

17.0 Community Amenities

Goals

Provide additional community centre and recreational facilities and services to meet the needs of the community's growing population, in cooperation with community organizations, where appropriate.

Work with the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee and community organizations to provide cultural facilities and activities that meet the needs of the community.

Guiding Principles Met

Create a culture of sustainability

Create strong, compact and complete neighbourhoods

Provide alternative transportation

Revitalize the Downtown

Create a youth friendly city

Context

As Vernon's population grows, recreation and cultural services must be expanded to meet the requirements of the community. A wide variety of these types of services in a community contribute to its economic and social sustainability. As local businesses seek to attract a skilled workforce, people that are considering moving to Vernon are seeking a community that offers recreational and cultural opportunities for themselves and their families. At the same time, there is a need to provide opportunities for the city's large senior citizen population. The 2011 Census indicates that 23.1% of Vernon's residents are

65 or older, while the B.C. average is 15.6%. As the portion of the city's population over 65 is projected to increase over the next twenty five years, additional amenities for seniors will be required.



Recreation services in Vernon are provided through an agreement, whereby Vernon owns and operates the facilities for use by Vernon and its neighbours in the Greater Vernon area. Facilities in Vernon include arenas, including Kal Tire Place, public pools, , and outdoor sports facilities. Recreation programming includes numerous activities associated with the City of Vernon operated recreational facilities, as well as other facilities such as schools and parks in Vernon.

The Vernon Museum and Archives, the Vernon Public Art Gallery and the Performing Arts Centre are run by non-profit societies and are funded through grants, including a grant from the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee (GVAC). Two seniors' centres are located in Vernon: the Schubert Centre and the Halina Centre. Both host seniors' activities and are utilized as rental facilities by various organizations in the community.

The Vernon Library is operated by the Okanagan Regional Library Board and opened its new building on 30 Avenue in 2012. The library provides library services, internet access services and children's programs.

Organizations providing additional recreational and cultural amenities to the community include religious groups, ethnic groups, sports organizations, clubs, societies, associations and others. Some highlight events include the Vernon Winter Carnival, Funtastic, Okanagan Landing Regatta and the Sunshine Festival.

Supporting Policies

Recreation Services

- 17.1 Develop a Recreation Master Plan, recognizing that additional and/or expanded services will be required to meet the needs of the growing population.
- 17.2 Support initiatives by GVAC, and other levels of government and community organizations, to increase access to recreation and cultural opportunities for all residents of the City.
- 17.3 Support new, expanded and/or enhanced recreation facilities according to the following criteria:
 - a. Meets an identified need in the community
 - b. Increases residents' access to recreation opportunities
 - c. Located within or adjacent to residential designated areas of the city
 - d. Facility flexibility for multi function community use
- 17.4 Support the continued enhancement and expansion of recreational programming offered in Greater Vernon. Further, support efforts towards providing recreational opportunities within five minutes walking time of residential development.
- 17.5 Continue to support recreational opportunities provided through community centres, societies, clubs and other organizations delivering recreation services to residents of all ages in the community.

Culture

- 17.6 Support the enhancement and expansion of Museum and Archive services in the community. Further, support retaining the Museum and Archive in the City Centre District.
- 17.7 Support the enhancement and expansion of the Vernon Art Gallery services in the community. Further, support retaining the Vernon Art Gallery in the City Centre District.
- 17.8 Support the enhancement and expansion of other arts organizations in the community.
- 17.9 Support the enhancement and expansion of organizations in the community that support scientific learning and discovery.
- 17.10 Support the enhancement and expansion of cultural expression and private cultural facilities in the community through land use provisions permitting cultural centres and community centres within residential and commercial areas of the community.
- 17.11 Support the enhancement and expansion of religious expression in the community. The City supports the continued inclusion of religious facilities in residential neighbourhoods, recognizing that new facilities may not be able to be accommodated in existing residential developments given space and parking requirements.
- 17.12 Continue to support the enhancement and expansion of cultural events and activities in the community through consideration of funding requests, in-kind service provisions and consideration for these events and activities when creating or amending City policies and bylaws.
- 17.13 Support increased access for all residents to participate in cultural activities such as drama, dance, art, music and religion, as well as increased access to cultural performances, displays and presentations. Accommodating requests for festivals and events, and partnering with non-profit groups and agencies to facilitate programs that are financially accessible are examples of support that could be provided by the City.
- 17.14 Support the location and expansion of both public and private cultural facilities within and adjacent to the City Centre District and the neighbourhood centres.
- 17.15 Support the location of major civic facilities, cultural and performing arts facilities and uses within or adjacent to the City Centre District.