

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE FACILITIES CHAPTER?

This chapter focuses on the recreational, social and cultural services provided by built structures such as community centres, pools, ice rinks, field houses, VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservancy.



CHAPTER 4: FACILITIES

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Painting Class, 1950's | CoV Archives

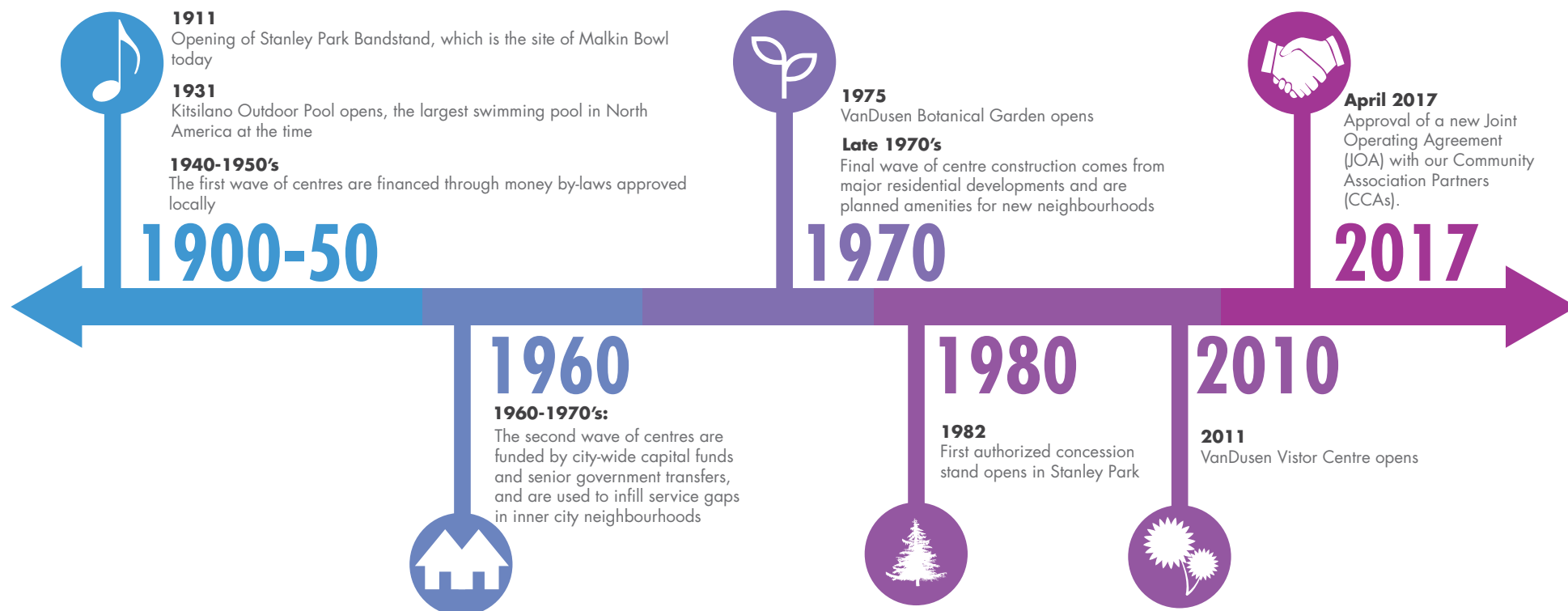


Vancouver Aquatic Centre, 1980's | CoV Archives



2010 Olympics Opening Ceremony | Sue + Martin Curtis

FACILITIES TIMELINE



BACKGROUND

SYSTEM CONTEXT

Across Vancouver, hundreds of recreational, social and cultural facilities serve the city's 22 diverse neighbourhoods.

These critical community facilities include community centres, fieldhouses, concessions, washrooms, seniors centres, pools, rinks, marinas, docks, the Jericho sailing centre, operations centres and greenhouses, Bloedel Conservatory, VanDusen garden, and Stanley Park pavilion, among others.

Over seventy years ago, local and community-minded individuals set out to implement a vision to ensure all residents had access to recreational facilities in their community. As a result, Vancouver has 24 community centres with pools, rinks, fitness centres, meeting rooms, libraries, and childcare with programs for people of all ages and abilities to play, exercise, learn, and connect with others in their neighbourhood.

Each of Vancouver's community centres serves as the hub of its respective neighbourhood, linking residents together with resources to encourage positive health outcomes through healthy lifestyles, social connectedness and the ability to contribute to community.

Community Centre Associations

One of the unique aspects of Vancouver's recreation service delivery model is the critical role that Community Centre Associations (CCAs) have played, in partnership with the Park Board, over the last 50–60 years. This long and rich historic relationship between the Park Board and CCAs gives facilities a heart and soul with a unique grounding in neighborhood culture.

CCAs provide access to quality, responsive programming and services to encourage healthy lifestyles through participation in physical, recreational, cultural, educational, social and capacity-building programs for residents of the community.

KEY TERMS

community centre

A place where people from a particular community can meet for social, educational or recreational activities; facility is owned and maintained by the City of Vancouver + Park Board and most are jointly operated by Community Centre Associations (CCAs)

community hub

A space that provides a focal point and facilities to foster greater local community activity and brings residents, local businesses, and community organizations together to improve quality of life

Community Centre Association

a valuable community-based society incorporated under the Societies Act with an elected Board of Directors that plays an important role in contributing to the success of the community centre network, including by delivering programming and services which ensure a healthy, engaged and inclusive community

BACKGROUND

SYSTEM CONTEXT

This distinctive collaboration keeps the community in our community centres. The partnership between the Park Board and the CCAs, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are outlined through a “Joint Operating Agreement” (JOA).

In general terms, community centre programming is determined and delivered by the CCAs. The operation of the centre, including maintenance, provision of core facility staffing and all overhead costs, as well as the operation and programming of pools and ice rinks, is the responsibility of the Park Board. For the full breakdown of roles and responsibilities for the operation of community centres please see the JOA (October, 2017)

In April 2017, after a year-long consultation, the Park Board approved a new JOA which expresses a city wide approach to quality recreation and access for all.

Foundational Principles:

- **Equity among Community Centres:** All Vancouver citizens have access to a core set of programs that lead to healthy living and ultimately, to healthy communities.
- **Access to a Network of Community Centres:** System that allows for a universal membership or other system to be used for all rinks, pools, fitness centres and core programs across all community centres.
- **Access for all Citizens:** Single policy and process that respects confidentiality to ensure all residents have access to basic recreation programs and services regardless of income.
- **Operational Sustainability and Accountability:** An operating relationship for community centres that is sustainable, accountable and transparent.

Progress. Improvement. Equity. Respect. These values are at the heart of the new arrangement with these valued community partners. They are grounded in the Park Board’s principles of equity and access, operational sustainability and accountability.

City of Vancouver - Real Estate and Facilities Management

The City of Vancouver's Real Estate and Facilities Management (REFM) department delivers many management and maintenance services to the Park Board as outlined in a Partnership Agreement (in place since 2014, revised in 2016). This agreement allows for a consolidation of services relating to facilities across the city, under one management structure. For the Park Board, this includes community centres, senior’s centres, pools, service yards, fieldhouses, golf course buildings, marinas, concessions and washrooms.

The Partnership Agreement outlines how REFM delivers services to the Park Board across its four main departments: Real Estate Services, Facilities Planning and Development, Facilities Operations, Strategic Operations and Program Management. For example;

- Facilities Planning and Development is responsible for managing new facilities and renewals, coordinating building upgrades (including energy retrofit projects to improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions), major maintenance projects and together with the Park Board, co-leads strategic planning for investment in facilities.
- Facilities Operations is responsible for the operation and maintenance of buildings including inspection, operation, maintenance and repair of building systems and equipment.

For the full scope of services provided to the Park Board by REFM please see Appendix.



Hillcrest Community Centre | Park Board



Trout Lake Community Centre Ice Rink | Park



Roundhouse Community Arts + Recreation Centre | Park Board



Mount Pleasant Community Centre | Park Board



Visitor Centre at VanDusen | Park Board



Creekside Community Centre

RELATED INITIATIVES

- Making Space for Arts and Culture: Cultural Infrastructure Plan – ongoing, 2018
- Creative City Strategy – ongoing, 2018
- VanSplash: Aquatic Strategy – ongoing
- Social Infrastructure Plan – ongoing
- Resilience Strategy – ongoing
- Renewable City Strategy – 2016
- Park Board 11 Reconciliation Strategies – 2016
- City of Reconciliation Framework – 2014
- Healthy City Strategy – 2014
- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan – 2011
- Housing and Homelessness Strategy – 2011
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – 2011
- Sport for Life: Vancouver Sport Strategy – 2008
- Cultural Facilities Key Gap Update – 2008
- Community Centre Renewal Plan—2001
- OnWater: Vancouver's Non-motorised Watercraft Strategy - ongoing, 2018
- High-Density Housing for Families with Children Guidelines – 1992

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- The mostly highly rated park and recreation amenity in terms of user satisfaction was gardens such as Van Dusen and Dr Sun Yat Sen.
- 75 % reported being satisfied with community centres
- Most survey respondents said that they use community centre facilities (73%), close to half (46%) go every week, 23% every month and 21% every few months.
- Of those that use community centre programs, 49% participated every week. The majority of respondents (75%) were satisfied with the programs.
- Survey respondents and CCA representatives highlighted the need to prioritise senior's centres, spaces in community centres such as senior's lounges, in addition to multigenerational shared spaces.

OPPORTUNITIES

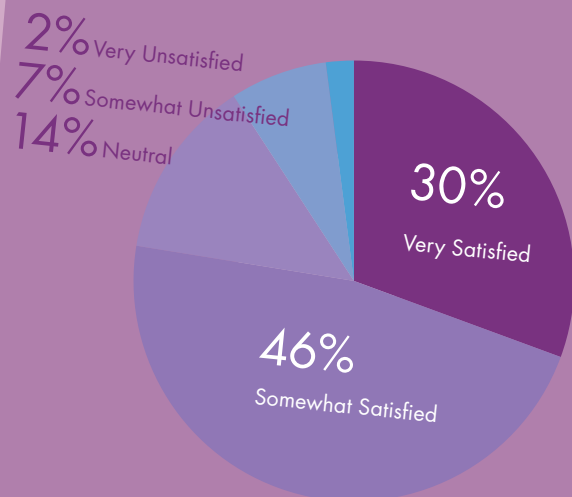
- VanPlay tour participants were keen for the Park Board to address the equitable delivery of access to facilities across the city. Many big ideas shared related to good access, close to home.
- Many residents and stakeholders (including the CCAs representatives) shared how important green space adjacent to facilities is. This co-location is valuable to the community as a space for programming, events, and as a space which enables people to connect and socialise before and after amenity use.

- The second most common desire heard from the Urban Explorers (child & youth engagement in planning project) was for more affordable and variable food sources in parks and public spaces. They suggested more opportunities to grow food and sell fresh produce alongside a call for more concession stands, ice cream stores and farmers markets.
- The survey responses indicated that whilst gardens (such as Van Dusen and Bloedel) received the highest satisfaction rate (62% as 'very satisfied'). However where the most infrequently used (34% responded that they go every few months) which highlights an opportunity to encourage more frequent visits.
- On the lookout for coffee! Many VanPlay tour participants were keen to see more opportunities to find food and drink in, near or overlooking parks.

CHALLENGES

- Workshops with youth leaders shared their need for more youth spaces in community centres and other facilities. Youth spaces are often too small to be functional.
- Whilst out at many parks and community events during the VanPlay tour a frequent topic of conversation was the need for basic park facilities such as accessible, safe and clean washrooms and fresh drinking water.
- The CCA representatives and survey respondents highlighted the challenge of responding to the needs of changing demographics (aging, multi-lingual populations) in the planning and management of facilities.
- Not being able to walk, cycle or take transit to all centres was a commonly cited challenge by VanPlay Tour participants.
- The renewal and renovation of aging community centres is top of mind for both the Community Centre Association representatives and VanPlay Tour participants. This was also raised prominently in the engagement for the Grandview Woodland, Marpole and the West End Community Plans (all three of the community plan engagement summaries reviewed).

COMMUNITY SURVEY TAKEAWAY



SATISFACTION LEVEL WITH COMMUNITY CENTRES



PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

Community engagement for VanSplash, the draft Aquatics Strategy, highlighted the need for space and activities that enable people to connect and socialize before, during and after aquatic amenity use.

FOCUS AREAS

EMERGING QUESTIONS

EQUITY, INCLUSION + ACCESS:

This was the top priority of the public in terms of what is most important to address in the next 25 years. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities regarding equity, inclusion and access amongst community centres? What are affordable services for all? What populations are currently unwelcome or feel unwelcome? What does the public perceive of as barriers now?

IMPROVING FACILITIES +

SERVICES: this was a top priority of the public in terms of what is most important to address in the next 25 years. What programs and services does the community desire?

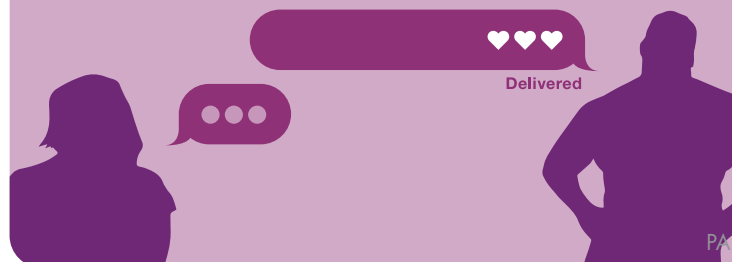
VANPLAY TOUR TAKEAWAY

Food, water and washrooms are critical facilities which allow more people to spend longer enjoying parks, playing sport and being outside.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Co-location of recreation and community facilities with libraries and schools presents a great opportunity to create vibrant, efficient, destinations that are integrated into every day life.



VanPlay

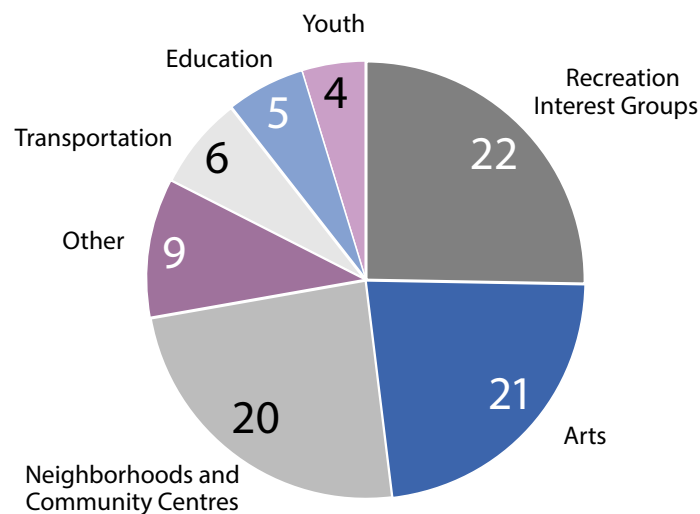
A VANPLAY DEEP DIVE

Between February and April 2018, key stakeholder groups were invited to engage in the VanPlay process through the “VanPlay Deep Dive”, reaching over 345 members of key stakeholder groups that completed 64 “VanPlay Deep Dive” workbooks.

The goals of the VanPlay Deep Dive are:

- To better understand Vancouver’s parks and recreation system by mapping out and celebrating the diverse networks of amenities, programs, services, and experiences that stakeholders contribute to in Vancouver
- To identify who is involved in leading, sharing and supporting these diverse services
- To shape the future by setting principles and goals which reflect what a successful future looks like
- To identify the actions and resources needed to achieve goals

Groups Who Participated in Deep Dive Engagement



STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT STATE OF FACILITIES

Through the VanPlay Deep Dive, 774 comments were gathered on the current state of parks and recreation. The diagram on the facing page reflects findings from stakeholders on the current state of the recreation and facilities network, what broad topics are top of mind to these stakeholders. The lines map out who the Deep Dive stakeholders see as providers of these recreation services and facilities.

Specific facilities of special interest to the Deep Dive participants include:

- Dance studios
- Fitness centres
- Ice rinks
- Aquatic recreation (recently addressed in VanSplash)

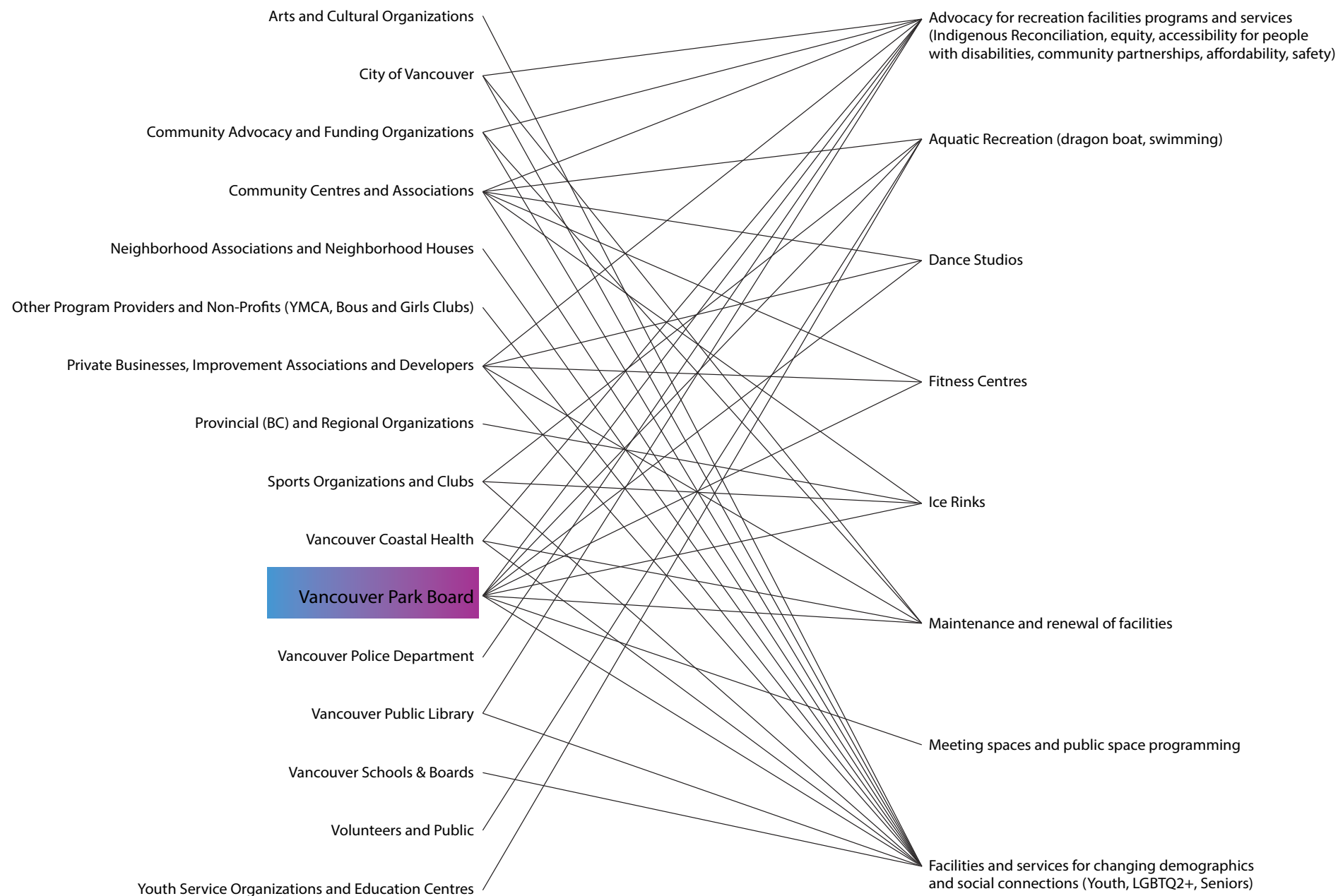
For the full Deep Dive report, please see the appendix.

WHAT THIS DIAGRAM (OPPOSITE) TELLS US



For recreation facilities, stakeholders identified the Park Board and Community Centre Associations as both playing lead roles in providing parks and access to parks among others in a complex network.

DEEP DIVE FINDINGS SUMMARY: FACILITIES SERVICES AND PROVIDERS

**SERVICE PROVIDERS
IDENTIFIED BY STAKEHOLDERS**
**STAKEHOLDER SELECTED
DISCUSSION TOPICS**


SOURCE: Vanplay Phase 3 Summary Report: Direction – Citywide

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

RANGE OF SERVICES

Vancouver's 24 community centres provide three categories of essential services to the community.

- **SOCIAL:** Community Centres are integral to local neighbourhoods and provide a third space for people to congregate between work and home. Run by CCAs, these facilities provide welcome through inclusive changing rooms, spaces that can function as disaster hubs, safe spaces that offer showers or warming rooms for Vancouver's homeless population, event space, childcare facilities or healthy kitchens.
- **CULTURAL:** Community Centres offer a wide range of arts and cultural programs from the public art murals that adorn many facades, performances, art classes, potter studios, theatre classes, artist residencies, cultural landmarks, and festivals.
- **RECREATIONAL:** Community Centres provide places to play: gymnasiums, fitness centres, aquatic facilities, multi-purpose rooms, ice rinks, dancing and yoga studios, paddling launches, climbing walls, indoor cycling equipment and playground spaces.



Round House Winter Solstice Festival | Park Board



Inclusive changing rooms in Vancouver's community centres | Park Board



All Bodies Dance | Judith Guzman

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: ACCESS

COMMUNITY CENTRE INVENTORY

While the community centres are roughly distributed in each of Vancouver's neighborhoods, if no new community centres are added in the next 25 years, the facilities per capita metric will decline.

An inventory per population is a useful baseline, but does not evaluate the quality of facilities nor availability of services, demand or capacity. In addition to recreation, the facilities provide cultural and social experiences, from mahjong to watercolouring. Given the cost of land and Vancouver's landlocked location, the existing community centre spaces are a scarce resource and will need to be carefully maintained, thoughtfully renewed and expanded when possible.

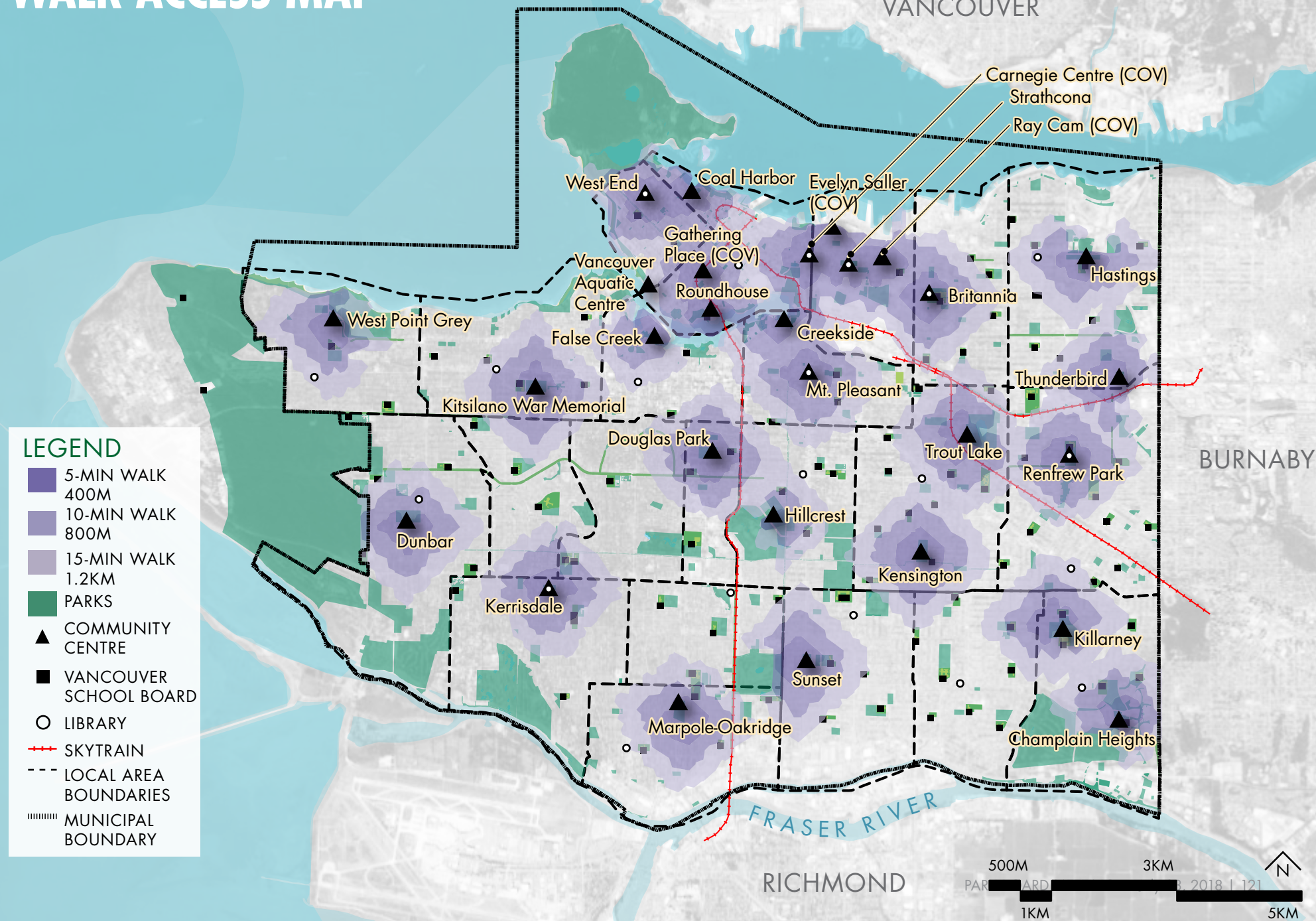
INVENTORY WITH PROJECTED POPULATION

	2017	2021	2041
Population	631,486	685,000	776,500
# of Community Centre Facilities	24	24	24
Community Centres Per Capita (# facilities/10,000 residents)	0.4	0.4	0.3
Density (Persons per sq. km.)	5,493	5,958	6,754
Vancouver Land Area	115 sq. km.		

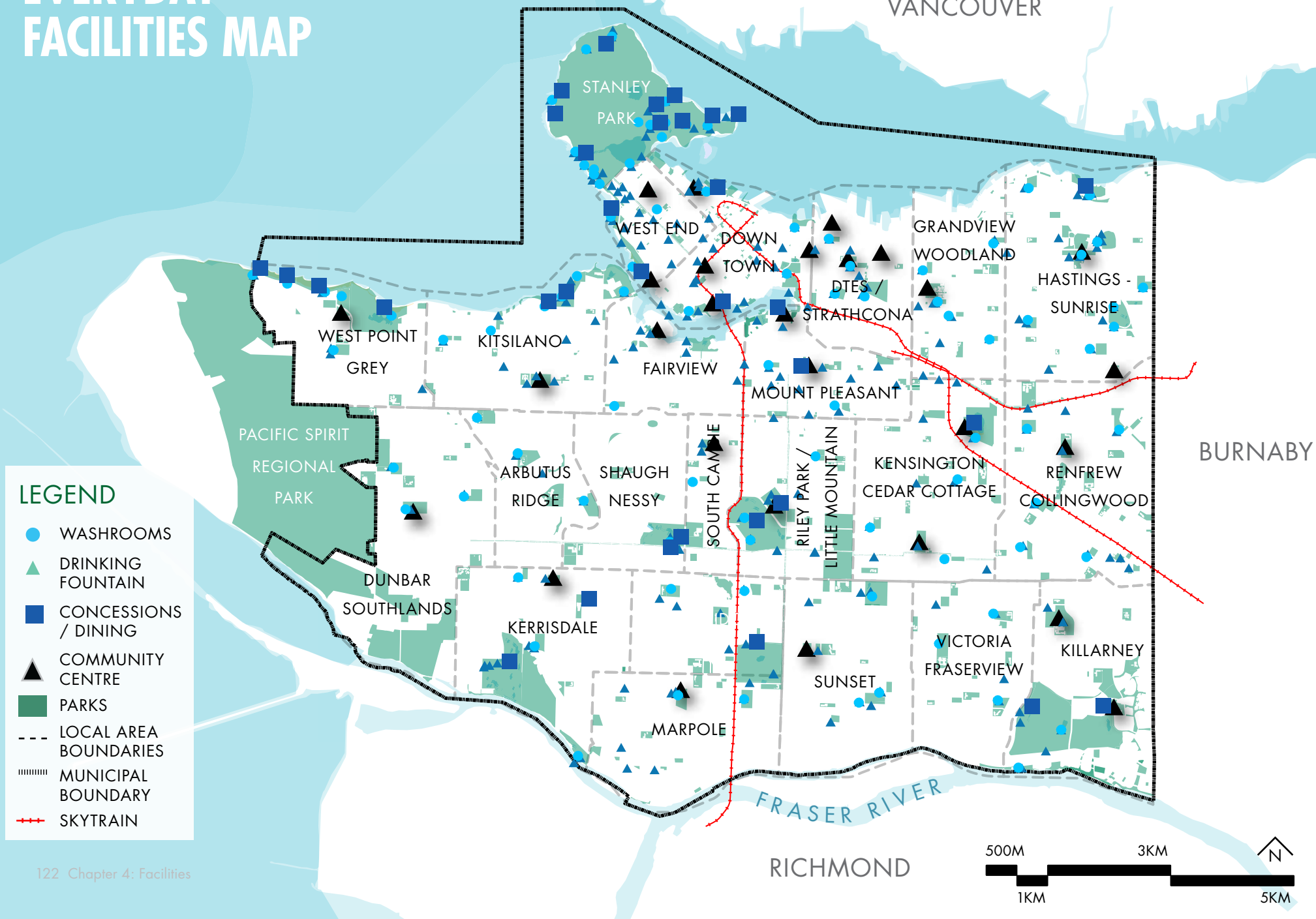


Photos clockwise from top: Child care services at Ray-Cam Community Centre | Park Board; Mount Pleasant Community Centre Climbing Wall | VanPlay Video Photo; Dancing the Parenting project with Foolish operations 2015 | Park Board - Arts, Culture & Engagement Team

COMMUNITY CENTRE WALK ACCESS MAP



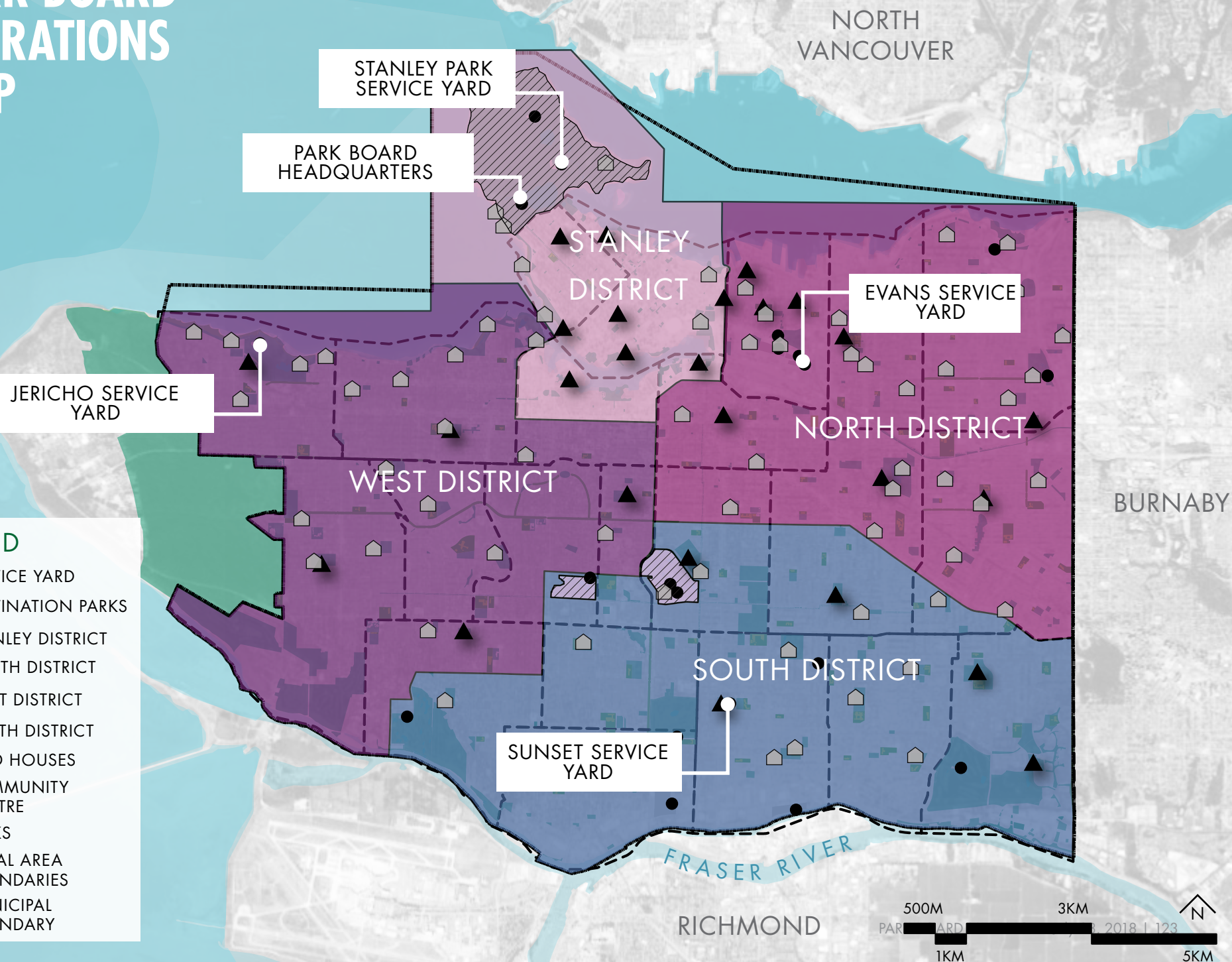
PARK BOARD EVERYDAY FACILITIES MAP



PARK BOARD OPERATIONS MAP

LEGEND

- SERVICE YARD
- ▨ DESTINATION PARKS
- STANLEY DISTRICT
- NORTH DISTRICT
- WEST DISTRICT
- SOUTH DISTRICT
- ▤ FIELD HOUSES
- ▲ COMMUNITY CENTRE
- PARKS
- LOCAL AREA BOUNDARIES
- ||||| MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: FUNDING FACILITIES

The Park Board partners with the City's Real Estate and Facilities Management Department to build and maintain recreation facilities and park buildings. Capital funding is used for full renewal and development of new recreation facilities as well as major renovations, whereas operating funds look after maintenance, staffing and other costs for the ongoing care of these assets. Various sources and methods finance the City's capital and operating budgets. Facility-related funding sources and mechanisms are described below.

OPERATING

Staff, operations, and the maintenance of existing assets is primarily funded through property taxes and revenue.

Revenue:

The Park Board generates roughly \$42.4M (2017) of revenues from entities such as concessions and user fees, providing roughly 34.5% of the necessary funding to operate a balanced budget.

The Park Board receives approximately \$30.2M each year in revenue from facility uses such as entrance fees at Van Dusen, Bloedel and the Stanley Park train, moorage fees at marinas, purchases at concession stands, leases for buildings in parks, city-wide recreation programming and admissions (rinks, pools, Park Board run fitness centres etc.), and recreation facility rentals. This revenue makes up a quarter of the total Park Board operating budget*.

CAPITAL

New facilities, such as the development of new community centres, pools and other rinks, are funded primarily through Community Amenity Contributions.

With the renewal of existing facilities, such as community centres, only the growth-related portion for the facilities is eligible for CAC funding. The remainder must come from other sources.

Community Plans include a Public Benefit Strategy which identifies amenity needs such as parks and community centres, to support the projected density and urban form described in the community plan. DCL funds (as per the Vancouver Charter) can only be used for acquiring park land, providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms, playground and playing field equipment on park land - they cannot be used to fund new facilities.

Community Amenity Contributions:

CACs are contributions provided by developers (either in-kind or payments in lieu), negotiated during rezoning, such as new parks, recreation centers, fire halls, and libraries to provide amenities to service the new population. New facilities on lands rezoned for development are typically community amenity contributions.

Partner contributions:

These can include cash contributions from other governments (federal, provincial and regional), non-profit agencies, foundations and philanthropists. Partner contributions can fund existing or new infrastructure amenities.

*2018 Park Board Operating Budget \$122M, funded by \$59.5M in revenues and \$63M from tax-based operating funds.

PRIORITISING RESOURCES

Vancouver saw a boom of building civic facilities in the 60s, 70s and 80s, the majority of the community centres in operation today are the legacy of this investment. Many of these facilities, 84% of all the community centres, without interim repair, could require significant investment or replacement within the next 10 years.

In 2001 the Park Board prepared a Community Centre Renewal Plan which considered building condition assessments, a 10 year major maintenance schedule, and building by-law audits and seismic studies, and qualitative data from staff and CCAs on the programmability and operational functionality of facilities, to prioritise renewal of community centres.

An update to the document is on the radar for Park Board staff. When commenced the process will rely heavily on our CCA partners, recreation staff and the community to ensure all perspectives are considered when determining both optimum level of service and priority.

FACILITY CONDITION INDEX 2016

One quantitative tool available in the complex analysis of community centre renewal planning and prioritisation is the facility condition index (FCI).

FCI is a benchmark that facility managers utilise to compare and contrast the condition of one facility against another facility or group of properties, in an effort to gauge the current and future condition of a building.

For example when determining the FCI of a community centre; the cost of the community centre's repair and renewal needs are

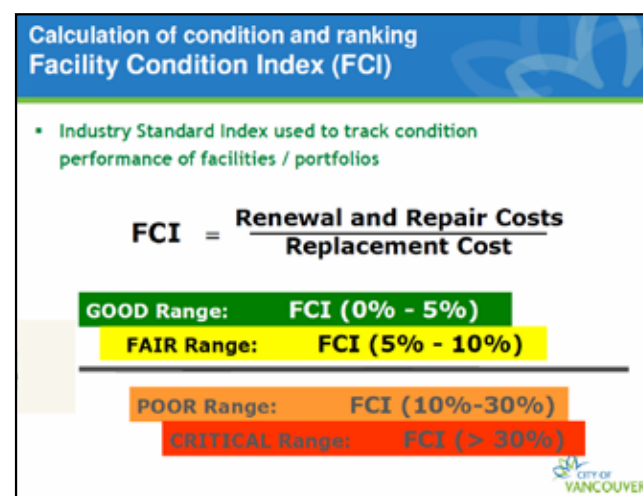
compared against the cost of rebuilding that same centre from the ground up. The results of this comparison — fixing a centre or rebuilding it — give the centre its FCI, which is measured as a percentage.

Therefore, a centre with a low FCI rating needs less repair and renewal work than a centre with a higher FCI rating which requires greater investment to keep the building in a functioning state. Usually an FCI of 10% and below signals a building with good effective age. An FCI greater than 10% suggests the building is beginning to deteriorate, with components reaching the end of their lifecycle. The equation below shows how the FCI is determined and the scoring ranges from good to critical.

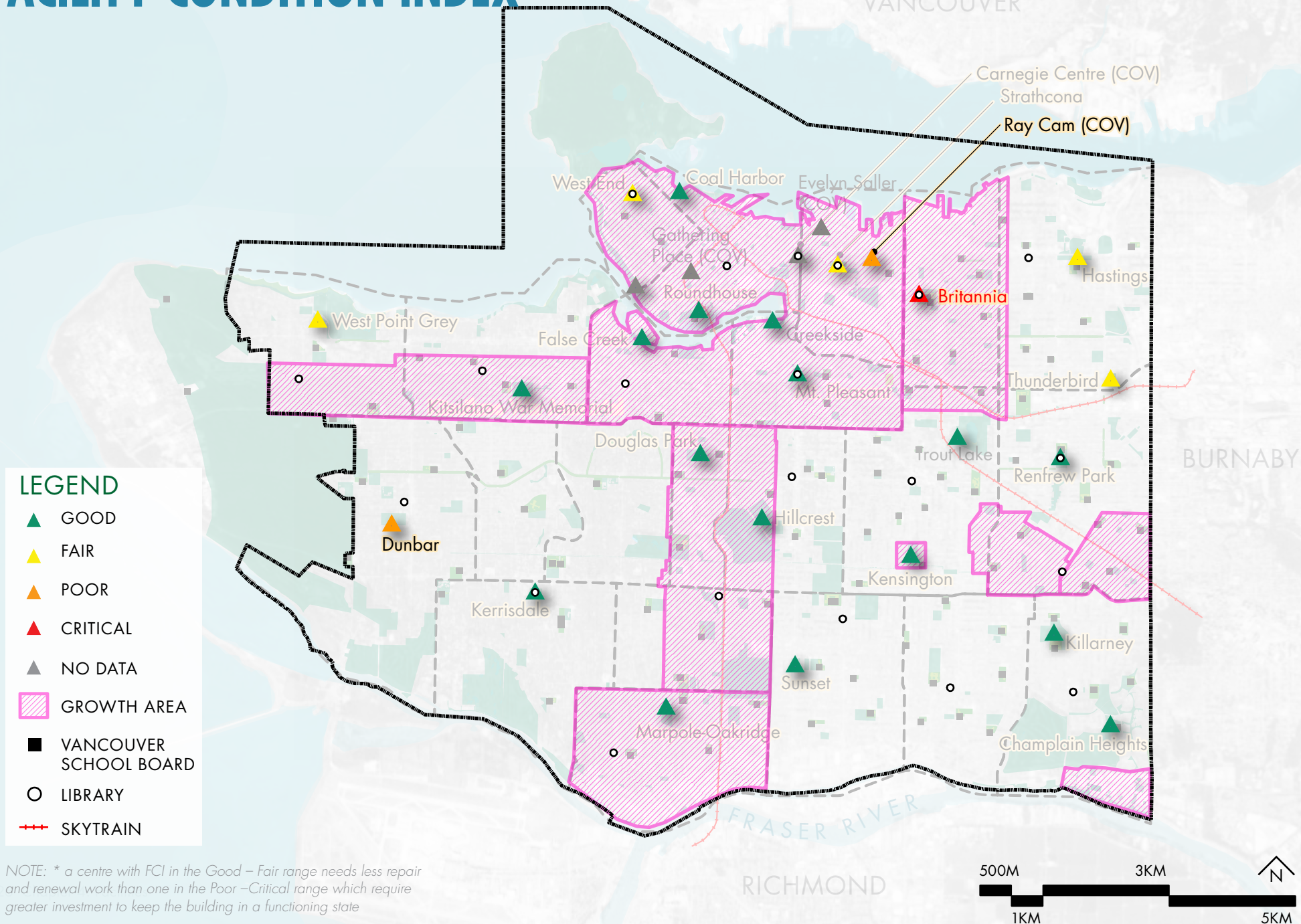
The maps on the following pages show community centre locations and with their FCI score for 2017 and projected score for 2026, which assumes no major renovation or renewal of maintenance.

This tool does not calculate the qualitative aspects of the facility and the city-wide network of social infrastructure. FCI is just one indicator to be considered in the priority of facility renewal, it does not take into account seismic risk, capacity or need, amongst other things.

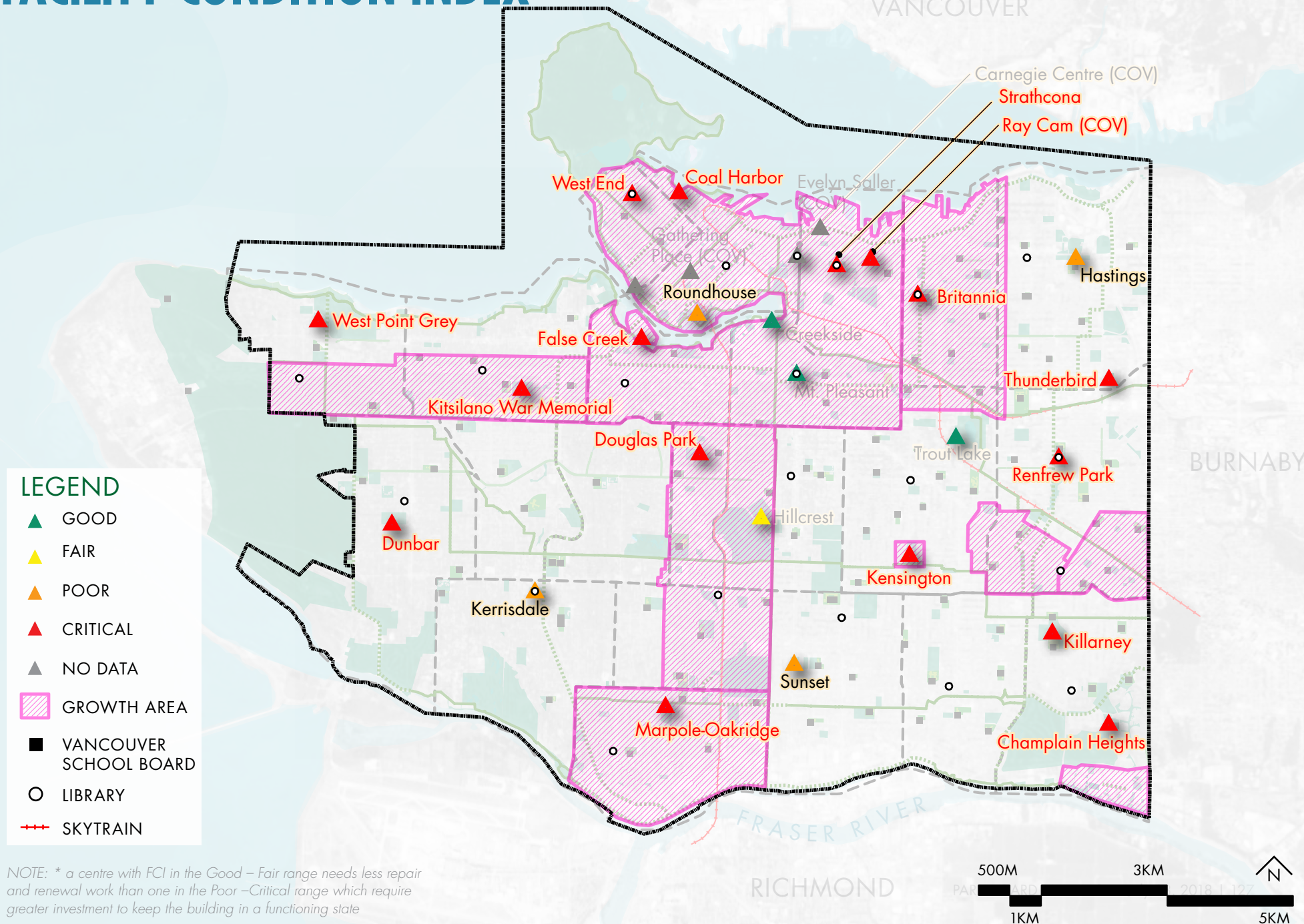
The purpose of the FCI is to provide a means for objective comparison of facility or building condition as well as allowing decision makers to understand building renewal funding needs and comparisons.



2016 COMMUNITY CENTRE: FACILITY CONDITION INDEX



2026 PROJECTED COMMUNITY CENTRE: FACILITY CONDITION INDEX



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: QUALITY

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK'S BLOEDEL FLORAL CONSERVANCY

The former 52-hectare industrial quarry site, locally known as Little Mountain Park, was renamed Queen Elizabeth Park after a Royal Visit in 1939.

The geodesic-domed Bloedel Conservatory is the crowning jewel of the park and was opened in 1969. This lush domed tropical paradise sits at the City of Vancouver's highest elevation, at 152 meters above sea level. The roof glazing consisting of 1490 acrylic panels of 32 sizes was replaced in 2014 as part of a \$2.7 million roof renewal project.

More than 120 free-flying exotic birds and 500 species of exotic plants and flowers thrive in three simulated environments, including tropical rainforest, sub-tropic, and desert climates.

- Constructed through a generous donation from Prentice Bloedel, the Conservatory is dedicated to expanding the understanding and appreciation of the world of plants.
- The conservatory was the first large triodetic dome conservatory in Canada. It remains Canada's largest single-structure conservatory and is the second largest in North America. It is a Class "A" designated heritage building.
- The Conservatory is jointly operated by the Vancouver Park Board and the VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA).
- The Queen Elizabeth Park Plaza adjacent to the Conservatory was redeveloped in 2007 at a cost of \$6 million. This 1.2 hectare area, built atop Metro Vancouver's principal drinking water reservoir, contains seven covered Tai-Chi arbours, ornamental gardens, the Celebration Pavilion, and the dramatic "Dancing Waters" fountain.



Geodesic dome at Bloedel Floral Conservancy | Park Board

Queen Elizabeth Park contains Canada's first civic arboretum, which was first planted by a crew of Junior Forest Wardens in 1949.



VANDUSEN BOTANICAL GARDEN

This 22 hectare public garden contains over 250,000+ plants from around the world.

In 2011, a LEED Platinum accredited Visitor Centre with its green roof and beautiful orchid-inspired design was constructed and designed by Cornelia Oberlander and Peter Busby of Perkins+Will Architects.

In 2014 the Visitor Centre was named "Most Sustainable Building of the Year" by World Architecture News. The Garden's mission is to inspire understanding of the vital importance of plants to all life, through the excellence of our botanical collections, programs, and practices.

- In 1960, the Shaughnessy Golf Club moved a few kilometers south, leaving the former site open to re-development. The local community lobbied against a proposed subdivision. Money was raised from private donors, the City of Vancouver, and the Province of BC to acquire the property for a botanical garden, which opened in 1975.
- The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) fosters love and appreciation of biodiversity through a vibrant calendar of educational programs, while coordinating a team of 1,200 passionate volunteers.
- The Park Board supports the garden by funding six full-time horticulturists, support staff, a curator, superintendent, and garden director positions.
- New for 2018 is the Backyard Bird Garden, a feature aimed at inspiring people to make their outdoor spaces bird-friendly. This garden features sitting areas, bird interpretive signage and child-sized birdhouses to observe birds undetected.
- The garden hosts the legendary Festival of Lights during the month of December, featuring over 1 million twinkling lights and seasonal exhibits. The garden hosts other events throughout the year, including Cherry Blossom Festival, art shows, photography classes, plant sales, gardening courses, Yoga in the Garden, and nature camps.



The VanDusen Maze is made of 3,000 pyramidal cedars planted in 1981 | Park Board



Quarry garden at Queen Elizabeth Park | Park Board



Bird house in the new backyard bird garden at VanDusen | Park Board
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INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: QUALITY

ARTS AND CULTURE IN FACILITIES

Encouraging artistic development is essential to a community, and Vancouver Park Board maintains several arts focused public facilities.

The Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation and Moberly Art and Cultural Centre are the Park Board's key arts centres focusing on innovative artist in residence work and leadership in community-engaged art. Each facility houses presentation space for performances and exhibitions showcasing Park Board arts projects and the creative work of arts partner organizations, in all disciplines, with strong connections to community. The Roundhouse maintains a 200 seat black box theatre and a major exhibition space as well as a pottery studio, dance studio and a woodworking shop while Moberly arts is a smaller black-box theatre suited to rehearsal and project development and small performances. Both facilities are available for public rental and collaborate on festivals, performances and exhibitions with local cultural and arts organizations. Partner projects presented in these spaces range from Vancouver International Jazz Festival shows to VANCAF celebrating Vancouver comic book artists.

Britannia Community Services Centre is home to a carving pavilion that works to highlight and support Indigenous cultural practices, creating opportunities for Indigenous artists to make work and connect with Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

Most of the parks and community centres located throughout Vancouver have spaces for cultural programming and events. Community centres across Vancouver house some level of purpose built arts facilities including visual art studio space, dance studios, pottery studios and pop up performance spaces.

Inventive use of space is always top of mind in Vancouver. The Park Board began the innovative Fieldhouse Activation Project in 2012. This smart initiative sees former caretaker cottages in parks transformed into studios for artists who work with community. The program provides free studio space in parks for 50+ artists who lead participatory community-engaged arts projects across the city.



Top to Bottom:

Gita Asmara at Field House Residency Program | George Rahi

All-age dance classes at Moberly | Parks Board - Arts, Culture & Engagement Team

Cultural Day at Moberly | Parks Board - Arts, Culture & Engagement Team



Dancer at Roundhouse | Ergun Calisgan

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Vancouver is a growing, culturally diverse city with a thriving economy, consistently voted one of the most livable cities in the world. But is it livable for all?

Beyond community wellbeing, resilience also speaks to the sustained health of our environment, our social ties and our sense of community. Addressing these challenges includes working to provide added support to those with fewer means and access to services. Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities are the places people can go to build resilience for many of these challenges and pressures.

Physical activity, spending time outdoors and engaging with a community all grow personal resilience, mental health and community connection by building social capital. Community centres offer the opportunity to learn new skills, build a social network, be physically active and engage your brain. All which help us negotiate change, and increase the likelihood of us banding together in the case of a negative shock or emergency. Many centres offer low-cost or free healthy meal programs and warming shelters for the homeless during extreme weather events.

Community centres are natural places for people to go in an emergency so, can serve a secondary function as natural disaster hubs where citizens can gather following an earthquake or other natural disaster to find safety and to share information and resources.

In planning for the future, the Park Board is committed to making Vancouver parks and recreation more resilient to emerging issues such as social justice, social isolation and natural disasters.

KEY TERMS

social infrastructure

An interdependent mix of facilities, places, spaces, programs, projects, services and networks that maintain and improve the standard of living and quality of life for a community

resilience

The ability to cope with external stresses and disturbances as a result of social, political, and environmental change



Community Centre serving as Disaster Hub | Park Board



Intergenerational Dance | Desiree Dunbar

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

CULINARY ASSETS

Park Board offers the full spectrum of dining options from subsidised meal programs to fine dining.

- **CONCESSIONS STRATEGY:** The Park Board operates 13 concession stands across the City and hired a consultant in 2015 to develop a business strategy. This strategy is complete and began roll out in early 2018. The goals of the strategy are to improve and diversify food and beverage options by introducing food services that respond to emerging trends, by supporting local businesses, by studying options for converting current locations into full service restaurants, and by studying options for seasonal installations. The strategy is also exploring the public's appetite for responsible, appropriate alcohol sales at concession stands.
- **FOOD SERVICES:** A number of Community Centres provide hot meals to communities in need. Seniors centres at Killarney and Kerrisdale provide meals and opportunities to socialize. The Carnegie Centre and nonprofit organizations offer free and reduced costs meals for persons experiencing homelessness. Strathcona and Ray-Cam Community Centres send healthy food home with kids for the weekends through their Napsack program.
- **COMMUNITY KITCHENS:** Nine community centres and a few field houses have community kitchens. From these kitchens CCAs host a wide range of cooking lessons that span from making kombucha and pickling, to French and Syrian cuisine.
- **FINE DINING:** In addition to concessions and food services, there are several fine dining establishments at the City's parks, botanic garden and golf courses. All of these establishments are leases on Park Board land. These restaurants offer elevated dining experiences as well as event planning and catering services for weddings and other large events.



Top to Bottom:

Mini tarts at VanDusen's Truffles | Park Board

Salads at the Golf Course | Park Board

Spanish Banks Beach Concession | Park Board

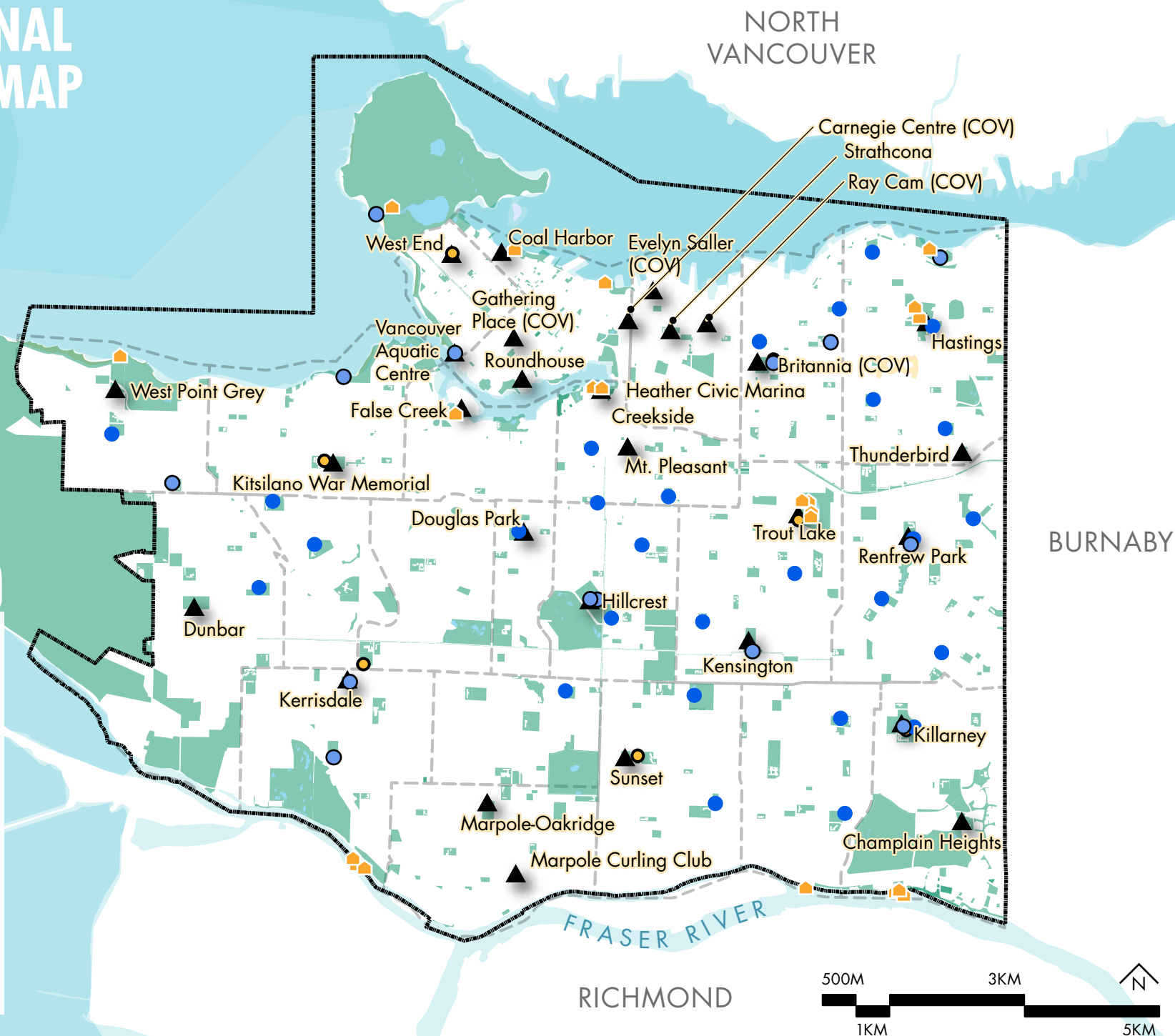


Stanley's Bar and Grill at Stanley Park Pavilion I Park

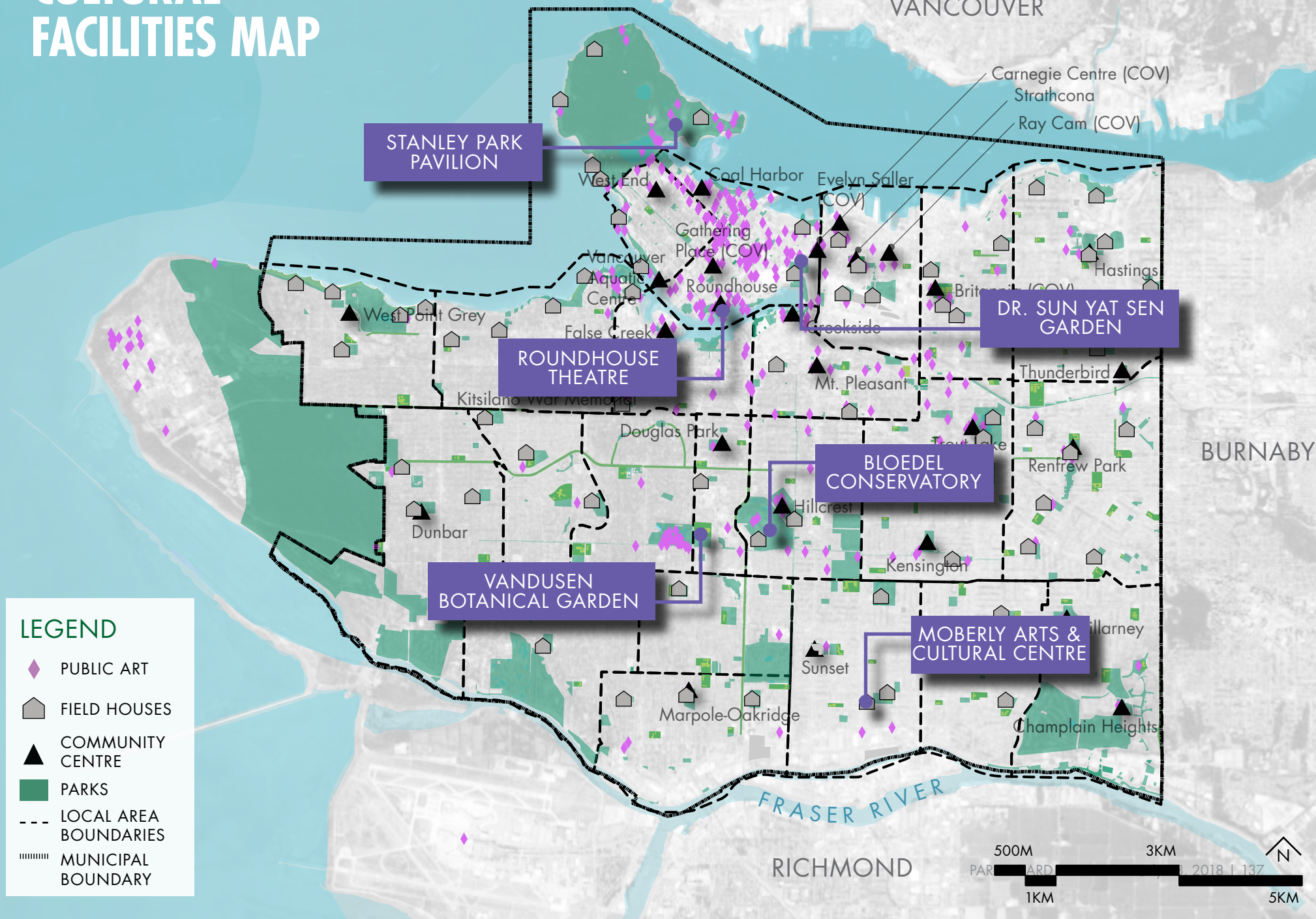
PARK BOARD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES MAP

LEGEND

-  SWIMMING POOL
-  WADING POOL
-  MARINE STRUCTURES
-  ICE RINK
-  COMMUNITY CENTRE
-  PARKS
-  LOCAL AREA BOUNDARIES
-  MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY



PARK BOARD CULTURAL FACILITIES MAP



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

PROGRAM ACCESS

The Leisure Access Program tackles making recreation more affordable, whilst universal and gender-neutral washroom signage is now standard across all facilities and swim and fitness programming is available as a safe space for the Transgender, Diverse, and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) community.

LEISURE ACCESS PROGRAM

The Leisure Access Program (LAP) supports individuals, families, groups and communities in need. Through the LAP, Vancouver residents facing financial barriers are provided free or reduced cost access to Park Board programs and services offered at its pools, rinks, participating fitness centres and community centres. Upon qualifying for LAP, the subsidy is loaded on to a “OneCard” which can then be used for easy discounted access.

- Non-profit agencies that assist their clients to attend recreational programs and foster parents may be eligible for an Leisure Access Agency Pass to attend programs with their clients and foster children at no charge.
- As of May 31, 2018 LAP participation has grown to 17,459 members, the largest amount of participants in LAP history.

LAP PARTICIPATION	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pass Holders	11,952	13,814	15,853	11,289	14,623	16,646
% of Eligible Population	10%	11%	13%	10%	12%	13%



onecard

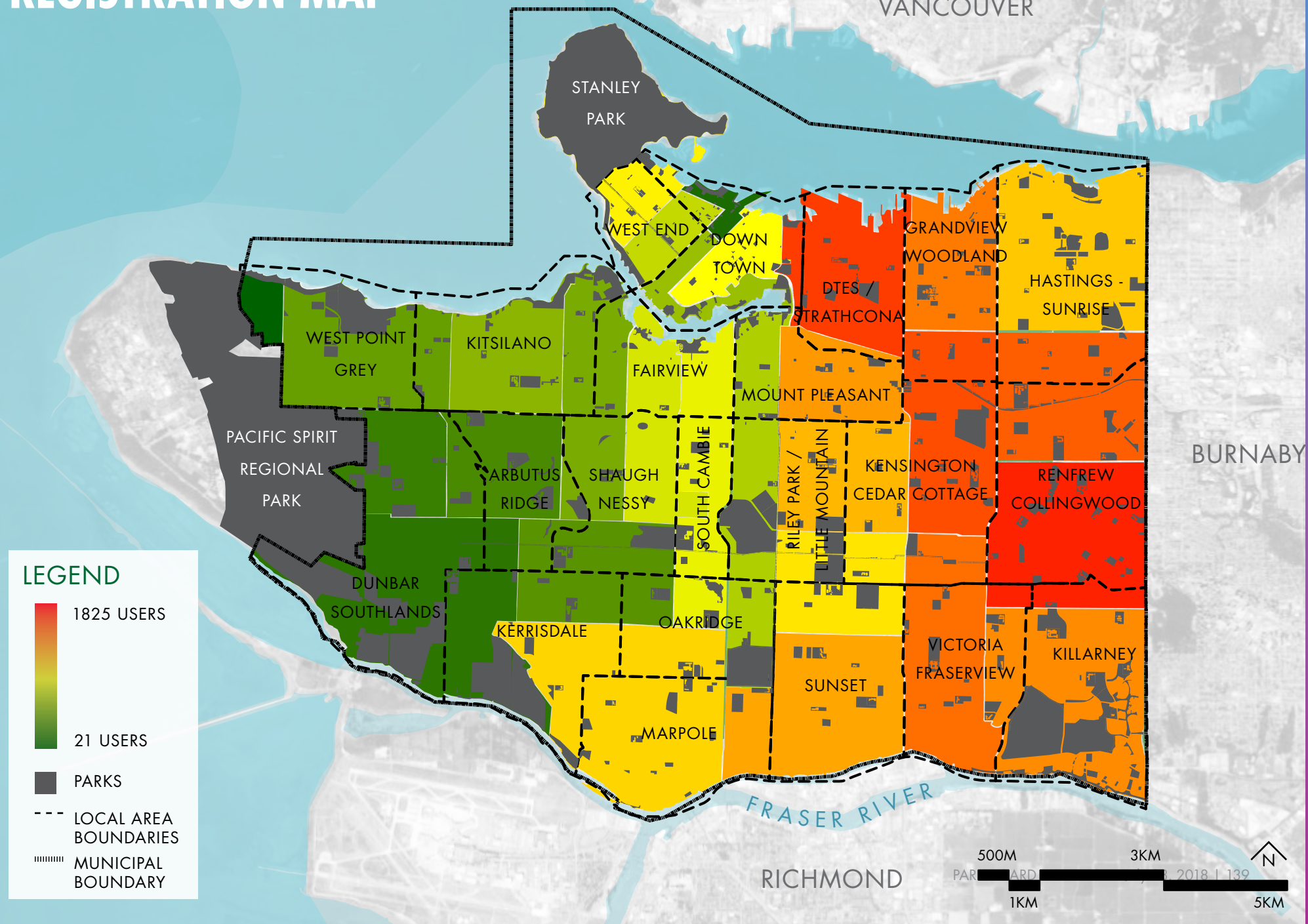
A convenient loadable card which replaces the need for multiple membership cards and flexi passes. OneCard can be reloaded online and is accepted at all Park Board pools, rinks, and fitness centres, and participating community centres.

2018 LAP Eligibility

A family's combined after tax income (Line 236) must be at or below the Low Income Measure (set by Statistics Canada)

One person	\$ 25,516
Two people	\$ 36,084
Three people	\$ 44,194
Four people	\$ 51,031
Five people	\$ 57,054
Six people	\$ 62,500
Seven or more people	\$ 67,508

2014 LEISURE ACCESS REGISTRATION MAP



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

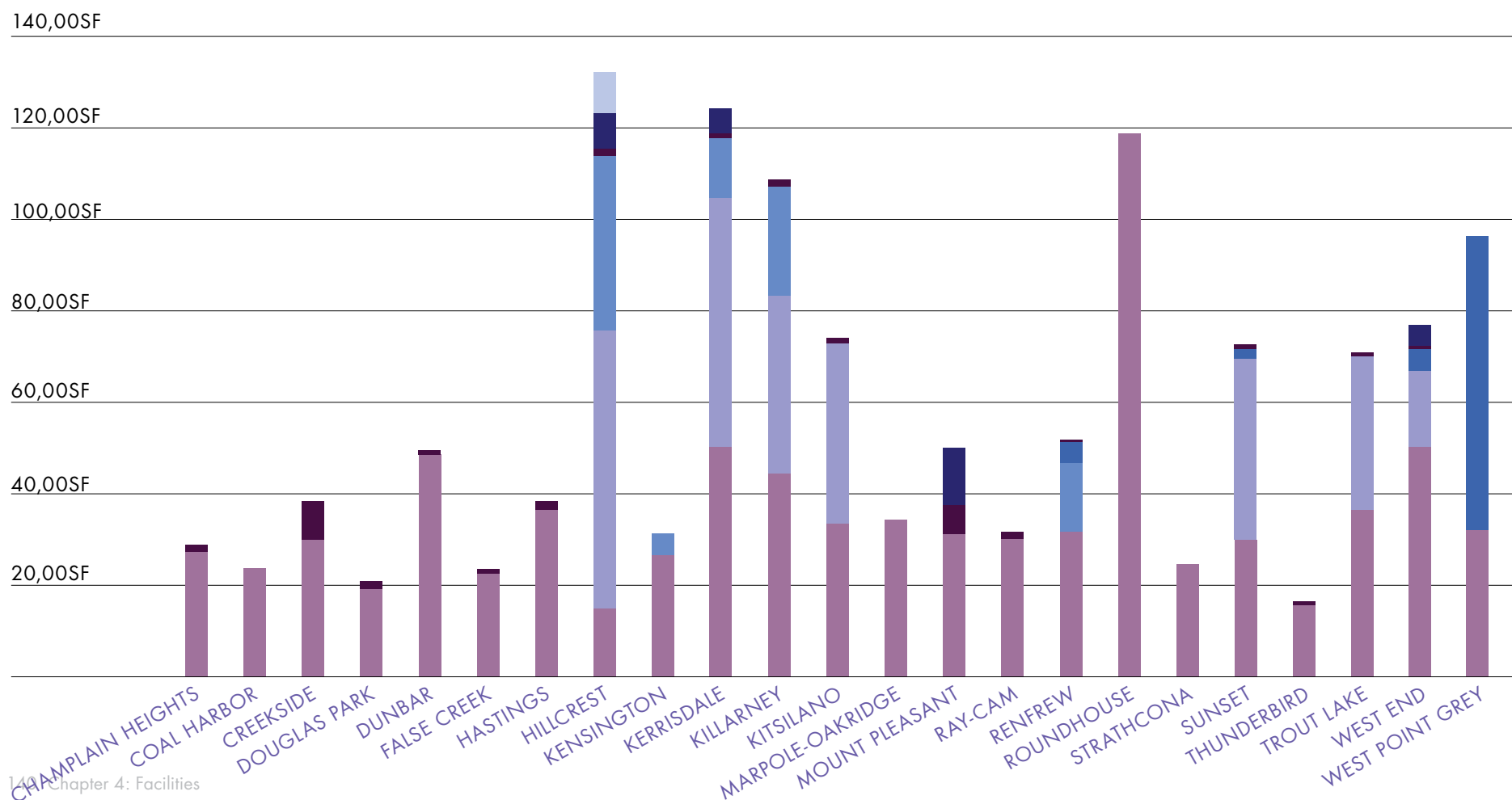
COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPARISON

The composition, size and breadth of services within community centres varies greatly across Vancouver's diverse communities.

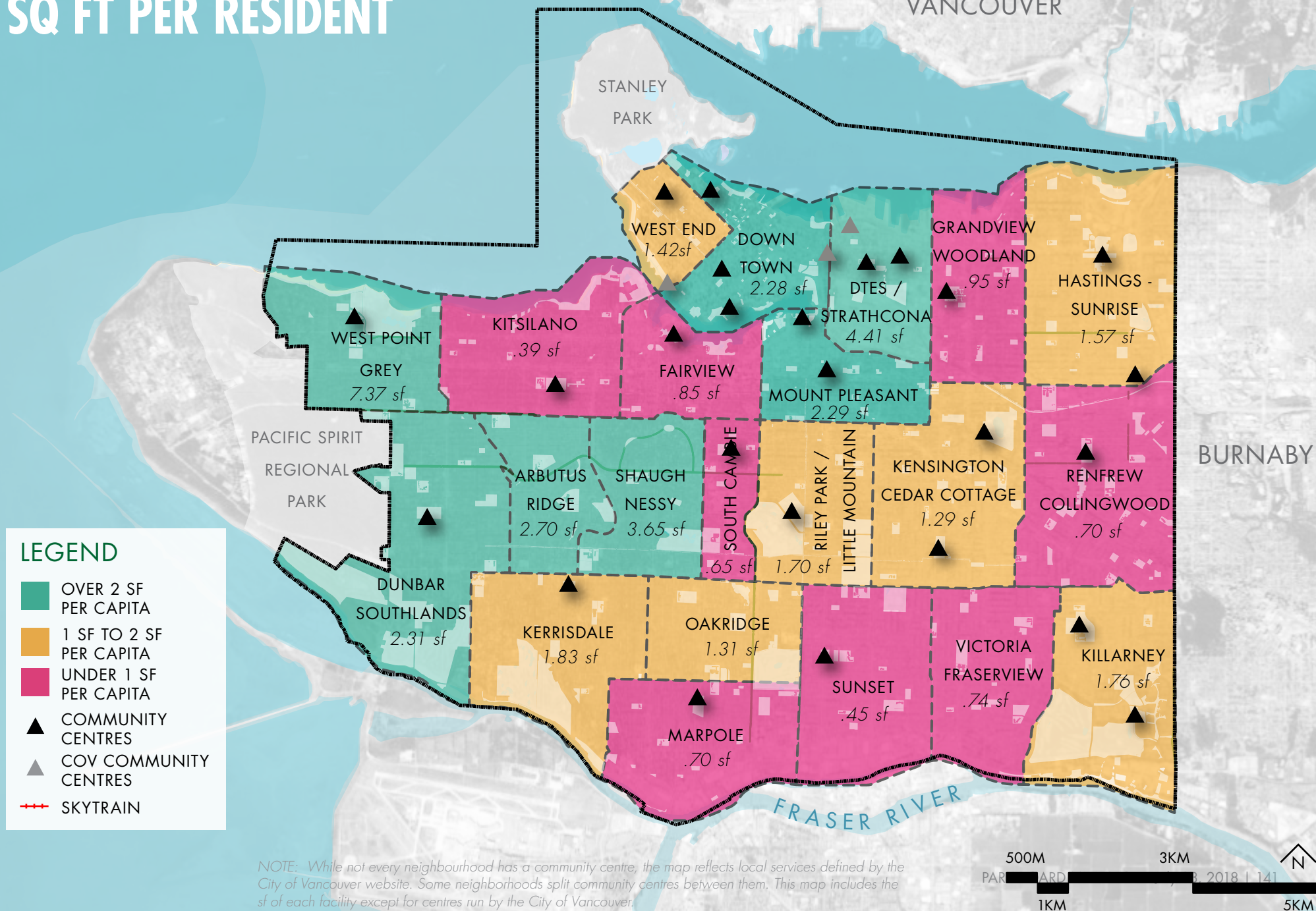
Below is an inventory of the basic facilities at each community centre. For the square footage map at right, the team compared core spaces (all other CC spaces) but the graph below shows a partial view of all the other spaces and services that make up community centres. As Vancouver grows and changes, the layout of community centres has the capacity to serve and reflect its constituents and provide important cultural, recreational and social services.

LEGEND

- ALL OTHER CC SPACES
- RINKS
- INDOOR AQUATICS AT CC
- OFFSHOOT FACILITIES
- CHILDCARE / PRESCHOOL
- LIBRARY AT CC
- OUTDOOR POOL AT CC



COMMUNITY CENTRE SQ FT PER RESIDENT



OPPORTUNITIES + CHALLENGES

The following list of opportunities and challenges is a summary of key findings gleaned from consultation with staff, stakeholders and the community, including fall 2018 Community Dialogue and Community Centre Association Meetings.

opportunities

interests of topics that have the potential to positively impact parks and recreation

challenges

constraints or obstacles that have the potential to negatively impact parks and recreation

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. COLLOCATION**—Grouping together compatible uses, such as sports field hubs, libraries, schools, community centres and community gardens, can strengthen neighbourhoods and allows residents to access a number of programs and facilities in one location. Multilevel and/or integrated facilities provide opportunities for many community services to locate together with the best outcome for public access.
- 2. COLLABORATION**—Partners extend the reach of the Park Board and allow for delivery of important aspects of the parks and recreation system. For example, a long and rich historic relationship between the Park Board and CCAs gives facilities a heart and soul with a unique grounding in neighborhood culture. CCAs provide access to quality, responsive programming and services to encourage healthy

lifestyles through participation in physical, recreational, cultural, educational, social and capacity-building programs for residents of the community. Schools and libraries also offer opportunities for partnership.

- 3. SUSTAINABLE BUILDING STANDARDS AND OPERATIONS**—Vancouver is a leader in sustainability best practices for renewal and replacement of facilities (e.g., LEED and SITES certification). Improving aging community centres in a sustainable way is necessary.
- 4. SENSE OF PLACE**— The architecture and design of civic facilities can reflect local character, values and history. In collaboration with Vancouver's local host nations there is the opportunity to creating facilities that are rooted in the local context. Additionally, a welcoming space for urban indigenous people would reflect the sharing culture of local Nations.
- 5. PLACEMAKING IN FACILITIES**— Large, useable common spaces like lobbies and lounges are ripe for placemaking initiatives to encourage people to gather and connect. Power outlets and comfy chairs are a must.
- 6. FITNESS CENTRES**— Vancouverites love to stay fit, so the Park Board fitness centres are in very high demand, even the largest, 4000sf at Trout Lake, is undersized.
- 7. FUNCTIONALITY**— Facilities should be intuitively functional, have many multi purpose rooms which can change in size, have adequate and easy to access storage space. All new and renewed facilities are an opportunity to improve the standard.
- 8. YOUTH SPACE**— Historically the youth spaces in community centres have been tucked away, and small. Big, functional spaces that are integrated into the community centre whilst also providing dedicated space is a fantastic opportunity to make centres more welcoming to youth. Imagine a youth space with sound proofed music and mixing studio!

CHALLENGES

1. **LACK OF SPACE** Many of the community centres reported having inadequate facilities for expanding field sports, amateur and elite sports training and sports hosting (e.g., track and field regulation facility, multi-sport complexes). Specialised spaces for arts programming (music rooms, music mixing studios, pottery studios, art rooms) are in high demand and require dedicated space. Gymnasium and other large hard floor space is at a premium, users like Roller Derby leagues often miss out.
2. **INCREASED/CHANGING USE/DEMAND** The demands on community centres and facilities are unique to each location and vary across the system. In neighbourhoods experiencing significant growth, many facilities are over capacity with little to no room to expand their services or their space.
3. **BARRIERS TO ACCESS** The Leisure Access program opens all community centres to Vancouverites, and OneCard makes access easy. However, not all Community Centres accept One Card or the Leisure Access Program, many people experiencing financial barriers to access are not eligible for LAP. Other barriers to access cited include time, availability, energy, child care availability, and location amongst others. Park Board is working reduce barriers where possible however this is an ongoing process.
4. **LACK OF ADAPTABILITY** Many facilities lack the resources, staff and operational bandwidth to adapt to demands as they arise, including homeless services, meals for seniors, and expanded interest in particular classes or activities. The inability of both parks and recreation facilities to swiftly respond to demand for activity specific spaces is a design and programming challenge.
5. **ACKNOWLEDGING THE SPECTRUM OF PROVIDERS** – there may be other providers providing duplicate recreation services. Park Board should identify its core responsibilities (i.e. physical literacy, low barrier recreation, facilitating sport for life) and not try and compete with private, for profit and community partners who provide similar services.
6. **CLIMATE CHANGE**—Rising temperatures will increase operations and maintenance costs for facilities and will also threaten vulnerable populations who may use community centres as disaster or climate crisis hubs.
7. **AGING INFRASTRUCTURE**—Park Board service yards are in critical condition, and need urgent replacement. The lack of essential spaces and facilities is effecting efficiency. Field houses, concessions and washrooms in parks are in a similar situation and need to be prioritised for investment.

FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION



PEER CITY CASE STUDY

Improving aging community centres in a dense environment is a challenge that San Francisco is tackling.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department operates 25 recreation centers across the city. Using Park Bond funding mechanisms phased in roughly 10-year increment (2000 and 2012) the department is funding large scale capital improvement projects to many recreation centers. The bond initiatives were framed as the "Clean and Save Neighborhood Parks Bond" and raised close to \$200 million (USD) in funds to address capital improvement. Recreation centers built in the 1940s (like Sunset Recreation Center pictured above) have received critical updates as part of this larger bond initiative.



PEER CITY CASE STUDY

The University of Victoria First Peoples House (FPH) is a socio-cultural and academic facility created to strengthen the relationship between the university and Canada's First Peoples.

The building itself is inspired by coastal First People's architecture. This can be seen everywhere from the red cedar planks to large windows that maximize sunlight and air flow to the timber canopy covered in indigenous plants. This architecture has won awards for being both sustainable and community driven. The use of the space reflects this community with a welcoming, generous approach to shared space. It is considered a "home away from home" for many First Peoples students and strives to be a place of solace for those students. Visitors are asked to enter the building with respect for the ancestors, the original care takers of the land, and for each other.

