

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTRY WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM BCRPA

Swalwell Park honoured with Parks and Open Spaces Award.

Richmond, BC (Friday, May 13, 2011) – The District of Lake Country has won a provincial Award of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Parks and Open Spaces Award has been presented to Swalwell Park for its success in incorporating new facilities into the park's natural landscape.

These new facilities include a pavilion that features a green roof with native plants partially watered with grey water from the sinks, and a butterfly garden. The pavilion provides storage space, a concession and new washrooms. Other improvements to the park include a fruit-themed splash park, and restoration and environmental enhancements along Vernon Creek. The achievements of Swalwell Park have not gone unnoticed. The pavilion and its washrooms were featured in the August 2009 issue of Canadian Architect and received an Architectural Institute of British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Award medal in 2009, with the washroom design being honoured with a 2008 Masonry Institute of British Columbia award for excellence in masonry design.

"The creative solutions and the incorporation of natural elements in the park have resulted in a welcoming and accessible space for community gatherings that is both functional and environmentally friendly," states BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. "The BCRPA is pleased to add to Swalwell Park's prestigious list of awards and showcase its achievements to our members across the province."

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. This 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. Richmond is the host 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.

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