

**District of West Vancouver
Sport and Active Recreation Policy DRAFT 2 (August 29, 2016)
FOR DISCUSSION & REVIEW**

West Vancouver is an active, healthy community, with a natural environment that makes active outdoor pursuits readily available to the community. The District of West Vancouver's mission states, "We champion the opportunities that demonstrate our deep commitment to enrich community vitality, health and understanding through integrating physical activity into our daily lives".

Activities that support physical and mental wellness are among the most frequently accessed services provided by the District of West Vancouver. This can include organized activities such as learning how to exercise without causing injury, how to play a team sport or how to swim, as well as unstructured opportunities like walking the Seawalk, visiting a playground or kicking a ball around at a park. These activities touch most residents at some point and are a vital part of community life. They are essential to community health and enhance quality of life.

Background

Sport and active recreation opportunities in West Vancouver are delivered primarily by the District of West Vancouver, often in cooperation with local sport and recreation providers. Some of these opportunities are delivered directly by the District, and others are delivered through cooperative arrangements with local community providers, most of which are volunteer-run. Access to facilities or lands owned by the District facilitates these arrangements. For example, the West Vancouver Minor Hockey Association at the West Vancouver Ice Arena offers youth hockey opportunities; the West Vancouver Soccer Club at sport fields in West Vancouver offers youth and adult soccer opportunities.

Many of West Vancouver's sport and active recreation opportunities also benefit from oversight by a citizen-based board of directors at the West Vancouver Community Centre and the Seniors' Activity Centre, and an advisory committee at the Gleneagles Community Centre.

Hiking and walking trails, cycling routes and playgrounds, and information about how to access these opportunities and other options for active living, are also provided by the District.

Glossary

Accessibility: Accessibility cultivates inclusivity by eliminating barriers and creating social, physical and economic environments that enable all residents to participate actively in the community;

Active Transportation: Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding (definition from the Public Health Agency of Canada);

Advisory Committee: refers to the Gleneagles Community Centre Advisory Committee;

Board: refers to the West Vancouver Community Centres Society Board of Directors and/ or Seniors' Activity Centre Board of Directors;

District: refers to the District of West Vancouver;

Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers: refers to an organization not owned by the District that delivers or assists in delivering sport or active recreation opportunities in conjunction with the District. Many of these groups are volunteer-run and provide high-quality opportunities, particularly for children and youth, at reasonable cost;

Physical Literacy: Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life (definition from BC Parks and Recreation Association).

Principles

During 2016, through workshops with stakeholders, a survey and consultation with the community, the citizens of West Vancouver articulated principles on which provision of sport and active recreation opportunities is based. These principles are:

- Provide or support a diverse range of high-quality activities that benefit residents' physical and mental wellness, lifelong learning, physical literacy and life skills;
- Continue to support creation of excellent facilities indoors and outdoors, which helps facilitate participation in sport and active recreation for all ages, safety, inclusion and pride in our community;
- Encourage participation in sport and active recreation which facilitates connectedness with others, inclusivity and a sense of belonging;
- Recognize that participating in a spectrum of activities, particularly for children, is a healthy part of development and long-term wellness;
- Engage with youth positively and proactively;
- Encourage continued positive collaboration between Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers and the District;
- Engage volunteers at all levels;
- Support active transportation like walking, cycling and other active modes of transportation, which owing to its daily nature, provides health and active recreation benefits to the community;
- Acknowledge that the barriers to participation can take many forms and continue to facilitate accessibility for sport and active recreation opportunities.

The principles of fairness, access, harmonious relationships and collaborative decision-making are central to this policy.

Policy

The community of West Vancouver highly values diverse opportunities for sport and active recreation. This Sport and Active Recreation Policy formalizes District provision of and support for programs, services and opportunities for sport and active recreation, and

helps guide decisions for the provision and support of these services through the following policy statements:

- 1) The District provides opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation through provision of active recreation programs, lessons, access to facilities, fields, parks, trails and playgrounds, and space for collaborative programs with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers.
- 2) The District provides, supports and facilitates opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation through:
 - A continuum of sport and active recreation opportunities from introductory through to more advanced sport and active recreation opportunities;
 - Partnership opportunities with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers;
 - Access to unstructured opportunities, including playgrounds, parks and trails, and active transportation opportunities including walking and cycling routes;
 - Provision of information on how to access these opportunities through the District website and publications.
- 3) The District ensures responsiveness to community needs by working in conjunction with the Boards, Advisory Committee and with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers to provide feedback on the relevance of programs and services provided by the District and community partners.
- 4) The District continues to seek and collaborate with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers to augment opportunities for residents.
- 5) Access to low-cost, unstructured opportunities like parks, trails and playgrounds are important because they provide active recreation opportunities to all residents.
- 6) Decisions about space or support of new or emerging activities will be made in a collaborative and transparent manner with current and potential users, respecting the principles noted in Section XX of this policy. A balance between existing and new activities will be actively sought.

Supporting Documents

In addition to community feedback, the Sport and Active Recreation Policy draws on other District policy documents, which provide a backdrop for the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities. The other District policy documents include:

- Sport Field Master Plan
- Parks Master Plan
- Healthy Communities Partnership Agreement
- Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change
- Access and Inclusion Policy

These documents are available on westvancouver.ca.

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