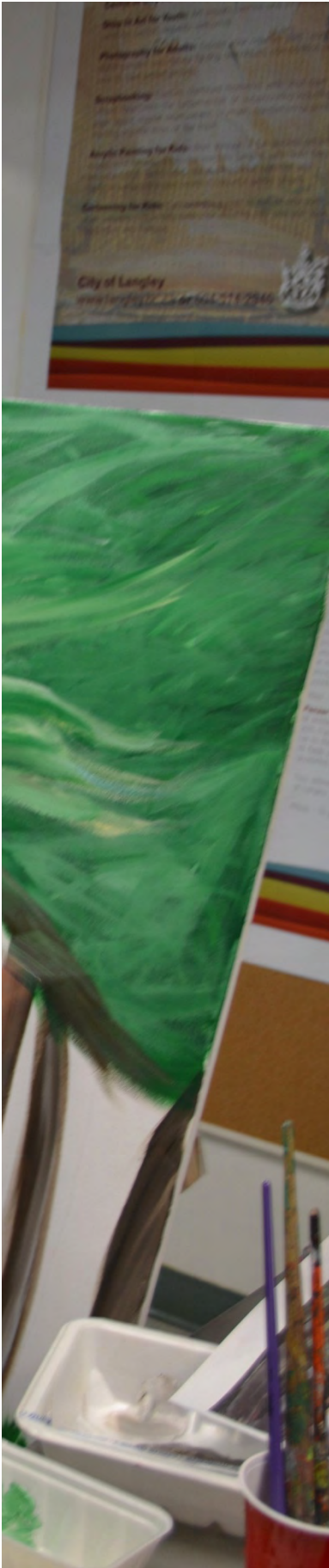
In general, seniors' centres are seeing declining enrolment and a limited future given the reluctance of baby boomers to participate in traditional senior-focused centres. This seniors' centre appears to be an exception to this general trend. A large number of Langley City seniors are using the centre as well as several 'pre-senior' groups. The centre is trying to meet the needs of younger 'seniors', providing access to biking, hiking and other active groups.

One of the barriers to increased participation by Langley seniors is the mandatory annual membership fee of \$50. It would be logical that the staff of this centre be provided with the tools to extend the City's Langley Leisure Access Program to facilitate more participation in this centre.

Michaud House

The Michaud House, located next to Portage Park, was built by Joseph and Georgiana Michaud in 1888 and is the oldest house in Langley City. Owned by the City, the house was





officially designated as a heritage site in 1980 when restoration was undertaken by the Langley Heritage Society and the Langley Arts Council. Members of the Michaud family were also active in the restoration. The house features a corbelled brick chimney, turned wooden posts, and gingerbread Gothic brackets supporting the door hood. The Langley Arts Council used the building until 2008, when the City of Langley entered into a lease for the building with the Langley Heritage Society.

Michaud House is currently occupied by an artist-in-residence/caretaker. The house is an attractive and well-maintained heritage home that sits within a beautiful fenced yard. There is currently no public access to the house with the exception of occasional public events. There is an opportunity to offer more public access to this facility for appreciation of the artistic and heritage values; however, the house needs a proper washroom to meet those needs.

In addition to managing heritage buildings across the City and Township, the Langley Heritage Society maintains memorial trees that are planted and named for Langley soldiers who died in the First World War.

Langley Arts Council

The Langley Arts Council is a non-profit group that operates within the City and the Township. The group focuses on visual arts, and provides support and programs for other disciplines, including music, theatre and dance. Some of its public art projects have included 'Art in Found Space' and 'Horsing Around Langley'. The Langley Arts Council was previously based in Michaud House and has been trying for some time to establish a more prominent facility for the visual arts in Langley. While there are several smaller commercial and artist-run galleries in Langley City and Township, there is no permanent public gallery to showcase the work of local artists and outside exhibits.

The Langley Arts Council is currently leasing space in the former Coast Capital building and using it as a visual arts facility, where there are 30 working artists-in-residence, artist's studios, and spaces for meetings, classes and workshops performances, and gallery space. If the Langley Arts Council is not able to remain in that location, they have interests in pursuing other spaces where they can support visual arts and cultural programs and services.

Langley Boys and Girls Club

The Langley Boys and Girls Club is located adjacent to Douglas Park Community School on City land. A new facility to replace an older building was opened in November 2012. This group is supported by Rotary and Vancouver Canadians / Blue Jays Baseball Club. A City staff member serves on the advisory committee.

The facility includes a large activity room and lounge with computers, games, TV, etc. Programs are provided after school and early evenings (including Wednesday afternoons to match the early school closure).

Nicomekl Elementary School

Through an agreement with the School District, the City built two multi-purpose rooms and contributed to a larger gym at Nicomekl Elementary School. Only 2% of City households reported visiting the facility over a one-year period, but staff report that the rooms are used to the capacity of their current operating hours. This school is intended as a neighbourhood facility, but the program offerings do not seem to be planned to meet the local neighbourhood needs and the hours of operation are not conducive to serving local families after school, evenings and weekends.

The model of the Langley Boys and Girls Club appears to be much more neighbourhood-focused and successful. Following a similar model, a community school coordinator or recreation programmer could plan a more comprehensive and community-based set of recreation programs with input from the local community to help this school realize its potential for community use.

Douglas Park Community School

Several programs that serve the community are offered at this school through the Douglas Park School Society, which includes a City staff member on its Board. The programs, operating 11 months per year, include breakfast (by the Boys and Girls Club), lunch and some after school programs.

Langley Community Services

Langley Community Services is located on City property and receives a tax exemption. The organization focuses on the needs of new Canadians. Recreation programs include mom and tot play programs to assist integration into the community.

Other Facilities

Other facilities that provide recreation and cultural services to the community include the following:

- Langley Stepping Stone – focusing on mental health and addictions
- Convention Centre –operated by the casino/hotel group, City owned, includes performance space but minors cannot attend
- Gateway of Hope
- Other elementary schools – community use of the other elementary schools is fairly low due to limited capacity, but there could be opportunities to increase use
- HD Stafford Middle School – the City runs some youth programs and other community programs in this school, and as enrollment decreases, there is potential for more community use



New Cultural Facilities

In the community survey, residents expressed low satisfaction with both performance and visual arts spaces. The survey also indicated that a significant portion of households attended events at the Bell Centre for Performing Arts (20%), suggesting that there may be a latent demand for performance space in the City or Township.

There is a lengthy history of discussion surrounding the need for these types of spaces. The 2007 PRC Master Plan identified the need for a feasibility study to determine the type and scale of cultural facility that could be supported in Langley City. Performing and visual arts facilities are also mentioned as priorities in the 2007 Downtown Master Plan and the 2013-2017 Strategic Plan.

The Mayors of the Township and the City have initiated a process, along with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Trinity Western University, and School District #35, to evaluate the potential for a performing arts and culture centre to serve the region. A study to examine potential options is being initiated.

Recommendations

Planning and Design

- 5.2.1 Continue partnership discussions to explore options for a performing arts and culture centre to serve the region.
- 5.2.2 Continue to work in partnership with the Langley Arts Council in relation to facilities to support the group's programs and services.

Capital

- 5.2.3 Provide a proper washroom at Michaud House.



6.0 Indoor Recreation and Culture Programs

This section evaluates and provides strategies to strengthen recreation and culture programs and special events that are planned, promoted, and delivered at the City's and its partners' facilities and in parks. These strategies are based on the degree to which recreation and culture needs are being met, and the gaps between current supply and recommended service levels and best practices.

"Parks, Recreation and Culture events cultivate community spirit and involvement."

6.1 Recreation and Culture Programs

Context

The City offers approximately 2,500 recreation and culture programs plus numerous drop-in opportunities. The City also supports a number of non-profit organizations that provide direct recreation and culture services to residents.

General trends in recreation programming in Canada confirm the popularity of fitness, yoga, Pilates, Zumba, and other active lifestyle activities. The benefits of these programs include increased life expectancy, reduced risk of disease, a non-medical alternative to drug therapies, healthy weight, stress reduction, and overall improved quality of life. Trends also indicate the popularity of arts and cultural offerings and personal growth activities.

The list below highlights a selection of cultural groups that operate within Langley City; section 5.1 includes more information on a selection of groups that have particular significance to Langley's recreation and culture scene:



- Langley Arts Council
- Langley Camera Club
- Langley Community Chorus
- Langley Community Music School
- Langley Fine Arts School
- Langley Players Drama Club
- Young at Arts Dance and Fine Arts Academy
- Langley Quilters' Guild
- Fraser Valley Potters Guild
- Bard in the Valley
- BC Ukrainian Festival Society
- Langley Good Times Cruise-In Society
- Langley Heritage Society
- Langley Writer's Guild
- Western Conservatory of Music
- Lisa's School of Dance
- Fusion Force Dance Studio
- Langley Ukulele Association
- Langley Senior Resources Society
- Downtown Langley Business Association
- Tourism Langley (City & Township)

The City's recreation and culture programs were rated as fairly successful on the community survey, scoring mean ratings of 3.32 to 3.87 out of 5 in satisfaction, not including special events. On the same survey, however, 49 % of respondents noted a need for program improvement as one of their top three priorities for the PRC Master Plan. This was the second highest overall priority. The following are some observations and analysis of existing programs from a variety of perspectives based on the input received through the community survey and focus groups.

Family-Centred Approach

Parents value spending time with their children because they believe this makes them better parents, strengthens family bonds, and builds long-term trust between themselves and their child. Recreation and culture are tools to support families spending quality time together.

Families in the City of Langley experience significant barriers to recreating together due to a number of factors including: being too busy, inconvenient timing of programs, locations that are too far or inconvenient, and transportation barriers. Particular concerns relevant to families include not enough family programs, insufficient childcare, and cost of programs. These barriers are more significant to those living north of the Nicomekl River.

A family-centred approach to programming can help to address these barriers. Approaches include considering the family holistically, addressing the barriers families face, and working with families and other providers to design these programs.

Preschool

Recreation and culture programs are primary tools for child development especially at the preschool level. Children who have access to early-childhood programs have more success in school and in life.

The programs that are available in Langley are well received, and parents very much appreciate the quality of programming and the preschool staff. Yet the study revealed that some programs are full, and some of the program scheduling is inconvenient for working parents. Interests were expressed in having more programs, more diverse content and timing options, and more capacity for popular programs.

Another study conducted in the City found a deficiency in child minding services north of the river.

Children

Children are up to 40% less active than they were 30 years ago, and two-thirds do not have sufficient activity for optimal growth and development. Sedentary children are showing predisposition to chronic diseases including adult-onset Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Obesity in children aged 7 to 13 tripled between 1981 and 1996 and continues to increase. While BC has done better than most other provinces, the trends are continuing to move in the wrong direction.

Parks and recreation departments can play a vital role in stemming this problem. Working with the local School Board, Regional Health authority, and other non-profit service providers including community sport, can produce more activities and opportunities for this age group.

Tweens

There are a number of service providers focusing on this middle school, 9 to 13 year-old age group, and the City is directly or indirectly involved in much of this programming. The City youth worker is generating a number of programs to serve the needs of this group including scheduled activities and drop-in programs at Timms Community Centre and HD Stafford Middle School.

Youth/Teens

The community survey showed a fairly high level of satisfaction with program offerings for this age group. This is something to be celebrated, as it is not the case in many communities. On the other hand, as noted previous, spaces and facilities for youth are very poor.

Teenagers like to participate in recreation and culture activities to socialize, have fun, learn something new, be involved with the community, volunteer, be positioned for future employment, hang out in a safe place (including well-lit outdoor spaces), have the opportunity to do homework together, and visit other communities. They value unstructured and informal activities as a counterpoint to the structure and demands of school. Some of the most popular

programs include weight rooms, biking, and excursions. They also appreciate walking and biking on trails, dog walking and visiting youth parks.

It is important for the City to identify appropriate spaces such as community centres and parks where youth can meet after school and on weekends to enjoy positive activities supported by adult leadership or oversight. The new Timms Community Centre can become a prime gathering spot.

Younger Adults

The study noted some level of dissatisfaction with programs for younger adults (19 to 29) particularly among residents living north of the river and among those without children. A significant number of this population segment (35%) were also the least likely to feel a part of the community.

Popular with this age group are fitness and active recreation programs. As well they often look for programs that are 'how to' in nature and programs involving a social component. The new Timms Centre will have the opportunity to meet some of these needs.

Middle Age Adults

This group rated program offerings higher than did younger adults. They did note that there is a need to constantly revise the program offerings. There are a number of newer residents in this group who feel less connected with the community. Recreation and culture services can do a great deal to increase this sense of connection.

Older Adults

Most adults between 50 and 65 years of age do not think of themselves as "seniors" and do not feel comfortable going to a seniors' facility. This age group is generally healthy, active, and about to retire or retiring. They relate to ability-based descriptions as opposed to descriptions that refer to "seniors' activities."

This group is highly demanding, sometimes has access to considerable disposable income, and may remain in the labour force after 65 years of age. This age group gave an acceptable rating to current programs, and they will likely be active consumers of services at the new Timms. Programming that will appeal to them will include health and wellness, outdoor activities and cultural offerings. The challenge for the program team will be to continue to meet this group's needs through the next decade. A number of the seniors' organizations are working together and indicated in a focus group that they would welcome more support and facilitation from the City in planning and providing for this age group.

Seniors

This age group is generally very satisfied with the program services, and seniors' services received the highest program rating in the survey. The primary exception came from a number of seniors who have difficulty with fees for membership and programs. There are also a

significant number of seniors in the City who are homebound with minimal resources, and it is important to reach out to and support this group.

Flexible Format

There has been a shift in demand from formal to informal recreation and culture activities in communities across Canada. This is due to our busy schedules and the need for flexibility. As a result, informal activities that people can participate in alone or with anyone, at any time, have become highly popular. Drop-in programs provide a good strategy to help meet these needs, and the program plan for the new Timms Community Centre is intended to meet this need.

Health and Wellness

Some participants appreciate the City's fitness offerings; however, on the whole the public expressed dissatisfaction with the City's fitness services. As the new Timms Community Centre will create significant new interest in fitness-oriented programming in the City, the following are some best practices for health and wellness services:

- Build one set of fees and a program with a multitude of options for clients to support busy lifestyles
- Prepare a pricing strategy that encourages long-term commitment
- Appeal to non-private-sector clients including a latent market of people who are not currently active
- Open facilities during the day and evenings 7 days a week for the benefit of working parents, shift workers and others with variable schedules
- Offer free or low cost child oriented programs and child care at appropriate times
- Offer a multitude of opportunities, e.g., weight room instructors, orientation programs, personal trainers (at a cost), access to most or all fitness classes, outdoor boot camps and fitness classes, running programs
- Provide exceptionally clean facilities
- Offer well-maintained equipment
- Create partnerships with community employers for employee fitness programs in either the workplace or the fitness centre
- Offer joint memberships or reciprocal membership privileges to non-profit clubs and organizations

Coordination of Programs

City residents use the services of a significant number of providers of recreation and culture programs, including non-profit groups, private sector, schools and three local governments. Currently, most of these organizations conduct their program planning independently. More efficiency, capacity, breadth of programs, and benefits to the community could be accomplished if there was more coordination among program providers.



Program planning needs to include a detailed review of the current programs being offered, identification of potential new programs, barriers to participation, ways to overcome barriers, available facilities and staff, booking and allocation procedures, among other topics. A general guideline is that approximately 15% of the programs should be replaced each year.

The following are some of the subjects for consideration in program planning and coordination:

- Timing and quantity of programs for preschool children to support working parents
- Programming to meet the needs of people with varying schedules
- Coordination of programs with bus schedules with a focus on those with financial challenges
- Setting a variety of fees that ensure opportunities for all
- More public skating sessions
- A greater variety of recreation and culture programs such as socials, bus trips, photography, arts and crafts, popular music
- Revised set of programs for young adults 19 to 29 and the 35 to 49 age groups – with particular focus on those living in the north end of the City
- More drop-in and workshop type programs
- Ensure programs are accessible for those with physical challenges

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 6.1.1 Restyle the health and wellness services and associated pricing in anticipation of the opening of the new Timms Community Centre.
- 6.1.2 Continually update recreation and culture programs and services.
 - Prior to each new season, conduct a program coordination session for the upcoming season with all primary recreation and culture services providers to plan the content, timing and responsibilities for programs; base program planning partially on the results of PRC Master Plan input and ongoing focus group sessions.
 - Plan for a 15% change in program offerings each year to remain current.
 - Use measurement tools such as attendance, program success, and customer satisfaction to modify programs.
- 6.1.3 Work with the Langley Seniors Resource Centre on programs to serve seniors who are homebound with minimal resources, potentially at Nicomekl Elementary School and the new Timms Community Centre.
- 6.1.4 Improve and expand the programs and services at Douglas Recreation Centre.
 - Use the facility year-round on Sundays for family-oriented programs and special events.

- Program to increase overall participation, e.g. more evening fitness classes.

6.1.5 Extend the hours and programs in the new Timms Community Centre.

- Extend operating hours inclusive of the café to function as a community meeting place along with a lounge and drop-in games room.
- Operate seven days a week with extended hours.
- Include extensive drop-in activities.
- Establish high quality fitness programs based on health and wellness for all segments of the population, including specialized fitness staff for client support and personal fitness consultations.
- Offer child minding and child- and family-oriented programs, some of which are either free or low cost.
- Foster the concept of becoming a teen hub for after school and evening activities.

6.1.6 Expand the current services at Al Anderson Memorial Pool through increased recreation and culture programming of the multipurpose room (by the City or community groups), especially in the winter.

6.1.7 Provide additional financial support for a recreation programmer to increase and modify recreation and culture programs at Nicomekl Elementary School, with local community input, in partnership with others.

6.1.8 Work with the operators of Langley Twin Rinks to plan more community-focused programs such as learn-to-skate and more public skating programs to encourage social and fitness opportunities for all, including seniors, youth and families.

6.1.9 Encourage a one stop-shopping concept for booking of community sport organization activities in Twin Rinks.

6.1.10 Extend the Langley Leisure Access Program to support the participation of seniors who need assistance with the annual membership fee at the Langley Seniors Resource Centre.

6.1.11 Collaborate with the Langley Community Music School on programming and marketing as needed to provide more community benefits and to raise the profile of the music school.

6.1.12 Consider the potential for Sendall House, or an addition to the house, to support community or artist uses, as part of the master planning process for the park.

6.1.13 Explore opportunities to increase public access to the main floor of Michaud House in partnership with community groups, e.g., gallery space, heritage display, environmental displays.

6.1.14 Explore opportunities to increase community access to the public schools in the City, potentially through a Joint Use agreement.

“The City is very supportive with special events hosted by non profits and community grants.”

6.2 Festivals and Events

Special events provide an important opportunity for people of all ages and cultures to have unique experiences, meet new people, and foster a sense of community. This City service received the highest overall rating of satisfaction for recreation and culture programs, especially among those living south of the river and families with children. The only negative comments with regard to these successful events related to the need to ensure secure places devoid of illegal activities.

The City has a comprehensive Policies and Procedures Manual for hosting special events that covers core values, booking and planning procedures, financial security, clean-up, noise, security, tents, washrooms, insurance and health. Event organizers complete an application form and City staff assist in booking and coordinating the events.

The following is a sampling of events and festivals in the City, most of which take place in the Spirit Square and Douglas Park:

- Lantern Festival (for the Lunar New Year) February
- Community Day and Parade June
- Canada Day Celebrations July
- Sounds of Summer Buskers Festival July - Sept (Saturdays)
- Outdoor Movie in the Park July
- Arts Alive! Festival August
- Bard in the Valley August
- Langley Good Times Cruise-In (classic car show) September
- BBQ on the Bypass September
- Magic of Christmas Parade/Tree-Lighting Ceremony December

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 6.2.1 Support and expand special event programs with ongoing safeguards to protect the City's interests and public security.

6.3 Public Art Program

Context

Langley's Public Art Program is guided by the Recreation, Culture, and Public Art Advisory Committee (RCPAC). The Committee is chaired by a City Councillor and is comprised of City staff and members of the community. Their role with respect to public art is to advise City Council on public art matters, provide advice on long range planning, and to actively plan, promote, and implement community events and initiatives involving public art.

Public art can be funded through budget expenditures, Community Amenity Fund revenue, or by external grants or gifts. There is no specific budgetary allocation for public art funding from

the Community Amenity Fund, but funding is typically provided for public art. When a public art project is initiated, RCPAC provides direction. In the case of a work of public art that is commissioned or purchased by the City, RCPAC oversees the process of selecting artists or works. In the case of a donated work of public art, RCPAC evaluates the merits of the work and makes a recommendation to Council as to its acceptability.

RCPAC has worked with groups such as the Langley Arts Council and the Downtown Langley Business Association to deliver works of public art. The Langley Community Grants program also serves as an avenue for other groups to obtain funding and approval for public art projects.

All works of public art that are on City property are insured and maintained by the City of Langley. As shown on Figure 6.1, the majority of public art works are clustered around downtown Langley.

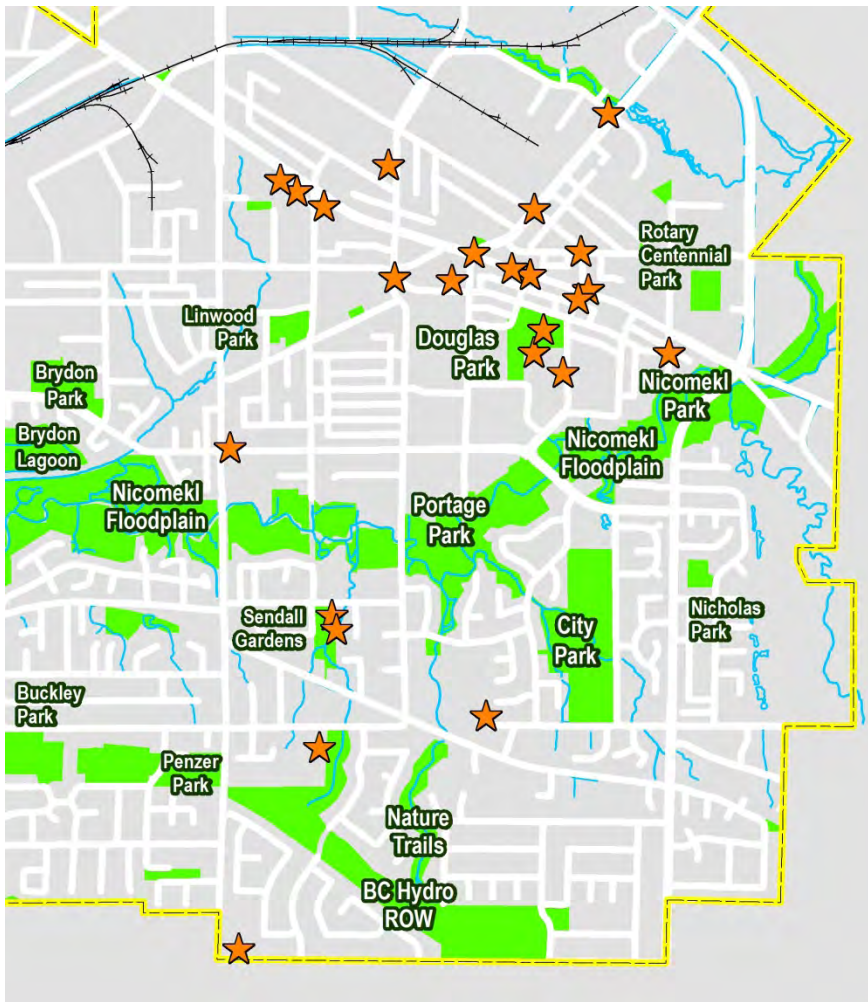


Figure 6.1: Locations of Public Art

A review of the public art programs in other Lower Mainland municipalities was conducted to identify some best practices. Vancouver, North Vancouver District, North Vancouver City, and

Surrey all have similar strategies and identify three sources of funding and/or initiatives for public art:

- **Civic** – Municipal governments may commission works or purchase existing works. The city's Arts Council directly manages the procurement and installation of works.
- **Community** – Municipal governments may provide grants or in-kind contributions to community members or organizations to produce works of public art. While the City acts as an approving agency for the work, the grant recipient manages the production and installation.
- **Developer** – Applicants for multi-family residential developments are required to contribute to a community amenity fund. Public art is one of the possible uses of the fund, which could involve commissioning or installing a work.

The three-stream system for public art described above is a useful way to conceptualize funding and procurement options for public art. The City of Langley currently favours the community procurement stream of public art. There is less structure required for the developer stream of public art development. While Community Amenity Contributions (CAC's) may contribute to public art, there is no specified commitment to public art from these funds. Administrative initiatives such as committing a certain portion of CAC revenue to public art or allowing developers the option of commissioning their own work of public art in lieu of all or a portion of their CAC would help to increase the profile of public art in the City.

Incorporating public art with park infrastructure is a useful way to connect art with the surrounding area and to enhance public art's place-making function. Creative railings, paving patterns, or sculptural benches can connect the functional elements of parks and streetscapes with their environment, enhance visual identity, and generate an interesting landscape. Spacing public art pieces evenly (such as every kilometre) along popular trails or other pedestrian routes can help to create a sense of journey for runners, walkers, and cyclists.

Public art can also be temporal. The City's Lantern Festival includes a temporary public art piece consisting of over 150 paper lanterns built by members of the community. This type of effort is engaging, culturally inclusive and very captivating.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 6.3.1 Encourage the expansion of public art, particularly in neighbourhoods outside downtown.

Capital

- 6.3.2 Incorporate public art as part of infrastructure and/or as landmarks along the trail system and in parks.



7.0 Service Delivery

7.1 Service Delivery Approach

Context

The mission of the department is as follows:

The Recreation, Culture and Community Services Department strives to provide leisure opportunities for all the citizens of the City; to encourage community pride; to promote a sense of community belonging; to promote a sense of self-worth; to encourage family development; and to develop healthy lifestyles through active living and healthy life choices.

We strive to create unique and enjoyable programs in as wide a range of activities as possible.

In working towards its mission, the department has a small dedicated staff group. The department is preparing for the significant changes in program style and output that will come as a result of the opening of the new Timms Centre. There are also two Advisory Committees that provide guidance:

- Recreation, Culture and Public Art Advisory Committee
- Parks and Environment Advisory Committee



In the past, the City had a Parks and Recreation Commission. This Commission was disbanded.

As mentioned previously, there is a significant amount of recreation and culture programming in the community that is offered by other groups. The City would benefit from more coordination among these organizations, and City staff are well positioned to assume that role. Many of the organizations in the community would also benefit from additional support from the City.

Culture is currently one of the many responsibilities of the Director of Recreation, Culture and Community Services. The capacity of the Director to focus on culture facilities, programs and public art is very limited.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

7.1.1 Establish a staff position for culture, potentially beginning as half time.

7.2 Volunteerism

Context

Many residents are involved in volunteer work in the City. Some of these volunteers are engaged directly with community organizations, e.g., sports leagues.

The Recreation, Culture and Community Services Department coordinates a variety of volunteer opportunities for residents interested in participating in community programs, special events and environmental initiatives. There are three streams of volunteer opportunities:

- **Program Assistants:** Assist program staff in various recreation programs including: sports, crafts, dance, art, music, day camps, youth drop-in, outings. There were 17 registrants in 2012 for Summer Day Camp, Winterfest and Cookie Monster Preschool.
- **Special Event Crew:** Assist staff in planning, organizing, and running a variety of community events throughout the year. There were 25 registrants in 2012 for Tri-It Triathlon, Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, and Country Christmas.
- **Point of Pride Program:** Adopt-A-Street, Park or Trail and keep it litter free.

This program is functioning reasonably well; however there are likely more residents who would be willing to volunteer in the community. There is not an organized system for recruiting, managing and retaining the volunteers. The volunteer program would also benefit from specialized software to support the coordination of volunteers and programs and to provide follow-up reports that could serve as measurement tools.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 7.2.1 Work with partner organizations on improving the volunteer coordination system in the City, potentially in combination with the Township.

Capital

- 7.2.2 Provide volunteer support software to help in coordination, reporting and measurement related to the volunteer program.

7.3 Marketing and Communications

Context

Approximately 58% of households believe they are adequately or well informed about indoor recreation and culture opportunities. This is significantly lower than in other communities studied by the consultants. The main reasons could be attributed to the high number of recent immigrants in the City and an assumed high turnover rate in multi-family rental housing.

The printed version of the Recreation Guide is the preferred method of learning about parks, recreation and culture for 73% of survey respondents. Focus group participants indicated that they would like to use the on-line version of the Recreation Guide, but it is not user friendly, e.g., it is not possible to get to a page with one click, rather one has to scroll through the entire guide. Another concern is that the guide and the City website only include the offerings of the City of Langley, excluding programs offered by other organizations except for those that purchase advertising space within the guide. The guide and the website would be much more useful if they included the various program options available within the City, including the offerings of multiple municipalities.

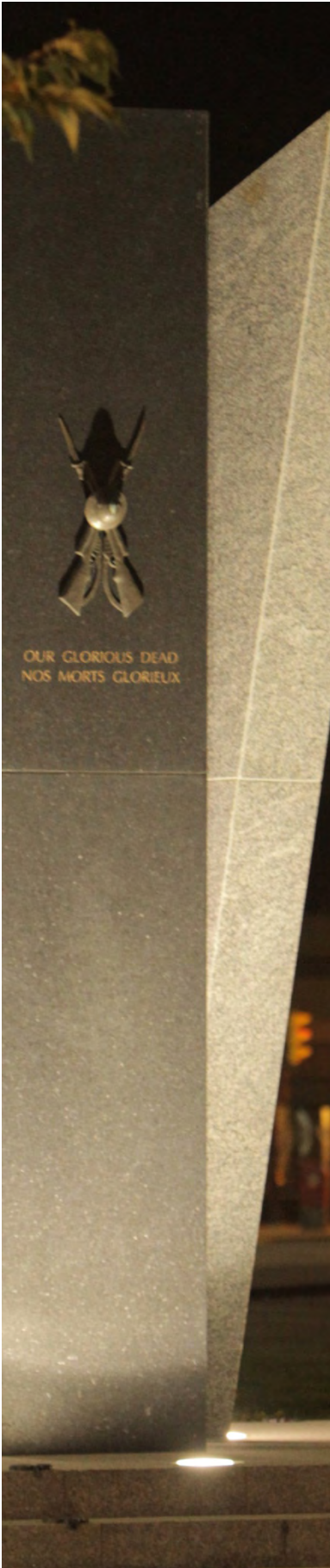
There are two newspapers in the Langleys. The City advertises in one for half of the year, and the other for the other half year due to budget constraints. Not everyone within the City receives both papers, and delivery of the papers is inconsistent. As a comparison, the Township has two to three pages in both papers every week. The City does use the newspapers to promote special events, and has just started using social media.

The City has a reasonably good map of its trails. The map could be improved by including all parks by name, the amenities within each park, and recreation and culture facilities. The hard copy version of the map could also be made much more available in City facilities.

A relatively new set of park identification signs has been installed and these are excellent in terms of their graphic consistency and identity for the City. Wayfinding (directional), regulatory and interpretive signs are currently lacking or inconsistent. The template of the park identification signs could be adapted to these other types of signs.

Focus group participants discussed the very high values associated with the Nicomekl floodplain. This is the City's jewel, providing character, identity and nature in the City, similar





to Stanley Park in Vancouver or Central Park in New York. Despite its attributes, the floodplain is not well known regionally. Programming and marketing of the floodplain would have more effect as a regional effort.

Marketing is a process that involves identifying the City's parks, recreation and culture needs, shaping services and facilities (indoor and outdoor spaces) to deliver benefits to the community, creating awareness of opportunities, and motivating the community to participate. For each target market or segment of the community, marketing uses data to understand needs, preferences and attributes; specific information requirements; marketing messages that resonate with each; and the suite of communication tools that are most effective.

Because of the number of organizations offering programs to City residents, the City does not need to be solely responsible for marketing its services. There may be opportunities to coordinate marketing with other organizations. This would be a significant benefit to the community, as residents currently need to contact multiple sources to find opportunities. An example of this concept is the Max Guide Metro Arts Xperience website, which identifies arts and culture opportunities throughout Metro Vancouver.

Successful marketing provides long-term results because there is alignment among needs, services and facilities. Its reliance on quality data minimizes uncertainty and trial and error. Done well, it improves an organization's image because quality services are provided and the benefits and accomplishments are well known.

Many municipalities are broadening their communication techniques to include digital media, including Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and expanded and enhanced websites. These types of communication tools reach very different market segments and age groups than traditional tools. If used appropriately, digital media tools are highly effective methods to showcase what the City is doing (e.g., using YouTube videos on the website), to gather public input on new initiatives (e.g., Facebook), and to reach those who appreciate timely hits of current information (e.g., Twitter). It can be expected that more residents will come to rely on digital media in the future, especially if the City's online presence is increased.

By building a strong following in a number of digital media tools, the reach of communication and engagement can be far greater. It also relies on the posts going viral. That said, these tools need to be managed and regularly updated and used for the followers to keep interested.

It is important to bear in mind, however, that many residents still prefer print media for information on City programs and events. Therefore a combination of traditional and new communications tools sees more effective results in that organizations are able to communicate to a number of audiences and demographics in a number of media. It does not mean that the organization needs to create new content or material, but rather use the same content across a number of platforms.

The City can benefit from understanding and implementing the concept of 'earned media'. Earned media (or free media) refers to favorable publicity gained through promotional efforts other than advertising, as opposed to paid media, which refers to publicity gained through

advertising. The media may include any mass media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, and the Internet, and may include a variety of formats, such as news articles or shows, letters to the editor, editorials, and polls on television and the Internet. Earned media cannot be bought or owned, it can only be gained organically, hence the term 'earned'. Earned media can make an organization's advertising budget go further.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University has a communications department and there could be opportunities to establish student projects or to engage co-op students in helping the City with communications. Examples of such projects could be developing an earned media plan or preparing a Twitter plan for the department.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 7.3.1 Extend the scope of the Leisure Guide and City website to include the various programs available within the City, especially those offered by organizations that are partners with the city, e.g., facilities on City-owned property.
- 7.3.2 Update the online version of the Leisure Guide to make it more user friendly.
- 7.3.3 Expand the use of digital media and smart phone apps in providing information, receiving input and publicizing current events.
 - Use the City's Facebook page to notify the community of events and during/post events, post pictures and captions.
 - Use the City's a Twitter page to create a following that includes media and other key organizations within the City. This will enable the City to tweet about upcoming events, opportunities for input, etc., with links back to the City's website for more information.
 - Use the City's YouTube site to post videos of trails, parks, events, etc.
- 7.3.4 Expand the City's trail map to include parks, recreation and culture amenities and make the map more available in City facilities and as a smart phone app.
- 7.3.5 Explore opportunities to coordinate marketing with other organizations offering programs in the City.
- 7.3.6 Work with environmental groups, other jurisdictions and tourism/business partners to explore ideas for raising the profile of the Nicomekl floodplain and making it a tourism, recreation and culture attraction, as part of a regional greenway, while respecting its ecological significance and sensitivity.
- 7.3.7 Prepare templates for promotions and marketing that staff can adapt to a variety of promotional efforts, including online and digital media.
- 7.3.8 Establish consistent and reasonable funding for advertising (including newspapers, magazines, etc.

- 7.3.9 Seek earned media opportunities to tell stories and educate readers (both in print and online) on what the City has to offer, where it has made changes, and to celebrate events and successes.
- 7.3.10 Work with Kwantlen's communications program to set up student projects and/or engage co-op students to help with marketing and communications projects for the department.

Capital

- 7.3.11 Develop and install a set of wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signs for parks, trails, bike routes and recreation/community centres that are consistent with the park identification signs.
- Include signs to Sendall Gardens from the Nicomekl floodplain trail.
 - Prepare a plan for and install interpretive signs in places of natural and cultural interest.

7.4 Fees and Charges

Context

The City has procedures for setting fees and charges for indoor recreation and culture programs that balance program costs, operating cost recovery, benefits for participants, indirect benefits to the community, and fair and equitable subsidization. Considerations include previous rates, rates of neighbouring jurisdictions, and residents' ability to pay. Fees are lowest for non-profit groups, and increase for private use, with the highest rates for commercial bookings. There are reduced rates for children, youth, students and seniors.

The City charges for room rentals, Al Anderson pool, Spirit Square stage, Sendall Gardens Legacy gazebo, and picnic shelters. Fees are charged for programs, and admissions are charged for fitness, weight room, swimming, and drop-in programs.

In general, the City's fees are slightly lower than those charged in Township facilities. The current fees for the fitness and weight room are particularly low and are not part of a health and wellness program package. When the new Timms Community Centre opens and with the proposed new health and lifestyle package, there will be an opportunity to revise the pricing structure to reflect charges at comparable facilities. It is best to simplify charges with one entry price for the various services offered with options for monthly, quarterly and annual memberships to simplify access for clients and reduce administrative / front desk fee collections. If annual membership programs allow monthly payments, this will encourage sales.

Despite the City's relatively low fees, 29% of the survey respondents report that recreation costs too much. This is likely due to socio-economic characteristics in the City. Part of this barrier can be solved through the development of a more functional financial assistance program (section 7.5).

The City currently charges a \$2 / person membership fee. This has the effect of adding everyone to the recreation database. The naming of this 'membership card' could be sold to a community-minded business, thus providing another revenue stream to the City. There would be some value in reviewing the annual membership program to ensure that it is producing maximum revenue at minimum cost to the citizens.

The City charges no fees for sport fields, whereas the Township and Surrey have fees. The sport groups appreciate the lack of fees, however there is also a sense from the groups that the lack of fees is associated with lower quality product and services. A fee-based system, especially for adult and commercial bookings, could help to maximize field use and generate revenue. There would be an accompanying expectation of higher quality facilities and service. The fees would not be a barrier to use because there are programs available to subsidize all players who require financial assistance (see section 7.5). If an artificial turf field is built in the future, the City will likely need to charge fees for all bookings on that field. Many municipalities use the fees collected to fund replacement of the turf surface that is required about every 10 years.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

7.4.1 In light of the improved facilities that will be provided by the City in the future, review fees and charges including the annual recreation membership program, health and wellness fees, and fees for sports field use.

- Charge fees for adult and commercial use of fields and sport courts consistent with surrounding municipalities and improved facilities.
- If an artificial turf field is built, consider fees for that field in order to cover turf replacement.

7.5 Financial Support Programs

Context

The City's population is such that there are a number of residents who cannot afford to participate in recreation and culture services. Three programs offer assistance, listed here along with the associated community awareness according to the community survey:

- Canadian Tire Jumpstart was the special program with the highest level of awareness (36%)
- Langley Kidsport – 14% of all households and 20% of those with children were aware of the service
- About one in ten (11%) were aware of the Leisure Access Grant and only 4% said they were aware of The Active Is Card

Unfortunately, those with the greatest needs appear to be least aware of the financial support programs.

Ensuring that all citizens can participate in services is a key role of local governments. The financial assistance programs have some strong elements. Marketing the programs and ensuring that they help those in need is the key challenge.

Community groups are important providers of recreation and cultural services in Langley. The City of Langley supports these groups financially through the Langley Community Grants program. In 2013, the City distributed \$150,000 in cash or in-kind services to various community groups. While this program is a useful tool for fostering community-based cultural groups, there is competition among many types of groups for grant money, and there is a perception that cultural groups may not be a priority. Setting aside a portion of each year's grant money for specific sectors would help to ensure stable access to funds for recurring applicants.

Recommendations

Programs and Services

7.5.1 Revise the Financial Assistance Program and associated marketing strategies to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of those citizens requiring financial assistance for public recreation.

- make applications available through support services that work directly with those facing financial barriers
- improve marketing to those who would most benefit from the program
- extend approval authority to professional recreation staff at each City facility
- extend program to the Langley Seniors Resource Centre
- contribute additional funds to the program to ensure that all residents can participate in some form of recreation

7.6 Contracts and Partnerships

Context

Partnerships are vital to the provision of quality leisure services that meet the community's needs. The City of Langley has historically encouraged a number of not-for-profit groups and a private sector partner to build facilities and offer services. This practice has produced multiple recreation opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable or significantly more costly to the taxpayer.

The not-for-profit facilities in the City include the Langley Community Music School, Langley Boys and Girls Club, Langley Seniors Resource Centre, and Langley Community Services. Each agreement with these partners has its own nuances. One of the common fundamentals to the current agreements has been the provision of long-term, no-cost leases of City land. In

some cases, this 'gift' has been accompanied by a capital and /or a long-term annual funding contribution. The allocation of very valuable City lands to these organizations is a significant commitment on the part of the City. As a consequence, the City should be seen as an active partner in the operations of these organizations.

It is important that these collaborative partners understand the City's needs and expectations as new facilities are built and as programs and services evolve to meet shifting community demographics and interests. The following are some best practices for managing contracts and partnerships:

- Involve not-for-profit and private sector partners in the annual preparation of a cooperative City leisure program and services plan, under the leadership of the City, in keeping with the recommendations in Section 6
- Base all requests for ongoing funding on the annual plans
- Review contracts on a regular basis to ensure that they are continuing to provide optimum services to City residents within the context of changing needs and City objectives
- Establish new agreements and revise existing partnership agreements to maximize the return on the investment of City resources in terms of community benefits
- Prior to establishing new agreements, conduct a best practices review of similar operations
- In the early stages of entering into new partnerships, consider the creation of project-specific advisory committees composed of community residents with industry knowledge to help the City identify appropriate community benefits and maximize taxpayer investment
- Consider the following in new agreements:
 - Inclusion in new facilities of prime meeting places available to the City and community groups for gatherings and community events
 - Controls with regard to other funding partners and input into the selection of sponsors / advertisers in new facilities.
 - Provision of public access, hours of operation, and activities that benefit the community

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 7.6.1 Manage contracts and partnerships to achieve maximum benefits for the community according to the best practices described above.

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8.0 Implementation and Funding

8.1 Implementation Strategies

Most of the City's funds for parks, recreation and culture are derived from tax revenue, with some recapture of costs through program fees. The municipality has also been successful in obtaining some grants for projects, sometimes in collaboration with community groups.



The City collects Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for parkland acquisition and park development. These funds, charged to developments, can be used to provide and improve parkland that serves the needs of residents of new developments. The capital park improvement costs that can be covered by DCCs include fencing, landscaping, drainage, irrigation, trails, rest rooms, change rooms, and playground and playing field equipment. Any items not included in that list cannot be paid for through DCCs, e.g., access roads, parking lots, hard surfaces other than trails, dugouts, bleachers, shelters, tennis or basketball courts, baseball diamonds, artificial turf, spray parks, skate parks, tracks, or lighting systems.

The Langley City Parks Foundation is a non-profit society that enables individuals, groups and organizations to make donations towards park improvement projects in the City of Langley. The Parks Foundation works closely with the City's Parks Division and the Point of Pride Program to enhance the community. Donations are accepted for the purpose of installing approved fixtures and improvements. All fixtures are maintained by City of Langley staff. Primary items donated include benches, picnic tables, park trees, and anti-Graffiti digital wrap. This organization has the potential to increase its role with City support.

8.2 Phasing and Relative Costs

The proposed capital plan replaces the City's previous capital plan. For example, some items on the existing capital plan such as tennis courts and an addition to the sport box at City Park have been replaced with amenities that are a higher priority for the community.

A table listing the recommendations in the Master Plan, with their phasing and relative costs, is located in Appendix D. The following is a key to the colours and symbols in the table:

	Buff – Capital Recommendations – require capital funding
	Green – Land Acquisition – acquisition of new land, typically through DCCs
	Yellow – Planning and Design – planning and design processes by staff or consultants
	Blue – Operations – responsibility of operations staff, with some contributions by volunteers
	Lilac – Programs and Services – tasks typically undertaken by municipal staff

Priority

– high, medium or low as determined through consultation

Phasing

Ongoing – occurs regularly over time

Short – 1 to 3 years

Medium – 4 to 6 years

Long – 7 to 10 years

Relative Capital Cost Per Year

\$ – under \$50,000

\$ – \$50,000 - \$1 million

\$\$\$ – over \$1 million

DCC – Development Cost Charges are the likely source of funding

A table listing the capital expenditures in the Master Plan, with their phasing, is located in Appendix E. This is a ballpark estimate of costs for planning purposes only.

8.3 Measurement Tools

Context

Measurements are used to track progress over time and the degree to which the PRC Master Plan objectives are achieved. There are numerous measurements related to parks, recreation and culture that are tracked by staff. The following are some of the existing measurement tools:

Participation

- number of programs
- number of participants in programs for both registered and drop-in programs
- attendance at Timms (card swipe)
- attendance at public swim
- number of special events and attendance
- number of volunteers and volunteer hours
- rentals and participation
- number of rental hours
- number of field booking hours (though this doesn't represent hours of play since there are no charges)
- partnerships maintained and developed
- occasional statistics on website visits and click-through, and public engagement efforts, e.g., open houses, etc.

Finances

- value of grants received
- amount raised in recreation guide advertising
- revenue generated

Other

- results in national Communities in Bloom competition
- number of graffiti incidents
- informal communication with staff

The existing measurement tools provide a reasonable amount of information on participation and finances. Some more detailed information would be of assistance to staff, such as the following:

- What is the market penetration, e.g., per cent of clients that re-register?
- What is the extent of casual use of recreation/community centre facilities?
- What is client satisfaction?

- What are the preferred communication methods of existing and potential clients? (the preferred method is currently the hard copy recreation guide, but this will likely change as habits evolve and online products improve)

Recommendations

Programs and Services

- 8.3.1 Support the Foundation in raising more awareness about their activities and opportunities for contributing.
- 8.3.2 Add some measurement tools to collect additional information on market penetration, casual use, client satisfaction and preferred communication methods.
 - Use the recreation booking system to track re-registration
 - Use swipe cards for all major facilities to track casual use
 - Conduct focus groups at the end of each session to help in the evaluation of client satisfaction and preferred methods of communication
 - Include parks, recreation and culture satisfaction questions in City surveys

8.4 Next Steps

The next steps in implementing the PRC Master Plan involve following the plan's recommendations.

The Implementation Strategy should be reviewed and updated annually along with a review of progress towards achieving objectives, based on the measurement tools.

The PRC Master Plan is intended to cover a 10-year timeframe. Certain changes in the City could trigger a need to revisit the plan in less than 10 years, e.g., growth slows down or growth exceeds expectations. The critical factor in implementing the PRC Master Plan is to remain committed to the goals, values and objectives in all aspects of parks, recreation and culture service delivery.