

ASSET TARGETS

COMMUNITY CENTRES

A *Community Centre Renewal Plan* is needed to identify priorities and timelines for renewal.

Community centres offer the opportunity to learn new skills, build a social network, be physically active, exercise your creativity and engage your brain. They are currently jointly operated by the Park Board and Community Centre Associations, creating a dynamic and robust service delivery system that is strongly tied to local communities and volunteers.

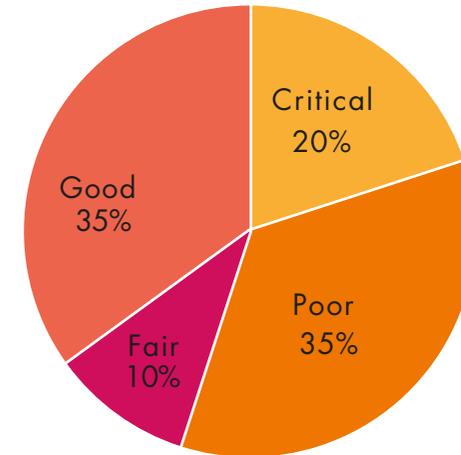
Approximately 60% of the total floor areas of recreation facilities in Vancouver were built in the post war period (50s, 60s, 70s) and as such, much needs to be renewed over the next two decades. Centres designed for the programs and operating practices of the 1950s and 1960s do not adequately meet present or future demands for leisure services. They are dated in both appearance and function, with one or more of the following deficits being an issue in older centres:

- Inadequate pedestrian, parking and service access;
- Unwelcoming and poorly defined entry ways;
- Constrained reception/lobby areas;
- Inefficient building layouts, inadequate storage, and inappropriate floor, wall and ceiling surfaces;
- Limited or no visibility from circulation areas of activity spaces and poor internal and external connections;
- Advantage not taken of views and park settings; and
- Need for universal accessibility, wayfinding standards.

As existing community centres are renewed, they will need to be expanded, particularly in growth areas. New facilities will likely be needed to accommodate an expanding range of desired uses, such as more arts and culture activities. Industry trends indicate a programming preference for multifunctional spaces in centres.



Community Centre Facility Condition



* Source: Community Centre Facility Condition Assessment data Vancouver Parks and Recreation Report 1: Inventory and Analysis.

The target is to renew or substantially improve an average of two existing community centres per capital plan resulting in at least 70% of facilities being in "good" or "fair" condition (currently 45%).

Community centres are very well utilized, where space is not currently being used efficiently it is likely a building functionality issue. To accommodate a growing population, approximately 140,000 sq.ft. of community centre space is required by 2040 to maintain the current citywide service level of 1.2 sq.ft/capita.

A strong partnership with Community Centre Associations, bolstered by the signing of Joint Operating Agreements (2018), will bring a focus on improving equity, inclusion and access to community centres across Vancouver.

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Asset Needs

- Update the Community Centre Renewal Plan (2001), in collaboration with the Community Centre Associations. Priorities for renewal to consider:
 - Facility Condition Indices;
 - A 10-year major maintenance schedule;
 - Seismic resilience and the critical role community centres play in emergency response (6 centres are designated Emergency Centres and/or Disaster Hubs); and,
 - Qualitative data from staff and CCAs on the programmability and operational functionality of facilities for renewal.
- Co-locate facilities with parks, recreation amenities, libraries, schools, childcare/preschool spaces, cafes, and health services where possible.
- Improve the indoor/outdoor connections between community centres and adjacent parks, recreation amenities and public spaces.
- Increase the diversity of programs and activities that can be accommodated by providing a balance of arts, culture, sports, fitness, multipurpose, community spaces, youth priority, senior priority, casual use and social spaces. This can be accommodated during new builds, renewals, or through expansion or re-purposing of existing spaces.
- Establish facility designs based on local and citywide needs, and balance all the different possibilities through a needs assessment process.

- Provide a balance of local and community scale facilities in combination with city-scale facilities to reach an optimum balance of place, character, access and operational efficiency.
- Continue to seek community centre provision through in-kind community amenity contributions for redevelopment, rezoning and other planning proposals as required.

Service Needs

- Improve data acquisition and sharing, including: facility/amenity utilization, program participation, quality of experience, barriers to participation, youth/seniors utilization, and integration of truth and reconciliation.
- Advocate for increased maintenance budgets to better meet needs, particularly in Initiative Zones and growth areas, to account for increased intensity of use.

2040 Asset Targets

- Maintain the current citywide average of 1.2 sq.ft. of community centre space per person (excluding rinks and pools). *This does not determine the size of new centres. Size of individual community centres when they are renewed is determined on a case-by-case basis using a catchment study and needs assessment.*
- Improve resident level of satisfaction with community centre facilities. *2017 VanPlay survey reported 75% satisfaction, however a citywide comprehensive survey is required to establish baseline.*
- Renew an average of two existing community centres per capital plan (50-year life cycle) resulting in at least 70% of facilities being in "good" or "fair" condition (currently 45%).