

MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY OF RICHMOND WINS BCRPA PARKS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Minoru Park – Lakes District Honoured with Award for Parks Excellence

Whistler, BC (May 9, 2025) — BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has announced the **City of Richmond** as the recipient of the **2025 Parks Excellence Award** for their renewal of Minoru Park – Lakes District (www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards).

BCRPA's Parks Excellence Award recognizes outstanding design and development of park spaces that utilize natural elements or repurposed materials, reflect community culture, enhance accessibility for all, and encourage engagement with nature. Winning projects must positively impact the well-being of the community and the recreation and parks sector.

Located within one of Richmond's signature parks, the renewed Lakes District combines the preservation of beloved features with bold improvements in environmental sustainability, accessibility, and community wellness. Highlights include the restoration of two lakes through an innovative rainwater-fed system, a comprehensive habitat renewal plan, revitalized pathways and plazas, expanded accessibility features, and an increased tree canopy that strengthens the park's climate resilience.

The project was shaped through an extensive, multilingual public consultation process that ensured community priorities were reflected at every stage. By preserving its tranquil natural character while enhancing inclusivity and environmental stewardship, the Lakes District offers a dynamic and peaceful urban oasis for residents, visitors, and future generations.

"The Lakes District at Minoru Park beautifully illustrates how communities can preserve cherished spaces while evolving them for modern needs," said Katie Fenn, CEO of BCRPA. "Through ecological innovation, inclusivity, and strong community engagement, the City of Richmond has created a welcoming sanctuary that promotes health, connection, and sustainability."

The Parks Excellence Award is one of six Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium, held this year in Whistler. Each award is presented on behalf of BCRPA's more than 5,200 members across the province who work to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

For more information:

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BACKGROUND

BCRPA: Inspiring and connecting professionals to build healthy and resilient communities through the power of recreation and parks.

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), a not-for-profit organization, plays a central role in leading the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians and their communities. We do this by championing the power of recreation and parks.

Our story is one of creating community connectedness and individual well-being based on the knowledge that recreation, active living, and access to parks and the natural environment have profound impacts on physical and mental health.

Since 1958, BCRPA has provided leadership, training, and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness to help members meet provincial and local priorities that improve quality of life for all British Columbians.

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/