An aerial photograph of a park area. In the top left, there is a residential neighborhood with houses and a swimming pool. A paved path winds through a green lawn. There are several trees, including some weeping willows. In the bottom left, a parking lot with a few cars is visible. A pond is located in the lower right quadrant. The overall scene is bright and clear.

City of Chilliwack

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE

FINAL DRAFT Master Plan

APRIL 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

City of Chilliwack Recreation and Culture Staff
Stakeholders, focus group participants, and other members of the public
City Steering Committee
Phone Survey: Mustel Group Market Research

Cover Photo: City of Chilliwack

LEES
+
ASSOCIATES

 Happy City



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Purpose of the Plan	3
1.2 Plan Process	3
1.3 How Will It Be Used?	4
1.4 Policy Context.....	4
1.5 Community Profile.....	5
1.6 Engagement Process	7
2 Trends & Benefits	13
2.1 Benefits of Parks, Recreation, and Culture	14
2.2 Trends Influencing Parks, Recreation, and Culture.....	16
3 Current State	20
3.1 Approach to Parks, Recreation, and Culture	20
3.1.2 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services.....	22
3.1.3 Community Partnership Model.....	24
3.2 Recreation and Cultural Facilities.....	26
3.2.1 Indoor Facilities and Amenities.....	26
3.2.2 Outdoor Facilities and Amenities.....	32
3.3 Culture.....	40
4 Vision and Recommendations	48
5 Implementation Plan	70
Appendices	
APPENDIX A 2013 PRC Recommendations Summary	
APPENDIX B Engagement Summaries	
APPENDIX C Full Engagement Results	
APPENDIX D List of Potential Ball Diamond Improvements	

Executive Summary

The City of Chilliwack is a community with a strong culture of collaboration, resourcefulness, and community pride that is reflected in the parks, recreation, and culture programs, services, and facilities that are provided by the City, service partners, and community organizations. The community is motivated and dedicated to creating a place that is vibrant and that supports communal well-being. The 2040 Official Community Plan highlights the goals of inclusivity, equity, collaboration and resiliency, as well as embracing health through active living and continuing learning and growth. These themes are threaded through this Plan which lays out a vision, goals, and actions for parks, recreation, and culture over the next 10 years.

This plan is the results of bringing together multiple sources of information including:

- A review of community trends, challenges, and opportunities;
- A review of the current inventory of parks, recreation, and culture programs and facilities;
- A review of existing plans and policies that play a role in the delivery of parks, recreation, and culture services;
- Two rounds of community engagement with broad participation from the public, community stakeholders, and service delivery partners; and
- Research on current and innovative practices.

The results of the research and analysis has demonstrated a strong foundation from which the challenges of the next ten years can be met. It also revealed key areas that need to be addressed to improve the resilience of the City's approach to parks, recreation, and culture and to create even greater benefits for the community. Among the critical pieces over the next 10 years will be communication, accountability, partnerships, and new recreation and culture opportunities to meet growing demand.

Vision

The following vision statement has been developed in response to public input and the City’s strategic directions. The vision sets the stage for the actions and is the foundation for directing decision making around parks, recreation, and cultural services. The key elements are a focus on the greatest community benefits for the whole community and accountability for the investment of public resources. The City recognizes the importance of community partners by including collaboration and capacity-building in the vision.

Vision Statement

Parks, recreation, and culture in Chilliwack will help support community health, well-being, and resilience through collaboration and capacity-building. The City will achieve the greatest community benefits possible in return for the investment of limited available public resources.

Recommendations and Implementation

This plan provides recommendations for improvements to the parks, recreation, and cultural facilities over the 10 year period from 2024-2033. Council’s adoption of the master plan represents agreement in principle, but is not a commitment to spend. Specific financial decisions are made by Council as part of the financial planning process. This section includes priorities and timelines for the recommended actions.

The following table lists all the suggested action items and identifies both levels of priority and resource requirements. Operational items are identified as those that should be addressed through staff work plans and departmental resources. Capital projects are those that will be evaluated and incorporated into budget planning for approval by Council as resources and priorities allow. This implementation plan is intended as a guide. All capital spending is subject to approval by Council.

In many cases, achieving the actions is not solely the responsibility of the City. Collaboration and cooperation with partners continues to be essential for implementing this plan. If community partners understand the City’s goals and priorities, they will be better prepared to meet community needs.

The following are the estimated cost categories:

LOW \$	< \$50,000
MEDIUM \$\$	\$50,000-100,000
HIGH \$\$\$	> \$100,000

Implementation Plan

#	ACTION	Cost	Priority
SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROGRAMS			
1	Create a Communications Strategy for recreation and culture programs and services.	\$	1
2	Standardize agreements with service providers and community partners.	\$	1
3	Establish a Capital Projects Planning Policy.	\$	1
4	Support coordination and cooperation among community arts, culture, and recreation organizations.	\$	1
5	Provide more support for decentralized recreational and cultural activities in parks, schools, and other public spaces.	\$\$	2
6	Together with community partners, explore the potential of expanding the Leisure Access Program to include funding for affordable access to cultural activities.	\$\$\$	2

#	ACTION	Cost	Priority
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			
7	Continue to support the procurement of public art throughout the community.	\$\$	1
8	Establish a Life-Cycle Replacement Plan for all park and outdoor recreation amenities.	\$	1
9	Continue to incorporate accessibility and safety as a priority goal for any upgrades to parks, trails and open spaces and recreation and cultural facilities.	\$\$	1
10	Replace or significantly renovate Rotary Pool.	\$\$\$	1
11	Implement phased improvements to existing sports fields and ball diamonds.	\$\$\$	1
12	Increase the variety of programs and amenities in parks.	\$\$\$	2
13	Explore the feasibility of a multi-use indoor turf facility.	\$	2
14	Plan and implement upgrades to the 1978 portion of the Cheam Leisure Centre.	\$\$\$	3
15	Plan and implement an upgrade or replacement of Evergreen Hall, adjacent to the Landing Sports Centre.	\$\$\$	3
16	Plan for increased recreation demand in Eastern Hillside as development occurs.	\$\$\$	3

1



Photo from Tourism Chilliwack

Introduction

Parks, recreation, and culture are key components to quality of life for the residents of Chilliwack. They support physical and mental health and wellbeing, build a sense of pride, reduce isolation, and reflect the values of the community. These facilities and services provide opportunities for people to relax, rejuvenate, connect with friends, be active, discover and learn, and celebrate. Parks, recreation, and culture deliver economic benefits by reducing healthcare costs, attracting new residents and businesses, and supporting tourism. In Chilliwack, the approach of partnering with community organizations and other service providers creates an additional layer of benefits by encouraging active participation in creating a strong sense of community.

Chilliwack has a limited urban growth boundary surrounded by Agricultural Land Reserves that accommodates its current population of just over 100,000. The community is densifying in the central downtown and Sardis, and there are also several small, rural community nodes. The City boasts tremendous access to natural and green spaces and rural community character with amenities like the Vedder River Rotary Trail and the Chilliwack Community Forest. The City also forms a gateway to recreation opportunities in nearby crown lands, recreation areas, and regional and provincial parks. It welcomes visitors from all over the Lower Mainland who want to enjoy natural areas, Chilliwack's parks and recreation amenities, and take part in events like sports tournaments, races, cultural events, agri-tourism, and festivals.

Recreation and cultural opportunities include two indoor recreation centres with pools, fitness, and indoor multipurpose spaces, ice arenas with multiple sheets of ice, a new curling rink, and the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. Public art has emerged as

a highlight of the community over the past several years. The City also has strong partnerships with School District #33 and supports the unique network of community schools. The community schools add to the broad range of social and recreational programs that have emerged from the community, for the community.

The City of Chilliwack has seen many changes since the last Parks, Recreation, and Culture Strategic Plan (2013), including a growing and diversifying population. Some facilities are aging, and there is increasing pressure on limited resources. As Chilliwack continues to grow and change, it is imperative that the City's support of parks, recreation and cultural services align with the community's values, aspirations, and vision.

The City's Official Community Plan (OCP) sets some effective goals for parks, recreation, and culture. While the City has the foundation of a robust parks and recreation system, developing better linkages between parks, expanding the trail system, and determining the need for upgrades to cultural and recreation facilities are key opportunities for the new Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan. Building on these and other items in the OCP, this Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan identifies priorities from a long term sustainability perspective.

The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan will provide strategic direction to the City regarding facilities and services from 2024-2033. Developed collaboratively through ongoing consultation with City staff, Council, stakeholders, and the public, the Master Plan sets clear directives to guide policy development and decision making.

1.1 The Purpose of the Plan

The City of Chilliwack supports a wide range of parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs, and activities that create a vibrant and engaged community. The breadth of opportunities is driven by community organizations and institutions and supported through funding, facilities, and maintenance provided by the City. Determining whether the community-driven and partnership-based recreation service delivery approach is sustainable and will continue to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community is a key question that will be answered through this Master Plan.

As the population grows, the City wants to ensure the needs of residents continue to be met. This Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan provides an evaluation of the current state, gathers information from staff, stakeholders, and the public on what's working and what needs improvement, and lays out a vision and specific actions for the next ten years (2024-2033).

1.2 The Plan Process

Development of this plan included:

- Extensive engagement with staff, stakeholders, and the public;
- On-site tours of parks and facilities;
- Research on trends and best practices;
- Comparisons with other communities, and;
- Consideration of the financial and service delivery context.

These sources of information were brought together to identify the most important issues, opportunities, and community values. The Draft Master Plan was reviewed by staff, stakeholders, and the public who identified gaps, weighed in on options, and helped prioritize the Actions.



Figure 1: Project Timeline

1.3 How it will be used?

The key outcome of this plan is a set of recommendations for the improvement of parks, recreation, and culture in the City of Chilliwack through capital projects and ongoing operational actions. Capital projects will be considered through the City’s regular budget process, subject to approval by Council. Operational actions will be incorporated and prioritized into department work plans subject to departmental resources. Participation of stakeholders and partners is also a critical factor, as many of the recommendations depend on participation by others to be successful.

1.4 Policy Context

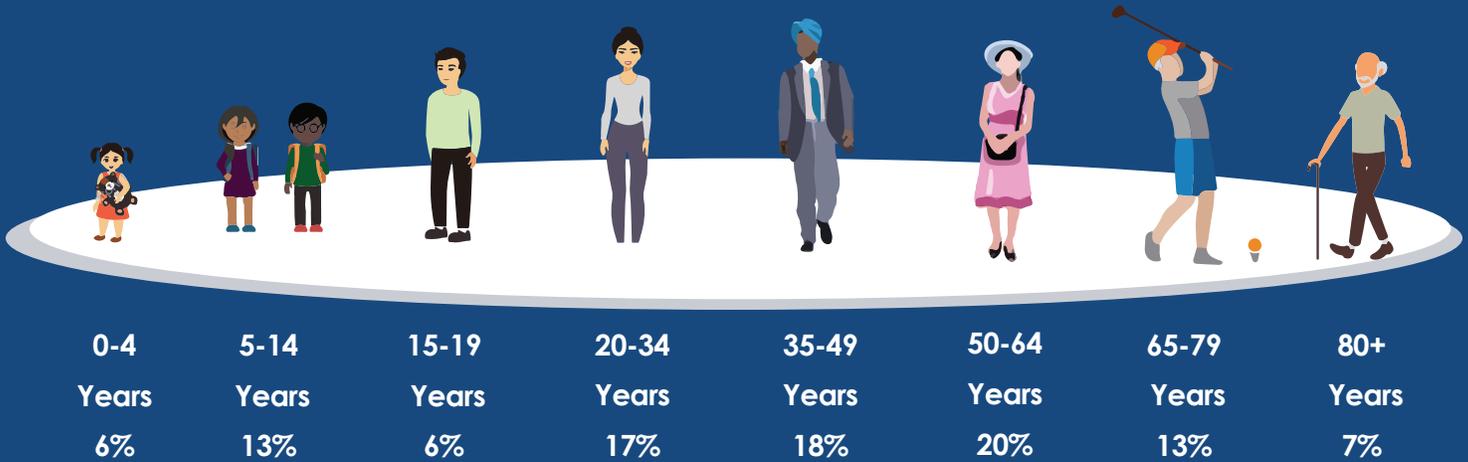
The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Strategic Plan 2014-2023 has been the guiding document for the delivery of services over the past eight years. The key findings from that plan focused on helping the City identify the benefits that should be considered when evaluating investment of limited resources. A summary of the recommendations is provided in Appendix A. This plan builds off the findings and recommendations of the previous plan and identifies further opportunities to improve services, adaptability, and cost effectiveness.



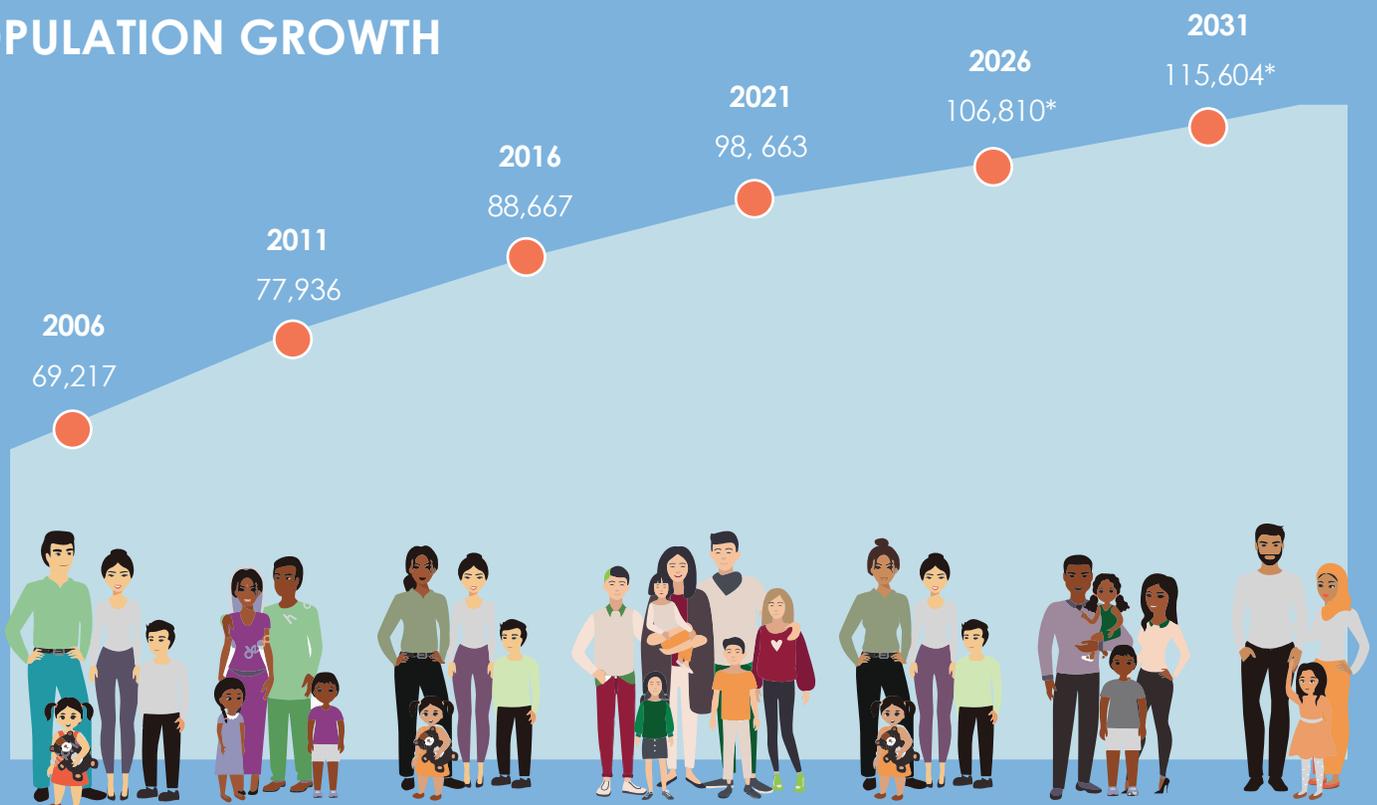
Other key background documents that inform this plan include:

- Greenspace Plan and Trail Network Plan (2021)
- 2040 Official Community Plan (2021)
- Chilliwack Annual Report (Capital Plan 2021-2030)
- Chilliwack Housing Needs Report (2020)
- Child Care Plan (2020)
- City of Chilliwack Transportation Plan Update (2018)
- Cycle Vision Chilliwack (2017)
- Eastern Hillside Comprehensive Area Plan (2017)
- Public Art Policy (2014)
- Heritage Action Plan (In progress)
- Active Transportation Plan (In progress)

POPULATION BY AGE



POPULATION GROWTH



* Projected population from City of Chilliwack

1.5 Community Profile

The community profile is based on 2016 Census data, but 2021 Census data should be used to update the understanding of Chilliwack's community demographics when it becomes available. Highlights from the community demographics are described below.

Growth

The estimated population for the City of Chilliwack was 98,663 residents in 2021. Between 2016 and 2021 the population grew by 7.5% and the population is projected to grow 32% from 2016 to 2032. For the City to meet increasing demand as the community grows, the level of investment and resources also need to increase.



Average age

The average age in Chilliwack is 41 (which is slightly lower than average for BC) and a majority of the population is under the age of 60. According to Chilliwack's Housing Needs Report, all age groups are expected to grow in population between 2025-2041, with the most significant growth in the 25 to 64 categories and those 75 and over.



Youth

According to the Chilliwack's Childcare Plan, the city has a high number of children between 0-19 years of age; 26.5% compared to 22% in BC. The continued need for youth services was a key theme from community engagement.



Household Income

Affordability is an increasing challenge as housing prices continue to outpace wages in the Lower Mainland. In the 2016 Census, the annual average household income for Chilliwack residents was \$66,305, which is slightly below average for Canadian cities.



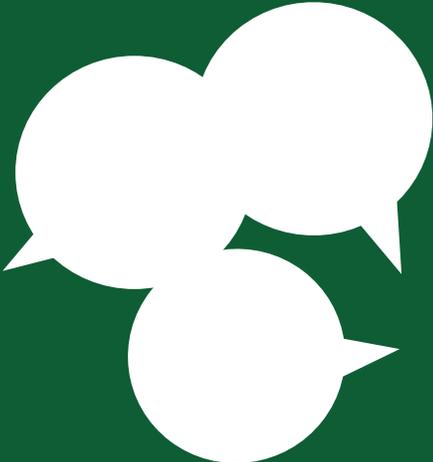
1.6 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

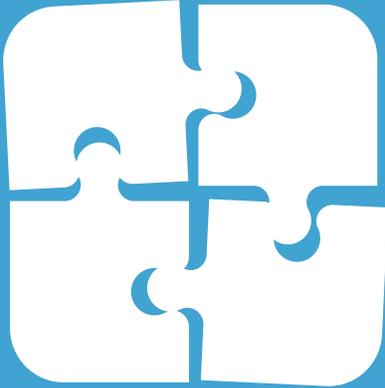
Round 1 - Spring/ Summer 2021

Round one engagement for the **Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan** was held from June to early August 2021. During this time, the project team facilitated an array of online and in-person activities and events.

Specifically, this round of engagement focused on:



Determining how a range of Chilliwack residents are currently experiencing PRC offerings, with a focus on identifying current strengths, assets and gaps among and within different communities of users



Determining whether the community-driven and partnership-based recreation service delivery approach is sustainable and will continue to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community



Identifying changing needs and emerging trends around PRC facilities, programs and services in Chilliwack

Round 2 - Fall 2021/Winter 2022

Round two engagement for the **Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan** was held from late November 2021 to February 18, 2022.

Specifically, this round of engagement focused on:

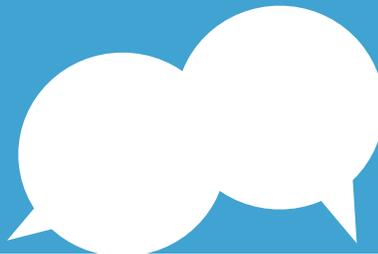
Informing stakeholders and the public about proposed findings and key recommendations developed from information gathering, site and asset research and analysis, and round one engagement



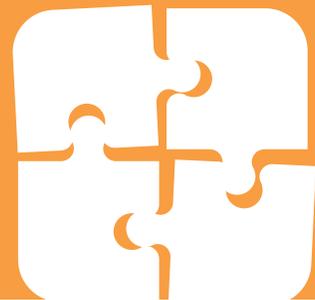
Consulting stakeholders and the public to collect feedback on key findings and preliminary recommendations



Facilitating better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities in Parks, Recreation, and Culture among the City of Chilliwack, stakeholders, and the public



Facilitating opportunities for network building and collaborations among stakeholders



See Appendix B for an engagement summary by round and Appendix C for full engagement results.

Public Online Surveys

There were over 900 responses to the two public online surveys that were hosted on EngageChilliwack.com. The first survey was live between June 11th to July 4th, 2021 and the second survey was live between November 19, 2021 to January 17, 2022.



Statistically Valid Phone Survey

A phone survey of 300 randomly selected Chilliwack residents (ages 18 years and older) was conducted from June 3rd to 11th, 2021. This survey consisted of the same questions asked in the Public Online Survey and provided statistically valid data.



Stakeholder Online Survey

Community organizations who offer recreation and culture programs and services were invited to complete a survey on the City's EngageChilliwack website from June 11th to July 4th, 2021. The survey asked about current participation, challenges, and opportunities.



Interviews

Focused interviews were held with parks, recreation, and culture stakeholders and services providers from June 16th to July 20th, 2021 and between December 20, 2021 and February 18, 2022. Participants provided input on trends, community needs, and opportunities related to parks, recreation and culture in Chilliwack.



Stakeholder Workshops

Various culture and recreation stakeholders were invited and participated in online workshops. The workshops asked about current participation, challenges, and opportunities related to parks, recreation and culture in Chilliwack.



Site visits & Pop-up

Three site visits were conducted between June 15th and 28th, 2021. These visits included a review of facilities, and in some cases, on-site interviews with stakeholders. The public was invited and engaged during a pop-up event, held at the Christmas Gift Expo on December 10, 2021.





Photo from the Chilliwack Christmas Expo

Outreach & Building Awareness

A number of methods were used to raise awareness about engagement for the public and community members to participate in the process, including:



Paper and digital posters distributed across Chilliwack



Social posts and ads on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram



Stakeholder invites to workshops and interviews via email



On-site meetings and tours with stakeholders

What We Heard Public Engagement Summary



Top 5 Places People Live in

1. Chilliwack Proper (incl. Little Mountain & Fairfield Island)
2. Sardis-Vedder
3. Promontory
4. Ryder Lake
5. Greendale-Yarrow

Most Common Recreation/Leisure Activities to Participate in on Regular Basis

- 
1. Walking
 2. Biking
 3. Swimming & Water Sports

Most Common PRC Activities that Kids (Age 0 - 18) Participate in on Regular Basis

- 
- Swimming Walking Biking



Kids under age 5 also use and visit playgrounds and spray parks often.

Top 5 Outdoor PRC Spaces Used in Last 12 Months

1. Walking & Cycling Trails
2. Playgrounds
3. Sports Playing Fields
4. Spray Parks
5. Running Tracks

Satisfaction with Indoor PRC Facilities & Spaces

- 
- Heritage Park
 - Libraries
 - Cultural Centre
 - Chilliwack YMCA

- 
- Landing Sports Centre
 - Evergreen Hall

Reasons for Not Participating in PRC Activities and/ or Use Facilities & Spaces More Often

Phone Survey

- "Lack of time" (23%)
- "Programs offered do not reflect my interests" (14%)
- "I have health and mobility issues" (10%)

NOTE: COVID-19 was stated as the actual top reason for both survey types

Ratings of Outdoor PRC Facilities & Spaces

- "Sufficiently maintained"
- "Easy to get to"
- "Accessible for those with mobility issues"
- "Sufficient in numbers"

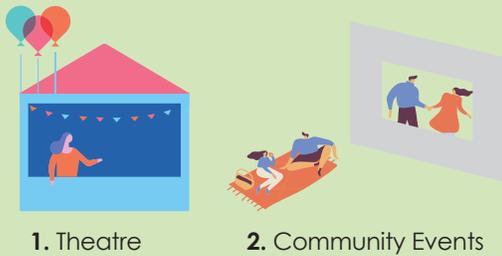
What Do Outdoor PRC Facilities & Spaces Lack and/ or Need to Improve?

- Improve and expand trails and parks
- More programs and activities for youth and children
- Improve accessibility for all
- Upgrade ball diamonds

Thank you for your feedback!

Detailed below is a visual summary of public feedback during engagement for this project. For a comprehensive breakdown and details of results, please refer to Appendix C.

Most Common Culture Activities to Participate in on Regular Basis



Satisfaction with Outdoor PRC Spaces

-
- Local Walking & Cycling Trails
 - Outdoor Parks & Spaces
 - Playgrounds
 - Sports Playing Fields
 - Running Tracks

-
- Pickleball Courts
 - Sport Courts

Top 5 Indoor PRC Facilities & Spaces Used in Past 2 Years

1. Chilliwack Heritage Park
2. Cheam Leisure Centre
3. Libraries
4. Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre
5. Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Online Survey

“Days/ times of programs not convenient” (29%)

“Programs were full” (23%)

“Programs offered do not reflect my interests” AND “Lack of info about programs” (19%)

Suggestions for PRC Programs & Facilities

- More improved trails, parks, playgrounds
- Improved accessibility
- More programs for youth and children
- More indoor recreation/ cultural activities
- More/ improved courts and fields for pickleball and disc golf
- More/ improved spray parks and pools
- Improved safety
- More meeting space

More improved sports courts and pickleball courts

More outdoor fitness equipment in parks and open spaces

Replace rotary pool

More public art

Demographics and Groups that Respondents Feel are Underserved by PRC Facilities & Programs



1. Teens



2. Seniors



3. People with Disabilities

2



Photo from City of Chilliwack

Benefits and Trends

2.1 Benefits of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

The benefits of greenspaces, recreation, and culture are supported by extensive research into what makes some communities have healthier, happier residents. Some of the most-cited benefits of recreation and culture include improved personal health and a greater sense of belonging and community. The 2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada presents compelling evidence that involvement in recreational and cultural activities reduces the risk of physical health concerns such as obesity and diabetes, improves mental health, promotes life-long learning, reduces social isolation, and fosters more tolerant communities. There is also evidence to suggest that parks, recreation, and culture can be significant drivers of community vibrancy and prosperity. The natural setting of the City of Chilliwack attracts both residents and visitors, many of whom partake in a variety of outdoor and indoor recreational and cultural pursuits throughout the year. By providing recreation and culture services and access to parks, trails, and open spaces, either directly or by supporting community organizations, the Municipality and its community partners can help build a strong and vibrant community.

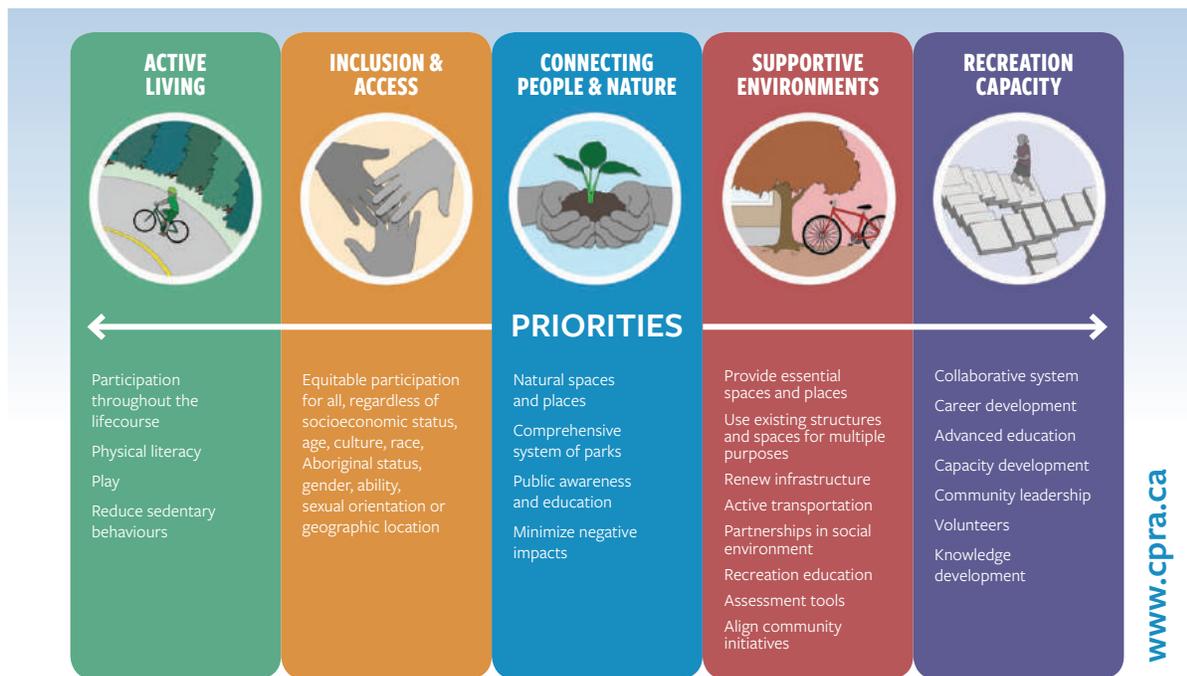


Figure 2: Canadian Parks & Recreation Association Goals and Priorities 2015

Importance of Parks, Recreation, and Culture in Health and Well-being

Health

Public parks, recreation, and cultural services have an important role in enhancing physical activity, which in turn, is a critical factor in improved physical and mental health (CPRA, 2015).



What We Heard:

Walking for exercise, followed by biking are the most common recreational, leisure, or cultural activities that Chilliwack residents participate in on a regular basis. Swimming and water sports are also quite popular.

Access to Nature

Being outside and in green spaces has been shown to benefit both physical and mental health (CPRA, 2015). Parks and trails near residences are particularly important for providing everyday opportunities to experience nature.



What We Heard:

Parks and trails are the most well used outdoor recreation spaces in Chilliwack. The community-built and maintained network of trails in the Chilliwack Community Forest are highly valued.

Affordability

Affordability is on everyone's mind; a connected parks and trails system provides opportunities for low or no cost exercise and recreation such as biking and walking, links to key community hubs, and allows members of the community to reach each other.



What We Heard:

Affordable access to recreation is important to Chilliwack residents. Engagement results indicate mobility challenges, time, and cost are the main reasons for not participating in recreational or cultural activities more often.

Social Cohesion

Parks, recreation, and culture opportunities bring people together, reduce social isolation, and help build strong families and reduce self-destructive and anti-social behaviour (CPRA, 2015).



What We Heard:

Participation in cultural and artistic programs has been shown to promote social connectedness and social cohesion while positively influencing civic behaviour, mutual caring, and voluntarism (CPRA, 2015). A wide variety of opportunities are needed because not everyone is interested or able to participate in sports and physical activities.

Economic Development

Parks, recreation, and culture contribute to the economy by attracting businesses, workers, and tourists while increasing property values and tax revenues. Parks also help improve work performance and productivity, reduce the cost of stormwater, and improve climate change resilience.



What We Heard:

People value the quality of life that is supported by the parks, recreation, and culture opportunities. Festivals and other arts and culture events are important to the community and Chilliwack's many organizations serve its residents, as well as attracting visitors and contributing to the economy.

2.2 Trends Influencing Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Many communities are facing the challenge of providing the benefits of parks, recreation, and culture services for a growing population with static budgets and resources and amidst rapid technological, economic, environmental, and social changes. The City of Chilliwack's approach to providing services is focused on providing facilities and empowering people and organizations in the community to provide services that meet community needs. In order for this approach to continue to succeed, the City, its partners, and community organizations need to have a shared understanding of the trends influencing the community.

The following trends and challenges have been identified from a variety of sources including the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA, 2015), British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA, 2009) and the research and analysis on the City of Chilliwack including the review of background reports and consultation with staff, stakeholders, and the public.

Diversity and Flexibility

People are increasingly seeking flexible, self-directed activities that fit their schedule and increasingly diverse interests (BCRPA, 2009). This is resulting in more demand for things like walking trails, drop-in recreation and arts, and low cost community events.



Multi-use Facilities

Many communities have aging facilities and are looking for opportunities for renewal and adaptation to meet current needs. Recreation centres that used to focus primarily on physical activities are shifting to meet broader community needs. Community facilities may combine things like pools and fitness facilities with art studios, libraries, childcare, and community services.





Photo from City of Chilliwack

Affordability



Offering affordable access to high-quality facilities and programs is a key challenge for many Canadian municipalities. Programs such as the City's Leisure Access Pass can help balance inequitable access to leisure activities. Parks and trails also facilitate access to low-cost recreation opportunities such as biking, walking, or casual use of playground or park field space. Protecting and investing in parks and trails as a critical and affordable component of the City's recreation facilities will help provide equitable recreation and active transportation opportunities and their associated benefits across the community.

Accessibility



When parks, trails, open spaces, and facilities are accessible and equitably distributed across a community, they contribute to a better quality of life for everyone.

Census data from 2016 shows that 61% of Chilliwack households had someone with an activity limitation, which reinforces the need for the City to continue their commitment to providing accessible parks, recreation, and cultural facilities. While accessibility often refers to physical accessibility, accessibility also addresses social-economic and cognitive factors. These factors include whether everyone in Chilliwack has access to recreation and cultural opportunities; or whether everyone has the choice to meet their daily needs by using active modes of travel. Facilities need to be barrier-free for all ages, abilities, and lifestyles.

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 (CPRA, 2015). This is no longer an enhanced service but a core expectation.



3



Photo from City of Chilliwack

Current State

3.1 APPROACH TO PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE

The City of Chilliwack uses a community-partnership approach to provide parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities. This delivery model operates through partnerships, grants, and service agreements with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Community organizations and agencies take the lead in providing programs and services, with the City providing funding and facilities, as well as limited direct programming. This approach requires fewer City of Chilliwack staff to provide the 1,800 programs and services currently being offered. This service delivery model differs from many of Chilliwack's neighbours (Abbotsford, Mission, and Vancouver, as examples), but it is common in many communities. The City of Chilliwack provides parks, recreation, and culture services through the strategies outlined below.

RECREATION AMENITIES IN PARKS

The City owns and maintains parks, including sports fields and amenities. It also manages field reservations in City parks and for some school fields. The City has invested in some sports fields at schools and has a Joint Use Agreement with School District 33 for the use of some sports facilities. The partnership with the School District is an essential component of providing outdoor recreation opportunities within a limited land base and parkland supply.

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The City uses three different approaches to provide recreation and culture:

1. The City owns and operates Evergreen Hall, The Landing Sports Centre, and the Sardis Sports Complex (Twin Rinks). The City provides some limited programming, but primarily relies on community organizations to book time at the facilities to provide their programs.
2. The City owns the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Cheam Leisure Centre, Rotary Pool, Chilliwack Cultural Centre, and the Chilliwack Curling and Community Centre. It has established service agreements with organizations to operate these facilities and provide programming.
3. The City provides funding to community organizations who offer programs, activities, and services to the community. Most organizations have funding from other sources as well, such as grants and user fees.

How is your parks, recreation, and culture dollars spent?



\$14 million

is spent the following ways:

The City, its partners, and community organizations provide 1,800 recreation and culture programs and 9000+ hours of sports programming.



The maintenance and operations of 20+ recreation facilities, including Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Cheam Leisure Centre, and Chilliwack Cultural Centre.

The City provides funding to 5 Community Schools that provide a variety of programs and facilities for community use.



The City has service agreements with businesses and organizations who operate recreation and culture facilities for community benefit.

3.1.2 PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Given the diverse nature and the community-driven approach of parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities, the City of Chilliwack plays the following role in the delivery of recreation, culture and parks services:

	Parks + Park's Amenities	Trails	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Chilliwack Cultural Centre	Sardis Sports Complex	Evergreen Hall	Chilliwack Museum & Archives	Chilliwack Curling and Community Centre	Chilliwack Landing Sports Centre	Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre	Cheam Leisure Centre	Rotary Pool	Recreation Programming	Chilliwack Coliseum
Operations	City	City	UG	SA	City	City	SA	SA	City	SA	SA	SA	SA/UG	Other
Repairs/Maintenance	City	City	City/UG	City/SA	City	City	City	SA	City	City/SA	City/SA	City/SA	N/A	Other
Planning	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	SA	SA	SA	SA	City/SA/UG	Other
Construction	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	N/A	N/A
Booking/Events	City	City	City	SA	City	City	SA	SA	City	SA	SA	SA	City/SA/UG	City/Other

Table Legend:

City = City UG = User Groups SA = Service Agreement



Table 1: Role of the City in PRC Facilities

SWOT Analysis of Current Community Partnership Model

STRENGTHS

- Keeps direct cost of parks, recreation, and culture low for the City
- Minimizes City Staff requirements, particularly for facility operations and programming
- Liability is shared between the City and service providers
- Fosters strong community participation in delivering recreation and culture services
- Growth of services and opportunities is gradual and responds to community-led initiatives

WEAKNESSES

- The City has limited ability to affect program offerings and limited data on offerings and participation
- No direct control to match needs in the community; more responsive to “wants”
- Limited oversight of how City funding is used and analysis of its effectiveness at meeting strategic goals
- Increasing number of user groups and service providers asking for City funding and support

OPPORTUNITIES

- Community drives offerings which creates opportunities for leadership and civic participation
- Wide range of user groups distributes responsibility across the community
- Expanded access to funding through grant and sponsorship support
- Community-led initiatives can be more opportunistic and flexible to adapt to funding opportunities or community needs

THREATS

- Organizations may be reluctant to change services if they are linked to specific grant funding
- Multiple organizations may offer the same activity creating unsustainable and inefficient services delivery
- Heavy reliance on volunteers and not-for-profit organizations may not be sustainable due to burnout or loss of key individuals
- May not be able to keep up with population growth and increasingly diverse needs and wants

Table 2: SWOT Analysis*

*A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis is one framework used to evaluate service delivery models and to develop strategic planning. SWOT analysis assesses the advantages and disadvantages in terms of internal strengths and weaknesses (within the control of the City) and external opportunities and threats (outside the control of the City).

3.1.3 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MODEL

The City of Chilliwack is currently using a “Community Partnership Approach” in order to provide recreation and cultural services. Delivery of parks and park amenities is directed primarily by the Greenspaces Plan. This model both allows for the community to lead its own process of deciding on services and helps train future civic leaders. The City of Chilliwack has an opportunity to continue to provide excellent recreation and culture services to its community by recognizing and addressing the key challenges of this approach.

KEY CHALLENGES

- As the community grows, the Community Partnership Approach can become more difficult to manage. This growth will create more partnerships, increase the scope of operations of those partnerships, and lead to greater pressure on financial and staffing resources.
- This model relies heavily on community organizations and volunteers. Unfortunately, the current trend to do more with less has increased pressure on community organizations and volunteers, resulting in a system that struggles to keep pace with population growth and changing needs.
- The current partnership agreements are inconsistent and not evaluated based on standard criteria. For example, there are over 130 organizations, but only eight have service agreements. This inconsistency may lead to inequalities for user groups or residents within the City.
- There are no processes nor standard criteria to evaluate new proposals for funding for capital projects or user groups.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing the number of City staff hours for working with volunteers and community organizations will make the current community partnership model more sustainable over time.
- In order to reduce repetition in programs and services, the City can identify common needs and facilitate better communication between organizations.
- Create a standardized process with specific criteria for funding proposals in order to help groups understand the City’s strategic goals and support Council’s decision making.

Current State of Indoor Facilities in Chilliwack

5 Community Schools

5 Ice Sheets

3 Libraries

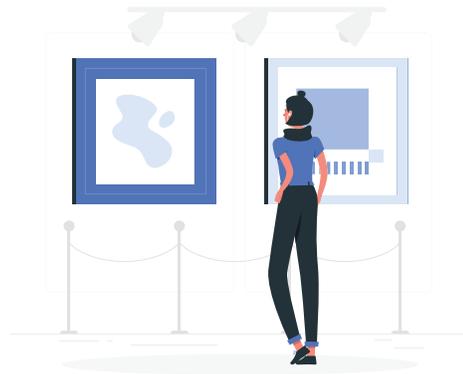
3 Major Community Halls

2 Leisure Centres
(plus 1 YMCA)

1 Curling Facility

1 Cultural Centre

1 Museum and Archives



3.2 RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

3.2.1 INDOOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

Chilliwack is home to a diverse range of recreation and cultural facilities including two leisure centres (both include aquatics), two arenas, a curling rink, a cultural centre, museum, and three libraries. Chilliwack also has five community schools that play an important role in offering recreational and cultural programming to the community in addition to offering educational and social services. These schools are generally open evenings until 8pm or 10pm, as well as weekends.

Key Trends

Importance of Flexibility

Engagement results indicate that Chilliwack residents prioritize a diversity of recreation and cultural activities at convenient times and locations.

Getting to Indoor Recreation and Cultural Facilities

Engagement results suggest that some Chilliwack residents find it difficult to find transportation to indoor recreation and cultural facilities. Addressing this challenge will require improving transit and creating active transportation options.

Matching Facilities to User Needs

In surveys and interviews, both stakeholders and service providers agreed that facility options, building features, and available days and times could be improved to better suit their needs. One example is the lack of multi-purpose and meeting spaces in indoor facilities.

Importance of Inclusion

Engagement results indicated a desire for more deliberate efforts to include people of all abilities in events and programs.

Aging Facilities

Some of Chilliwack's Recreation and Cultural facilities, such as Evergreen Hall and Landing Sports Centre, are aging and could be improved to better meet community needs.

More Activities for Youth

Results from phone interviews, public surveys, and conversations with stakeholders indicate that the greater Chilliwack community believes that there are not enough options for recreation and culture activities for children and youth.

Indoor Facility Inventory

The table below is an inventory of City-owned recreation and cultural facilities in Chilliwack with recommendations for improving these facilities to better serve the needs of the community. It should be noted that the City contracts out management of many of these facilities.

Indoor Facilities	Chilliwack Cultural Centre	Cheam Leisure Centre	Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre	Sardis Sports Complex	Chilliwack Coliseum
City managed				✓	
Service Agreement	✓	✓	✓		Private Public Partnership
Age	2010	1978 (2010 upgrade)	2001	1970 & 2018	2004
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art gallery • Performance theatre with capacity of 500+ • Recital hall/ rehearsal space/ dance studio/ meeting space with capacity of 150 • Music instruction rooms • Arts and crafts studios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squash courts • Weight training room with cardio area • Spinning/ fitness studios • Change rooms and washrooms • Small meeting room • 25 metre pool • Leisure pool • Hot tub and sauna • Offices/club offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure/wave pool and water slide • Hot tubs, sauna, and steam rooms • 25 metre pool • Weight training and fitness area • Fitness studio • Privately run wellness centre with physiotherapy services • Cafe • Outdoor Spray Park • Change rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sheets of ice: 1 single sheet and 1 double sheet • Full service concession in rinks 1 and 2 • Seating capacity of 500 spectators • Team dressing rooms • Washrooms • Large multipurpose space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose sheet ice • Dry floor • Seating capacity of 5000 • Secondary arena for community use (300 seat capacity) • Concession • Change rooms • Fitness areas
Potential Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade all lights to LEDs • Relocate the catering room closer to the south lobby where most catered events happen • Upgrade the orchestra hole to make it more useable and accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant renovation is recommended to address accessibility and modern standards for the gym, fitness, and change areas at the 1978 side of the building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand office space and fitness room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant action should be required during this 10 year period beyond normal maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate major building component replacement and upgrade costs over the next 10 years and set aside funds

Indoor Facilities	Landing Sports Centre	Evergreen Hall	Chilliwack Curling and Community Centre	Chilliwack Museum & Archives	Chilliwack Heritage Park
City managed	✓	✓			
Service Agreement			✓	✓	✓
Age	1976 (2010 theatre expansion)	1936 (1967, 2018 upgrades)	2018	1911 (2010, 2020 upgrades)	2000
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose indoor concrete floor with capacity of 1500 Loft area with capacity of 250-300 Small meeting room with capacity of 30 M/F change rooms/washrooms Lobby area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym with stage (Cheam Room) and capacity of 500-650 Multipurpose room (Slesse Room) with capacity of 75-100 Multipurpose room (Minto Room) with capacity of 30 Change rooms Kitchen Chilliwack Seniors Resources Society/Centre offices. Archives attached to this building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Ice sheets Kitchen 80 seat restaurant and café lounge Office and administrative spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition spaces Program space Offices and Supporting utility/admin spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor and outdoor dirt tracks Exhibition space Sand rings Concrete floors Sandwich bar Rodeo arena RV parking Multipurpose field Front parking capacity of approximately 1000 cars
Potential Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a facility needs assessment analysis coordinated with Evergreen Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a facility needs assessment analysis coordinated with the Landing Sports Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant action should be required during this 10 year period beyond normal maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the creation of a dedicated, combined Museum and Archive facility that reflects a contemporary standard for museum facilities especially if this can be tied into a cultural hub or other redevelopment project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade and expand washrooms Renovate office spaces Add signage to the front of the building Expand or add storage facilities

Figure 3:
Recreation and culture
Facility Map

Legend

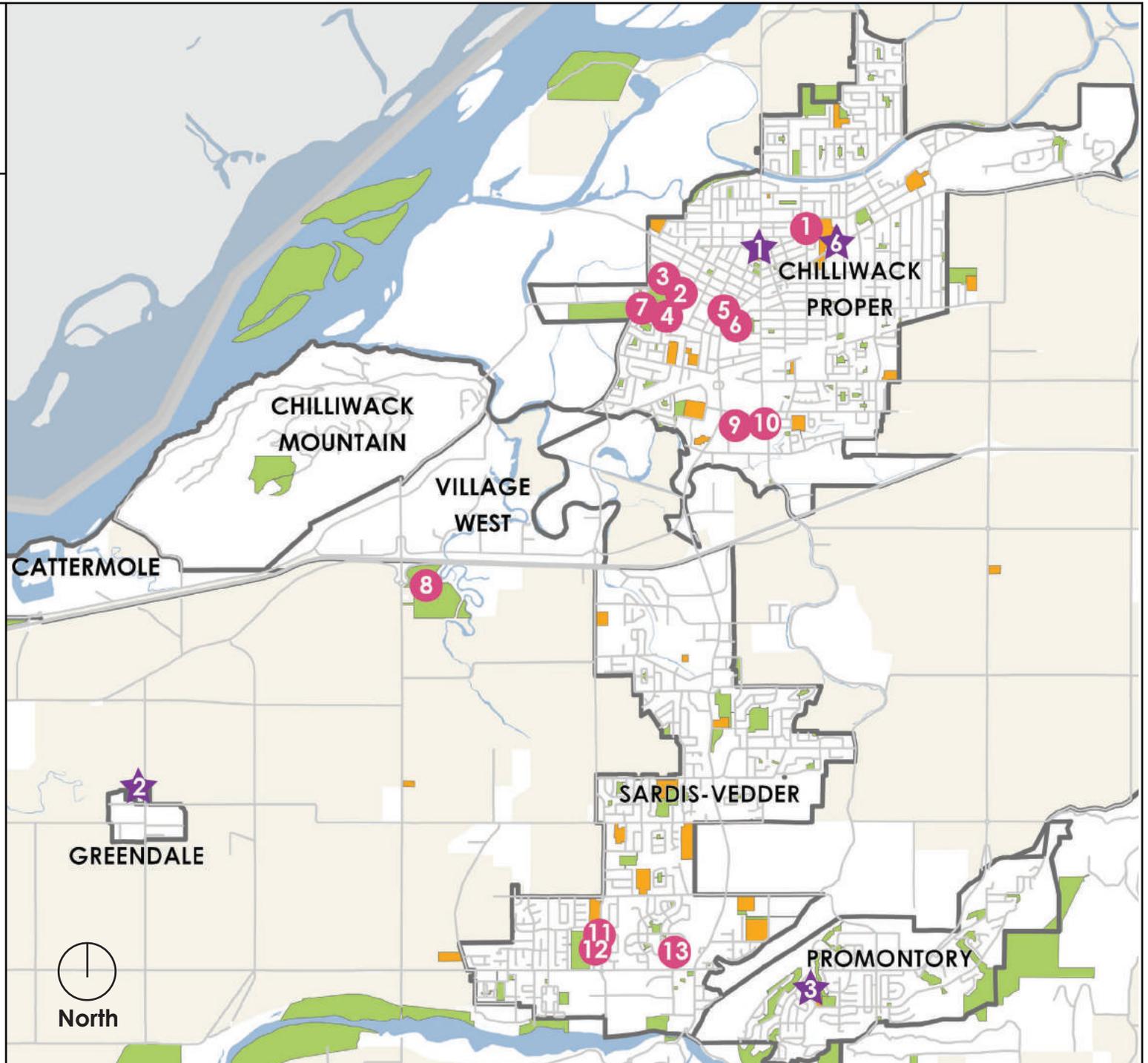
- Schools
- Parks
- Agricultural Land
- Municipal Boundary
- Water Bodies

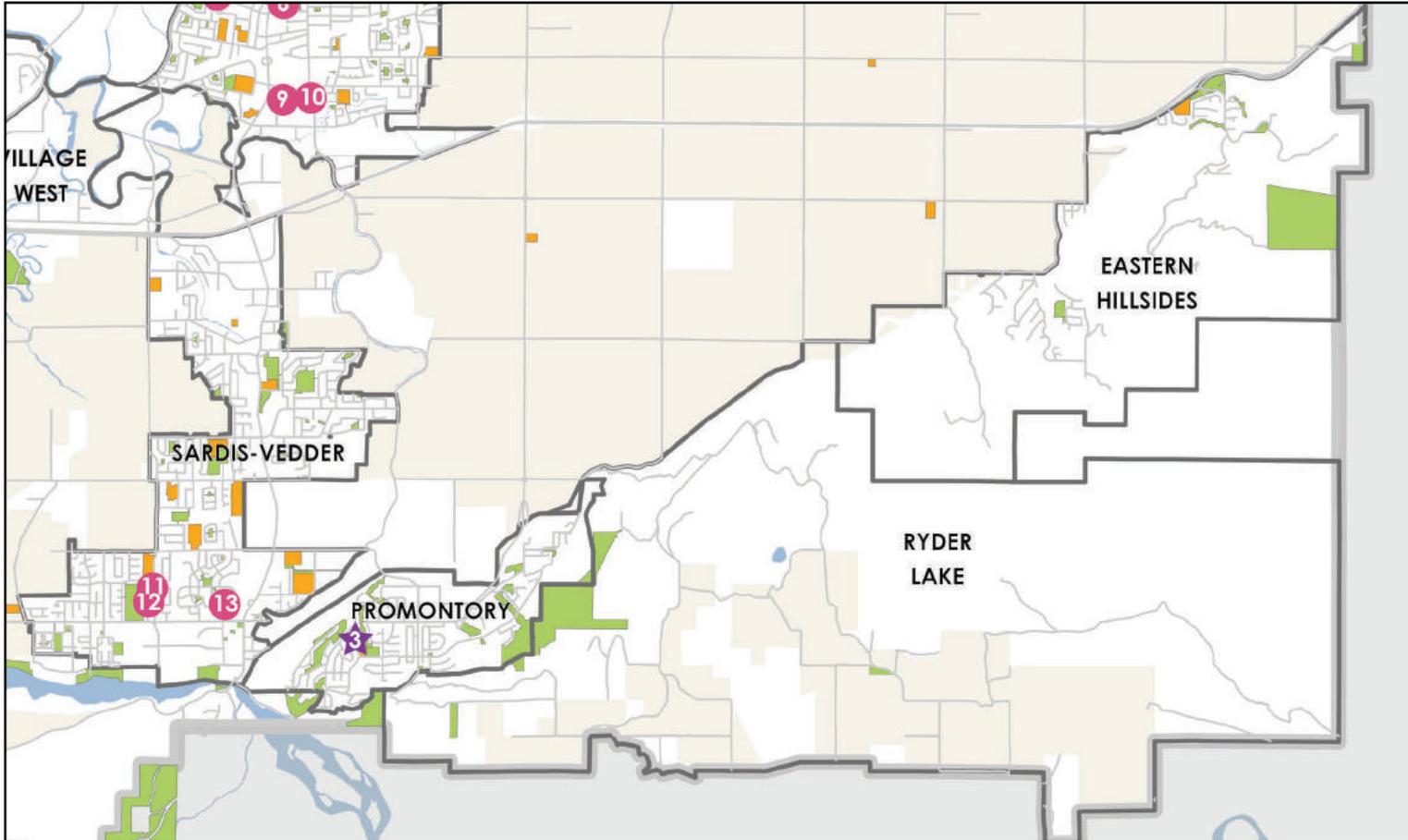
Recreation and Cultural Facilities

- 1 Rotary Pool
- 2 Chilliwack Cultural Centre
- 3 Landing Sports Centre/Evergreen Hall
- 4 Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre
- 5 Chilliwack Museum & Archives
- 6 Chilliwack Library & Salish Park
- 7 Prospera Centre
- 8 Chilliwack Heritage Park
- 9 Chilliwack Family YMCA
- 10 City Hall
- 11 Sardis Library
- 12 Sardis Sports Complex
- 13 Cheam Leisure Centre

Community Schools and Learning Centers

- ★ Central Elementary Community School
- ★ Greendale Elementary Community School
- ★ Promontory Heights Community School
- ★ Rosedale Traditional School
- ★ Yarrow Community School
- ★ Chilliwack Senior Secondary





Recreation and Cultural Facility Distribution

The map (Figure 3) shows the geographic distribution of Chilliwack’s recreation and cultural facilities and community schools. Recreation and cultural facilities are equitably distributed based on population density and service demand. There are several regional and civic destination facilities in Downtown Chilliwack (such as the Cultural Centre and Chilliwack Coliseum) that draw participants from beyond the bounds of Chilliwack. Although many of Chilliwack’s facilities are clustered in Downtown Chilliwack and North of Highway 1, most residents currently have access to some cultural and recreation facilities within a 10-20-minute drive of their house.



Photo from City of Chilliwack

What We Heard About Indoor Facilities

Most Used Indoor Facilities

Findings from the public phone and online surveys revealed that the most used facilities by Chilliwack residents for recreational or cultural activities are the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Cheam Leisure Centre, Libraries, Heritage Park, and Chilliwack Cultural Centre. In addition, close to 25% of those surveyed indicated that they have used services offered at the community schools within the last two years.

Opportunities for Improvement

Feedback from local recreational and cultural organizations suggests that the main barrier they face in providing more and/ or better programs and services are a lack of facilities and/ or access to them. Survey respondents also reported that some of the existing recreation and cultural facilities could be improved to better meet their needs.

Space Challenges

Several cultural and heritage services and organizations noted that they are experiencing challenges with their current facilities and spaces. These organizations could better coordinate with each other, share facilities, and find new opportunities within the existing facilities across the City. There could be opportunities for new facility options through a more detailed exploration of the future of Evergreen Hall and the Landing Sports Centre. While currently focused on physical activities, facility trends are moving toward more multi-functional models.

Buildings and Infrastructure

The Chilliwack Community Arts Council (CCAC) is on the lookout for a new home and would like to find ways to support PRC providers and expand culture and heritage offerings. The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society, which manages the Chilliwack Cultural Centre (CCC), is also considering an internal expansion and renovation to their existing facility. Considering the potential changes to the adjacent Evergreen Hall and Landing Sports Centre, there are a number of opportunities that may emerge for these organizations and facilities.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Both public surveys and stakeholder interviews revealed a desire for greater accessibility in indoor recreation and cultural facilities. Among public survey participants, 10% of phone respondents and 35% of online respondents highlighted the need for improved accessibility, while stakeholders noted the need to more clearly communicate accessibility offerings for events. Cheam Leisure Centre has been certified by the Rick Hanson Foundation. Other civic facilities have been assessed by the Rick Hansen Foundation, and the City continues to work toward improvements and certification. Other considerations beyond physical accessibility include the accessibility of information, events, and programming.

Current State of Outdoor Amenities in Chilliwack

TRAILS AND PARKS

- 125** Kilometers of Trails and Walkways
- 74** Sub-Neighbourhood Parks
- 19** Neighbourhood Parks or Facilities
- 11** Sub-Community Parks
- 16** Community Parks

SPORTS FIELDS AND COURTS

- 35** Ball Diamonds
- 15** Sports Courts (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)
- 3** Artificial Turf Fields (One opening in 2022)

PARK AMENITIES

- 86** Playgrounds
- 5** Skateparks/ Bikeparks
- 3** Spray Parks

OUTDOOR POOL

- 1** Outdoor Pool



3.2.2 OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACES

Chilliwack's parks, trails, and open spaces are an essential part of the City's character. Together, they support a healthy and active lifestyle for residents and visitors. The City recognizes the value of its greenspaces and the challenges of providing adequate parkland for its rapidly growing population. The City's 2021 Greenspace Plan provides a detailed inventory of the parks, trails, and open spaces system in addition to outlining the City's goals and targets for maintaining and expanding its parkland and outdoor amenities.

Chilliwack's parks and open spaces feature a variety of amenities and facilities, including play spaces, trails, sports fields and courts, outdoor fitness equipment, washrooms, bike parks, spray parks, gardens, and picnic areas. These amenities allow Chilliwack residents to engage in a wide-variety of both passive and active recreational activities. One of the City's most well used outdoor amenities is North America's longest pump track. Other well-used outdoor amenities include playgroups, spray parks, and local walking trails, such as the Vedder River Rotary Trail.

To understand the needs for new recreation amenities over the next 10 years, we considered three key factors: number of amenities, quality, and location. Table 3 shows Chilliwack's recreation amenity inventory per capita compared with the similar communities of Abbotsford and Surrey.

This section provides a summary of Chilliwack's outdoor facilities and amenities with recommendations for additional amenities to be added through 2033. It is important to note that these improvements will be undertaken as capital budgets are considered and approved. Further, there may also be new considerations and needs that emerge over the next 10 years.

Key Trends

Importance of Affordable Outdoor Recreation

Walking and biking are the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Chilliwack. Survey results indicate that these cost-effective activities in parks are a priority. Continued investment in trails and active transportation will improve transportation options and health and wellbeing.

Importance of Balancing Active & Passive Use

As the population grows and the diversity of outdoor recreation interests increases, there will be more competing demands for park space. Chilliwack parks need to continue to offer places for passive recreation, socializing, and relaxation, in addition to active recreation amenities.

Challenges with Availability and Quality of Ball Diamonds

Slo-pitch is one of the most popular sports in Chilliwack and survey results indicate that the existing diamonds are not meeting the needs of players. With a limited land base, redesigning existing fields to maximize use is a priority.

Challenges with Availability of Sports Courts

Pickleball and tennis are extremely popular in Chilliwack; however, survey results indicate that more outdoor courts are needed to meet the current demand and allow these sports to grow in the next 10 years.

Figure 4:
Outdoor Facility Map

Legend:

- Bicycle Trails
- Trails
- Roads

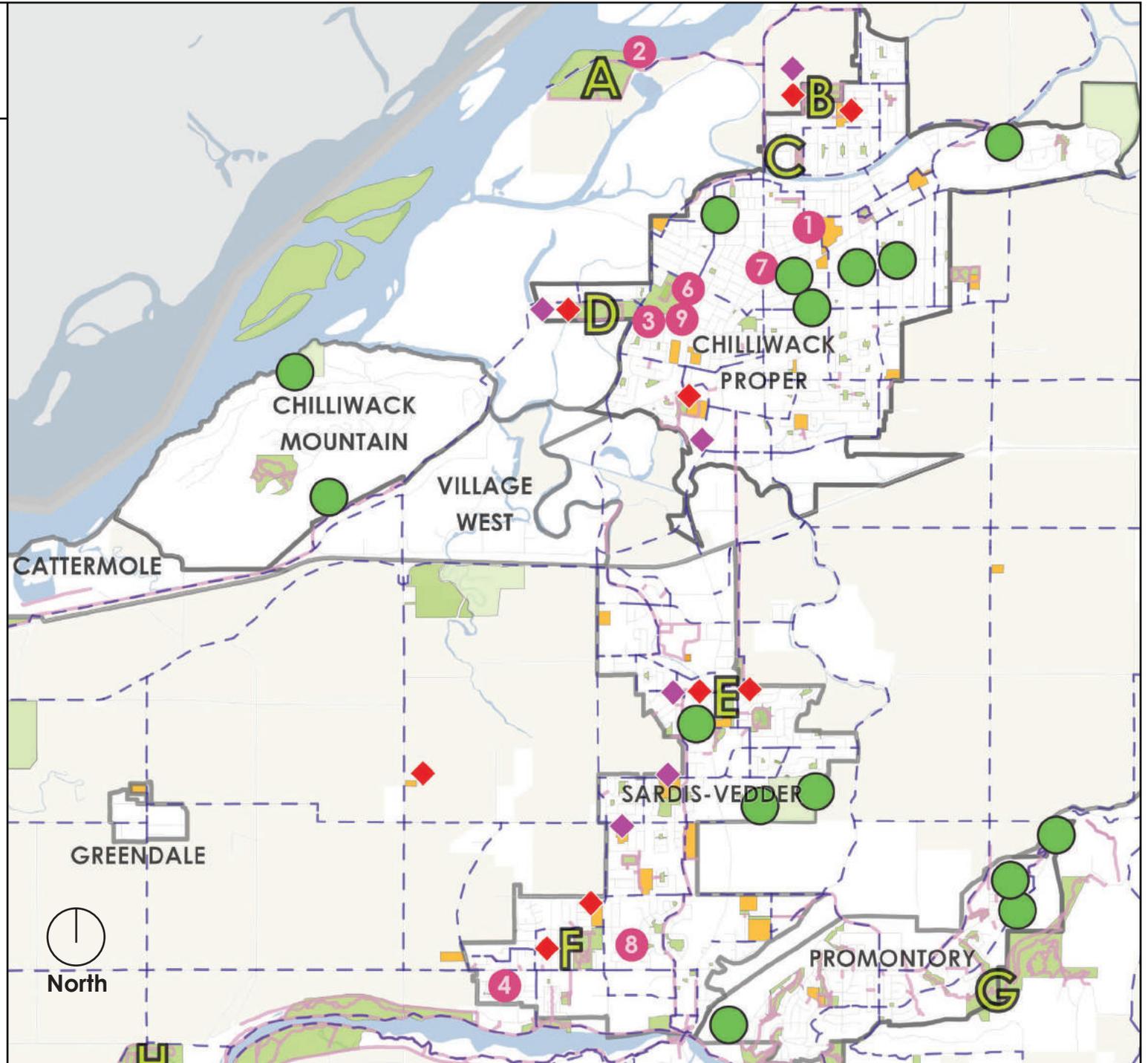
- Schools
- Parks
- Proposed Parks OCP 2040
- Golf Courses
- Agricultural Land
- Municipal Boundary
- Water Bodies

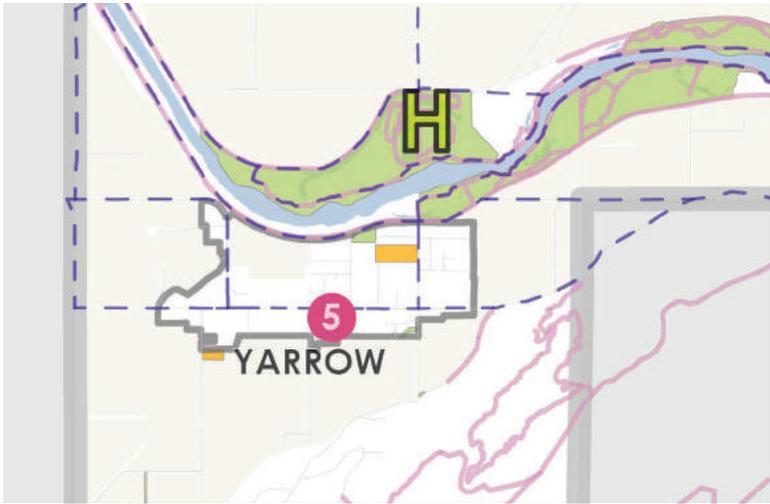
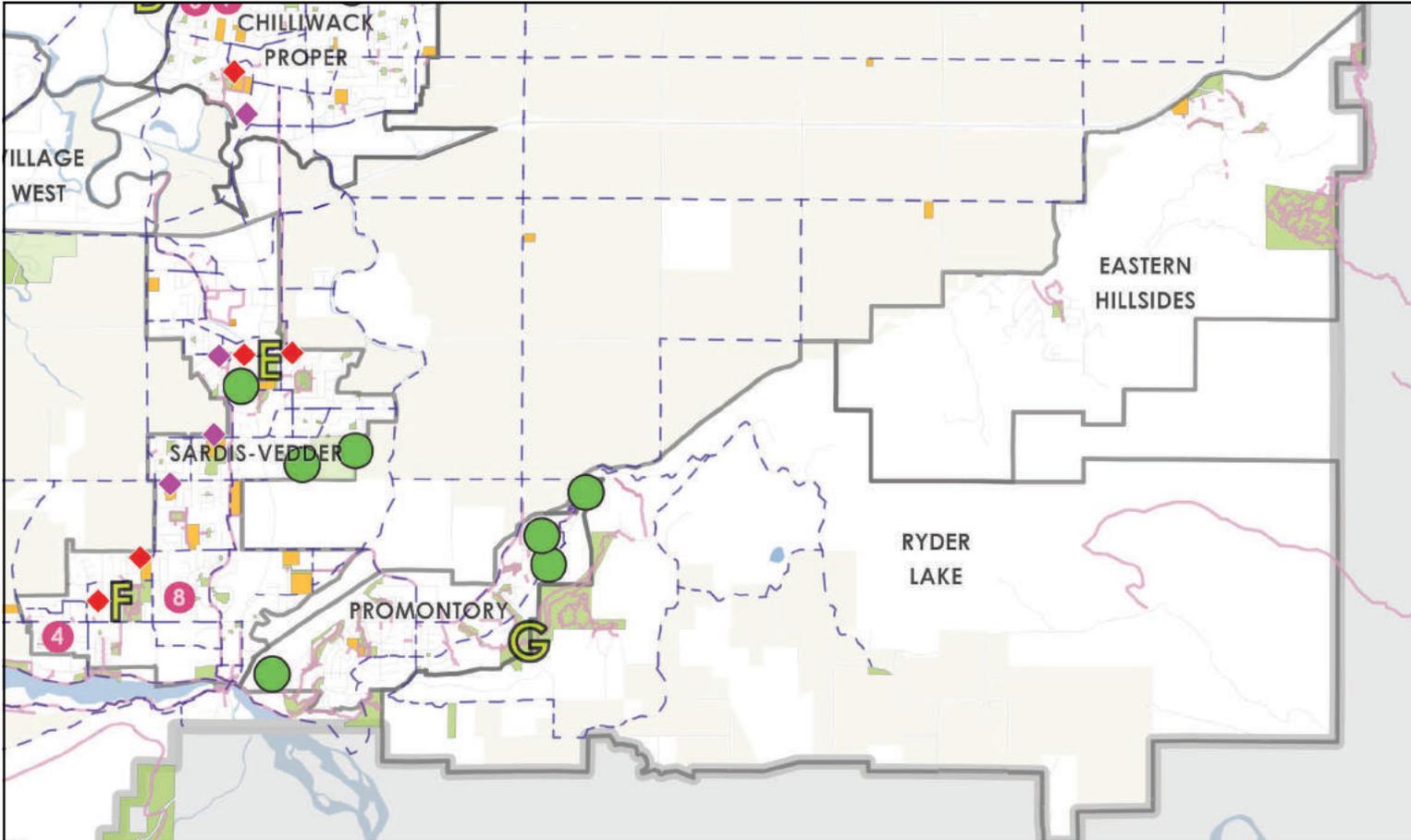
Facilities

- Rotary Pool
- Island 22 Bike Skills Park
- Landing Skate Park
- Webster Landing Skate Park
- Yarrow Skate Park
- Pump Track
- Central Community Spray Park
- Cheam Centre Spray Park
- Chilliwack Landing Spray Park
- Existing Sports Field
- Proposed Sports Field

Major Parks

- Island 22 Regional Park
- Fairfield Park
- Gwynne Vaughn
- Townsend Park
- Sardis Sports Fields
- Watson Glen Park
- Mount Thom Park
- Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve





Outdoor Facility and Amenity Inventory

The table below is an inventory of City-owned or managed recreation and cultural facilities and amenities in Chilliwack. This table considers only the number of amenities and does not include considerations of location or the quality of the facilities. This analysis is not a commitment to spend, but is meant to show existing gaps in park amenities based on comparable communities. Decisions for implementation will occur as determined through ongoing planning by staff and consideration by Council.

Chilliwack Park Facilities and Amenities			Average Level of Service*	2033 Inventory Target based on population	2033 New Facilities	Cost for New Facilities	10 Year Cost Estimate for New Facilities
2016 Population = 83,788 2033 Population = 120,000 estimated	Current Facilities Inventory	Current Facilities per 1,000					
Washrooms / Change rooms	22	0.22	0.13	n/a	0	\$150,000.00	\$733,333
Playgrounds	86	0.85	0.53	n/a	0	\$100,000.00	\$4,300,000
Sports Fields Outdoor (soccer)	23	0.23	0.16	n/a	0	\$500,000.00	\$2,875,000
Artificial Turf Field	3	0.03	0.03	4	1	\$1,500,000.00	\$4,931,761
Baseball and Softball Diamonds	35	0.34	0.24	n/a	0	\$500,000.00	\$8,750,000
Dog park (fenced)	3	0.03	0.03	n/a	0	\$50,000.00	\$150,000
Basketball Courts Outdoor	4	0.04	0.07	9	5	\$50,000.00	\$325,403
Skateboard Parks/Bike Skills Park	5	0.05	0.02	n/a	0	\$250,000.00	\$300,000
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)	11	0.11	0.12	15	4	\$50,000.00	\$738,510
Pickleball (Outdoor)	6	0.06	0.04	n/a	0	\$50,000.00	\$300,000
Trails	125km	1.23km	1.25km	150	25km	\$100,000.00	\$2,502,908
Spray Parks	3	0.03	0.02	n/a	0	\$300,000.00	\$3,600,000
Outdoor Pool	1	0.01	0.01	n/a	1	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000
*Average provision between Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Surrey, adjusted for population.							\$31,006,915
Total cost							\$3,100,692

Note: Tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts can be combined as multisport courts.

Table 4: Outdoor Facility and Amenity Inventory and Estimated Costs for New Facilities

Outdoor Facility and Amenity Inventory

The table below takes the current inventory of facilities and applies a life-cycle replacement analysis to provide an idea of the budget required to keep current outdoor facilities in good condition through significant renewals or replacements. These estimates are in 2022 dollars and do not account for inflation.

Chilliwack Park Facilities and Amenities					
	Current Facilities	Renewal Timeline (yrs)*	Renewals Expected over 10 years	Cost of Facility Renewals	10 Year Cost Estimate for New Facilities
Washrooms / Change rooms	22	30	7	\$100,000	\$700,000
Playgrounds	86	20	43	\$75,000	\$3.25M
Sports Fields Outdoor (soccer)	23	10-15	23	\$250,000	\$3.75-5.75M
Artificial Turf Field	3	10-15	1	\$1.5M	\$1.5M
Baseball and Softball Diamonds	35	10-15	23-35	\$250,000	\$5.75-8.75M
Dog park (fenced)	3	5	6	\$25,000	\$150,000
Basketball Courts Outdoor	4	10	4	\$25,000	\$100,000
Skateboard Parks/Bike Skills Park	5	10	2	\$150,000	\$300,000
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)	11	10	11	\$50,000	\$550,000
Pickleball (Outdoor)	6	10	6	\$50,000	\$300,000
Trails	125km	n/a	0	\$200,000	
Spray Parks	3	15	2	\$500,000	\$1.0M
Outdoor Pool	1	30	1	\$1.5M	\$1.5M
				10 year cost (estimated)	\$20-25M

**The renewal timeline is approximate and should be considered a tool to support budget planning. Renewal timelines could be increased or decreased to align with budgets.*

Table 5: Outdoor Facility and Amenity Renewal Timeline and Estimated Costs for Renewed Facilities



Photo from City of Chilliwack

SPORTS FIELDS & BALL-DIAMONDS

Chilliwack has a good supply of sports fields and most survey respondents indicated that they have used these facilities for a range of activities, including soccer and slo-pitch. Within the inventory are Class A, B, and C grass fields, as well as half and full size artificial turf pitches. The most well-used fields based on 2019 booking data were at Townsend Park, Sardis Park, Fairfield Island Park, FG Leary Elementary School, Exhibition fields, and the Chilliwack Secondary School artificial turf field. Overall, there were 52 fields that were used less than 100 hours per year. Many of those are located at elementary schools and may not be of appropriate size for competitions, but through strategic upgrades, the City likely already has the land base needed to meet increasing demand. Ensuring that fields are well-built and well-maintained, have appropriate amenities, such as small storage boxes or locked closets in adjacent facilities, access to washrooms, and lighting (where appropriate), can greatly increase the use of existing fields. The City should also continue to add artificial turf fields where appropriate and as funding is available because the average hours of use in 2019 was approximately three times greater than the highest quality grass fields (~1,200 hours compared to ~400 hours).

Slo-Pitch

Adult slo-pitch is one of the most well-subscribed recreation programs in the city. The leagues have a collective registration of approximately 2,750 individuals across 151 teams. The leagues use several venues, including school fields, but many of them have limitations such as fences that are too close, being restricted to scheduling games during daylight hours, and overlapping outfields. There is also no facility that can host tournaments in a single location. Feedback from the online stakeholder survey indicates that there is a particularly pronounced gap in slo-pitch facilities on the South side of the city. The Chilliwack Sports Field Study (Binnie, 2018) identifies several potential sites for slo-pitch facilities; however, most of the proposed fields are on the North side of the city and could not support slo-pitch tournaments. Using two or more sites in close proximity to host tournaments may be the only option within the City's land base. This approach is not ideal, but has been used successfully in other communities.

In partnership with School District 33, the City is planning for an artificial turf field at the new Southside Elementary and Middle School, which is expected to open in Fall 2022. A fourth artificial turf field at Townsend Field will be considered if there is sufficient demand and availability of funding.



Photo from City of Chilliwack

SPORTS COURTS

Tennis

The City of Chilliwack has fewer outdoor tennis courts per capita than both Abbotsford and Surrey. Stakeholders from local tennis organizations expressed that they have experienced difficulty in booking tennis facilities and have limited their programming as a result. Tennis facilities are often first-come, first-served with exceptions made for clubs and leagues who want to arrange competitive or organized play at certain times.

Pickleball

Pickleball is another rapidly growing recreational activity in Chilliwack, as well as across North America. Although there are a higher than average provision of pickleball courts in Chilliwack, results from the stakeholder survey suggest that additional and upgraded courts would allow the sport to grow in the next 10 years. Pickleball tends to be a social sport that brings groups of players together and requires the use of multiple courts simultaneously. While pickleball can use tennis courts, fitting two pickleball courts on one tennis court, its popularity suggests that the sport is here to stay and could use more dedicated courts.

Outdoor Basketball

Although many of the community schools and recreation centres have gymnasiums and indoor basketball, the City of Chilliwack could increase the quantity and quality of outdoor basketball facilities. As the City looks for opportunities for additional sports courts, design for multiple sports and activities should always be considered. Not all sports are compatible, but deliberate design can maximize use and accommodate future adaptation of the facility. Basketball works well with ball hockey, and half courts can be compatible with tennis or pickleball courts.

Current State of Culture in Chilliwack

20+ Local Arts & Culture Organizations in Chilliwack

Cornerstone Culture Facilities include:

- Chilliwack Cultural Centre
- Chilliwack Museum & Archives
- Chilliwack Libraries
- Chilliwack Heritage Park

The City partners with the Chilliwack Cultural Society and Tourism Chilliwack for a variety of cultural offerings from visual and performing arts to special events.

Procurement of Public Art is a primary focus of the City.



3.3 CULTURE

Cultural services in the City of Chilliwack are administered using a community partnership model, where local cultural organizations deliver arts and heritage experiences to residents. Some of the key partners include the Chilliwack Academy of Music, the Visual Artists Association, and Chilliwack Players Guild. Cornerstone cultural amenities in the community include the Chilliwack Cultural Centre and the Chilliwack Museum and Archives. The City has service partner agreements with organizations who manage and operate these facilities. Various public art pieces located through out the city, mainly sculptures and murals, also add to Chilliwack's cultural richness.

Key Trends

Collaboration Needed Amongst Arts & Culture Groups

Survey results show that most arts & culture stakeholders are interested in collaborating, but stated that there is a lack of communication and awareness of their respective services and offerings.

Lack of Drop-in Arts & Crafts Activities

Drop-in arts and crafts activities were a common need highlighted in the public survey and during stakeholder discussions. Groups that many feel would benefit from drop-in programming include youth and students, persons with mobility challenges, shift workers, seniors, and low-income families.

Supporting Social Cohesion

Social isolation is on the rise and vulnerable populations, such as seniors, are particularly at risk. Participation in cultural and artistic programs has been shown to promote social connectedness and social cohesion in addition to positively influencing civic behaviour, mutual caring, and voluntarism.

Challenges with Reaching Cultural Facilities

10% of phone survey and 35% of online survey responses highlighted the need for improved access to cultural facilities, services, and offerings. Stakeholders also noted an opportunity to further communicate accessibility offerings for events and programming.

Space/ Facility Challenges for Cultural Groups & Organizations

A number of cultural services and organizations noted that they are experiencing space challenges that include limited space within their current facilities and finding affordable and accessible space to host and/ or organize events and programs.

Prioritizing Indigenous culture

Nearly every culture organization who was engaged for this plan stated that increasing the presence of Indigenous art and programming, in collaboration with Chilliwack's Indigenous communities, is a current high-level priority for their organization.



Photo from Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Chilliwack Cultural Centre serves as the city's premier destination for arts performances and programming. The Hub International Theatre is the Centre's main venue for live performances. Local organizations that have held performances there include the Chilliwack Lions Club, Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra, and Lighthouse Theatre. The Cultural Centre also has the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre which accommodates smaller performances and presentations. In addition to hosting a wide range of performances, the Cultural Centre features the O'Connor Group Art Gallery, which is operated by the Chilliwack Visual Artists Association. The Cultural Centre also doubles as a facility for arts instruction, much of which is delivered by the non-profit Chilliwack Academy of Music and dozens of visual artists. While there are many benefits of having one centralized location for arts and culture programming, based on engagement results, the City could consider adding new spaces at other civic facilities, such as at the leisure centres, that would provide easier access to arts and crafts activities, beginner instructional programs, and drop-in opportunities.

Chilliwack Museum & Archives

The Chilliwack Museum is housed in the City's former City Hall. In addition to being a site for residents to explore heritage, the Museum building is a National Historic Site of Canada. The Chilliwack Museum's exhibits celebrate the stories of the city and its surrounding communities. The Museum offers general admission, guided tours to groups, and educational programs to school children. Additionally, the Museum compliments their on-site educational programs with local history kits that teachers can use to deliver in-class lessons about the city's heritage.

The Chilliwack Archives contains a variety of historical assets and records that provide intrinsic value to residents and anyone interested in learning more about the heritage of the city and its surrounding communities.

Public Art

Public art in the city has been rapidly growing in recent years. Currently, most public art in Chilliwack is developed through recommendations to Council by the Chilliwack Public Art Advisory Committee (CPAAC). As a result of their work and the contributions of countless artists, Chilliwack is home to a rich assortment of public art installations. Recognizing the positive response from residents, businesses and visitors, there is room for more public art in public parks and open spaces, as well as on and in civic facilities.

Chilliwack Art Trail

The Chilliwack Art Trail is a safe, self-guided, family-friendly activity that highlights an array of public art throughout Chilliwack. Created through a partnership between the City of Chilliwack and Tourism Chilliwack, people of all ages can use the Art Trail map to discover an assortment of man-made and natural artistic delights from roundabout sculptures to murals to Chilliwack's breathtaking landscape. This outdoor gallery tour of Chilliwack's public art offerings not only takes visitors on a journey across this great community, but also identifies and celebrates the local makers and artists behind each unique artwork.



Photo from City of Chilliwack

Additional Cultural Facilities and Programs

A number of programs and events fulfill key community needs, They include the Art Hive Collective, the annual Vedder River Art Walk, the longstanding Chilliwack Players Guild and the Chilliwack Fair which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2022.

What We Heard About Culture

More Decentralized Activities

Conversations with stakeholders and service providers highlighted a common interest in offering more decentralized art and culture activities throughout Chilliwack. Decentralized activities include regular and special programs that can be held out in the community, reaching residents and visitors where they are. The suggestion of this approach comes from observations made by service providers that a segment of their patrons, from youths to seniors to those living with disabilities, as well as anyone without a drivers license, face challenges in accessing programs and services at their central location(s). These challenges include Chilliwack's large geographic footprint, the north-south barrier created by the highway, as well as perceived lack of mobility and transportation options.

Some service providers, including the Chilliwack Library/ FVRL and Tourism Chilliwack, are already conducting these types of activities. For example, the Chilliwack Library has been hosting virtual storytelling sessions from local parks and hopes to continue post-pandemic. The Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL), which the Library belongs to, also hosts a regular mobile "Library Live" tour. They have offered to provide insight and resources to the City to help guide others who may be interested in planning these types of decentralized activities.

More Drop-in Arts and Crafts Activities

The call for more drop-in arts and crafts activities is a common need identified in the public survey and during stakeholder discussions. Increasing drop-in arts activities allows cultural service providers to reach groups that might not be able to commit to longer classes or programs with fixed schedules. Building on the findings above, groups that benefit from drop-in programming include youth and students, persons with mobility challenges, shift workers, seniors, and low-income families.

More Participatory Installations

Similar to decentralized activities, stakeholders are looking to provide more participatory installations that engage residents and can take various forms, from displaying community artifacts and images to exhibitions featuring oral histories from residents. Participatory installations create a stronger sense of community and civic pride by allowing residents to engage with Chilliwack's history, culture, and environment. A successful example of a participatory installation is Mississauga's "Story of M" project, which involved residents identifying high-level themes about Mississauga and submitting their own personal stories that related to them.



Photo from City of Chilliwack

Indigenous Programming and Installations

In recent years, the City of Chilliwack has taken numerous steps to ensure that Indigenous programming and public art is prominently displayed in the city, including art installations at the Welcome Centre, the roundabout at the Vedder River, and several sculptures which were a result of partnerships/collaboration with several First Nations communities. Engagement with an array of cultural stakeholders for this plan indicates that there is strong interest in further highlighting local Indigenous culture.

Funding

Stakeholders and service providers have expressed great interest in providing more cultural programs, services, and offerings to the greater Chilliwack community. In order to do so, however, they have emphasized that they need more funding. Here, it is important to note that the City welcomes groups to pursue additional funding opportunities, such as grants, sponsorships, and support from other fundraising initiatives.

4



Photo from Tourism Chilliwack

Vision

The following vision statement has been developed in response to public input and the City's strategic directions. The vision sets the stage for the actions and is the foundation for directing decision making around parks, recreation, and cultural services. The key elements are a focus on the greatest community benefits for the whole community and accountability for the investment of public resources. The City recognizes the importance of community partners by including collaboration and capacity-building in the vision.

Vision Statement

Parks, recreation, and culture in Chilliwack will help support community health, well-being, and resilience through collaboration and capacity-building. The City will achieve the greatest community benefits possible in return for the investment of limited available public resources.

Recommendations

Service Delivery and Programs

1

COMMUNICATIONS

Create a Communications Strategy for recreation programs and services.

Conversations with parks, recreation, and culture stakeholders revealed that there is generally a good working relationship between the City and community partners, however, there is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships through improved communications and coordination. One of the key challenges identified through conversations with stakeholders was the need to better understand the City's role in the delivery of recreation and cultural programs and services. Strong partnerships and communication to support and enable community partners to deliver recreation and culture services is critical to success. Additionally, both community partners and public survey respondents expressed an interest in making it easier for people to find out about recreation, arts, and culture opportunities, programs, and facilities. There is a seasonal Leisure Guide that includes information and varying levels of program details from community partners, as well as contact information for organizations across the community that provide recreation and cultural services. An approach that helps simplify and consolidate information, as well as employing multiple methods for outreach and marketing of opportunities would help community members get access to existing opportunities.

Actions:

- Create a 1-2 page fact sheet outlining the City's role in PRC in the community along with key contacts and methods of communication (i.e. regular meetings, committees, etc).
- Continue to hold biannual meetings with service providers including indoor recreation user groups, outdoor recreation user groups, arts and culture organizations, and community service organizations.
- Pilot a seasonal recreation and cultural program registration fair (commitment to 4 events is recommended). If successful and supported by service providers and the public, establish it as part of the City's ongoing outreach and promotion of recreation and culture opportunities.
- Establish updated joint-use agreements with School District #33 for sports amenities on school property. Agreements should have clear direction, roles, and responsibilities regarding maintenance, revenues, capital investments, and liability. Ongoing, regular communication between School District #33 and the City is needed to ensure agreements are implemented. Communication to appropriate staff at specific school sites, as well as to the user groups who use the fields will also improve clarity.
- Explore options to expand digital access to information on recreation and culture programs such as the Leisure Guide and community service providers.
- Increase promotion of community programming through the City's social media platforms.

2

SERVICE AGREEMENTS***Standardize agreements with service providers and community partners.***

This Plan has identified many of the strengths and opportunities associated with the City's community-partnership approach to delivering parks recreation and cultural services. However, one of the key challenges is the lack of accurate and consistent information demonstrating the benefits of public investments. Standardized agreements with service providers and specific requirements for annual reporting will allow the City to ensure that recreation and culture programming meets the needs of the community. Increased reporting requirements will allow the City to identify key gaps in programming, services, and hours of operation, and support the City's decision-making on future investments in recreation and culture. The process of working with service providers, especially community organizations, should be collaborative, supportive, and in the spirit of improving parks, recreation, and culture in Chilliwack. Reporting is one way to measure success and identify opportunities. The City will also get better information about how to support the organizational capacity of its partners, which will increase resilience and the efficiency and effectiveness of services.

Actions:

- Develop a standard agreement for all recreation and cultural facility operators that includes requirements for annual reporting, operating hours (including prime-time hours), programming, and facility inspections.
- Develop a standard agreement for all recreation and cultural service delivery organizations that includes requirements for annual reporting including key metrics to track participation, hours of programming provided, and measurable key outcomes to demonstrate benefits to the community.
- Enforce reporting requirements stipulated in the agreement.
- Using the reports from service providers, conduct annual reviews of recreation and culture participation to identify gaps and priorities.
- Work with partners and community organizations to identify opportunities for improvement in the delivery of services.

Recommendations

Service Delivery and Programs

3

CAPITAL PLANNING

Establish a Capital Projects Planning Policy

With Chilliwack's tradition of community-led recreation and culture, there are often multiple initiatives coming forward from community organizations with requests for City funding, use of parkland, or other resources and support. However, the City does not have the luxury of funding all community initiatives and a clear process and consistent evaluation criteria are needed to support decision-making to ensure the highest and best use of public resources. The City would benefit from becoming more involved in the business planning process with partners and incorporating the needs of City residents early on.

Planning new facilities requires advanced analysis and planning to properly estimate resource requirements, prove the need for new facilities, and to determine the level of support from the public and funders. Major capital projects should demonstrate community need and identify capital and operational revenues and expenditures, as well as its alignment with City plans and policies. The overall process of evaluating and implementing major capital projects can take several years and requires early consultation between organizations wishing to cost-share and the City. Both Council and staff should be involved throughout the process. While this may increase demand on staff time, it will also yield better information for the City's recreation, culture, land use, and financial planning. The process also has benefits for the proponent organization by instigating the development of a strong business case that can be used to secure external funding.

A flow diagram of the proposed Capital Project Proposal Review Process and a table outlining the evaluation criteria are provided on the following pages.

Actions:

- Establish a process for evaluating new park, recreation, and culture capital projects, including an evaluation criteria.
- Incorporate implementation into staff work plans and consider additional staff resources to support this process.

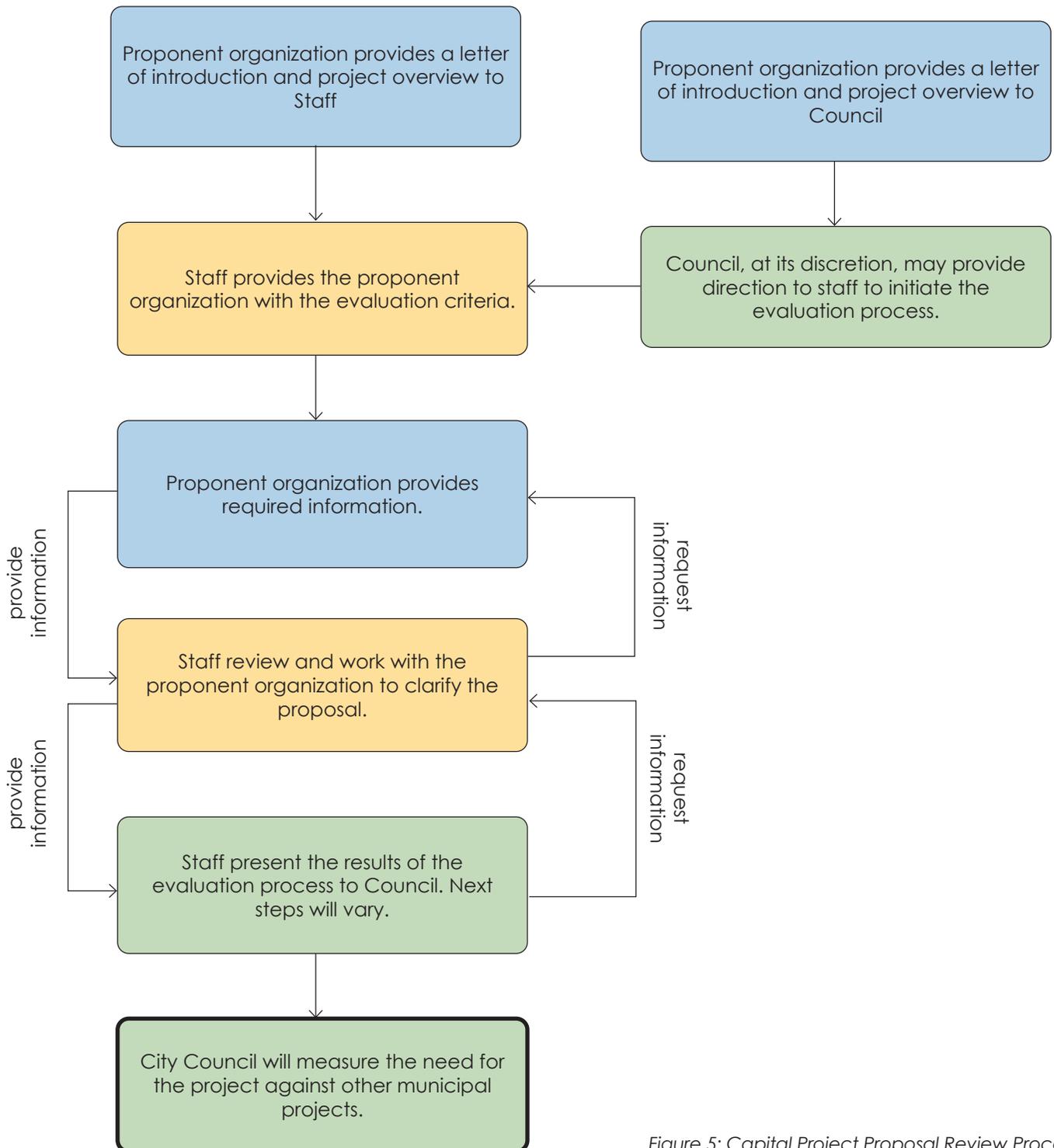


Figure 5: Capital Project Proposal Review Process

Recommendations

Service Delivery and Programs

Evaluation Criteria	Description
Strategic Alignment with the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear linkages between the project and the City’s policies and plans, as well as Council’s priorities.
Comparative Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison to other successful projects and initiatives in other communities.
Supply Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that the service and facility is complimentary to other opportunities in the community, not competitive or duplicating. Consider the supply in neighbouring communities and the private sector. • Demonstrate that existing facilities are well-used in both prime time and non-prime time. • Demonstrate that repurposing or upgrading options for existing facilities have been considered.
Demonstrated Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proponent should demonstrate how the project will meet community needs overall. Direct public engagement or use of past public engagement information should support the initiatives. The proponent should demonstrate how the project will meet the needs of vulnerable or underserved populations including children, youth, seniors, new Canadians, people with special needs, people with disabilities, people with low incomes.
Public Access and Facility Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a high level of accessibility to the public and ensure the greatest access to the greatest number of community members. • Demonstrate inclusiveness and accommodation of all ages, income levels, and abilities. • Single use facilities or those facilities that cater mostly to one user group must specifically demonstrate the broad community benefit.
Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates collaborative approach and strong partnerships. • Demonstrate multiple partners are contributing to the project. • Demonstrate a plan to work with other organizations in implementation and operation.

Table 6: Capital Projects Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Description
Capital Financing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital financing plan is realistic and is supported by sound data. Capital financing plan demonstrates a clear ability to fund the project. • The sponsoring organization demonstrates provision of at least 50% of project costs (e.g. cash in hand, grants, donations, labour in kind, etc.)
Operational Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational revenue/cost assessment is realistic and is supported by sound data. • Business model demonstrates enhanced opportunities for citizens, while seeking to maximize revenue and minimize tax supported annual operating costs. • Demonstrates sound life-cycle planning and allocates annual resources for lifecycle costs.
Facility Concept and Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound preliminary design and site assessment that provides maximum benefit for citizens. • Location ensures the greatest access to the greatest number of citizens. • Project is high quality and built to last. • Design encourages multi-use spaces that promote a variety of uses for a variety of interests. • Design allows for growth in the future as needs change and evolve. • Design will limit negative impacts on the environment.
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project risks and mitigation measures are adequately identified.

Recommendations

Service Delivery and Programs

4

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Support coordination and cooperation among community arts, culture, and recreation organizations.

Numerous arts and culture initiatives, most notably the realization of the iconic Chilliwack Cultural Centre, are the product of collaborative efforts between the City and various community organizations. Many arts and culture groups want to collaborate with one another to provide more events and programs that are interactive, engage with recreation and outdoor spaces, and connect to Indigenous culture. Coordination support from the City will create opportunities for collaborative events, intersecting ideas and a cohesive arts and culture community that has the potential to generate far greater returns than the staff time required to achieve this. In turn, this strengthens Sustainable and Creative Development, one of the four strategic directions established by the BC Arts Council.

Recreational user groups expressed a strong interest in improving communication amongst groups and with the City about opportunities for sharing resources, better coordinating field allocations, improving equity of access, and collaborating on facility improvements, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts. Recreation groups support the current efforts of City staff and recognized that there is effort required on their part to implement improvements to communication and collaboration. Coordination support from the City will reflect the mutual benefits that improved collaboration can bring to recreation across the city.

Actions:

Culture Organizations

- Consider establishing a City Advisory Committee to provide leadership, direction and a platform for collaboration in city-wide arts and culture efforts.
- This committee could grow out of the Public Arts Advisory Committee, or be a distinct Committee.
- Distribute the list of key arts and culture contacts collected for this master plan among arts and culture groups in Chilliwack (with permission).
- Consider organizing an annual meeting of arts and culture groups. Alternatively, include terms in partnership agreements that require a major arts and culture partner to organize this meeting.
- Continue to ensure that City staff are familiar with representatives from Chilliwack's arts and culture groups and are well prepared to facilitate introductions and interactions among these representatives.

Recreation Organizations

- Consider establishing a biannual meeting for recreation user groups to plan upcoming sports seasons, coordinate field allocations, identify tournaments and special events that may affect multiple user groups, gather input on priority field improvements, and to discuss what worked/didn't work from the previous "season".

5

DECENTRALIZED ACTIVITIES***Provide more support for decentralized cultural activities in parks, schools, and other public spaces.***

From Rosedale to Yarrow, Chilliwack's extensive geography spreads out across 261 square kilometers and is divided by Highway 1. There is a barrier- both physical and mental- between north and south because all movement is funneled into limited crossing locations that are pinch points during peak times. These constraints have been identified by residents and community members as a barrier to access and participation in parks, recreation, and culture services and programs. This is a particular challenge for youth (14 and under- 18,305 Chilliwack residents) and seniors (over 80- 5,260 Chilliwack residents) who account for 23% of Chilliwack's population. They are less likely to have drivers licenses and are thus more dependent on others to access parks, recreation and culture offerings. Flexible programs also align with the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association's (CPRA) Goals of increasing Active Living; Inclusion and Access; and creating more Supportive Environments.

This action is supported by the public and stakeholders who deliver programs and services. There is a need and demand for flexible programming closer to home and community organizations involved in cultural and recreational services and programs are keen to provide opportunities across the city. The limitations to implementation will be finding suitable indoor and outdoor spaces, increasing capacity of organizations to deliver more services, and getting the word out to make sure efforts are successful.

Actions:

- Include terms for a specific number of decentralized activities on an annual basis in community partnership agreements with arts and culture, recreation, and community service organizations in Chilliwack. This could include a clause whereby decentralized activities can be undertaken cooperatively by multiple organizations.
- Create a map that identifies suitable locations for these activities. There may be a need to add park amenities such as temporary washrooms and drinking water stations to support programming and events.
- Develop a 'How To' guide for conducting decentralized activities. As a concise visual document, this could be developed by the City, offered through a public call, or sole-sourced to a qualified organization.
- Conduct a one year pilot of decentralized activities in collaboration with community partners. Establish metrics of success for decentralized programs. Evaluate the first year of decentralized activities. Determine how it can be improved, or if it should be continued.

Recommendations

Service Delivery and Programs

6

AFFORDABILITY OF CULTURE PROGRAMS

Together with community partners, explore the potential of providing funding for affordable access to arts and culture activities.

In Chilliwack, the Leisure Access Program is well used by youth, seniors and families requiring financial assistance to access recreation programs throughout the city. Further support to remove financial obstacles to participation in sports and recreation in Chilliwack are offered through the Canadian Tire Jumpstart and KidSport programs. To encourage similar access and participation in local cultural offerings and programs, creating a similar program for arts and culture would strengthen the equity and social cohesion benefits that Parks, Recreation and Culture programs generate; align with the BC Arts Council's strategic direction towards Equity, Diversity and Access; and support Chilliwack Healthier Community's Vision and Mission. According to the 2020 BC Child Poverty Report Card, 4,610 children in Chilliwack (19.3% of all children in Chilliwack) were living in poverty in 2018. By providing additional safe and positive offerings for these youth, the program has the strong potential of supporting positive public health and socioeconomic outcomes for this vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk population.

Actions:

- Conduct a feasibility study for creating an Access Program for arts and culture offerings.
- Work with community partners to identify key programs or venues where an arts & culture Access Program would be most impactful.
- If a program is developed and offered, ensure sign up is well-publicized and easy to sign up for.

Capital Projects

7

PUBLIC ART

Continue to support the procurement of public art throughout the community.

For Chilliwack residents and community members, public art remains a top priority to advance culture, social wellbeing, and education and continuous learning in the city. Building on the significant increase in public art, most notably in Downtown, many have expressed that they would like to see different types of public art located in different places across Chilliwack, from parks and open spaces to major streets and roads. The proliferation of public art has also gained the support of local tourism and business leaders. Continued support and procurement of public art will help achieve the City's goal in building healthy, attractive communities and everyday experiences for everyone, while showcasing the city's distinct identity. Procurement also provides opportunities for local artists and organizations to build experience and a compelling portfolio.

Actions:

- Develop a city-wide Public Art Plan, internally or with external support, through a formal procurement process.
- Develop calls to artists to establish a roster of artists, designers, and other creative professionals to provide original artwork and respond to various art opportunities. Include criteria of understanding of local context in public calls to ensure that art is well-suited to Chilliwack's context.
- Ensure public art calls are communicated to Chilliwack's arts organizations and community leaders.
- Continue to make public art calls that encourage the procurement of Indigenous art.
- Develop criteria for evaluating public art funding requests that aims to increase the diversity of public art and ensures that art is equitably distributed throughout the City. This should be designed to provide clarity to stakeholders and confidence to the City that funds are being allocated in positive and effective ways.

Recommendations

Capital Projects

8

LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENT PLAN

Establish a Life-Cycle Replacement Plan for all park amenities, outdoor sports, and recreation amenities.

The Greenspaces Plan outlines planning and development initiatives for existing and new parklands across the City, but does not explicitly call out the need for asset management through life-cycle replacement planning. By adding an additional layer data tracking, the City can be proactive in forecasting significant repairs/upgrades for park and outdoor recreation amenities. This will allow for long-term budget planning to ensure equitable levels of service in both old and new neighbourhoods.

Through the inventory and engagement process, it was found that many of the City owned fieldhouses, park washrooms and other parks related structures are reaching the end of their effective lifespan. Some facilities are suffering from deferred maintenance and maybe underused as a result. Other facilities may be underused due to changing use trends. Pursuing a strategic life-cycle replacement program will help spread the burden of capital projects for upgrades and replacements.

Actions:

- Establish a life-cycle assessment process and prioritized schedule for major renovations/replacements.
- Plan for upgrades and renovations to outdoor washrooms, change rooms, and other support facilities.
- Plan for the replace or significant renovation of fieldhouses and parks buildings to maintain their function.
- Plan for replacement or significant upgrades to outdoor sports fields, ball diamonds, sport courts, playgrounds, and other park assets.

9

ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY

Continue to incorporate accessibility and safety as a priority goal for any upgrades to parks, trails and open spaces and recreation and cultural facilities.

The City's Action Plan developed by the Mayor's Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility identifies "Improving the City's facilities, services, parks and public spaces" as a key goal. This Plan has identified specific actions and partners for achieving this goal including steps to make the City's parks, playgrounds and sidewalks more universally accessible and improving the accessibility of the City's website. These actions are in line with the desire expressed by survey respondents to improve accessibility of Chilliwack's parks, recreation and cultural facilities.

When asked which outdoor recreation spaces, programs, and activities are lacking or needing improvement in Chilliwack, 33% of online survey respondents and 10% of phone survey respondents indicated that accessibility could be improved. This was also brought up consistently through stakeholder engagement. One of the key messages from community stakeholders was that meeting minimum requirements does not necessarily mean that the City's parks and facilities are truly welcoming to those with accessibility needs.

Actions:

- Create an ongoing list of improvement projects to address accessibility and safety issues and other barriers to the use of parks and indoor facilities.
- Aim to meet or exceed accessibility guidelines for all basic amenities at parks such as pathways, playgrounds, water fountains, seating and picnic tables, etc.
- Continue to use the Rick Hansen Foundation standards to assess facility accessibility.
- Safety issues can be identified and prioritized through analysis of reports from the RCMP, Calls for Service submitted to the City and other reports, on-site assessments, and consultation with the seniors, new Canadians, and other target populations. This list should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
- Prioritize projects and initiate phased implementation. Track progress and establish a reporting schedule so that the improvements can be communicated to the community.

Recommendations

Capital Projects

10

ROTARY POOL

Replace or significantly renovate Rotary Pool, as it is the only outdoor pool in the City, it is well-used, and provides an important summer recreation opportunity.

Engagement results revealed that swimming is one of the most popular recreation activities amongst all age groups of Chilliwack residents. Rotary Pool is Chilliwack's only outdoor pool and it is well past its effective lifespan. Significant upgrades or replacement is needed to bring it up a to modern standard for changing rooms, water play and accessibility for the entire facility. A larger pool space would also expand the opportunities for summer swimming lessons. Sardis/Vedder does not have an outdoor pool, but does have access to swimming at the Cheam Leisure Centre. The community also uses local lakes such as Cultus Lake and Chilliwack Lake, but they are more difficult to get to, especially for youth, and do not have programming such as swim lessons and swim club opportunities.

See Recommendation 12 which recommends increasing the number of spray parks across the city to provide opportunities for water play and summer cooling. Spray parks are a better approach than planning additional outdoor pools because they can be more evenly distributed across the City providing easier access by biking and walking.

Actions:

- Conduct a Facility Concept Plan and Costing Study for renovating or replacing Rotary Pool.
- Incorporate capital funding for replacement of the pool into the next budget planning cycle.

11

SPORTS FIELDS AND BALL DIAMONDS***Implement phased improvements to existing sports fields and ball diamonds.***

Engagement results indicate that sports fields and ball diamonds are some of the most well used outdoor recreation amenities in Chilliwack. Adult slo-pitch is one of the most well subscribed recreation programs in the city. The leagues have a collective registration of approximately 2,750 individuals across 151 teams. The leagues use several venues, including school fields, but many of them have limitations such as fences that are too close, being restricted to scheduling games during daylight hours, and overlapping outfields. They also do not have a facility that can host tournaments. Feedback from the online stakeholder survey indicates that there is a particularly pronounced gap in slo-pitch facilities on the Southside of the city. The Sports Field Study identifies several potential sites for slo-pitch facilities; however, most of the proposed fields are on the North-side of the city and could not support slo-pitch tournaments.

An additional artificial turf field is planned for the south side of the City, and there is also a recommendation to explore the feasibility for an indoor artificial turf facility included in Plan. Adding lighting to Townsend Field will also support ball diamond users by reducing overlapping demand on limited field space during shoulder seasons.

Key strategies for improving sports fields include:

- Redevelop ball diamonds to have dimensions suitable for slo-pitch.
- Add lighting at key locations to increase the hours of play.
- Increase the level of maintenance for existing fields to ensure safety and playability.
- Collaborate with ball diamond user groups and support fundraising efforts for lower cost upgrades such as netting to protect adjacent properties and storage boxes.
- Collaborate with the School District on a joint-use agreement that clarifies roles and responsibilities and results in improved playability of school fields.
- Continue to seek a potential site for a 4-pitch tournament facility on the south side of the city.

Recommendations

Capital Projects

12

PARK AMENITIES

Increase the variety of programs and amenities in parks.

Demand for low-cost outdoor recreation, events, natural areas, and trails have increased substantially in the past decade. Along with more demand, there are increasingly diverse needs among residents. Many people say they are too busy or can't take part in recreation because of the days and times offered (i.e. limited evening and weekend times). As a result of changing lifestyles and increasing demand on people's time, more people are taking part in individual, casual, and unscheduled activities and there has been a huge increase in the range of different leisure activities. People are using the parks and trails near their homes for year-round exercise and relaxation. As an example, engagement results revealed that low-cost activities such as walking on local trails, biking, and hiking are the most popular outdoor activities in Chilliwack.

Supporting youth in the community also emerged as an important community value. Youth are less likely to take part in organized sports and traditional fitness activities. By expanding the variety of different amenities outdoors the City can make parks a safe and welcoming space for youth. Amenities like sand volleyball courts, outdoor ping pong tables, mini skate-spots, parkour courts, and areas for low or no-cost fitness activities should be considered in addition to traditional parks and recreation features.

Cities across Canada are experiencing increased demand for outdoor multi-sport courts to support growing sports such as pickleball. Survey results indicate that pickleball courts and sports courts have the lowest satisfaction. Running tracks, skate and bike parks, and tennis courts are also among the lowest rated park amenities. A comparison with Surrey and Abbotsford (Table 4) also shows that Chilliwack has a below average provision of basketball and tennis courts, but with limited parkland the emphasis should be on multisport facilities.

Increasing temperatures is another challenge facing cities. Spray-parks and water play features are very popular and offer a low-cost amenities that provide cooling opportunities in the summer. Playgrounds are also a high priority amenity that brings neighbours together and provides important physical and social development opportunities for children. The range of different play spaces now being designed goes much beyond the standard playground equipment catalog. The benefits of nature experiences, supporting biodiversity, and increasing climate resilience can all be layered into standard park and playground spaces.

Actions:

- Continue to invest in trails and paths for walking, jogging, rolling, exercising and enjoying nature. Work with local trail and community organizations to identify opportunities for new trails and trail experiences. (Links to Recommendation 5: Provide opportunities for decentralized cultural programs in parks)
- Incorporate accessible paved or crushed gravel looping paths as a baseline amenity in all neighbourhood and community parks.
- Plan for the addition of five multi-sport courts to accommodate sports such as basketball, ball hockey, roller hockey, volleyball, pickleball, tennis, etc.
- Plan for three additional spray parks across the City to improve access to water play and cooling opportunities in the summer.
- Engage youth in the community to identify new park amenities for youth.
- Expand the range of play space designs to encourage physically active, imaginative play and to add more shade, greenery, and natural elements.

13

MULTIUSE INDOOR ARTIFICIAL TURF

Explore the feasibility of a multi-use indoor turf facility.

Outdoor playing fields are one of the most well-used recreation amenities in Chilliwack and demand is growing. Through conversations with sports field users, one of the greatest demands is for artificial turf fields because they can tolerate so many extra hours of play compared to natural grass fields. Considering Chilliwack's land constraints, a focus on converting existing fields to artificial turf or adding new artificial turf should be a priority. The City has been adding artificial turf fields and a new one is planned

The case for an indoor artificial turf field stems from high demand, but also the anticipated future climate change impacts to the ability of people to recreate year-round. Not only would an indoor turf field be available throughout the winter, it would also provide a space that would be well-used in the summer months because of the protection from heat and wildfire smoke. This type of facility should be designed to meet the needs of multiple user groups including soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse, as well as training for ball clubs. Cities with similar climatic conditions, such as Surrey, have opened indoor turf facilities and have found that they are well-used and has helped attract participation from individuals that would not otherwise play sports year-round.

Actions:

- Conduct a Feasibility and Costing Study for building an indoor turf facility or converting and covering an existing natural grass field.

Recommendations

Capital Projects

14

CHEAM LEISURE CENTRE

Plan and implement upgrades to the 1978 portion of the Cheam Leisure Centre

Additional program spaces might be considered for this building in the future to augment the culture and recreation opportunities for the area of the city south of Highway 1. Improvements would include improved accessibility and upgrades to a modern double gymnasium (15,000 to 25,000 sf) for multiple concurrent uses, exhibitions, and large gatherings. To increase the potential for diverse programming and to recognize the needs highlighted in Recommendation 5 for more decentralized access to recreation and culture programs, a renovated Cheam Leisure Centre could also incorporate additional multipurpose activity rooms such as:

- Activity multipurpose of 2,500 sf
- Family oriented multipurpose of 1,800 sf
- Seniors oriented multipurpose of 1,200 sf
- Maker / Arts multipurpose of 1,800 sf
- Medium / Small multipurpose and meeting of 1,000 sf x 2
- Bookable meeting rooms with a capacity of 8-10 people

15

EVERGREEN HALL AND LANDING SPORTS CENTRE

Plan and implement replacement of Evergreen Hall adjacent to the Landing Sports Centre.

Additional program spaces might be considered for this precinct in the future to augment the culture and recreation opportunities in a new, future building. The planning for this building would include new spaces to better serve culture and recreation and replace existing spaces as is practical. The future facility on this site could support the neighbouring anchor facilities including the Chilliwack Coliseum, Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Chilliwack Cultural Centre, and the Chilliwack Curling and Community Centre. The recommended additional spaces would include

- Double or triple gymnasias (15,000 to 25,000 sf) for multiple concurrent uses, exhibitions, and large gatherings including
 - basketball, volleyball, badminton, recreation
 - minimum of eight pickleball courts
 - banquet uses
 - partition curtains
 - adjacent commercial kitchen
 - potential permanent or temporary stage for cultural use and presentations
- A series of multi-functional, multi use community multipurpose rooms including
 - Large event multipurpose of 3,000 sf
 - Activity multipurpose of 2,500 sf
 - Family oriented multipurpose of 1,800 sf
 - Seniors oriented multipurpose of 1,200 sf
 - Maker / arts multipurpose of 1,800 sf
 - Medium / small multipurpose and meeting of 1,000 sf x 2
 - Bookable meeting rooms with a capacity of 8-10 people
 - Administration
- Indoor Courts, similar in size and quality to the existing Chilliwack Landing Sports Centre.

As the program of the recommended facility would duplicate many of the spaces at Evergreen Hall with contemporary, larger spaces. Based on this, it is recommended that the new facility replace Evergreen Hall. Ultimately, the archives would remain in place or be relocated as part of this strategy.

A replacement building for the indoor courts at the Landing is not anticipated, is not planned to increase the indoor court space, and would not be significantly different than the look and feel of the existing Landing. Based on this, it is recommended to retain the Landing (until the ultimate end of life). It is expected that the pressure on the use of the Landing would be relieved by a new facility allowing for more indoor uses as needed.

Recommendations

Capital Projects

16

EASTERN HILLSIDES RECREATION

Plan for increased recreation demand in Eastern Hillside as development occurs.

The Eastern Hillside Comprehensive Area Plan projects a population of approximately 6,900 residents will be living there when built out. The area has challenging topography, so there are limited potential locations for new recreation facilities.

Indoor facilities:

In planning for indoor recreation amenities, the highest priority facilities would be 1) a full size gymnasium with the ability to divide it to provide concurrent programming and 2) multipurpose activity/meeting rooms. To get the greatest benefit out of investment in a new facility, it is recommended that the City work with the School District to coordinate planning for a joint-use facility.

Outdoor facilities:

The Comprehensive Area Plan lays out a network of parks and trails, and it is recommended that the City continues to work toward implementation. Key elements of the parks and trails network will be creating accessible trails in a challenging topographic setting, ensuring there is good wayfinding and signage, creating loops for local walks and connections to other parts of the community and to the public natural areas to the south. There is significant interest and capacity for trail development in the community which, if well supported, will result in significant benefits for the investment.

5



Photo from City of Chilliwack

Implementation Plan

This plan provides recommendations for improvements to the parks, recreation, and cultural facilities over the 10 year period from 2024-2033. Council’s adoption of the master plan represents agreement in principle, but is not a commitment to spend. Specific financial decisions are made by Council as part of the financial planning process. This section includes priorities and timelines for the recommended actions.

The following table lists all the suggested action items and identifies both levels of priority and resource requirements. Operational items are identified as those that should be addressed through staff work plans and departmental resources. Capital projects are those that will be evaluated and incorporated into budget planning for approval by Council as resources and priorities allow. This implementation plan is intended as a guide. All capital spending is subject to approval by Council.

In many cases, since the City is not the direct provider of services, achieving the actions is currently the responsibility of the City’s partners. These are highlighted for the City’s use in discussions, tracking, and evaluation of the value delivered for the City’s investment. If community partners understand the City’s goals and priorities, they will be better prepared to meet community needs.

The following are the estimated cost categories:

LOW \$	< \$50,000
MEDIUM \$\$	\$50,000-100,000
HIGH \$\$\$	> \$100,000

#	ACTION	Cost	Priority
SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROGRAMS			
1	Create a Communications Strategy for recreation and culture programs and services.	\$	1
2	Standardize agreements with service providers and community partners.	\$	1
3	Establish a Capital Projects Planning Policy.	\$	1
4	Support coordination and cooperation among community arts, culture, and recreation organizations.	\$	1
5	Provide more support for decentralized recreational and cultural activities in parks, schools, and other public spaces.	\$\$	2
6	Together with community partners, explore the potential of providing funding for affordable access to cultural activities.	\$\$\$	2

#	ACTION	Cost	Priority
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			
7	Continue to support the procurement of public art throughout the community.	\$\$	1
8	Establish a Life-Cycle Replacement Plan for all park and outdoor recreation amenities.	\$	1
9	Continue to incorporate accessibility and safety as a priority goal for any upgrades to parks, trails and open spaces and recreation and cultural facilities.	\$\$	1
10	Replace or significantly renovate Rotary Pool.	\$\$\$	1
11	Implement phased improvements to existing sports fields and ball diamonds.	\$\$\$	1
12	Increase the variety of programs and amenities in parks.	\$\$\$	2
13	Explore the feasibility of a multi-use indoor turf facility.	\$	2
14	Plan and implement upgrades to the 1978 portion of the Cheam Leisure Centre.	\$\$\$	3
15	Plan and implement an upgrade or replacement of Evergreen Hall, adjacent to the Landing Sports Centre.	\$\$\$	3
16	Plan for increased recreation demand in Eastern Hillside as development occurs.	\$\$\$	3

