



City of White Rock

# PARKS & RECREATION

MASTER PLAN 2017

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of White Rock is a community of approximately 20,000 people located along the coast of the Salish Sea in the Metro Vancouver Regional District. It is bounded to the west, north and east by the City of Surrey, and to the south by Semiahmoo First Nations and Semiahmoo Bay. The south-facing slopes and mild climate draw residents seeking a high quality of life and beautiful ocean views. The community is one of the most compact in the Lower Mainland and the City is striving to create a pedestrian and cycling-friendly city with opportunities for living, working and recreating. The population is older than most in the Lower Mainland, with 30% of the population over 65 years of age. Despite this, there continues to be modest growth in the number of families and children, and the natural and cultural assets continue to attract a diverse population.

*Playing T-Ball in Centennial Park  
(Source: unknown)*

The **parks system** in the community is a key contributor to the high quality of life. The waterfront promenade, the nature trails of Ruth Johnson Park, and the active outdoor recreation amenities of Centennial Park are among the highlights of the park system. Events on the waterfront draw local and regional crowds for summer music concerts and festivals. There are also a variety of neighbourhood parks sprinkled throughout the community with beautiful ornamental plantings, peaceful sitting areas, active open spaces, and playgrounds.

*Additional parks and trails were the top demand cited by residents in the phone and online survey.*

*Celebrate White Rock's uniqueness and find special niches in recreation.*

The residents of White Rock are highly satisfied with both the recreation and parks systems, but there are opportunities to better align with the existing and anticipated population's needs and values and to increase the benefits to all residents. Additional parks and trails were the top demand cited by residents in the phone and online survey. While a majority of residents are within a 400 meter walking distance of a park or open space, the City is below the provincial average for parkland per capita and the growing population is expected to put additional pressure on the parks system. Other issues concerning the parks and trails that emerged included the need for an expanded range of **play spaces** and improvements to the **accessibility** of trails, stairs, walkways, park amenities, and play spaces.

Some of the key recommendations for the parks system include incorporating a wider range of play opportunities for children and youth, converting field at **Centennial Park** to an artificial turf field with lighting, and upgrading stairs, bridges, and trails to meet safety and accessibility standards.

There is also a need for a cohesive vision and plan for the waterfront, and completing a **Waterfront Master Plan** is recommended. While it is probably the biggest attraction in White Rock, the series of small parks and plazas, connected by Marine Drive and the promenade, could be improved to enhance the connection to the beach and natural shoreline, to improve the potential to host events, and to offer amenities that are appealing to a wider range of ages and abilities. As is expected with such a highly valued regional attraction, there is a balance to be struck between serving the local population and attracting tourists that contribute significantly to the local economy.

The City and its partners provide a wide variety of recreation services and programs from parent and tot activities to fitness for seniors to cooking classes. Walking and cycling are the top informal activities among adults, and the main sports activities include soccer, baseball, lacrosse, ice hockey, figure skating, and curling. There are also arts and cultural activities including visual, performing and literary arts. Recommended improvements to recreation services and programs include more opportunities for families to recreate together, coordination of programs for different family members at the same time and in the same location, and intergenerational programs, particularly joint programs with youth and seniors.

The public, stakeholders, and staff all support the concept of identifying and expanding unique niches that meet the needs of



their community, are sustainable, leverage local talent, and add to the regional tapestry of activities. Some of the niches that were identified by staff and stakeholders included specialized services for supporting and rehabilitating those who are recovering from an illness or injury, sports tourism, off-season sports camps, and arts and culture programs.

The City's Recreation and Culture Department and its partners provide recreation programs at several key **recreation facilities** including the White Rock Community Centre, the Centennial Park Leisure Centre and Arena, the Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living, the Kent Street Activity Centre, and the White Rock Museum and Archives. The White Rock Community Centre is the most well-used of these facilities, which is likely a factor of its central location, proximity to the main commercial district, and adjacent high rise residential developments. The Kent Street Activity Centre is also a very well-used facility with a strong membership and volunteer base.

Similar to the findings concerning recreation services and programs, there was broad agreement to not duplicate facilities, but instead complement the existing facilities and find White Rock's niche. The main gap in the range of recreation facilities that was identified through technical analysis and through public input was a gymnasium and auditorium that could host sports and recreation programs, cultural performances and community events.

The topic of **arts and culture** was woven throughout the discussions with the public and staff and is a strong niche that contributes to quality of life and the uniqueness of the community. The key recommendations aimed at supporting and promoting arts and culture including exploring the potential for a multi-use recreation facility with a public art gallery, integration of arts and cultural activities and spaces into all future municipal recreation buildings, and developing an "Art in the Parks" plan that identifies opportunities to incorporate art exhibits, public art, and arts festivals into the parks system.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Through the review of background plans, analysis of trends, and assessment of feedback from the public, a set of goals and objectives were developed. They frame the role of the City's Recreation and Culture Department and Parks Department in providing overarching benefits to the community. These goals emphasize the *reasons* that support the more detailed objectives,

Let's meet local needs first and in a sustainable manner. and ultimately the recommendations.

**Table 1: Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation in the City of White Rock**

<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>Celebrate, Nurture and Strengthen the Sense of Community, Identity, Pride, and Culture.</b>
Objective 1.1	Focus on parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming that first reflect local community needs and then the region.
Objective 1.2	Support community arts and culture as outlined in the Cultural Strategic Plan and through recreation facilities and spaces, parks and open spaces, and events.
Objective 1.3	Develop park amenities that provide spaces for and encourage social interaction and community connections.
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>Encourage and Support Individuals and Families to be Healthy and Active.</b>
Objective 2.1	Develop inclusive, multi-functional and multi-generational facilities and spaces providing they meet demonstrated needs of White Rock residents.
Objective 2.2	Provide a diversity of programs to serve a wide range of ages and abilities, intergenerational opportunities, and more diverse interests.
Objective 2.3	Provide high quality services that are accessible, inclusive and barrier-free (i.e. for all ages, abilities, and lifestyles).
Objective 2.4	Improve connectivity for walking and cycling to parks, recreation facilities, and other key destinations throughout the community.
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>Connect With and Protect the Natural Environment.</b>
Objective 3.1	Establish a vision for the waterfront that balances aesthetics, functionality, environmental sensitivity, the needs of the local community, and opportunities for tourism.
Objective 3.2	Preserve remaining natural areas and enhance existing parks to improve ecological values.

These are broad goals and objectives to be pursued over the next ten years. In some cases, they will require significant moves, while in other areas deliberate, incremental changes will be more successful. First and foremost, however, it is important not to lose sight of the big picture, which is that the Recreation and Culture Department and the Parks Department are tasked with meeting the diverse needs of the unique sociodemographic population of the City of White Rock.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the background review, research, data analysis, and consultation with staff, stakeholders and the public, a set of specific recommendations was developed for service delivery, partnerships, parks and trails, recreation, and arts and culture over the next 10 years.

The most significant, overarching recommendation in this plan is aimed at defining the role of the Recreation and Culture Department, given the significant local and regional pressures for ever-increasing and diversifying programs and facilities. The City is not an isolated community. It sits within a larger regional population of around 104,000 in the combined White Rock / South Surrey area. An understanding of what this means in terms of the types of services and facilities that White Rock will provide on its own, compared with those that are best pursued through regional partnerships, is essential to the financial sustainability and the viability of the programs and services. To do this, a **Service Delivery Framework** is proposed that outlines three service levels: 1) Neighbourhood Services and Facilities 2) City-Wide Services and Facilities and 3) White Rock/South Surrey Regional Services and Facilities (see Chapter 5 for additional details). This framework recognizes the interdependent, regional context and provides a rationale for making future decisions based on a continuum of services levels. The overarching goal of this framework is to provide the greatest benefit to local residents.

In order to achieve the goals, objectives, and recommendations described in this plan, it is essential to develop strong **partnerships** across multiple sectors. Key partnerships include the City of Surrey; School District No. 36; Fraser Health; Peace Arch Hospital Foundation; Semiahmoo First Nation; publically supported recreation organizations; private recreation providers; and volunteer groups, non-profits and stewardship organizations; community organizations such as sports leagues, arts and culture organizations, and clubs.

The most significant **parks and trails recommendations** include renovating the play space in Ruth Johnson Park to an all-ages and all-abilities playground, upgrading stairs and bridges throughout the parks system, completing a Waterfront Master Plan, and improving pedestrian and cycling connections between Centennial Park, the Town Centre, and the Waterfront.

The most significant **recreation recommendations** include undertaking a feasibility study for a new gymnasium and event

space, improving the efficient use of existing recreation facilities such as Centennial Arena and the White Rock Community Centre, and continuing to adjust recreation programming to reflect the unique interests and needs of White Rock residents.

To support the continued improvement of **arts and culture opportunities** in the community, recommendations include exploring the potential for a multi-use arts and culture facility, incorporating more arts and culture programming in the City’s recreation facilities, and developing an “Art in the Parks” plan that identifies opportunities to incorporate art exhibits, public art, and arts festivals into the parks system.

The complete recommendations are listed in the tables on the following pages.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Adopt and refer to the Service Delivery Framework when making program, service, facility, and special event decisions.
2. Continue to collect and analyse data on recreation programs, services, facility use, and special events to inform decision-making.

## **PARTNERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. Collaborate with the City of Surrey on planning new recreation facilities (including arenas, pools, performing arts centres, etc.) and monitoring regional recreation facility demand.
4. Partner with School District No. 36 to improve access to public open spaces and recreation opportunities at schools in White Rock.
5. Continue to work with Fraser Health and the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation on services, networks, events and the built environment to foster health and wellness.
6. Work with volunteer groups, non-profits, and nature groups to promote stewardship of the environment.
7. Work with publicly supported recreation facilities such as the White Rock Lawn Bowling Club, Mann Park Lawn Bowling Club, and the White Rock Tennis Club to identify opportunities to use their indoor and outdoor spaces for other recreation programs and events.

8. Consider public-private partnerships to use existing or future commercial space for recreation, arts, and culture programs throughout the community.
9. Consider establishing a White Rock/South Surrey Sports Council with members from different sports leagues to coordinate seasons, schedules, resources and programming.

## **PARKS AND TRAILS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **PARKLAND AND AMENITIES**

10. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy to address the main gaps in the existing parks system:
  - a) Acquire parkland in areas of the City where residents are not within a 400 meter walking distance of a city park.
  - b) Acquire parkland adjacent to existing Neighbourhood Parks to allow for a wider range of uses.
  - c) Acquire parkland to provide mid-block pedestrian/cycling connections.
  - d) Acquire parkland through the development/redevelopment process to account for increasing population density.
11. Create more public gathering places where people can meet, people watch, host small events, or have buskers at locations such as the Town Centre, Memorial Park, Terry Parr Plaza, and the Civic Centre.

12. Implement a Playground Renewal Program. Incorporate more opportunities for active and passive play for different ages of children and youth through the park system. Incorporate elements that encourage exploration of nature, music, the senses, imaginative play, and physical literacy.

- a) Establish a schedule for regular renewal and replacement of existing playgrounds.
- b) Renovate the existing play space in Ruth Johnson Park to an all-ages and all-abilities playground. Incorporate artistic elements such as a climbable sculpture, unique seating, or a mural.
- c) Integrate a nature play space into an existing underutilized park such as Maccaud Park, Bryant Park, or Emerson Park.
- d) Incorporate a spray park or water play features into an existing underutilized park or into a new urban plaza in the Town Centre.

13. Replace aging park furnishings throughout the park system with city-wide standards that are attractive, durable, safe, and sustainable. Demonstrate best practices by including garbage, recycling, and compost receptacles.

14. Develop wayfinding and information signage standards to complement the existing large park name signs.

15. Develop online resources and digital tools to communicate parks and trail information and enhance the experience for residents and visitors.

16. Complete a feasibility study/business plan for upgrading the field at Centennial Park including multi-sport artificial turf and new lighting to increase capacity and year-round use.

17. Incorporate community gardens into underutilized spaces throughout the City as public demand and volunteer resources allow. Ensure sufficient use-agreements are in place. (Consider: City Hall, road ends, vacant properties, boulevards, portions of parking lots, parkade roofs, and underutilized parkland such as Davey Park, Gage Park, Stager Park, and Lower Finlay Park.)

18. Explore opportunities to provide a second dog off-leash area to serve the east side of the City.



## **PARK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

19. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan and control priority invasive species in parks.

- a) Perform an inventory or survey to understand the scope of the problem.
- b) Identify and prioritize invasive plant species and/or invasive plant threats.
- c) Create a list of priority species and learn about their impacts and biology.
- d) Determine whether they are on the Invasive Species Council of BC's list of regulated and unregulated invasive plants of concern.
- e) Assess your management options, including prevention, restoration/revegetation, prescribed burning, and other control strategies.
- f) Monitor your management actions and then evaluate your results to determine whether your management objectives are being achieved (Center for Invasive Species Management, 2014).

20. Develop a Tree Management Plan that includes pruning guidelines, species selection guidelines, and new strategies for improving street tree health. Coordinate tree management with recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

21. Continue to improve ongoing maintenance standards, set maintenance priorities, and ensure that maintenance standards and park resources are synchronized.

22. Where possible, design planting areas with low maintenance landscape needs (i.e. more naturalized plantings, low mowing requirements, drought-tolerant, etc.).

## **TRAILS**

23. Adopt trail standards for nature trails, multi-use trails, and fully-accessible trails. Upgrade existing trails throughout the park system to meet the new standards.
24. Upgrade stairs and bridges throughout the parks system to improve safety and accessibility.
25. Develop new urban trails/greenways (separated from road traffic) to link key destinations and improve walkability within the community, where possible. Priority connections should include:
  - a) Centennial Park to the Town Centre “East-West Greenway.”
  - b) The Town Centre to the Waterfront (connecting through five corners).
  - c) Ruth Johnson Park to Bayview Park on Duprez Street.
  - d) Centennial Park to South Surrey Indoor Pool.

## **WATERFRONT**

26. Complete a Waterfront Master Plan that includes a conceptual design with distinct nodes, recommendations on upgrading site furnishings, lighting, event space, infrastructure, programming, public access and strategies to manage parking.
27. Support stewardship of the foreshore environment in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area.
28. Support access to human-powered, water-based recreation opportunities such as kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding on Semiahmoo Bay.

## **RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

29. Undertake a functional space gap analysis and planning exercise to improve the capacity and range of activities that can be provided in existing recreation facilities, including more arts and culture programs and events.
30. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the needs of the community in providing a new full-sized gymnasium and indoor event space that cannot be provided at existing indoor recreation facilities.
31. Develop a Special Events Policy and online application process.

32. Find a niche for White Rock specialty recreational programming to differentiate from programs offered in South Surrey and to contribute to the regional service delivery system. Examples include nature programming at the waterfront, sports tourism opportunities, health rehabilitation programs, and intergenerational programming.

33. Improve coordination of programming schedules so that different members of the family can recreate at the same time.

34. Continue to explore opportunities for arts and culture studio and performance spaces in new or existing recreation facilities and private developments.

35. Continue to promote the White Rock Museum and Archives (i.e. through more visible signage, etc.) and explore incorporating heritage programming and small-scale exhibits at other municipal facilities.

## ARTS & CULTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

36. Address actions from the White Rock Cultural Strategic Plan 2014-2018, specifically the following:

- a. Conduct research to determine the demand for a Public Art Gallery.
- b. Request space for arts and cultural activities and events in future municipal recreation building projects.
- c. Request Community Amenity Contribution funds and space for arts, culture and heritage programs, and activities in future private high rise development projects.

37. Develop an “Art in the Parks” plan that identifies opportunities to incorporate art exhibits, public art, and arts festivals into the parks system.

38. Provide additional entry level arts programs in the existing purpose-built arts spaces at White Rock Elementary School and consider dedicating funds to partner with the White Rock Elementary School Fine Arts program.





# 1 INTRODUCTION

The City of White Rock is a coastal community in Metro Vancouver, home to approximately 20,000 people in a relatively small area (5.13 square kilometers). In the 1970's, White Rock was a suburban bedroom community that attracted young professionals and families. Since that time, the demographic profile has shifted to a proportionately greater older adult and senior population, with 30% of the population aged 65 and over. In recent years, there has been an increase in development leading to changes to the City's urban fabric to a more "complete community" that is again attracting families. An increase in the number of children and youth is expected.

*Skinboarding at White Rock Waterfront (Source: Heidi Quadri)*

The City of White Rock's draft vision for the future, developed through the *Imagine White Rock 2045 - Official Community Plan Update* process, states that it aspires to be a "beautiful, distinctive and engaged community of people from all walks of life who choose to live, work and play in White Rock." The provision of parks and recreation amenities is a critical success factor for achieving this vision. Recreation programs, services, and facilities; parks and trails create opportunities for social interaction; improving health and wellness; and creating a high quality of life for all.

*The City's goal for parks and recreation is to "provide a diverse range of recreational facilities and open space, offering a wide variety of programs for residents of all ages and abilities."*

The parks system currently includes a wide range of opportunities for residents to get out in nature, be active, socialize, make connections, and pursue leisure activities such as playing sports, enjoying a picnic, taking in an outdoor musical performance, or



simply walking and cycling around the community. The indoor recreation services and facilities in the community further create an atmosphere that supports community health and wellness through programs for all ages and all abilities including intergenerational programs, fitness, rehabilitation programs, arts and culture, and leisure pursuits such as cooking and crafts.

As the community changes and the City works to achieve its vision for the future, the parks and recreation system must evolve to meet the needs of the community. While individual initiatives have been very successful in creating opportunities, there are new areas of interest and approaches to increase the value to residents. In particular, developing systems that work better together, increase access, celebrate the unique aspects of the City, and enable greater participation are key areas for improvement.

## **1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

As the City of White Rock continues to grow and change, the parks and recreation system must also shift to continue to meet the changing needs of residents and to achieve the City's Vision. This plan is a customized Parks and Recreation Master Plan that considers the state of parks and recreation in the City and outlines a strategy and actions to address the current and future needs unique to the community. It provides a defensible set of recommendations and priorities that are informed by analysis of existing park and recreation facilities, input from the community and stakeholders, consider financial limitations, and provides guidance for projects that can be achieved through a variety of funding strategies including external sources collected through City's Development Cost Charges (DCC) program and Community Amenity Contribution Policy (CAC).

This plan considers the City's existing parks and green spaces, waterfront, walkways, and boulevards. It also considers the role, future and purpose of the City's recreation service delivery system and its five recreation facilities: Centennial Park Leisure Centre and Arena, Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living, the White Rock Community Centre, the Kent Street Activity Centre, and the White Rock Museum and Archives. This plan builds on the foundation of existing amenities and outlines a strategy – one that practical, achievable, and financial sustainable – and identifies 49 recommendations to enhance and strengthen the system of parks, trails, and recreation facilities for the community of White Rock over the next 10 years.



## 1.2 WHAT IS IN THE PLAN?

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes the following sections:

- Community Context: This section sets the stage for the plan with a review of relevant background information and a description of the community demographics.
- Public Engagement: This section provides a summary of the public engagement process and the associated key findings.
- Goals and Objectives: This section provides the foundation of the Plan in terms of the values, aspirations and decision-making principles that guided the development of the recommendations and plan priorities.
- Detailed Analysis and Recommendations: Included are sections on Service Delivery and Partnerships, Parks and Trails, Recreation, and Arts and Culture. Each section includes technical assessments and analyses, public engagement key findings, and recommendations.
- Implementation Plan: This section outlines the recommendations in order or priority and identifies projects that can be funded through the application of the Development Cost Charges Bylaw of Community Amenity Contribution Policy.





## 2 COMMUNITY CONTEXT

This plan is related to other existing City planning initiatives and policies and is influenced by the community's current and future demographics, community trends and trends in parks and recreation. This section provides summaries of these various influences and describes how they have been taken into account in this plan.

*White Rock Sea Festival (Source: unknown)*

### 2.1 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND INITIATIVES

Previous plans and reports have brought the City of White Rock to its current position with numerous parks and open spaces, an attractive waterfront, and five recreation facilities with a variety of different spaces and amenities. This plan builds on these past initiatives, but also brings a fresh and current perspective.

Four documents are summarized in this section because they are of particular importance to this plan. These include the *Official Community Plan 2008*, the current work underway for the *Official Community Plan Update*, the *Cultural Strategic Plan 2014-2018*, and the *Strategic Plan for a Healthier Community 2015-2019*. An additional report – *The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Goals and Priorities 2015* – is summarized to provide a broader planning context specifically related to parks and recreation. Additional reports, plans and documents, including

the *2007 Parks Master Plan*, were reviewed and are summarized in Appendix A - Background Review.

### 2.1.1 CITY OF WHITE ROCK OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2008

The current Official Community Plan was completed in 2008 and includes the following vision for the community in the year 2028:

“By enhancing its exceptional setting with careful planning, White Rock is a unique and livable beachfront community that has become a leader in balancing its environmental, economic, social and cultural values for a healthy, livable future. Residents have been very involved in ensuring that the city retains its heritage and character as it becomes a more complex community of complementary areas. While the vibrant waterfront with its mixed uses remains White Rock’s soul, the thriving town centre that borders Surrey is its heart, appreciated by residents and visitors for its range of shops, services and great public spaces. Residential neighbourhoods, some of which continue to redevelop, are safe and walkable. They contain a diversity of housing suitable for people of all ages, lifestyles and incomes; quiet, local roads; accessible parks and green spaces as well as a well-connected bike and pedestrian network. White Rock proves that exceptional natural and cultural resources can be successfully combined to provide the kind of recreational and tourism opportunities that contribute to a high quality of life anyone may enjoy.”

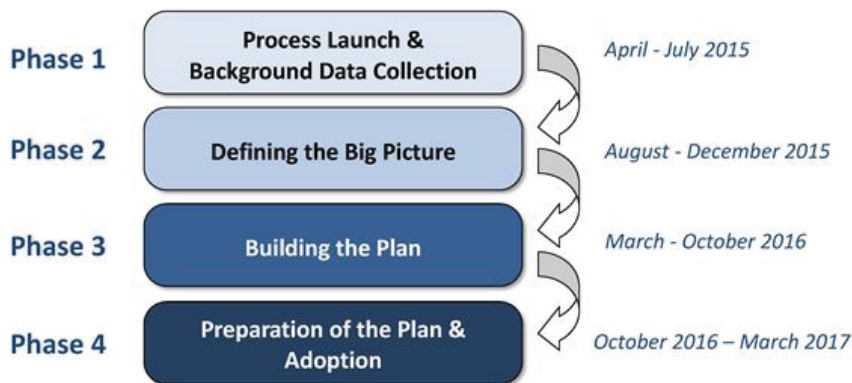
Community Principles:

1. A Complete Community
2. A Green Community
3. A Community of Economic Opportunity
4. An Involved Community

## 2.1.2 IMAGINE WHITE ROCK 2045 OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The City of White Rock is currently in the process of updating its OCP and is in the last of four phases as shown in the diagram on the right. Separate consultation and policy development is being undertaken as part of the OCP update. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be completed prior to the Final OCP, so it is expected that the higher level goals and objectives will be integrated into the OCP.

Figure 1: OCP Process Chart



The Parks and Recreation goal statement that has been developed through the OCP update process is:

*“The City of White Rock provides a diverse range of recreational facilities and open spaces, offering a wide variety of programs for residents of all ages and abilities.”*

The following themes have emerged through the OCP process so far and have been incorporated into this plan:

- Protect and preserve trees and native species;
- Maximizing use of open spaces and trails;
- Expansion of open spaces and trails;
- Increasing the diversity of programming;
- Maintaining existing assets; and
- Improving accessibility of parks and facilities.

## 2.1.3 CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2018

The City of White Rock completed a Cultural Strategic Plan that outlines goals and strategies to guide the growth of cultural opportunities in the community from 2014 to 2018. Opportunities,



ideas and initiatives from the Cultural Strategic Plan dovetail with this parks and recreation plan to enhance both sectors in the City and to help create a vibrant, beautiful community. The vision of the Cultural Strategic Plan is:

*“White Rock is a vibrant community that provides diverse artistic and cultural experiences, supports artists of all disciplines and is a year round destination for cultural tourism.”*

*Spending on recreation creates jobs, fosters tourism, and makes communities more attractive places in which to live, learn, work, play and visit. “Upstream” investments in recreation can lead to improvements in individual and community wellbeing, which helps to reduce costs in health care, social services and justice.*

*(Inter-provincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015).*

Six goals for achieving this vision are also outlined along with specific actions and timelines covering topics from economic development to partnerships and accountability. The Cultural Strategic Plan outlines the following actions related to the parks and recreation system:

- Conduct research to determine the demand for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a Public Art Gallery.
- Request space for arts and cultural activities in all future Municipal recreation building projects.
- Develop a conceptual design for a permanent and designated space for Artists Walk Program on the promenade.
- Connect uptown and the waterfront through artistic endeavors, i.e. sculpture garden, and/or an arts walk.

In addition to considering these actions, other recommendations to support arts and culture through the parks and recreation system were identified and incorporated into this plan.

#### 2.1.4 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY 2015-2019

The Peace Arch Hospital Foundation supported the South Surrey/ White Rock Healthy Community Working Group to develop a cross-community strategic plan to set goals and identify actions to promote community health rather than strictly health care. The vision outlined in the plan is:

*“South Surrey/White Rock is a healthy community where people are committed to physical, mental and social well-being.”*

To achieve this vision, the Plan outlines six goals and detailed actions. The most relevant to the parks and recreation system are summarized in the table below. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan recognizes that the provision of recreation, parks



and trails are essential to enabling people to be healthy and active. The analysis focused heavily on identifying barriers to participation in recreation and leisure activities that contribute to health and well-being, and the recommendations identified ways to remove those barriers and promote healthy living.

**Table 2: Select Goals & Actions from the Strategic Plan for a Healthier Community Relevant to Parks and Recreation**

<b>Healthier Community Strategic Goal</b>	<b>Actions Relevant to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan</b>
Goal 2: A Community Built for Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and reduce barriers to the use of recreation facilities and natural areas in the community.</li> <li>• Advocate for accessible and active transit.</li> <li>• Health-enabling built environments (HBEs): engage citizens in planning them, adopt a framework for assessing their quality, and inventory and promote their use.</li> </ul>
Goal 3: Get Informed and Be Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve provision and accessibility to physical literacy and health education programs for all residents.</li> </ul>
Goal 4: Let's Do It	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the building and use of resources, programs and activities that enhance the health and social connection of people in the community.</li> </ul>
Goal 5: Health in All Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen future policies and plans through a community health lens.</li> <li>• Consider health and wellness in future community plans and policy development.</li> </ul>

## 2.1.5 NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION GOALS AND THE BENEFITS OF RECREATION

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association has done considerable work analyzing trends and needs across the country in relation to parks and recreation. This work is an important contribution to the context of this plan and provides the “big picture” perspective of where parks and recreation systems are going over the next 10-20 years. The *Framework for Recreation in Canada* sets 5 overarching goals, reflecting national trends and challenges (Inter-provincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015). Consideration of these high level goals and priorities has been incorporated into this report, along with other input.

Figure 2: Canadian Parks & Recreation Association Goals and Priorities 2015



In addition to outlining goals and priorities, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing* is the national reference point for understanding the benefits that the Parks and Recreation sector provides. As recreation and society have changed over the past 50 years, the role, benefits, and values of recreation have also shifted. Municipal parks and recreation departments have been challenged to meet needs arising from rapid technological changes, economic, environmental, demographic and social changes. A new definition of recreation was developed in conjunction with the framework:

*“Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.”*

The vision is “a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster:

- Individual wellbeing;
- Community wellbeing, and
- The wellbeing of our natural and built environments.”

It’s obvious that those who use recreation facilities, programs and services and parks, trails and open space gain direct benefit from these venues and the activities offered within. What is sometimes less recognized is that those who don’t make use of these assets also gain a benefit, albeit indirectly. The framework provides evidence that recreation, parks, and open space provide the following benefits to communities as a whole:

- Enhanced mental and physical wellbeing;
- Enhanced social wellbeing;
- Stronger families and communities;
- Better connections with nature, and
- A stronger economy.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan recognizes these benefits and aims to maximize them for the residents of White Rock.

## 2.2 COMMUNITY TRENDS

In order to identify the needs of White Rock residents in terms of parks and recreation services and facilities, it is necessary to understand the composition of the community and how it is expected to change over the next 10 years. The following trends and challenges include topics that have been identified from a variety of sources including the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA, 2006) and Public Health BC, and the research and analysis on the City of White Rock including the review of background reports and consultation with staff, stakeholders and the public.

### POPULATION GROWTH

Overall, the population reached a total of 19,952 in 2016 (2016 Census). The population is expected to grow by approximately 40% over the next 25 years, bringing the number of residents up to 27,000 by 2041. This is a similar growth rate that was experienced in the City over the previous 30 years.

The City of White Rock is the fourth densest municipality in the Lower Mainland with approximately 3,900 persons per square kilometer. There are no opportunities to expand the land base of the City, and the existing land is substantially built out. With no significant areas remaining to be developed, and the community has begun to strategically redevelop and densify. The increase in the number of multi-family dwellings in White Rock will result in an increase in the need for parks and open space as a “backyard.”

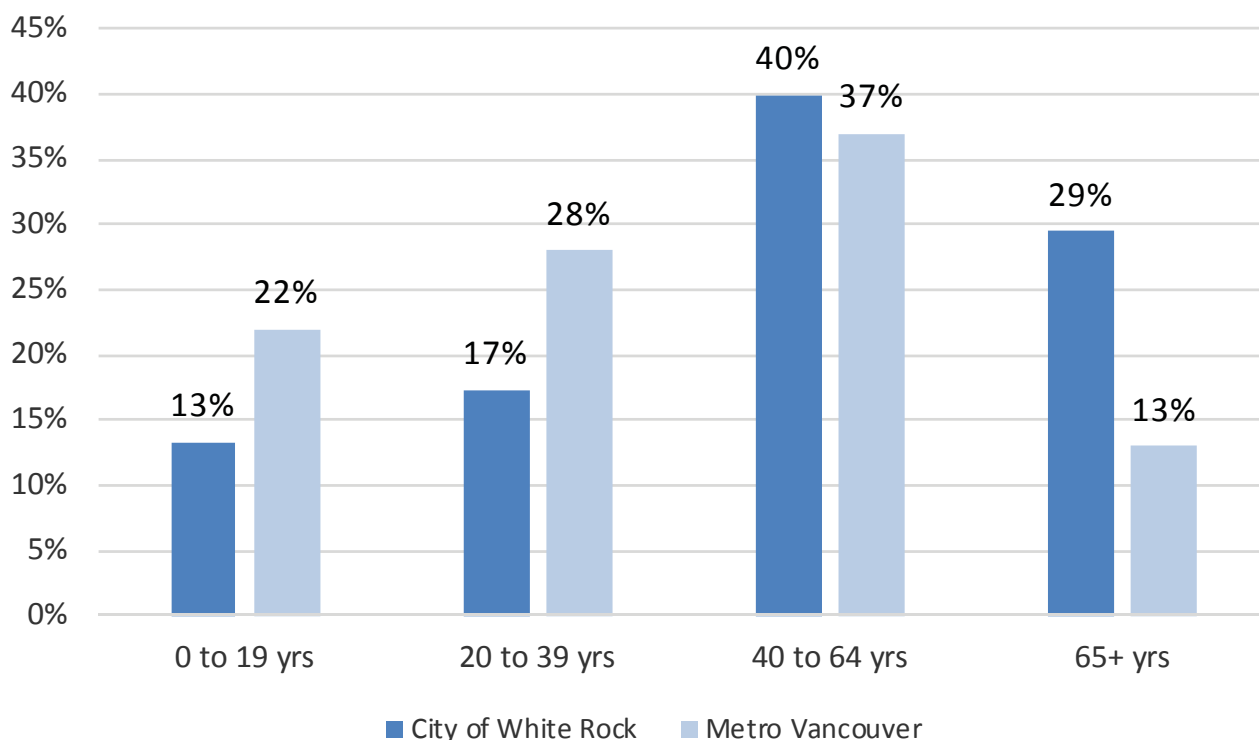
### AN AGING POPULATION

White Rock has an older population compared with Metro Vancouver. The median age is 53.8 years (Metro Vancouver 40.2 years), 30% of the population is aged 65 years and over (Metro Vancouver 13%), and just 30% of the population is under 40 years of age (Metro Vancouver 50%). Baby Boomers are anticipated to remain more active and healthier than previous generations of seniors, although they will shift to less strenuous physical activity as they age. These demographic trends suggest that parks and recreation facilities and programs will need to adapt to serve a larger proportion of older adults.

## CONTINUING TO SERVE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The City is continuing to strive to create a complete community that is attractive to families and the number of families and children is gradually growing. The School District expects a small but steady enrollment over the foreseeable future and families are likely to be attracted by new housing options. A broader trend in recreational programs is a shift towards multi-generational and family-centred activities.

**Figure 3: Demographics of White Rock and Metro Vancouver**



## INCREASING DIVERSITY

Immigrants account for approximately 24% of White Rock's population in private households, and approximately 3% of the population are recent immigrants (2006-2011). Similar to other communities across the Lower Mainland, diversity is projected to continue to increase and there will be a need to find ways to encourage participation and build community connections for newcomers. New Canadians bring diverse interests and needs, and the parks and recreation system will need to adjust to be inclusive and accessible for all. For example, recreation staff are noticing a new trend in programs that attract cultural groups whose primary purpose is to learn English within a recreational setting.

## **CHALLENGES TO HEALTH**

Increased sedentary living, risk factors for chronic disease such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease and increased mental health concerns are negative trends in health and wellbeing. There is a growing epidemic in child and youth physical inactivity, and an aging population will be increasingly challenged to stay active and healthy. These trends underscore the importance of offering fun, fitness-oriented recreational programs for all ages, as well as continuing seniors outreach programs at the Kent Street Activity Centre and therapeutic and rehabilitation support at the Centre for Active Living.

## **ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES**

A core principle of the public recreation sector, including the City of White Rock, is inclusivity. While the average White Rock family income (after tax in 2010) is much higher than the BC average, 27% of children in White Rock are considered vulnerable. The 2010-2011 Community School Partnership Report notes that “children in this zone seem to have higher levels of emotional issues and stress.” The City will need to continue to be mindful of strategies to reduce barriers to participation because of the community and individual benefits associated with recreation. Focus areas include low-cost/no cost program options and policies such as the financial assistance policy.

## **SOCIAL CHALLENGES**

Changes associated with increasing inequities, unemployment, use of social media instead of face-to-face interaction and loss of traditional supports have compounded feelings of isolation for many, and has impacted civic involvement, social connectedness, engagement and social cohesion. The City’s recreation facilities, museum, library, parks, trails, and special events are core gathering places that support social interactions, foster a sense of belonging and reduce isolation. Recreation programs, local celebrations, farmer’s markets, festivals and interactive spaces such as community gardens can improve social connectedness. It is important that the City design spaces that are welcoming and easily accessible, provide spaces for social gatherings, and support a broad range of activities that foster social interaction.

## **CHANGING CUSTOMER DEMANDS**

National trends related to customer demands include a perception of being rushed, resistance to time commitments, and shifts away



from traditional recreation activities. There is a shift toward more informal and individual activities, with both adults and youth choosing activities that can be done at personally convenient times and places. The trend is toward drop-in programs and shorter program lengths. In White Rock, similar trends exist. The community phone survey revealed that the most prevalent barrier to using recreation facilities was the lack of time and programs not aligning with interests. In addition, the phone survey revealed that walking for exercise is the most popular recreational activity by far, emphasizing the importance of informal, outdoor recreation.



*Trails in Ruth Johnson Park (Source: Lees+Associates)*

## **NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

The parks and recreation field is challenged to keep up with changing technologies such as mobile phone apps, digital crowd-sourcing, and social media, which offer opportunities for innovation, communication, improved efficiency, and enhanced connections, especially for young people. It will be increasingly important for the City to provide easily accessible information on mobile devices for the community as more and more people are planning their lives on-the-go. This is no longer an enhanced service but a core expectation. The City's continued investment in the digital option to access services, such as WebREG, is important for the above reasons.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT AND FACILITY DEMAND**

Across the country, indoor recreation infrastructure is aging and single-use facilities are being replaced with large multi-use facilities. In White Rock, the recreation facilities are divided into several different buildings and locations rather than in one precinct, and acquiring land to bring the existing recreation facilities together in one location is unlikely because of the limited land base, lack of significant undeveloped areas, and cost of land. The alternative is to consider how to improve the multifunctionality of existing spaces and to ensure any new facilities are as multifunctional and flexible as possible.

## **THREATS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Growing threats, such as extreme weather, decreasing biodiversity and invasive species have made the role of environmental stewardship increasingly important to the municipal parks system. White Rock's existing public waterfront parks will be impacted by climate change, but also offer opportunities to mitigate impacts to adjacent developed lands. The demands on the waterfront as an environmental feature may become increasingly at odds

with desired park and recreational uses by residents and visitors. Other parks have the potential to mitigate climate change by reducing the heat island effect, supporting biodiversity, and helping to manage rainwater.



### 3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A public engagement process was undertaken to help identify the needs and interests of the community, identify barriers that prevent people from participating, and brainstorming ideas for improving White Rock's parks and recreation system. A wide range of people participated including key stakeholders, potential partners, and the general public. Additional details and results are provided in Appendix B.

*Buskers on the Waterfront (Source: unknown)*

- Statistically valid phone survey – A phone survey (both mobile and land lines) was completed in June 2016 and included 201 phone interviews with a random selection of adults, age 18 or over), with questions probing the needs of adults, families, children and youth. The margin of error on the sample is +/- 6.9% at the 95% confidence interval. A complete report on the results is provided in Appendix B.
- Online survey – An online survey was available via the City's website which provided any member of the community the opportunity to provide input into the plan. The questions were the same as those asked in the phone survey. There were 133 responses to the online survey. A complete report on the results is provided in Appendix B.
- Focus Group Sessions were conducted with Seniors, Adults, and Parents with Young Children with 23 residents.

- Stakeholder Sessions were hosted in June 2016 and participants were invited from the arts, heritage, library and cultural sectors; sports organizations; service delivery partners; and Semiahmoo First Nation. The conversation with Semiahmoo First Nation was less structured and provided an opportunity for the consulting team to hear about the history of Semiahmoo First Nation in the area.
- Farmer's Market Pop-Up – Staff and consultants attended the White Rock Farmer's Market on October 9, 2016. Display boards were posted that summarized the findings from the public consultation and summarized the key recommendations and people were invited to provide comments and suggestions.
- Public Open House – A public open house was held on January 18, 2017 to provide another opportunity for residents to give feedback on the recommendations and to talk with staff and consultants. Display boards showed the results of the public phone survey and key findings from the public engagement, as well as the key recommendations for parks, trails, recreation, arts and culture, service delivery and partnerships. There were 53 comments submitted at the open house.

### **3.1 PHONE AND ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY**

The following section describes the key findings and themes that emerged from the phone and online survey.

#### **RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

- Walking for exercise is the most popular recreational or cultural activity followed by attending theatre and other live performances, swimming, biking and golf.
- Among children under 18 years of age, swimming and field sports such as baseball and soccer are the most popular activities. This is followed by ice sports.
- Lack of time and not finding programs that reflect their interests are the key barriers to residents' use of City of White Rock recreational facilities.



*Residents' highest priority for city council spending is new or improved parks and trails, according to the public phone survey.*

## RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES / PROGRAMS

- In the past year residents are most likely to use the White Rock Community Centre, followed by Centennial Arena, Centennial Park Sports Fields, White Rock Museum and Centennial Park Leisure Centre.
- Satisfaction levels with all facilities are quite high among those who use them, though particularly so for the Centre for Active Living, Kent Street Activity Centre and the Centennial Park Sports Fields.
- When asked what recreation facilities are lacking or need improvement, an indoor pool and multi-purpose gym were the most frequent comments.
- Only one-third of all adults say they or their children have registered and participated in City of White Rock recreational programs or activities in the past two years.
- Satisfaction levels with all aspects of recreational programs are generally quite high among users, but particularly so for the “quality of programs” offered and the “quality of instruction”. However note that approximately three-in-ten cite that the programs offered do not reflect their interests.

## PARKS, TRAILS AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- The majority, 65% of residents, use White Rock parks or trails at least once every two to three weeks, with just over half (53%) using them at least once a week.
- The majority, about two-thirds or more, rate the number and maintenance of parks and trails as good, very good or excellent. Less than half rate accessibility for those with mobility issues as good, very good, or excellent (45%).
- A variety of outdoor recreation facilities are said to be lacking or needing improvement, including waterfront facilities, greenspace and park facilities, hiking and cycling trails, and access to the beach.
- Two-thirds of residents (68%) use public recreation facilities outside of White Rock and 42% use private facilities outside of the community.
- The primary reason for using facilities outside of the City of White Rock is because they are not available in the City.

## **FUTURE PRIORITIES**

Residents said that the highest priority for spending should be investment in new or improved parks and trails (29% of phone survey responses, 16% of online responses). Interestingly, these results did not differ significantly between those who use parks and recreation amenities and those who do not.

## **3.2 FOCUS GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER SESSIONS KEY FINDINGS**

The following key themes and issues emerged through discussions with the focus groups and stakeholders.

### **MAKE BETTER USE OF WHAT WE HAVE**

- There are opportunities for improving the use of existing facilities by increasing communication, improving coordination, increasing multi-functionality, adapting facilities for new uses, and increasing capacity.
- There are opportunities for new and enhanced partnerships with the City of Surrey and School District No. 36 to improve planning for future facilities and to expand the potential uses at existing facilities.
- There are opportunities for enhanced partnerships with Fraser Health and the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation to work on services networks, and the built environment to foster health and wellness.

### **PARKS AND TRAILS**

- The parks and trails system are highly valued and in high demand. Expansion and enhancement of the parks and trails system was a high priority and people wanted to have more and better opportunities to experience nature.
- There was support for expanding the range of different types of play spaces for children and incorporating more all abilities and all ages features.
- Overall, a higher level of maintenance was desired.
- Some of the features desired by participants in the focus groups included a spray park, community gardens, improved accessibility of stairs and bridges, and an enhanced waterfront.



## RECREATION

- Focus group members agreed that White Rock should avoid duplicating facilities that are provide in South Surrey and liked the idea that specialty programming should be developed to differentiate the City.
- It was recognized that better coordination, creative planning, and sharing of resources is an essential part of improving recreational opportunities for White Rock residents.
- There were suggestions that more recreational activities and programs could be offered outdoors.

There was a desire for enhanced communication about available recreation services.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

- Arts and Culture are important to the community and there are new partnerships and opportunities through recreation and parks.
- Existing recreation facilities could be enhanced to improve access to arts and culture programs and opportunities.
- Overall, integration of arts and culture into recreation and parks was favored.

### 3.3 FARMER'S MARKET POP-UP AND OPEN HOUSE KEY FINDINGS

Comment sheets and post-it notes from residents at the Farmer's Market Pop-Up booth and the Open House January 18, 2017 showed strong support for the recommendations in the Master Plan. In particular, support was shown for:

- Improving connectivity, walking and cycling amenities;
- Building partnerships;
- Improving opportunities for health and fitness outdoors;
- Improving parks across the city, not just the waterfront;
- Improving the hillside walkways;
- Incorporating public art;
- Supporting and finding spaces for community gardens, and
- Ensuring park spaces are green, particularly in the Town Centre.



## 4 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through the review of background plans, analysis of trends, and assessment of feedback from the public, a set of goals and objectives were developed. These goals and objectives are needed to help guide decision-making and to identify priorities for improvements to the parks and recreation system. They provide a broader and more stable touchstone than fluctuating demand for specific features. This allows for flexibility in the implementation of the plan so that opportunities can be capitalized on as they arise. They also frame the role of the City's Recreation and Culture Department and Parks Department in providing overarching benefits to the community.

*Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living (Source: unknown)*

These goals emphasize the reasons that underpin the more detailed objectives, and ultimately the recommendations. In order to achieve these goals, the following specific objectives are outlined. These objectives should be used to guide decision-making and prioritization of initiatives and projects.

**Table 3: Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation in the City of White Rock**

<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>Celebrate, Nurture and Strengthen the Sense of Community, Identity, Pride, and Culture.</b>
Objective 1.1	Focus on parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming that first reflect local community needs and then the region.
Objective 1.2	Support community arts and culture as outlined in the Cultural Strategic Plan and through recreation facilities and spaces, parks and open spaces, and events.
Objective 1.3	Develop park amenities that provide spaces for and encourage social interaction and community connections.
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>Encourage and Support Individuals and Families to be Healthy and Active.</b>
Objective 2.1	Develop inclusive, multi-functional and multi-generational facilities and spaces providing they meet demonstrated needs of White Rock residents.
Objective 2.2	Provide a diversity of programs to serve a wide range of ages and abilities, intergenerational opportunities, and more diverse interests.
Objective 2.3	Provide high quality services that are accessible, inclusive and barrier-free (i.e. for all ages, abilities, and lifestyles).
Objective 2.4	Improve connectivity for walking and cycling to parks, recreation facilities, and other key destinations throughout the community.
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>Connect with and Protect the Natural Environment.</b>
Objective 3.1	Establish a vision for the waterfront that balances aesthetics, functionality, environmental sensitivity, the needs of the local community, and opportunities for tourism.
Objective 3.2	Preserve remaining natural areas and enhance existing parks to improve ecological values.



## 5 SYSTEM-WIDE PLANNING + PARTNERSHIPS

This section includes analysis and recommendations around the recreation and parks system as a whole, including an assessment of the appropriate level and types of services, how this links to the goals and objectives, and a recommendation for establishing a “Service Delivery Framework” to describe how the City should approach the provision of recreation services and facilities moving forward.

*Family skate at Centennial Arena  
(Source: unknown)*

### 5.1 SERVICE DELIVERY

The public consultation confirmed that the community values the benefits provided by a service delivery system where residents can access services locally and throughout the South Surrey/ White Rock region. Public input from the phone survey showed that residents are accessing a wide variety of leisure opportunities both locally and regionally, with 35% participating at City of White Rock recreation facilities and 68% of residents using recreation facilities outside of the City of White Rock. Conversely, almost 70% of participants in White Rock programs live outside of White Rock. There is a recognition that non-residents are important to the system in that their fees allow programs to run.<sup>1</sup>

A service-delivery framework is recommended that recognizes

<sup>1</sup> *Master Plan focus group discussions confirmed this symbiotic relationship.*



this interdependent, regional context and provides a rationale for making future decisions based on a continuum of services levels. The overarching goal of this framework is to provide the greatest benefit to local residents. Focus groups with community members, working sessions with staff, and confirmation with the public at the Farmer's Market and Public Open House confirmed a wide-base of support for this framework.

The service delivery framework outlines three service levels: 1) Neighbourhood Services and Facilities 2) City-Wide Services and Facilities and 3) White Rock/South Surrey Regional Services and Facilities. Each service level focuses on different sized catchment areas based primarily on population and geography and outlines the types of facilities and programs that best serve the catchment population.

Financial viability of facilities and programs at each level is an essential consideration because the City of White Rock does not have the resources to build and sustainably operate a complete suite of recreation facilities, especially where they would duplicate existing regional facilities. For the approach outlined in the framework to be successful, it is important for staff to foster healthy and thriving partnerships with those agencies in order to offer a broader range of opportunities than could be provided by the City alone. In recognition of the benefits of the regional recreation opportunities that benefit White Rock residents, the practice of non-residents being able to seamlessly access City of White Rock programs should be continued.

#### 5.1.1 SERVICE DELIVERY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adopt and refer to the Service Delivery Framework when making program, service, facility, and special event delivery decisions.
2. Continue to collect and analyse data on recreation programs, services, facility use, and special events to inform decision-making.



Table 4: Service Delivery Framework Based on Catchments

	<b>Neighbourhood Services &amp; Facilities</b>	<b>City-Wide Services &amp; Facilities</b>	<b>White Rock &amp; s. Surrey Regional Services &amp; Facilities</b>
Primary Services	Immediate neighbourhood	The City's population with options for other communities to participate.	Focuses on the regional population including the City of White Rock and South Surrey.
Viability	Services and facilities are cost-effective and affordable to participants	Services and facilities are sustained by fees, but some may require additional support from the tax base of the City	Services and facilities are sustained by fees, but some may require additional support by the tax base of both the City of White Rock and the City of Surrey
Types of Facilities and Spaces	Flexible, multi-functional spaces	Flexible, multipurpose spaces with some spaces to serve White Rock niche programs	Multi-purpose facilities as well as space for specialized activities
Types of Activities	General activities that help build community connections and that appeal to a broad range of people  No specialized spaces, programs, instructors or equipment	Beginner and intermediate level programs with some specialty and advanced skill level programs  Limited specialized spaces, programs, instructors and equipment	A full continuum of programs from entry level to specialized that draw users and spectators from region  Specialized spaces, programs, instructors and equipment
Examples of Programs and Facilities	Block parties, neighbourhood walking groups, elementary or community schools, local neighbourhood parks, and local trails and pedestrian paths	Community events, community centre, gymnasium, kitchen for large events, library, arena, skateboard park, community parks, and city-wide trails/ greenways	Major special events, multiplexes with a variety of single-purpose spaces such as arenas, pools, and theatres. Major outdoor sports parks and tournament facilities

## 5.2 PARTNERSHIPS

Development of partnership will be an essential, on-going process that will help the City of White Rock create a parks and recreation system that recognizes the regional context and meets the needs of White Rock residents efficiently and cost-effectively. Working in partnership is a core value for the City of White Rock and the Recreation and Culture Department specifically. It is also a critical success factor for the City’s service delivery system.

Current partnerships were assessed through direct consultation with partners, as well as through a review of the programs, services, and facilities that contribute to or are dependent on these partnerships. There are three key partnerships that contribute to the parks and recreation services delivery system:

**Table 5: Summary of Key Partnerships**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>FACILITY/INITIATIVE</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
Fraser Health	Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living	The Centre for Active Living is located on City lands.  Fraser Health offers programs that are designed to help participants manage chronic disease by focusing on exercise, nutrition and lifestyle programs.
Kent Street Seniors Society	Kent Street Activity Centre	Advisory Board offers 19 seniors activity at the Kent Street Activity Centre and fundraises for facility improvements.
Semiahmoo Arts Council	Semiahmoo Arts building at Centennial Park	Semiahmoo Arts provides arts and culture services to White Rock and South Surrey, including programs at the Centennial Park building.

Other important relationships in the provision of parks and recreation services include:

**Table 6: Summary of Other Important Partnerships**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>FACILITY/INITIATIVE</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
City of Surrey	South Surrey Pool, Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, Sunnyside Outdoor Pool, South Surrey Arena, and South Surrey Recreation & Arts Centre	The City of Surrey provides aquatics, ice sports, and a suite of other recreation, arts, and cultural programming.
School District No. 36	White Rock Elementary and Peace Arch Elementary Schools	School grounds contribute to the overall public open spaces and school buildings are a potential resource for the community, but only during non-school hours.
Peace Arch Hospital Foundation	All – Abilities Park and the Healthier Communities Strategy	Developed the Healthy Community Strategic Plan for White Rock / South Surrey and supports major capital projects through fundraising and volunteer support.
Peace Arch Curling Club	Tenant in the Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living building at Centennial Park	Provide opportunities for league play, learn-to-curl programs and ice rentals. There is also a licensed lounge available for rental for parties and other functions and the dry floor curling rink area available in the curling off-season.
YMCA	Summer Programs	Offers outdoor adventure day camps in the summer.

Semiahmoo First Nation is also a key partner for the City of White Rock to collaborate with. Recognizing and respecting the long history of Semiahmoo First Nation in the Boundary Bay area is important to building a strong relationship.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

In addition to the organizations and institutions described above, an important aspect of partnership approach is fostering volunteerism. Volunteerism provides a vehicle for citizen to contribute to their community, learn new skills, gain employment experience, make new friends and impart their knowledge to other. Kent Street Activity Centre is an excellent example of the value that volunteers bring to their community, with approximately 200 volunteers

participating. Staff believe there is the opportunity to broaden the roles and contribution if there was a coordinated approach to placing, managing, recognizing and quantifying their contribution.

### 5.2.1 PARTNERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been developed to help improve partnerships with key partners who play a role in the provision of parks and recreation services and facilities. The implementation of these recommendations is dependent on the ability of the City to develop and foster relationships with its partners.

3. Collaborate with the City of Surrey on planning new recreation facilities (including arenas, pools, performing arts centres, etc.) and monitoring regional recreation facility demand.
4. Partner with School District No. 36 to improve access to public open spaces and recreation opportunities at schools in White Rock.
5. Continue to work with Fraser Health and the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation on services, networks, events and the built environment to foster health and wellness.
6. Work with volunteer groups, non-profits, and nature groups to promote stewardship of the environment.
7. Work with publicly supported recreation facilities such as the White Rock Lawn Bowling Club, Mann Park Lawn Bowling Club, and the White Rock Tennis Club to identify opportunities to use their indoor and outdoor spaces for other recreation programs and events.
8. Consider public-private partnerships to use existing or future commercial space for recreation, arts, and culture programs throughout the community.
9. Consider establishing a White Rock/South Surrey Sports Council with members from different sports leagues to coordinate seasons, schedules, resources and programming.



*Public hillside walkway staircase (Source: Lees+Associates)*







## 6 PARKS AND TRAILS

In order to evaluate the parks system and develop a set of recommendations for future improvements, a detailed needs assessment and gap analysis was completed. The assessment and analysis included:

*Totem Park (Source:Lees+Associates)*

- A community needs assessment based on public engagement including a phone survey, an online survey, stakeholder sessions, and focus group sessions;
- A review of current best practices and trends in parks and recreation (see Section 2.2);
- A review of the types of parks and their functions;
- A comparison of parkland area provision with the Provincial per-capita average;
- A comparison of outdoor park amenities provided in White Rock with those provided in other communities in BC of similar size; and
- On-site park tours by the consulting team.

The following sections outline the key findings from the public engagement process and the parks system analysis, followed by a set of recommendations aimed at achieving the goals and objectives outlined in Section 4. The following discussion and analysis are based on the work completed to date and represent our best understanding of the current state of the system, community needs and interests in parks and trails.

## 6.1 EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

### 6.1.1 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The City has a total of 33.98 hectares of parks and open spaces. The existing parkland classification system includes eight typologies: City Parks, Urban Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Neighbourhood Open Spaces, Natural Parks, Walkways, and Boulevards.

#### KEY FINDINGS:

- The features and uses in currently classified “Neighbourhood Open Spaces” overlaps with both “Natural Parks” and “Neighbourhood Parks”. In other municipalities, “Neighbourhood Open Spaces” more often refer to parklands that are not developable (riparian areas, steep slopes, and other environmentally sensitive areas).
- The “Urban Park” classification may be useful in the future, but is not currently suitable to any existing park spaces. (Hodgson Park is currently classified as an Urban Park but we propose changing this classification to Neighbourhood Park.)
- Given their importance within White Rock’s dense urban fabric, walkways and boulevards are underutilized and are generally not as well-maintained as other park spaces.
- Unopened road ends and right-of-ways are public green spaces that are not currently dedicated as park or managed for community benefits.

## PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

A simplified park classification system is proposed to better reflect the existing park types and uses. The proposed park classes are City Park, Community Park, Neighbourhood Park and Open Space. The following are the definitions of each new classification:

**Table 7: Proposed Parks Classification System**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPICAL AMENITIES</b>
City Parks	These are destination parks that draw people from the municipality and the region. They embody the character and identity of the municipality and are the most well-known and recognized features of the parks system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special event sites</li> <li>• Significant natural areas</li> <li>• Multi-use paths and trails</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Public art</li> </ul>
Community Parks	These are destination parks that draw people from across the City are primarily devoted to active recreation and sports. They may also be adjacent to an indoor recreation facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports fields and courts</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Multi-use paths and trails</li> <li>• Picnic areas</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Public art</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood Parks	These parks provide small play and gathering spaces, ideally within a maximum 5 minute walk from each residence. Amenities should respond to the demographics and needs of the catchment area (~400 metre radius).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Play spaces</li> <li>• Informal open space</li> <li>• Interpretive signage</li> <li>• Viewpoints</li> </ul>
Open Space	These are green space used for visual amenity (boulevards), hillside walkways, unopened road right-of-ways, or environmental areas. There may be opportunities for passive uses such as walking or wildlife viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Native vegetation</li> <li>• Street trees and low shrubs</li> <li>• Interpretive signage</li> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Viewpoints</li> <li>• Traffic barriers</li> </ul>



*Totem Park, Source:  
Lees+Associates*

The following reclassifications are recommended to better reflect existing and future conditions: Centennial Park and Maccaud Park should be reclassified as Community Parks to reflect their existing and potential for active outdoor recreation and their adjacency to existing recreation facilities.

- Hodgson Park (currently the only Urban Park), as noted in the 2007 Parks Master Plan, functions as a Neighbourhood Park, as it is used primarily by adjacent residents.
- Totem Park is a key landmark in White Rock that includes totem poles, First Nations cultural interpretation, and a memorial to Semiahmoo First Nation Grand Chief Bernard Robert Charles. This park should be reclassified as a City Park.
- Sanford Park should be reclassified from a Neighbourhood Park to Open Space to reflect that it has very little potential for development and contains a relatively large stand of trees that should be retained.
- It is recommended that Boulevards be reclassified as Open Space.

The following is a list of the existing parks within the proposed classification system.

**Table 8: Proposed Parks Classification System**

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Ha.</b>	<b>Current Classification</b>	<b>Proposed Classification</b>
Bayview Park	0.24	City Park	City Park
Marine Drive Linear Park	5.44	City Park	City Park
Memorial Park	0.11	City Park	City Park
Totem Park	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	City Park
Centennial Park	6.62	City Park	Community Park
Maccaud Park	1.68	Neighbourhood Open Space	Community Park
Barge Park	0.12	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Emerson Park	0.11	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Goggs Park	0.08	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Hodgson Park	0.14	Urban Park	Neighbourhood Park
Bryant Park	0.59	Neighbourhood Open Space	Neighbourhood Park
Rotary Park	0.84	Neighbourhood Open Space	Neighbourhood Park
Coldicutt Park	1.33	Natural Park	Open Space
Ruth Johnson Park	12.67	Natural Park	Open Space
Sanford Park	0.44	Neighbourhood Park	Open Space
Davey Park	0.01	Boulevard	Open Space
Gage Park	0.02	Boulevard	Open Space
Hughes Park	0.01	Boulevard	Open Space
Lower Finlay Park	0.01	Boulevard	Open Space
Stager Park	0.04	Boulevard	Open Space



## PARKLAND PROVISION PER THOUSAND RESIDENTS

The quantity of parkland provided by a municipality depends on many complex factors such as the total land base, population, cost of land, and demand for park space by residents. A goal to provide 4 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents was once used widely by municipalities in BC and Canada, but many have since moved to other measures that recognize the value of quality over quantity. Factors such as limited suitable land, cost of land, availability of regional or provincial parkland, and demand for other land uses have often made a specific quantity standard difficult to achieve.

Rather than set a specific parkland quantity standard, it is more useful to compare the amount of parkland with other communities across the Province. Communities across British Columbia are currently providing an average of 3.18 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents. The following table provides a comparison to the current and projected parkland provision by the City of White Rock.

**Table 9: Parkland per 1,000 Residents**

Year	Population	Total Hectares of Parkland	Hectares of Parkland per 1000 Residents	Provincial Average Parkland Provision per 1000 Residents
2011	19,339	31.74	1.64	3.18
2027	23,979	31.74 <i>(without acquisition)</i>	1.32	n/a

### KEY FINDINGS:

There is a deficit in parkland provision compared with the provincial average. In order to bring the quantity of parkland up to the standard of 3.18 ha per 1,000 residents, the City of White Rock would need to acquire an additional 30 ha at its current population and an additional 15 ha over the next 10 years. Meeting the provincial average is not considered feasible due to the cost of land and because there are no significant green spaces to acquire.

Neighbourhood Parks are generally recommended to be at least 0.5 hectares in order to provide adequate open space for play, games, picnicking and socializing. All the existing neighbourhood parks are below the recommended size of 0.5 ha. This limits the ability to provide a variety of spaces for different types of users.



The result is parks that are dominated by a single use, such as play spaces for a limited age range.

White Rock residents benefit from access to nearby parkland in South Surrey, including the South Surrey Athletic Park (over 100 hectares) and Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest. Many residents said they also use Crescent Park and Crescent Beach in Surrey, as well as some other neighbourhood and community parks in South Surrey. However, while these other park spaces provide a valuable benefit, most White Rock residents are not within walking distance to these amenities.

### **6.1.2 ACCESS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Many municipalities are moving toward analysis of the provision of parkland in terms of access, walkability, and distribution in the community, rather than on hectares of parkland. This approach recognizes the wide variety of park types that many communities have, as well as the need to distribute parklands equitably across the community to the greatest extent possible.

Map 2 in Appendix D shows the analysis of the accessibility of parkland for residents across the City. Each existing park is shown and the parcels that are within 400 meters of a park are highlighted. Schools were excluded because although they generally contribute to the overall public open space system, they are only available outside of school hours.

#### **KEY FINDING:**

A majority of City residents are within 400 meters walking distance of a park or open space. The key gaps in access to parkland are highlighted on the map. Some of the gaps could be addressed by improving pedestrian connectivity, while others can only be addressed through parkland acquisition. There are significant gaps in walkability to children's play spaces, as there are only 5, plus the two elementary school playgrounds.

It is generally understood that White Rock has a small land base and emphasis needs to be placed on improving existing parks and trails. However, acquisition of new parklands will be needed to serve the growing population over the long term and to address gaps in accessibility in different areas of the City.



*Painting at the White Rock Waterfront (Source: Mona Lucas Photography)*

## 6.2 PARK AMENITIES PROVISION FOR COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

The provision of outdoor recreation amenities by the City of White Rock was compared to other communities of a similar size<sup>2</sup>. These comparisons provide useful reference points to help identify gaps, but do not represent requirements or absolute benchmarks for amenities.

**Table 10: Park Amenities Provision for Communities of a Similar Size**

Amenity or Facility	Average Park Amenities Provision in Comparable Communities <sup>1</sup>	City of White Rock (Actual)	City of White Rock School Facilities	South Surrey Facilities
Baseball and Softball Fields	5.9	1	1	9
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1.8	1	3	Data not available
Outdoor Swimming Pools	0.4	0	0	0
Skateboard Parks	1.0	0	0	1
Indoor and Outdoor Soccer Fields	5.9	1	3	10
Outdoor Tennis Courts	5.2	9	0	4
Water and Spray Parks	1.4	0	0	1

The park amenities comparison showed that White Rock has fewer baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, skateboard parks, soccer fields, and water/spray parks compared to the average in other communities with similar populations in British Columbia. However, White Rock is within a wider regional population centre and is served by the nearby Softball City and South Surrey Athletic Park, which includes all of these features except basketball. Basketball courts are provided at both elementary schools.

### KEY FINDING:

When considering the regional context, there were no significant gaps identified in the provision of common outdoor recreation amenities. Compared with other similar sized communities in BC, the City is well served in terms of most basic outdoor parks and sports amenities given the current population based on the park and park amenities provision analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Comparison communities using Civic Info data included City of Port Moody, City of Colwood, District of Squamish, District of Oak Bay, City of Langford, and City of Langley.

## 6.2.1 PUBLIC INPUT ON THE EXITING PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

- There is an opportunity to increase use of parks and trails.

Phone Survey Question 7 asked: *How often do you use parks/trails in White Rock?* 53% of White Rock residents use parks and trails at least once per week. This is a good result, but not excellent, and there is room for improvement. As a comparison, a recent phone survey in the City of Victoria showed 72% of residents use parks at least once per week.

- There is currently a high satisfaction rate with the level of park and trail maintenance.

Phone Survey Question 9a asked: *How would you rate White Rock parks, trails and open spaces for being: sufficiently maintained?* 77% rate maintenance as good, very good, or excellent. However, this response still leaves room for improvement in park maintenance, especially given the growing demand for outdoor recreation, and hiking and walking opportunities.

- Improving accessibility of parks and trails was noted as a key area for improvement.

Phone Survey Question 9b asked: *How would you rate White Rock parks, trails and open spaces for being: physically accessible to those with mobility issues?* Only 45% rated the parks as good, very good, or excellent for those with mobility issues. 30% rated the parks fair or poor in this area. The Strategic Transportation Plan also recommends improvements to wayfinding and the pedestrian realm, including the walkways and staircases.

- There is a desire for prioritizing spending on improving and expanding outdoor parks and trails.

Phone Survey Question 11 asked: *If city council were to consider additional spending on parks, trails, and City run recreation programs and activities, including health, wellness and arts, what would be your highest priority?* Residents most commonly named new or improved parks and trails (29%). In the focus groups, participants strongly communicated a desire to focus on improving existing parks and trails, especially given that the land base in White Rock is relatively small.

- The waterfront and beaches are key areas for improvement.

Phone Survey Question 10 asked: What outdoor recreation, parks, parks amenities, trail connections or outdoor program and activities are lacking or needing improvement? “Improve waterfront facilities” ranked #1 (13%) and “improved access to the beach ranked #4 (12%). Focus group participants also communicated that the waterfront is an important attraction in White Rock and suggested that improving accessibility to the waterfront would increase visits from locals and seniors.



Playground at Centennial Park  
(Source: Lees+Associates)

- There is a lack of awareness of existing parks and trails.

Several people in the focus group sessions noted this as a significant barrier to participation.

- A variety of outdoor recreation amenities were suggested through the phone survey and focus groups.

Phone Survey Question 9 asked: *What outdoor recreation, parks, parks amenities, trail connections or outdoor program and activities are lacking or needing improvement?* There is a desire for improved walking and cycling trails and routes (12% support). There were also suggestions for more facilities for children and youth including ball hockey courts, skate parks, and playgrounds (9% support).

The Strategic Transportation Plan also recommends improvements to biking infrastructure in White Rock. As a seaside community, swimming and water sports are also popular (35% and 23% respectively) and a desire for water based recreational amenities and programs such as an outdoor pool and kayaking were mentioned in the focus groups.

## 6.2.2 PARK AND TRAILS RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been developed through consideration of the public engagement components, technical assessments (including the amenity provision comparison and other research), on-site assessments, and an analysis of trends and best practices. They seek to address the key findings from the needs assessment and gap analysis, as well as to help the City meet the recommendations described below. Additional detailed analysis of opportunities and constraints on a park-by-park basis are provided in Appendix C.



## PARKLAND AND AMENITIES

10. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy to address the main gaps in the existing parks system:
  - a) Acquire parkland in areas of the City where residents are not within a 400 meter walking distance of a city park.
  - b) Acquire parkland adjacent to existing Neighbourhood Parks to allow for a wider range of uses.
  - c) Acquire parkland to provide mid-block pedestrian/cycling connections.
  - d) Acquire parkland through the development/redevelopment process to account for increasing population density.
11. Create more public gathering places where people can meet, people watch, host small events, or have buskers at locations such as the Town Centre, Memorial Park, Terry Parr Plaza, and the Civic Centre.
12. Implement a Playground Renewal Program. Incorporate more opportunities for active and passive play for different ages of children and youth through the park system. Incorporate elements that encourage exploration of nature, music, the senses, imaginative play, and physical literacy.
  - a) Establish a schedule for regular renewal and replacement of existing playgrounds.
  - b) Renovate the existing play space in Ruth Johnson Park to an all-ages and all-abilities playground. Incorporate artistic elements such as a climbable sculpture, unique seating, or a mural.
  - c) Integrate a nature play space into an existing underutilized park such as Maccaud Park, Bryant Park, or Emerson Park.
  - d) Incorporate a spray park or water play features into an existing underutilized park or into a new urban plaza in the Town Centre.
13. Replace aging park furnishings throughout the park system with city-wide standards that are attractive, durable, safe, and sustainable. Demonstrate best practices by including garbage, recycling, and compost receptacles.
14. Develop wayfinding and information signage standards to complement the existing large park name signs.
15. Develop online resources and digital tools to communicate parks and trail information and enhance the experience for residents and visitors.
16. Complete a feasibility study/business plan for upgrading the field at Centennial Park including multi-sport artificial turf and new lighting to increase capacity and year-round use.



17. Incorporate community gardens into underutilized spaces throughout the City as public demand and volunteer resources allow. Ensure sufficient use-agreements are in place. (Consider: City Hall, road ends, vacant properties, boulevards, portions of parking lots, parkade roofs, and underutilized parkland such as Davey Park, Gage Park, Stager Park, and Lower Finlay Park.)

18. Explore opportunities to provide a second dog off-leash area to serve the east side of the City.

### **PARK MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

19. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan and control priority invasive species in parks.

- a) Perform an inventory or survey to understand the scope of the problem.
- b) Identify and prioritize invasive plant species and/or invasive plant threats.
- c) Create a list of priority species and learn about their impacts and biology.
- d) Determine whether they are on the Invasive Species Council of BC's list of regulated and unregulated invasive plants of concern.
- e) Assess your management options, including prevention, restoration/revegetation, prescribed burning, and other control strategies.
- f) Monitor your management actions and then evaluate your results to determine whether your management objectives are being achieved (Center for Invasive Species Management, 2014).

20. Develop a Tree Management Plan that includes pruning guidelines, species selection guidelines, and new strategies for improving street tree health. Coordinate tree management with recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

21. Continue to improve ongoing maintenance standards, set maintenance priorities, and ensure that maintenance standards and park resources are synchronized.

22. Where possible, design planting areas with low maintenance landscape needs (i.e. more naturalized plantings, low mowing requirements, drought-tolerant, etc.).

### **TRAILS**

23. Adopt trail standards for nature trails, multi-use trails, and fully-accessible trails. Upgrade existing trails throughout the park system to meet the new standards.

24. Upgrade stairs and bridges throughout the parks system to improve safety and accessibility.

25. Develop new urban trails/greenways (separated from road traffic) to link key destinations and improve walkability within the community, where possible. Priority connections should include:

- a) Centennial Park to the Town Centre "East-West Greenway."
- b) The Town Centre to the Waterfront (connecting through five corners).
- c) Ruth Johnson Park to Bayview Park on Duprez Street.
- d) Centennial Park to South Surrey Indoor Pool.

## **WATERFRONT**

26. Complete a Waterfront Master Plan that includes a conceptual design with distinct nodes, recommendations on upgrading site furnishings, lighting, event space, infrastructure, programming, public access and strategies to manage parking.
27. Support stewardship of the foreshore environment in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area.
28. Support access to human-powered, water-based recreation opportunities such as kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding on Semiahmoo Bay.



## 7 RECREATION

White Rock residents have access to a wide range of opportunities that are offered by the City, the City's partners, other non-profit service providers, the private sector, and the City of Surrey. While this Parks and Recreation Master Plan primarily focuses on programs and facilities provided by the City, it is recognized that the partnerships and a multi-faceted service delivery approach are crucial to the continued success of the system, the satisfaction levels of citizens and ultimately the quality of life in White Rock.

*Walk with your Doc Event 2014 (Source: unknown)*

This set of recommendations acknowledges the current successes and identifies enhancements to the provision of recreation services and facilities. It is based on a detailed analysis of needs, strengths, and challenges for recreation services and facilities that was conducted. This analysis included:

- A review of current best practices and trends in recreation services and facilities (see Section 2.2);
- A community needs assessment based on public engagement including a phone survey, an online survey, stakeholder sessions, and focus group sessions;
- An assessment of the suite of recreation programs offered by the City of White Rock and key partners; and
- An assessment of recreation facilities, including an on-site facility assessments.
- These components all contributed to the development of the recommendations outlined at the end of this section.

## 7.1 RECREATION FACILITIES

### 7.1.1 RECREATION FACILITY PROVISION

An inventory of the existing recreation amenities was conducted to help assess the need for additional facilities and spaces. While this data allows the City of White Rock to evaluate where it stands compared to other communities, it is considered only one piece of the overall assessment of the recreation facilities. It is not intended to be used as a benchmark or recommendation for specific facilities. Each community is unique in its context and specific needs.

The assessment compared of the number of different recreation amenities in the City of White Rock to other communities of similar size, averaged and adjusted to reflect per capita numbers<sup>3</sup>. In addition to facilities provided by the City, the regional amenities in South Surrey are also considered. Following the data are key findings and further discussion around public input and other considerations.

**Table 9: Major Recreation Facility Provision Per Capita**

<b>Amenity or Facility</b>	<b>Average facility provision in similar size communities<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>City of White Rock (Actual)</b>	<b>South Surrey Facilities</b>
Arena Ice Sheets	1.8	1	1
Curling Rinks	0.4	1	0
Full Sized Gymnasiums	0.5	0	3
Indoor Swimming Pools	0.9	0	2

### EXISTING RECREATION FACILITY EVALUATIONS

Walk-throughs and visual architectural assessments were completed for White Rock's recreation and community facilities by Bruce Carscadden of Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects. Additional observations regarding the suitability of the facilities and spaces to support the range of programming were included. The key findings for each facility are described below.

<sup>3</sup> Comparison communities included City of Port Moody, City of Colwood, District of Squamish, District of Oak Bay, City of Langford, and City of Langley. Data collected from <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/> municipal survey on recreation facilities 2013.



**Table 11: Recreation Facility Assessment**

FACILITY	KEY FINDINGS
<p>White Rock Community Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High quality lobby that fosters lounging and social connections</li> <li>▪ Presentation Room</li> <li>▪ Studio</li> <li>▪ Gallery</li> <li>▪ Arts Room</li> <li>▪ Instructional courses, special events, meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Community Centre is integrated into a residential tower in the Town Centre area;</li> <li>▪ The main functions are adult and children’s programs and general fitness programs; the current Art Room is wired for fitness equipment and the lobby is wired for a library kiosk;</li> <li>▪ Programming is limited due to the lack of a gymnasium, fitness equipment or changing rooms;</li> <li>▪ The interior multipurpose room is not very suitable for an art gallery space due to the interior location and low access to natural light;</li> <li>▪ The L-shaped arts and crafts room is generous, but not an efficient use of space;</li> <li>▪ Long-term aspirations could include modification of the layout and openings to improve functionality; and</li> <li>▪ A re-planning exercise could improve space quality and the potential range of uses.</li> </ul>



*White Rock Community Centre  
(credit: unknown)*

## FACILITY

### Kent Street Activity Centre

- The Kent Street Centre offers instructional courses, special events, day trips, volunteer opportunities and services such as Legal Advice and Personal Counseling for adults 55+.

## KEY FINDINGS

- An older two-storey building located within Maccaud Park. Having the facility within the park offers opportunities for outdoor programming;
- Hosts 19 activity groups that primarily focus on seniors; has a long history of outreach to isolated seniors and the kitchen provides healthy meals to all;
- Limited rentals due to high demand for space by KSAC members and historic use; noise also transfers between the smaller rooms;
- Users desire a more spacious eating area (the current kitchen is well-used); and
- Long-term, a new facility would provide an opportunity for a modern, more multifunctional, multigenerational building.



Kent Street Activity Centre (Credit: unknown)



## FACILITY

Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living and the Peace Arch Curling Centre

- Owned by the City and operated in partnership with Fraser Health and Peace Arch Curling Club;
- Recreation & Culture Department has two dedicated spaces for programming – a modest size cardio fitness room and fitness studio;
- Fraser Health Authority operates the higher quality space and another cardio room on the second floor.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living was an addition to the existing curling centre;
- Focus is on rehabilitative exercise for all ages;
- Low floor-to-floor heights and low ceilings in the second floor rooms do not allow for some programming (like step and aerobic classes);
- Poor circulation and limited natural light in some rooms;
- There is no control point at the front of the facility, resulting in a lack of public information/wayfinding and negative operational implications; and
- A space-planning study could address circulation and renovations to address height and access.



*Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living and the Peace Arch Curling Centre (Credit: unknown)*

## FACILITY

Centennial Park Leisure Centre and Arena

## KEY FINDINGS

- The original building was built in 1967 and alterations/ additions were done in the late 1990's. The facility is well maintained and is functioning well;
- High quality ice surface with standard seating for 200 spectators, a large programming room, and a large lobby, and an office with reception and programmer staff;
- There are no anticipated major renovations or changes anticipated over the next 10 years.



Centennial Park Leisure Centre and Arena (Credit: unknown)

## FACILITY

White Rock Museum and Archives

## KEY FINDINGS

- The museum is in a prominent location on the waterfront and promenade. Consideration should be given to improving the entrance from the Promenade to make the Museum more inviting.
- In considering upgrades to Memorial Park, the waterfront, and promenade, there is potential to improve the integration of the Museum into the surrounding public space and perhaps add some permanent outdoor historical interpretive features; and
- Efficiency of event support could be improved by adding storage adjacent to the museum to provide storage for events infrastructure that is currently being transported down to the waterfront for each event.



White Rock Museum & Archives  
(Credit: unknown)

## 7.1.2 RECREATION FACILITY PROVISION KEY FINDINGS

The facility provision data was considered in conjunction with the public engagement input. Key findings regarding the facilities are outlined below. Additional data from the public engagement process is included in Section 3 and Appendix B.

- *Arena Ice Sheets:*
  - While the City of White Rock is slightly below average in terms of the number of arena ice sheets, an analysis of use at the existing Centennial Arena shows there is unused capacity on some late evening ice slots.
  - Public input suggests a lack of demand for a second sheet of ice.
    - Phone Survey Question 6 asked: *What City of White Rock indoor facilities, spaces or programs are lacking or needing improvement in White Rock?* Only 3% mentioned this as an area for improvement in the phone survey (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>). Only 6% of online responses cited this as a need (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>).
    - In the sports stakeholder focus group, those from the minor hockey organizations expressed the desire to have a second sheet to reduce the amount of travel time for players and their families. A suggestion was to use the rental fees spent outside the community to offset the operating costs. However, staff note that current rental data shows that there are 2 nights a week that are available and not rented. A recent business case concluded that in addition to a \$17M capital investment, operating costs would amount to \$1,130,000 a year or a 5.7% tax increase.

### *Curling Rinks:*

- The City of White Rock is above average in the number of curling rinks compared with other similar sized communities.

### *Gymnasiums:*

- A full sized gymnasium is considered a fundamental space in most communities. The



City of White Rock does not have a gymnasium with ancillary uses that can facilitate a wide range of programming aimed specifically at White Rock residents of all ages and abilities. This facility gap limits the range of activities that can happen concurrently for all members of the family. Aside from benefiting families, this type of space can shift to accommodate different uses throughout the day and the week to maximize use, appeal to different age groups and interests, and in the long term as preferences shift.

- There are two elementary school gymnasiums, but they are not accessible during the day and have limited access in the evenings. They are also not adequately sized for adult sports and are not connected to any other recreation services or program spaces.
- There are three gymnasiums in South Surrey, but they are programmed by the City of Surrey with the priority on serving Surrey residents first and foremost.
- Feedback from the public supports the need for a gymnasium. Phone Survey Question 6 asked: *What City of White Rock indoor facilities, spaces or programs are lacking or needing improvement in White Rock?* There was support for a multi-purpose facility or space that could accommodate a wide range of activities including fitness, movement, performing arts, large public meetings, dance, indoor sports, and recreation programs etc. for all ages and abilities. A multipurpose gymnasium ranked first in both phone and online surveys (13% and 18%, respectively).

#### *Indoor Pools:*

- The City of White Rock is slightly below average in terms of the provision of an indoor pool compared to other communities of similar size, but it is well served by the nearby South Surrey Pool and the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre.
- There is some public desire for an indoor pool, but it is not adequate to justify the capital and ongoing operational expenses.

Phone Survey Question 6 asked: *What City of White Rock indoor facilities, spaces or programs are lacking or needing improvement in White Rock?* The desire for an indoor pool was mentioned by 13% of phone survey respondents and 7% of online respondents. This is not seen as adequate support for the City to pursue an indoor pool, given the lack of support from the focus groups, the high capital and operating costs, and the availability of the nearby South Surrey Indoor Pool facility.

### 7.1.3 RECREATION PROGRAMS

Within the City's recreation facilities, there is an extensive range of recreation programs and activities available to White Rock residents including:

- Individual and team sports and activities including ice sports, aquatics, field and court sports;
- Indoor and outdoor active living opportunities that are both formal registered programs (e.g., fitness, pilates, yoga, cooking, etc.) and informal and self-directed (e.g., walking, cycling, etc.);
- Activities for all ages and abilities;
- Arts and cultural activities including visual, performing and literary arts; and
- Special events.

The assessment of recreation programs was based primarily on a review and analysis of data from the recreation department and public engagement input. Knowledge of best practices and current trends was also incorporated, where appropriate.

#### (1) Sports Groups

The City has an important role to play in facilitation by bringing sports groups together to coordinate activities, schedules and seasons. This has the potential to greatly improve use of existing facilities, both indoor and outdoor, and to create clearer lines of communication between groups and the City. Through improved communications, the City can better assess and prioritize user group needs and identify opportunities for complementary programming. By serving as a facilitator, the City can also then efficiently communicate to sports users in terms of maintenance issues and expectations.



## (2) Existing and Emerging Niches

The public, stakeholders, and staff all support the concept of identifying and expanding unique niches that meet the needs of their community, are sustainable, leverage local talent, and add to the regional tapestry of activities. The City, through its partnership with Fraser Health has an existing niche of specialized services for supporting and rehabilitating those who are recovering from an illness or injury. This model is a best practice and one that the City should be very proud of. Other niches that are emerging include sport tourism, off-season sports camps, and arts and culture. White Rock's assets to support a unique sports and fitness niche include mild weather all year round, the waterfront, topography and stairs – all are conducive to unique fitness experiences. Arts and culture is discussed in Section 8.

*Residents support additional spending on City-wide special events (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with 19% support in the phone survey).*

## (3) Removing Barriers to Participation

While the City offers a wide range of recreation programs, there are many in the community who do not currently participate.

### *Lack of Interest*

The public survey results suggest an opportunity to explore new programming areas and, combined with the focus group observations, establish some “niche” programming in areas where entry point programs exist and where there is a business case for more specialized programming within an overall service delivery framework.

### *Financial Accessibility*

While cost was not identified as a major barrier in the public consultation process, a core principle of municipal recreation is inclusivity. For those who have low incomes, feeling apart of the community, learning something new, and feeling a sense of accomplishment and joy, take on an even greater significance. For those who have participated in recreation, they go on to be involved in the community in other ways because of the skills and self-confidence they experienced. Being inclusive is also investment in the health of the community as a whole. When all individuals thrive, the whole community benefits.



*Girls Drop-In Hockey at Centennial Arena (Source: unknown)*

The City is congratulated for its approach to addressing financial barriers to participation. Its Leisure Access program is well publicized in the Leisure Guide. It is available to both White Rock and Surrey residents but the available choices for White Rock residents is greater. In 2015, 116 people were provided financial assistance. The City also provides a variety of free or low-cost activities as well.

#### **(4) Activities for All Ages and Abilities**

Recreation programs will need to continue to strive to serve a larger proportion of older adults who are likely to remain active longer than previous generations. Access to recreation programs can also be a key quality of life factor that will help attract and maintain families. Although children and youth will become a smaller proportion of the population overall, there will be a continued need to provide programs for them.

##### *Family-Centred Opportunities*

While there are informal opportunities for families to recreate together at parks, beaches and special events, there is a need for more formal family-centred opportunities to encourage the health of all family members. Aside from parent and tot programs, most recreation programs are designed for specific age groups and are often not at complementary times nor in the same facility. A strategic approach is to consider the family holistically by coordinating programs for different members of the family.

##### *Intergenerational Opportunities*

Related to family-centred programming is to offer more intergenerational programs. The benefits are reciprocal as both youth and seniors are seen as assets. Youth can provide companionship, technology expertise, and teaching new innovations. Older adults can fill a void for those children without grandparents, animate history, and be tutors, role models and mentors. Intergenerational programs are occurring at Kent Street Activity Centre and staff feel that more activities could be added.

##### *Expanding the use of the Horst and Emmy Werner Centre for Active Living*

One aspect to be explored is the perception that the Centre for Active Living (CAL) is for older adults and seniors only. There is an opportunity to broaden the reach and explore how to maximize the City's programming space in that facility. In addition, the lack

of a reception area in the Centre for Active Living undermines customer service and feeling welcome in that space. Currently, there is no receptionist at CAL. For assistance people must go next door to the Centennial Park Leisure Centre, but receptionists there are not necessarily able to answer questions about CAL.

### (5) Special Events

The number of special events held in White Rock has increased in recent years, which reflects the value the community places on these types of activities. In addition to being fun and helping build community spirit, events also provide an opportunity for local groups to contribute and take ownership for adding to quality of life.

The public showed moderate interest in more city-wide special events, with a slightly higher interest by those who have younger children and those who are single with no children. There was a lower level of support for neighbourhood-based events.

The challenge for staff is the lack of a special events policy and procedure to articulate the type of events that align with the City's goals and the responsibility of staff and organizers in planning and implementing those events.



*Peace Arch Curling Club (Source: unknown)*

#### 7.1.4 RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the previous analyses and work in this section, as well as previous sections, has been incorporated into the following set of recommendations. These represent the most important actions that should be pursued over the next 10 years. Some are continuations of existing practices, which are also important to recognize as part of the overall approach to improving recreation services and facilities in the City.

29. Undertake a functional space gap analysis and planning exercise to improve the capacity and range of activities that can be provided in existing recreation facilities, including more arts and culture programs and events.
30. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the needs of the community in providing a new full-sized gymnasium and indoor event space that cannot be provided at existing indoor recreation facilities.
31. Develop a Special Events Policy and online application process.
32. Find a niche for White Rock specialty recreational programming to differentiate from programs offered in South Surrey and to contribute to the regional service delivery system. Examples include nature programming at the waterfront, sports tourism opportunities, health rehabilitation programs, and intergenerational programming.
33. Improve coordination of programming schedules so that different members of the family can recreate at the same time.
34. Continue to explore opportunities for arts and culture studio and performance spaces in new or existing recreation facilities and private developments.
35. Continue to promote the White Rock Museum and Archives (i.e. through more visible signage, etc.) and explore incorporating heritage programming and small-scale exhibits at other municipal facilities.







## 8 ARTS AND CULTURE

There is a strong arts and culture community in White Rock, and the City has a mandate for continued support and enhancements City-wide, as outlined in the Cultural Strategic Plan 2014-2018. This sector is increasingly recognized as an important part of the suite of leisure activities and programs supported by municipal recreation departments. In White Rock, recreation spaces are an important resource for the arts and culture community, allowing for cost effective entry level programs that can feed into those offered by other agencies including the Semiahmoo Arts Council and Semiahmoo First Nation artists.

*Semiahmoo Arts Council building at Centennial Park (Source: Lees+Associates)*

### ARTS AND CULTURE FACILITIES AND SPACES

The Cultural Strategic Plan recommended identifying new spaces for arts and cultural opportunities and a Public Art Gallery. Opportunities for use of existing recreation facilities and spaces exist, but there are opportunities to retrofit and redesign some of the spaces to better suit arts and culture uses (see *Section 7.1 Recreation Facilities*).

White Rock Elementary School is also a unique asset in the City and warrants additional investigation regarding opportunities and potential partnerships. This school has existing purpose-built arts spaces and instructional expertise.

*Phone Survey Question 1 asked: What recreational, leisure or cultural type of activities or programs do you participate in on a regular basis outside the home? Theatre/music/live performances ranked 2nd in the phone survey (17%) and 4th in the online survey (38%).*

## **ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS**

The Recreation and Culture Department can help contribute to the arts and culture sector in the City by offering more general arts and cultural programs to expose the community to the arts in a welcoming, non-intimidating environment. Should a higher level of skill development be required then residents go to individuals and organizations who offer specialized programs and activities (e.g., Semiahmoo Arts or Semiahmoo First Nation artists).

## **WHITE ROCK MUSEUM**

The Master Plan research and focus groups highlighted the low participation rate and lack of knowledge of the programs and exhibits at the White Rock Museum and Archives. This building used to have a programming room however it was repurposed as part of the 2011 renovation. Raising awareness of the Museum could be achieved by improving signage at the Museum, having small temporary exhibits at civic facilities and using other recreation spaces for heritage programming.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT KEY FINDINGS**

White Rock has a strong arts and culture sector and residents value local opportunities. Phone Survey Question 1 asked: *What recreational, leisure or cultural type of activities or programs do you participate in on a regular basis outside the home?* Theatre/music/live performances ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the phone survey (17%) and 4<sup>th</sup> in the online survey (38%).

The Arts and Culture focus group reiterated the desire for more support for the arts and culture through programs, facilities, and facilitating partnerships and collaboration. They also highlighted the need for a dedicated public art gallery. The Cultural Strategic Plan also recommended identifying new spaces for arts and cultural opportunities and a Public Art Gallery.

## 8.1 ARTS & CULTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations identify opportunities for White Rock's recreation services and facilities to intertwine and further enhance the arts and culture sector.

36. Address actions from the White Rock Cultural Strategic Plan 2014-2018, specifically the following:

- a. Conduct research to determine the demand for a Public Art Gallery.
- b. Request space for arts and cultural activities and events in future municipal recreation building projects.
- c. Request Community Amenity Contribution funds and space for arts, culture and heritage programs, and activities in future private high rise development projects.

37. Develop an "Art in the Parks" plan that identifies opportunities to incorporate art exhibits, public art, and arts festivals into the parks system.

38. Provide additional entry level arts programs in the existing purpose-built arts spaces at White Rock Elementary School and consider dedicating funds to partner with the White Rock Elementary School Fine Arts program.

## 9 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This plan provides recommendations for improvements to the parks and open spaces system over the next 10 years. Council's adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan represents agreement in principle, but is not a commitment to spend. Specific financial decisions are made by Council as part of the defined budget process and over the course of ongoing deliberations. This section includes priorities and costs for the recommendations.

**Priorities** are indicated as 1, 2 or 3, with 1 being the highest priority.

**Phasing** has been indicated as ongoing, short (within 3 years), medium (4-7 years), or long term (beyond 7 years).

**Cost** has been identified where an action is likely to require capital costs or a significant budget allocation for external consultants or specialists. If no costs are indicated, the recommendations are expected to be completed by existing staff by incorporating them into work plans. Projects with the potential to be funded through the Development Cost Charges or Community Amenity Contribution programs have also been identified.



	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
<b>Service Delivery Recommendations</b>							
1. Adopt and refer to the Service Delivery Framework when making program, service, facility, and special event decisions.	1	Short	-	-	-	-	
2. Continue to collect and analyse data on recreation programs, services, facility use, and special events to inform decision-making.	1	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	Include data collection protocols as part of the implementation of the approved software program upgrade.
<b>Partnership Recommendations</b>							
3. Collaborate with the City of Surrey on planning new recreation facilities (including arenas, pools, performing arts centres, etc.) and monitoring regional recreation facility demand.	1	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	Developing and managing relationships with partners requires staff time.
4. Partner with School District No. 36 to improve access the public open spaces and recreation opportunities at schools in White Rock.	1	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	Develop a relationship with school principals and identify other key contacts.
5. Continue to work with Fraser Health and the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation on services, networks, events and the built environment to foster health and wellness.	2	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	
6. Work with volunteer groups, non-profits, and nature groups to promote stewardship of the environment.	2	Ongoing	Staff Time \$5,000 annual grant	\$1,000 annually	-	-	
7. Work with publically supported recreation facilities such as the White Rock Lawn Bowling Club, Mann Park Lawn Bowling Club, and the White Rock Tennis Club to identify opportunities to use their indoor and outdoor spaces for other recreation programs and events.	3	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	
8. Consider public-private partnerships to use existing or future commercial space for recreation, arts, and culture programs throughout the community.	3	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	
9. Consider establishing a White Rock/South Surrey Sports Council with members from different sports leagues to coordinate seasons, schedules, resources and programming.	3	Short / Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	

	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
<b>Parks and Trails Recommendations</b>							
<b>Parkland and Amenities</b>							
10. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy to address the main gaps in the existing parks system.	1	Short	Staff Time; Consider additional operational costs of new parklands and amenities	\$10 Million over 10 years	Yes	Yes	*Explore recommended connections and locations for new park lands. *Develop a strategy for the creation of public spaces and connections through acquisition or other means.
11. Create more public gathering places where people can meet, people watch, host small events, or have buskers at locations such as the Town Centre, Memorial Park, Terry Parr Plaza, and the Civic Centre.	1	Short	Identify required operational costs on a project by project basis.	\$100,000-300,000 depending on size and design			
12. Implement a Playground Renewal Program. Incorporate more opportunities for active and passive play for different ages of children and youth through the park system. Incorporate elements that encourage exploration of nature, music, the senses, imaginative play, and physical literacy.							
a) Establish a schedule for regular renewal and replacement of existing playgrounds.	1	Short / Ongoing	Additional operational budgets may be needed as the play amenities change/increase.	Standard playground renewal/replacement cost is \$50,000-75,000	-	Yes	
b) Renovate the existing play space in Ruth Johnson Park to an all-ages and all-abilities playground. Incorporate artistic elements such as a climbable sculpture, unique seating, or a mural.	1	Short	\$10,000 annually	\$225,000 plus land and ongoing maintenance	-	Yes	
c) Integrate a nature play space into an existing underutilized park such as Maccaud Park, Bryant Park, or Emerson Park.	2	Medium	Incorporate into existing operational budgets.	\$50,000	-	Yes	
d) Incorporate a spray park or water play features into an existing underutilized park or into a new urban plaza in the Town Centre.	3	Medium		\$250,000	-	Yes	
13. Replace aging park furnishings throughout the park system with city-wide standards that are attractive, durable, safe, and sustainable. Demonstrate best practices by including garbage, recycling, and compost receptacles.	2	Short Term Plan / Ongoing Implementation	Staff time to inventory, determine new standards, and plan replacement schedule	TBD based on a complete inventory and replacement furniture selection.	-	Yes	Staff to complete an inventory of existing furnishings and develop standards and implementation schedule. Tag on to other planning and upgrade projects, such as the Memorial Park project, where possible.
14. Develop wayfinding and information signage standards to complement the existing large park name signs.	2	Medium	Staff Time	Design Costs \$20,000	-	-	



	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
15. Develop online resources and digital tools to communicate parks and trail information and enhance the experience for residents and visitors.	2	Medium	Staff Time	Online Tool Development \$25,000	-	-	
16. Complete a feasibility study/business plan for upgrading the field at Centennial Park including multi-sport artificial turf and new lighting to increase capacity and year-round use.	2	Medium	Include a long term operations and maintenance plan in the planning and design process.	\$2.2 million	-	Yes	Capital costs would only apply if the feasibility study/business case demonstrated value and sustainability.
17. Incorporate community gardens into underutilized spaces throughout the City as public demand and volunteer resources allow. Ensure sufficient use-agreements are in place. (Consider: City Hall, road ends, vacant properties, boulevards, portions of parking lots, parkade roofs, and underutilized parkland such as Davey Park, Gage Park, Stager Park, and Lower Finlay Park.)	2	Short Term Initiation, Ongoing Implementation	Primary responsibility for operations will be garden users. Incorporate Staff support into existing operational budgets.	-	-	-	*Point community garden organizers toward external funding opportunities.
18. Explore opportunities to provide a second dog off-leash area to serve the east side of the City.	2	Medium	Incorporate into existing operational budgets.	\$30,000	-	-	Undertake additional consultation with dog owners and local neighbourhoods to determine if there is an appropriate location.
<b>Park Maintenance and Management</b>							
19. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan and control priority invasive species in parks.	1	Short	Additional operational budgets may be needed.	\$10,000	-	-	
20. Develop a Tree Management Plan that includes pruning guidelines, species selection guidelines, and new strategies for improving street tree health. Coordinate tree management with recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan.	1	Short	Staff Time; Additional operational budgets may be needed.	-	-	-	
21. Continue to improve ongoing maintenance standards, set maintenance priorities, and ensure that maintenance standards and park resources are synchronized.	1	Ongoing	Additional operational budgets may be needed.	-	-	-	
22. Where possible, design planting areas with low maintenance landscape needs (i.e. more naturalized plantings, low mowing requirements, drought-tolerant, etc.).	2	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	
<b>Trails</b>							
23. Adopt trail standards for nature trails, multi-use trails, and fully-accessible trails. Upgrade existing trails throughout the park system to meet the new standards.	1	Short Term Planning, Ongoing Implementation	Staff Time required for planning.	TBD based on established standards	Yes	Yes	Review trail standards from other Lower Mainland municipalities and select appropriate trail typologies. Inspect existing trails and determine the appropriate trail standard that applies.
24. Upgrade stairs and bridges throughout the parks system to improve safety and accessibility.	1	Short Term Planning, Ongoing Implementation	As above.	TBD based on existing conditions and new trail standards	Yes	Yes	Develop a schedule for routine inspections and maintenance. Incorporate life-cycle replacement costs into the annual budget.

	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
25. Develop new urban trails/greenways (separated from road traffic) to link key destinations and improve walkability within the community, where possible. Priority connections should include:	1	Short Term Planning	Identify required operational costs on a project by project basis.	\$30,000 for a Greenways Feasibility and Concept Plan	Yes	Yes	Parks and Engineering should work closely together to achieve greenways that also function as linear parks and align with other recommendations. 4.0m asphalt pathway @ ~\$50,000 per 100m (Comparison: West Vancouver Spirit Trail)
a) Centennial Park to the Town Centre "East-West Greenway."	1	Short Term planning and initiation with implementation as opportunities occur.	-	-	Yes	Yes	This is the key East-West connection.
b) The Town Centre to the Waterfront (connecting through five corners).	1	Short Term planning and initiation with implementation as opportunities occur.	-	-	Yes	Yes	This is a key connection for local residents and visitors from the Town Centre to the Waterfront.
c) Ruth Johnson Park to Bayview Park on Duprez Street.	2	Medium	-	-	Yes	Yes	Related to waterfront improvements. ~ 2 block require improved signage and pedestrian amenities.
d) Centennial Park to South Surrey Indoor Pool, in partnership with the City of Surrey.	2	Medium	-	-	-	-	Partner with the City of Surrey.
<b>Waterfront</b>							
26. Complete a Waterfront Master Plan that includes a conceptual design with distinct nodes, recommendations on upgrading site furnishings, lighting, event space, infrastructure, programming, public access and strategies to manage parking.	1	Short	Staff Time plus \$60,000 for an external consultant	\$60,000	-	Yes	Capital projects will arise through the Waterfront Master Plan process that can be achieved through CAC's.
27. Support stewardship of the foreshore environment in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area.	1	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	Enlist the knowledge and interest of local residents, especially youth. Identify opportunities within current and future waterfront projects.
28. Support access to human-powered, water-based recreation opportunities such as kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding on Semiahmoo Bay.	3	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	-	Establish policies and identify appropriate locations.

	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
<b>Recreation Recommendations</b>							
29. Undertake a functional space gap analysis and planning exercise to improve the capacity and range of activities that can be provided in existing recreation facilities, including more arts and culture programs and events.	1	Short	Staff Time plus \$10,000 for an architectural consultant	Capital projects could be identified.	-	Yes	*Conduct an inventory of current spaces and functions; *Determine the highest and best use of existing spaces; *Determine what functions aren't being adequately met in existing facilities; *Develop a strategy for adding spaces that address the gap in function, including incorporating into the CAC Policy.
30. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the needs of the community in providing a full sized gymnasium and indoor event space that cannot be provided at existing indoor recreation facilities.	1	Short	-	\$30,000	-	Yes	Consider a variety of site options and strategies. Construction for a full sized gymnasium would likely be \$10-15 million.
31. Develop a Special Events Policy and online application process.	1	Ongoing	Integrated into staff's work plan, but recognize the trade-offs with other staff requirements.	-	-	-	
32. Find a niche for White Rock specialty recreational programming to differentiate from programs offered in South Surrey and to contribute to the regional service delivery system. Examples include nature programming at the waterfront, sports tourism opportunities, health rehabilitation programs, and intergenerational programming.	1	Ongoing	A majority of this recommendation could be done in house as long as it is integrated into staff's work plan.	~ \$20,000 for a Sports Tourism Strategy			Consider a Sports Tourism Strategy
33. Improve coordination of programming schedules so that different members of the family can recreate at the same time.	1	Short, Ongoing	Staff Time to keep schedules up to date	-	-	-	Coordination between facilities and exploration of activities at other nearby facilities.
34. Continue to explore opportunities for arts and culture studio and performance spaces in new or existing recreation facilities.	2	Ongoing	Staff Time	-	-	Yes	
35. Continue to promote the White Rock Museum and Archives (i.e. through more visible signage, etc.) and explore incorporating heritage programming and small-scale exhibits at other municipal facilities.	3	Ongoing	-	-	-	-	

	Priority	Timeline Short = 2020 Medium = 2027 Long = Beyond 2027	Operational Costs	Capital Costs (soft and hard costs)	Potential for funding through DCCs	Potential for funding through CACs	General Notes
<b>Arts &amp; Culture Recommendations</b>							
36. Address actions from the White Rock Cultural Strategic Plan 2014-2018, specifically the following:							
a) Conduct research to determine the demand for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a Public Art Gallery.	1	Medium	-	\$30,000	-	Yes	An arts and culture facility could become part of the CAC Policy.
b) Request space for arts and cultural activities and events in future municipal recreation building projects.	1	Medium	-	Combine with above	-	Yes	A public art gallery could become part of the CAC Policy.
c) Request Community Amenity Contribution funds and space for arts, culture and heritage programs, and activities in future private high rise development projects.	1	Medium	Staff Time	-	-	Yes	New arts and culture spaces could become part of the CAC Policy.
37. Develop an "Art in the Parks" plan that identifies opportunities to incorporate art exhibits, public art, and arts festivals into the parks system.	1	Short	Staff Time to plan and manage grant funding	\$10,000	-	Yes	Outdoor public art is identified in the updated CAC Policy. Support Art in Parks through City grants, matching funds, and in particular with extra funds in the first year of an activity or project.
38. Provide additional entry level arts programs in the existing purpose-built arts spaces at White Rock Elementary School and consider dedicating funds to partner with the White Rock Elementary School Fine Arts program.	2	Medium	TBD	TBD	-	-	Develop a relationship with the school principal and identify other key contacts.

## 10 GLOSSARY

**Active transportation** – Any form of human-powered transportation, such as walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding.

**Barrier** – Barriers can be physical impediments or something immaterial that prevents participation in recreation or use of parks and trails.

**Best Management Practices (BMP)** – A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark.

**Boulevard** - Boulevards are municipally-owned lands within or adjacent to the road right-of-ways. They provide character to the neighbourhood, but have little potential for development of park amenities.

**City Park** – These are destination parks that draw people from the municipality and the region. They embody the character and identity of the municipality and are the most well-known and recognized features of the parks system.

**Greenway** – A linear area maintained as open space to conserve natural and cultural resources, provide recreational opportunities, support active transportation, and connect key destinations. Greenways often serve several purposes, including provision of wildlife corridors, multi-use or single-track trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities. In the City of White Rock, greenways are typically separated from vehicular traffic.

**Health** – Is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

**Levels of Service** – Is an expression of the essential ingredients needed to provide the level of park and recreation services desired by the community.

**Multi-use trail** – Hard-surface, off-road routes for recreation and active transportation by a variety of user groups such as walkers, runners, cyclists, and in-line skaters.

**Nature trail** – Natural-surface (dirt) trails within natural parks and open spaces primarily for recreational purposes for walking and connecting to nature.

**Neighbourhood Park** – These parks provide small play and gathering spaces, ideally within a maximum 5 minute walk from a residence. Amenities should respond to the demographics and needs of the catchment area (~400 meter radius).

**Open Space** – Green space used for passive recreation and visual amenity including undeveloped forests, stream ravines, and other environmental areas. There are generally few opportunities for development of built park amenities.

**Park amenities** – Physical structures and formalized spaces that increase the benefits of a park for the community such as playgrounds, furniture, picnic shelters, playing fields, and sports courts.

**Recreation** – Is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

**Recreation facility** – Buildings and spaces that support indoor recreation in the community such as community centres, gymnasiums, ice rinks, and aquatic centres.

**Service Delivery Framework** – Outlines service levels based upon different sized catchment areas based primarily on population and geography and outlines the types of facilities and programs that best serve the catchment population. The framework recognizes the interdependent, regional context and provides a rationale for making future decisions based on a continuum of services levels. The overarching goal of the framework is to provide the greatest benefit to local residents.

**Walkway** – In White Rock, these are the pedestrian walkways and stairs that provide connections for pedestrians between the north part of the City and the waterfront.

**Wellbeing** – The presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression, focused on but not necessarily exclusive to: good living standards, robust health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, an educated populace, balanced time use, high levels of democratic participation, and access to and participation in recreation and culture.







