

CONTEXT

Recreational benefits ranked by residents in order of importance:

- personal health;
- personal and community quality of life;
- building strong families and healthy communities;
- human growth and development;
- environmental and ecological well being;
- reduced anti-social behaviour;
- reduced costs for health care, social services, police and justice services; and
- generating economic benefits.

Source: West Vancouver survey 1997

West Vancouver residents are very active and have high demand for quality recreation facilities, programs and services. Attendance at recreation facilities continues to grow at a rate faster than population growth. Community polls indicate that most users expect their use of facilities, programs and services to increase with new and upgraded facilities and diversify. Changes in West Vancouver's age, household structure and ethno-cultural composition require ongoing evaluation of the design of facility spaces and the delivery of programs and services.

Until recently, the quality of available facilities in West Vancouver has not kept pace with the needs of the community or with the modern facilities available in other communities. The 1999 Recreation Facility Master Plan study outlined plans for the improvement of the quality and inventory of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

The range of existing public recreation facilities and improvements arising from the Master Plan include the following:

- Central Recreation Centre – built in 1958; replacement expected to commence in 2005
- Seniors Activity Centre – built in 1981; several subsequent expansions, most recent in 2001
- Gleneagles Community Centre – opened in 2003 to replace the Eagle Harbour Community Centre,
- Youth Centre – opened in Ambleside Park in 1996 to replace space at Inglewood School; updated in 1999,
- Ice Arena – built in 1963; major upgrade and expansion in 1999,

- Aquatic Centre – built in 1965, major additions and renovations underway, including fitness and other “wellness” facilities, re-opened in 2004
- Gleneagles Golf Course
- Ambleside Pitch and Putt,
- Sports fields for soccer, baseball, rugby, football, field hockey, cricket and lawn bowling,
- Ambleside artificial turf fields – opened in 2003
- Tennis courts,
- Major hiking trail systems.

A variety of community sport-based facilities are provided on Municipal land through partnerships between the Municipality and rugby, squash, sailing, tennis, field hockey, cricket and lawn bowling clubs. The School District has three high schools and 11 elementary schools that provide space when available for extra-curricular school activities and use by the public for recreational, cultural and religious activities. Three large private school sites provide additional space. The opportunity to use school facilities for recreation programs is limited because they are very well used for other purposes during the prime after-school and evening hours.

Private and non-profit recreation facilities also contribute to the variety available within the community. There are major regional alpine and nordic ski facilities located in Cypress Provincial Park operated by a private company. Two large private clubs with multiple sports and golf provide opportunities for members to participate in organized leisure activities as well as a number of yacht clubs and marinas.

Enhanced public and private partnerships are creating new opportunities and organizational structures through joint program planning and agreements with non-profit organizations, private clubs, the School District and the Health Region. Volunteerism and leadership development are valued components of these services. Collaboration in providing recreation services is expected to increase, both at the community level and among North Shore communities, particularly as it relates to recreational programming, organizational structures and providing appropriately sized facilities to serve the whole of the North Shore.

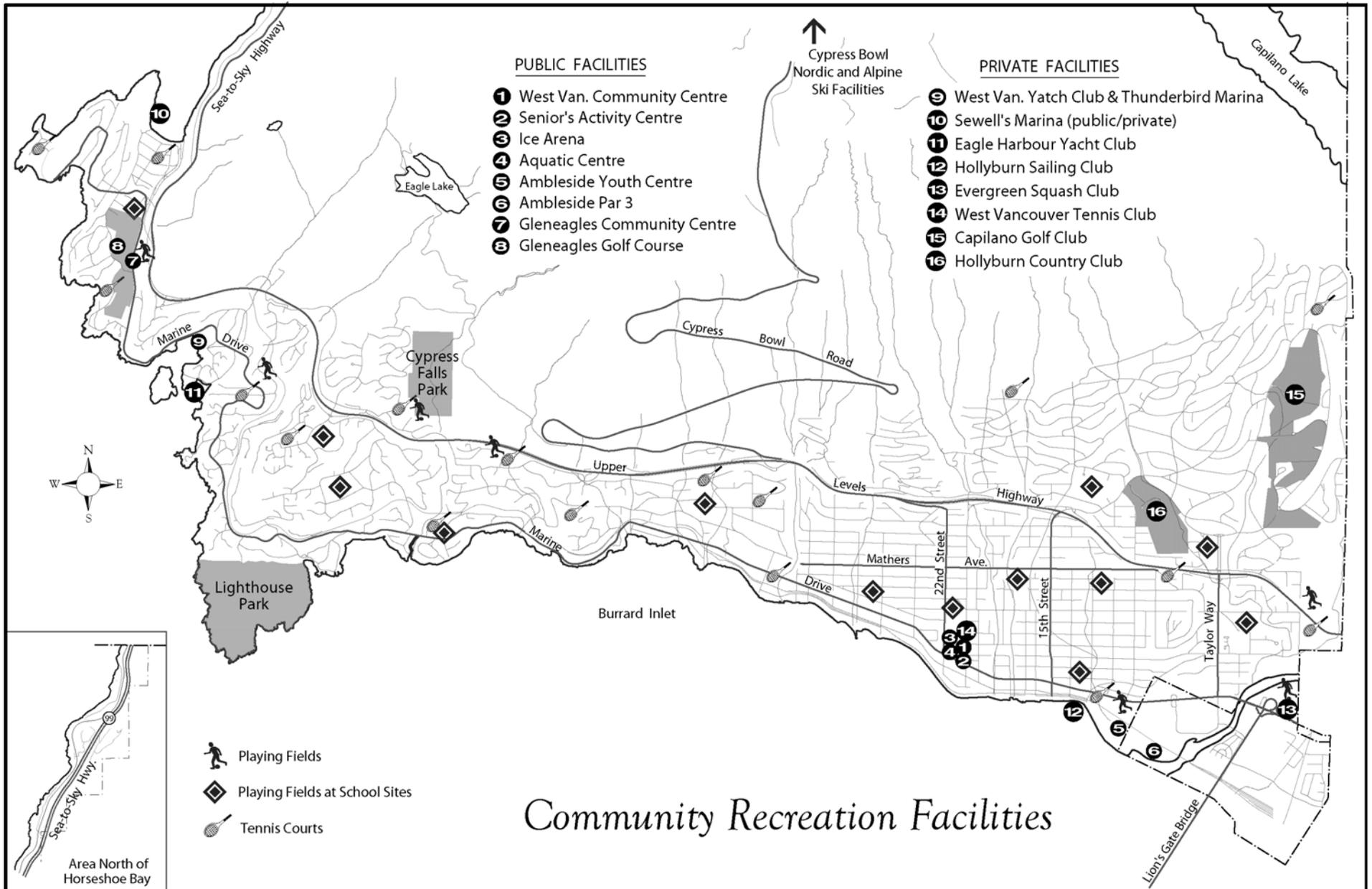
In providing high-quality recreation programs and services, management of fiscal resources requires

efficiency and coordination, recognition of changing community needs and innovation in the methods of service delivery. A benefits-based approach to community recreation planning, one which takes into consideration the resulting benefits in personal well-being, has redefined the way that programs and services are planned and delivered. While new computer-based technology has noticeably improved public access to program registration, human contact (face-to-face) is valued and promoted. Success is measured not only by the quality and variety of programs and services, but also by the degree to which community recreational objectives are achieved.

OBJECTIVES

Community Recreation policies aim to celebrate life and nurture the spirit, and are based on the following objectives:

- Build on West Vancouver's magnificent coastal and mountain setting, enhancing the park-like community;
- Develop recreational facilities that support quality of life and wellness and stimulate interest and involvement in all aspects of leisure;
- Foster community interaction and bring together people of different backgrounds, generations, physical abilities, and interests through a variety of leisure opportunities;
- Ensure community facilities reflect West Vancouver's character;
- Respect community values and support new and established recreational opportunities to serve the community;
- Ensure facilities are designed to be flexible and adaptable in order to meet changing needs and interests;
- Develop strategic alliances and partnerships, making the best possible use of facilities through cooperative use arrangements;
- Work in partnership with citizens and the business community; and
- Ensure that recreation facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.



POLICIES

Policy R 1

Support a strategic long-term approach to planning recreation facilities, programs and services.

- Ensure stewardship of facilities with investment in high-quality, on-going improvements, upgrading and maintenance.
- Maximize use of existing recreation facilities and sites.
- Seek opportunities to secure recreation sites and facilities through development applications.
- Support proposals for private and not-for-profit facilities on Municipal and private lands where they would provide community benefits.
- Design facilities to be multi-purpose and flexible.
- Undertake facilities usage surveys and gauge community satisfaction to enhance long-term recreation planning.

See also
UPPER LANDS;
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Policy R 2

Position community recreation so that it emphasizes community building, health and wellness.

- Highlight the use and development of the Central Community Centre and Civic Centre Site (22nd and Marine) as the hub of integrated recreation and community services.
- Highlight the use and development of the Gleneagles Community Centre as a neighbourhood focus for outdoor recreation, wellness, youth and family activities.
- Encourage Community Centre use for a variety of programs and services to increase public use and enhance facility programming. Examples might include the integration of continuing education programs and community health services with community recreation programs.
- Adopt an integrated approach to community health and wellness and provide the means for healthy and balanced life styles.
- Continue to use a benefits-based approach that focuses on outcomes and end results, not just activities, to plan and evaluate recreation programs.

Policy R 3

Promote community consultation, collaboration, leadership and volunteerism to facilitate and provide community recreation opportunities and services.

Policy R 4

Recognize and plan for people with diverse means needs, and abilities, and continually assess the potential to maximize the access and range of recreational opportunities within the Municipal financial framework.

- Ensure that programs, services and facilities are accessible.
- Define core (basic or essential) recreation needs to assist in planning for additions or changes to programs.
- Assess financial implications of new recreation services.
- Recognize the varied intergenerational needs of the community in planning programs and services.



Policy R 5

Foster community recreation partnerships.

- Pursue and continue to support public, community and private partnerships in facilities and services that maximize community benefit.
- Pursue program and facility development opportunities with health services (for example, the community health centre at the Civic Centre Site).
- Integrate Municipal services and facilities when feasible (for example, library extension services in community centres).
- Establish a comprehensive planning process with other North Shore municipalities for the development of regional and/or specialized

facilities (for example, a North Shore track, or facilities serving the future Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics).



See also
SCHOOLS

Policy R 6

Develop an integrated system and approach to community use of schools and Municipal facilities.

- Engage in joint planning and use of school and Municipal facilities.
- Utilize an adopted statement of principles to guide joint use of public facilities.
- Explore neighbourhood school models where a wider range of community building and support services are provided.



Policy R 7

Support organized sports in the Community.

- Create and implement a Community Sport Policy.
- Maintain, plan and develop appropriate sport venues and facilities.