



**North Vancouver
Recreation Commission**

**2006 Recreation Needs
Assessment**

Final Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

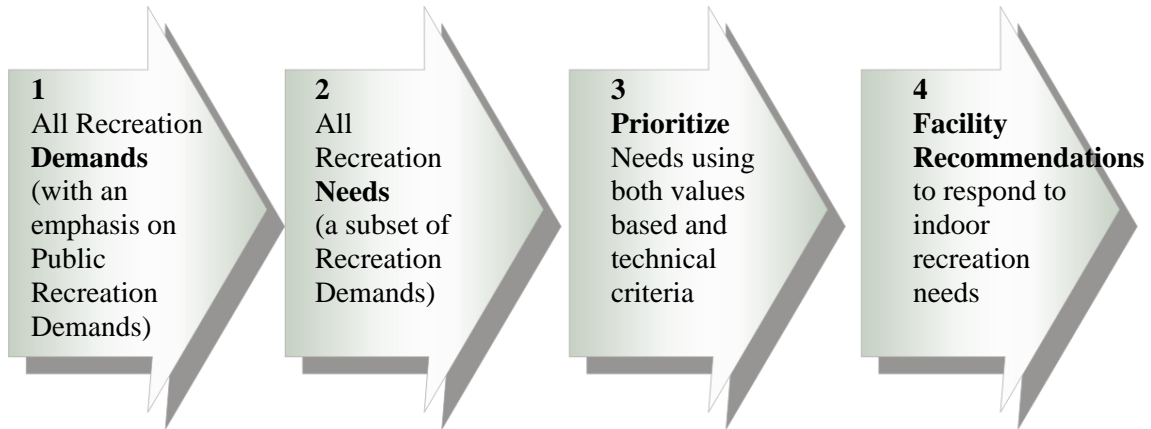
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Executive Summary

In January 2006, Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC), along with Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc. and Don Hunter Management Consultant were retained by the North Vancouver Recreation Commission to undertake the study. Four deliverables were identified and are outlined below.



The Process

This draft report focuses on the first three deliverables referred to above. The Facilities Recommendations will be prepared and published separately.

The consultants initiated the study by compiling and analyzing a great deal of data as summarized in *Figure A*.

Figure A
Data Collected and Analyzed

Source of Information	Details
Review of the Active Vision 2015 Reports and Data	Report includes the results of extensive community input, a community survey, public workshops, analysis of Commission user data and a section on Research Findings.
Review of other background studies and reports	Dozens of other planning reports analyzing demand for recreation in North Vancouver.
Stakeholder Meetings and Focus Groups	The consultants met with 15 separate collections of user groups and community interests to explore recreation demands and needs.
Public Survey	A mail out/mail return survey of City and District residents resulted in a statistically reliable profile of activity and demand.
Commission workshops	Separate from this project, the consultant participated in a number of workshops with the Commission, resulting in a values based filter.
Demographic Analysis	The consultants analyzed the demographics of the study area and presented their implications.
Trends Analysis	The consultants reviewed trends in the parks and recreation field and presented their implications.

Once all the data was collected and analyzed the consultants initiated the preparation of the first three deliverables. They are summarized in the next three sections of this Executive Summary.

1. Recreation Demands and Issues

From the information collected, the consultants identified and categorized thirty-four recreation demands and issues related to recreation services and facilities. These are categorized and summarized in *Figure B*.

Figure B
Classification of Demands and Issues

	Demands / Issues	Category			
		Increased quantity	Increased quality	New service	Operating reasons
1.	More use of the North Shore mountains	X			
2.	Greater use of urban trails and connectors	X			
3.	More outdoor sport tournaments	X	X	X	
4.	More and better outdoor sports field experiences	X	X		
5.	More track and field training and competitions	X		X	
6.	More fitness services of all kinds	X			
7.	Enhanced indoor sport tournaments	X	X		
8.	More indoor aquatics activities	X		X	
9.	More indoor ice sports	X			
10.	More dry floor arena activities	X			
11.	More gymnastics training	X			
12.	More gymnasium activities	X			
13.	New indoor lawn bowling experience			X	
14.	More indoor tennis opportunities	X			
15.	More and better small performing and rehearsal experiences	X	X		
16.	More and better heritage interpretation experiences	X	X		
17.	More arts and crafts experiences	X			
18.	More unstructured recreation experiences for youth	X			
19.	More leisure services east and west of Lower Lonsdale	X		X	X
20.	More coordination of seniors services		X		X
21.	More ethno-cultural marketing	X	X	X	X
22.	Improved maintenance standards		X		X
23.	Lower costs for the financially disadvantaged				X
24.	Increased marketing to non-users				X
25.	Improved partnership with School District #44				X
26.	Increase physical access to facilities		X		X
27.	Better system of allocating space	X			X
28.	Improve circulation and control in facilities		X		X
29.	Improve energy efficiency in facilities				X
30.	Clarity regarding the indirect benefits of recreation services				X
31.	Improved accountability framework for partnering				X
32.	Clarity regarding community development				X
33.	Clarity regarding NVRC role with respect to social services				X
34.	Inconsistencies between municipal parent bodies				X

2. Recreation Needs

One of the issues (more and better heritage interpretation experiences) is referred to other processes for further analysis. Another issue (geographic equity of recreation service) is referred directly to the Facilities Plan as something that does not need to be prioritized.

Fifteen of the thirty-four are seen as **operating** issues and have not been prioritized. The Recreation Commission must move forward on each of these to the greatest degree possible and within the context of the other needs. They are:

- More coordination of seniors services
- More ethno-cultural marketing
- Improved maintenance standards
- Lower costs for the financially disadvantaged
- Increased marketing to non-users
- Better partnership with School District No. 44
- Increase physical access to facilities
- Better system of allocating space
- Improve circulation and control in facilities
- Improve energy efficiency in facilities
- Clarity regarding the indirect benefits of recreation services
- Improved accountability framework for partnering
- Clarity regarding community development
- Clarity regarding NVRC role with respect to social services
- Inconsistencies between municipal parent bodies

Seventeen remaining demands were deemed to be needs that if addressed, could result in some degree of public good.

They are:

- More use of the North Shore mountains
- Greater use of urban trails and connectors
- More and better outdoor sports field experiences
- More fitness services of all kinds
- More indoor aquatics activities
- More dry floor arena activities
- More gymnasium activities
- More and better performing and rehearsal experiences
- More outdoor sport tournaments
- Enhanced indoor sport tournaments
- More indoor ice sports
- More indoor tennis opportunities
- More unstructured recreation experiences for youth
- More gymnastics training
- More track and field competitions and training
- New indoor lawn bowling experience
- More arts and crafts experiences

3. Priorities

The consultants then analyzed the seventeen recreation needs by filtering them through a four step decision making model that prioritized each of them. The decision making model included:

- The degree to which responding to each need would result in public good
- The influence of demographic shifts on the magnitude of the need
- The effect of trends in behaviour patterns on the magnitude of the need
- The costs of meeting the need in relation to the amount of indirect and direct benefit derived

The results of the prioritizing process are summarized below.

The following eight were identified as the highest priority recreation needs in North Vancouver.

- More use of the North Shore mountains
- Greater use of urban trails and connectors
- More and better outdoor sports field experiences
- More fitness services of all kinds
- More indoor aquatics activities
- More dry floor arena activities
- More gymnasium activities
- More and better performing and rehearsal experiences

Another five of the needs were assessed as medium priorities. They are:

- More outdoor sport tournaments
- Enhanced indoor sport tournaments
- More indoor ice sports
- More indoor tennis opportunities
- More unstructured recreation experiences for youth

The remaining four are seen as low priority needs. They are:

- More gymnastics training
- More track and field competitions and training
- New indoor lawn bowling experience
- More arts and crafts experiences

4. Indoor Facility Recommendations

Thirteen of the seventeen needs require indoor recreation facilities. They are referred to the Facility Planning phase of the project along with geographic equity of service. The remaining five, all of which are outdoor recreation needs, should be referred to the City and District of North Vancouver.

The Facility Recommendations is the next phase of work on this project. It will require other inputs including facility condition reports, an analysis of Best Practices related to facility planning and provision, an analysis of population catchment areas, and consideration of other partners, such as the School District) before a complete strategy for developing new facilities, redeveloping existing facilities or phasing out existing facilities across the City and District can be completed. The final Facility Recommendations will show how many facilities are needed, where they should be located, how they might be provided (e.g. in partnership), and in which order they should be provided. The Facility Recommendations will also present an approach detailing how to transition from what exists now to what is required ten years in the future.