

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

CITY OF RICHMOND WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM BCRPA

Garden City Community Park Play Environment honoured with Parks and Open Spaces Award.

Penticton, BC (Friday, May 14, 2010) – The City of Richmond has won a provincial Award of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Parks and Open Spaces Award was presented for the innovative and creative development of the Garden City Community Park Play Environment.

The City's new Play Environment has changed the way parks are planned, designed, and constructed and provides residents and visitors with an extraordinary outdoor place that is unique within the city, and perhaps even the local region. The design of the site brings elements of nature back into the scene, bringing forth a playground that not only encourages new ways to play and have good fun, but also healthy social interaction, and cognitive and physical development. Going beyond the confines of a traditional play area, it also provides a setting conducive to community based events and functions and recreation programs.

"The City of Richmond has created an environment that engages not just the young of age, but the young at heart," comments BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. "This new and innovative play environment provides users with a space that encourages and facilitates physical activity and engagement; a place that through its universal accessibility helps improve the quality of life of all residents and visitors."

The Parks and Open Spaces Award recognizes excellence in the concept, design and development of parks and open spaces. The space demonstrates outstanding and/or innovative aspects which have or could have significant impact in the Recreation & Parks field. The Parks and Open Spaces Award is one of several awards presented at BCRPA's Symposium today. The conference brings together members of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector from around BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others. Penticton was the partner community of this year's event.

BACKGROUND:

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association is a not for profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in BC. Established in 1958, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector, providing leadership, training and support to help meet national, provincial and local priorities. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, BCRPA actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation and physical activity and strives to bridge the gap between recreation and sport.

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