

# Leisure and Recreation



## Mount Pleasant

City of Vancouver  
**Community**  
planning program

### The City's Role

Recreation Services in Vancouver are funded by the City through property taxes, with costs offset by program revenues. Three year Capital Plans, given electorate-approved borrowing authority, provide the means for investment in the City's infrastructure and asset base.

The 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan for parks and recreation, approved by voters in the November 2005 civic election, totalled \$80 million. The Park Board subsequently secured another \$23 million in capital funds from external sources, increasing the 3-year capital budget to over \$100 million. Approximately half of the plan is allocated to the development of community legacies in connection with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The legacies will include new ice rinks at Killarney, Trout Lake, and Riley Park, as well as a new Riley Park Community Centre and Percy Norman Pool. The balance of the plan is split evenly between parks and facilities improvement projects.

In March 2008, Park Board approved a draft 2009-2010 Capital Plan, totalling \$107 million, for City review and public consultations.

### The Park Board and Public Recreation

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (the Park Board), is responsible for the City's parks and public recreation services. The Park Board maintains and operates community centres, swimming pools, ice rinks, sports fields, golf

courses and beaches, as well as special amenities such as Van Dusen Botanical Gardens and the Bloedel Conservatory.

Unlike other City departments, the Park Board is governed by its own political body consisting of 7 Park Commissioners elected every 3 years by Vancouver voters. While the Park Board makes its own policy and planning decisions, it remains accountable to Vancouver City Council for approval of the overall size of the Park Board's operating and capital budgets.

### Community Centre Associations

Each community centre in the city is operated jointly by the Park Board and a community centre association. The associations are non-profit societies led by a board of directors elected on a yearly basis by its membership.

The Park Board provides a core operating budget and staff at each centre to develop and administer programs for the local community. The community centre association advises the Park Board on community needs and priorities and assists with the planning, scheduling, and promoting of events and activities.

In addition to funding and resources from the Park Board, the community centre association collects revenues from membership fees, activity fees, rentals, and fundraising to help recover program costs and fund special programs and events. This unique partnership between the Park Board and community centre

associations is a valuable arrangement. It enables the Park Board to target its recreation services to neighbourhood needs and priorities, while allowing the association to advocate and provide for recreation, park, and wider community services.

### Plans & Policies

The Park Board and community centre associations are guided by plans and policies such as the Strategic Plan and Capital Plans. More specific policies address the special recreational needs of seniors, children and youth, and low-income families. Renewal plans and allocation policies also apply city-wide for types of facilities like community centres, ice rinks, swimming pools, and playing fields.

### Community Centre in Mount Pleasant

Community centres offer a wide variety of recreational, social, and educational programs as well as a place for people to meet.

Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 3161 Ontario Street is a hub of neighbourhood recreation with extensive programs in preschool, out of school care, fitness, art, youth and senior programs. Several outreach programs provide services to neighbouring schools. For more information on programs and activities at Mount Pleasant Community Centre, phone 604-713-1888, or visit:

[vancouver.ca/parks/cc/mtpleasant](http://vancouver.ca/parks/cc/mtpleasant).

### **New Site for Mount Pleasant Community Centre**

In 2001 Mount Pleasant Community Centre was identified as high priority for renewal because of condition issues, including life-safety code deficiencies, and well as operating inefficiencies and program space limitations. Rather than renovate the existing building, Park Board and the Mount Pleasant Community Association agreed to rebuild at a more central location in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.

Park Board and Vancouver City Council approved the relocation and redevelopment of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre to 1 Kingsway. The new facility, scheduled to open in 2009, will include an expanded community centre, a child care centre, a new Mount Pleasant Branch Library, rental housing, and underground parking. The new community centre will feature a dividable gymnasium, a much enlarged fitness centre, and a range of other special purpose and multipurpose program spaces.

For more information about 1 Kingsway, please contact Melanie Marchand, Project Manager at 604-873-7851 or send email to [1Kingsway@vancouver.ca](mailto:1Kingsway@vancouver.ca).

Refer to [vancouver.ca/corpsvcs/facility/1kingsway](http://vancouver.ca/corpsvcs/facility/1kingsway) for information on background, past public meetings, and design program.

### **Parks**

In relation to its population, Mount Pleasant is one of the most park deficient neighbourhoods in Vancouver. Over the past two decades, Park Board has acquired land for new parks in the area: Sahilli, Major Mathews, and Teaswamp. See attached table for a full list of parks in Mount Pleasant and their amenities.

**Future Development of Mount Pleasant Park**  
Mount Pleasant Park will be redeveloped as green space after the community centre moves to 1 Kingsway. Park Board will decide on park design elements after neighbourhood consultations. Simon Fraser School, the community centre, and the City are working together to retain preschool and out-of-school childcare services once the community centre is relocated. The City has committed \$750,000 to construct a modular building for this purpose and the Vancouver School Board has offered a site on the Simon Fraser School grounds.

### **Mount Pleasant Swimming Pool**

Mount Pleasant's 40 year old outdoor pool is at the end of its service life and soon will have to be rebuilt or closed. Moreover, the pool change facilities and mechanical systems are in the current community centre building and it is not feasible to selectively retain these components when the centre moves.

In 2002, Park Board approved an Aquatic Services Renewal Plan for reconfiguring Vancouver's aquatic facilities and services. Key goals of the Plan are to increase pool use (up to 2.4 million swimmers per year from a current capacity of about 1.8 million), and reduce the public subsidy required to operate the aquatic system as a whole (the current subsidy exceeds 50% of operating costs). The plan called for the closure of Mount Pleasant and Sunset outdoor pools when they wear out; together these two pools have recorded about 30,000 visits per year or 1.5% of total system patronage.

Park Board is currently implementing the Aquatic Renewal Plan. Killarney Pool has been replaced by a leisure pool with doubled capacity. A new Percy Norman Aquatic Centre is

now under construction, including a 50 meter (Olympic length) and leisure tanks, in addition to an outdoor pool for summer use. Patronage at Percy Norman is expected to rise from 200,000 to 600,000 annual visits.

The Mount Pleasant community has requested that an outdoor pool amenity continue to be provided at Mount Pleasant Park. In 2005, Park Board resolved that the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool be retained at the Mount Pleasant site, with consideration that there be community fundraising, and that any Park Board financial contribution would likely not be available until the 2009-11 Capital Plan at the earliest.

For more information, go to [vancouver.ca/parks/info/planning/mountpleasantpark](http://vancouver.ca/parks/info/planning/mountpleasantpark)

### **Playing Fields in Mount Pleasant**

Field sports encourage health, enable community development, and provide positive activities for youth and people of all ages, along with other benefits.

The Park Board manages public playing fields by:

- assigning children & youth leagues the fields located close to their neighbourhoods;
- requiring organized adult sports groups to book in advance and pay a fee for field use;
- giving priority to established leagues over new leagues in the allocation process; and
- giving leagues from outside the city playing time after local teams have been only accommodated.

School playing fields are also rented out by the School Board during times they are not needed for school activities. The Vancouver Park Board and School Board together provide almost all of the playing fields in the City. There are approximately 130

regulation size playing fields in their combined inventory. Because park space is at a premium in Mount Pleasant only three parks in the area have playing fields:

- China Creek North Park
- Jonathan Rogers Park
- Robson Park

#### Nearby Facilities

The following recreation centres are located within 1 kilometre of the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood:

Douglas Park Community Centre  
801 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
604-257-8130

Riley Park Community Centre & Rink, Percy Norman Pool  
50 East 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
604-257-8545

Trout Lake Community Centre & Rink  
3350 Victoria Drive  
604-257-6955

A new community centre is in the planning stages in the Mount Pleasant Southeast False Creek area.

#### Sources:

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Leisure Guide 2006/2007

Mount Pleasant Community Centre Spring 2008 Recreation Guide  
[http://vancouver.ca/parks/cc/mtpleasant/MPCC\\_spring\\_08.pdf](http://vancouver.ca/parks/cc/mtpleasant/MPCC_spring_08.pdf)

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Annual Report 2006

PARK	Ball Hockey	Basketball courts	Field House	Jogging Trail	Playground	Soccer	Skateboard Parks	Tennis Court	Softball	Wading Pools
China Creek North				1	1	1			2	
China Creek South							1			
Guelph					1			1		
Jonathan Rogers			1		1	1			1	
Major Matthews					1					
Mount Pleasant					1					
Robson	1	2	1		1	1		3		1
Sahalli					1					
Tea Swamp					1					