

Parks

CityPlan

Riley Park/South Cambie RPSC

Vancouver has 200 municipal parks adding up to 1,298 hectares. Stanley Park is our largest park with 400 hectares. In these parks, you'll find flower gardens, children's playgrounds, sports fields, golf courses, beaches, pathways, bikeways, and much more.

Park Board

All municipal parks are under the care and custody of the Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board). The Park Board also maintains and operates recreational facilities such as community centres, swimming pools, and ice rinks. The Park Board also cares for Vancouver's street trees.

Unlike other City departments, the Park Board is governed by its own political body consisting of seven Park Commissioners elected at large every three years by Vancouver voters.

For more information on the Park Board, call 257-8400, or check the internet website:
www.vancouverparks.ca

Goals For The Future

The Park Board has policies setting long-term goals, such as acquiring sufficient amounts of park land for a growing population, expanding parks in neighbourhoods that have a park shortage, upgrading older substandard parks, creating more public access along the waterfront, and protecting important natural areas.

How Much Park is Needed?

The Park Board aims to provide about 1.1 hectares (2.8 acres) of "neighbourhood park" for every 1,000 residents. All parks are counted as "neighbourhood parks" except Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, golf courses, beaches and Van Dusen Gardens, which act as "city-wide parks".

In 2001, the average provision of "neighbourhood parks" across the entire city was about 1.1 hectares (2.8 acres) per 1,000 residents. In 1981, we had 1.3 hectares (3.2 acres) of "neighbourhood park" for every 1,000 residents.

This decline occurred because the number of new parks was lower than the increase in population. During the 1981-2001 period, our population grew by 133,000 but our "neighbourhood parks" only grew by 55 hectares (136 acres) - a rate of 0.4 hectares (1.0 acres) per 1,000 new residents.

It is anticipated that, by 2021, the average amount of "neighbourhood park" is going to continue to decline to about 1.0 hectares (2.5 acres) per 1,000 residents.

How New Parks Are Acquired

Parks are acquired in a variety of ways:

- the Park Board can purchase land from a private property owner and convert the land to park;
- developers are required to dedicate a portion of their land for parks in large-scale subdivisions;
- developers are required to dedicate a portion of their site as parks when they rezone their lands for higher density uses (alternatively, the City can accept a cash payment that will be used to buy land for parks); and
- developers are required to pay the City a fee (called a "development cost levy") for every square foot of new development in Vancouver - a portion of this money will be used to buy land for parks.

Parks in Riley Park-South Cambie

There are a total of 9 parks accounting for a total of 24.6 hectares of land (not including Queen Elizabeth Park).

Braemar Park:	1.3 ha
Cartier Park:	0.4 ha
Douglas Park:	5.3 ha
Oak and 37 th Parksites:	4.7 ha
Grimmet Park:	0.2 ha
Heather Park:	1.0 ha
Hillcrest Park:	7.5 ha
Prince Edward Park:	1.5 ha
Riley Park:	2.7 ha

In these 9 parks, you'll find:

- 4 tennis courts;
- 3 field houses;
- 3 rugby fields;
- 6 softball diamonds;
- 5 baseball diamonds;
- 2 cricket fields;
- 1 racquetball court;
- 2 jogging trails;
- 2 wading pools;
- 1 pool;
- 2 grass hockey fields;
- 2 ice rinks;
- 7 children's playgrounds;
- 6 soccer fields.

In 2001, Riley Park-South Cambie had 0.9 hectares (2.0 acres) of "neighbourhood park" for every 1,000 residents. This ratio is below the city average due to Queen Elizabeth Park not being included in the "neighbourhood park" definition.

RPSC Parks

