



# *NORTH VANCOUVER* **Recreation Facility & Amenity Assessment**

*APRIL 2026*





*We respectfully acknowledge the original peoples of these lands and waters, specifically the səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and x̣məθḳʷəjəm (Musqueam), on whose unceded ancestral lands the District of North Vancouver is located. We value the opportunity to learn, share and serve our community on these unceded lands.*

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## SUMMARY

The North Vancouver Recreation Facility and Amenity Assessment project was initiated in 2023 by the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC), funded by and in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver (CNV) and the District of North Vancouver (DNV). Its purpose is to provide a North Vancouver-wide assessment to help inform future indoor and outdoor facility and amenity planning in both municipalities.

The work confirms that North Vancouver residents are well served by recreation and sport facilities and amenities, that most residents are satisfied with existing facilities and amenities, and that service levels meet or exceed those of comparable municipalities.

This report summarizes the project's key findings, including survey results, utilization data, amenity distribution analysis, municipal initiatives and long-term planning considerations. The report confirms high satisfaction among North Vancouver residents, identifies strong and growing demand for recreation amenities, and outlines strategic opportunities to maximize community benefit.

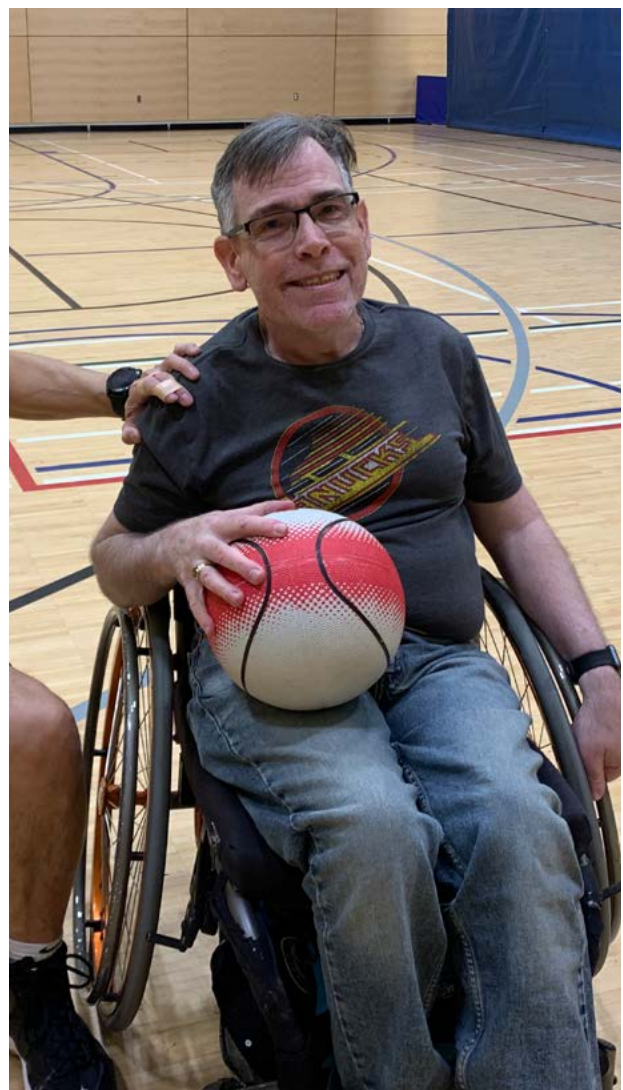
# INTRODUCTION

CNV and DNV recognize the vital role that recreation plays in fostering active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities. The municipalities have made significant investments in the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities. These efforts include the building of many community recreation centres, as well as an extensive network of multi-use trails, sports courts and fields, and public spaces designed for both active and passive recreation. These investments have contributed to North Vancouver being recognized as one of the most desirable places to live in Canada (Globe & Mail Most Livable Cities 2024 & 2025) and to the health and well-being of residents.

Demand for recreation spaces and experiences is high and is expected to continue to grow with anticipated population increases. Municipalities must supplement public opinion with utilization data and expertise to prioritize needs, and to consider these needs within the context of a municipal role, all policies, priorities and financial realities. With a wide range of existing recreation and sport amenities, it is essential to determine where and when to invest to realize the greatest community benefit. Several key factors inform these decisions, including community demand, supply, usage data and broader municipal priorities.

### ***The project was initiated to:***

- Research leading practices and emerging trends.
- Collect North Vancouver-specific data on community satisfaction, socio-demographics, and the inventory, usage and geographic distribution of recreation and sport facilities/amenities.
- Inform future priorities based on anticipated growth, identified needs and available resources.





The project scope included an inventory assessment of a range of indoor amenities, including aquatics (lane, leisure, therapy), gymnasiums, fitness/wellness spaces, multipurpose rooms and ice surfaces, and outdoor amenities such as sports fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, pickleball and tennis courts and skateboard parks. In this context, a facility is the overall building or site that houses multiple amenities (e.g., a community recreation centre like Harry Jerome or a park like Inter River Park), whereas an amenity is a specific feature within that facility or site (e.g., an arena, a tennis court or a sports field).

A consulting firm, RC Strategies, was retained to support the project by conducting research, gathering data and preparing a geospatial database of recreation amenities in North Vancouver.

In 2023, after the start of this project, the Province of British Columbia introduced a new housing strategy mandating greater densification and housing targets that guide

local planning, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. CNV and DNV were required to update their Official Community Plans (OCPs) and Zoning Bylaws in late 2025 to align with these requirements. More recent amendments to the Local Government Act will require further updates to both municipalities' OCPs and Zoning Bylaws by June 30, 2026. These changes will impact population distribution and demographics, which will in turn influence future demand for facilities and amenities. Understanding the implications of these changes is a critical next step in determining long-term priorities for recreation infrastructure.

The following sections outline the project's primary conclusions. The findings show that North Vancouver meets or exceeds almost all service levels of similar communities, that residents view amenities positively in terms of quality and quantity, and that demand for outdoor and indoor spaces is strong and growing, particularly during peak times. The section also highlights major initiatives, both completed and underway, that demonstrate a sustained commitment to enhancing this vibrant recreation and sport system.



# 1

## SERVICE LEVELS AND SUPPLY

North Vancouver residents have access to a vast inventory of public indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and amenities. Each municipality owns and operates the outdoor amenities within its network of parks and public spaces, such as sports fields, playgrounds, sport courts, washrooms and trails. CNV and DNV also own the indoor recreation facilities within their jurisdictions and are responsible for the capital costs of their maintenance and renewal. The operation of CNV's and DNV's indoor facilities and the delivery of recreation and cultural programs and services are provided by NVRC, a joint entity of the two municipalities. NVRC's operating costs are also funded by the municipalities through a shared partnership agreement, of which 45% is recovered through user fees.

### INVENTORY

In 2025, the City and District invested more than \$79 million in parks and recreation, providing services, operating facilities, maintaining and replacing infrastructure, and adding new amenities to meet the needs of a growing community. As part of this project, the consultant created a geospatial database for CNV's and DNV's recreation amenities. This database will support North Vancouver-wide spatial analysis for park and recreation planning and provides a visual representation of the assets and their distribution. The resulting maps of indoor and outdoor amenities are provided in Appendix 1. The inventory is current to 2026 and includes capital projects that are currently under construction and scheduled for completion in 2026. It should be noted that the inventory does not include the network of paved multi-use trails (such as the Spirit Trail) or the more than 300 kilometres of municipal park and wilderness trails.

North Vancouver's recreation facilities and amenities are well distributed across both municipalities. As shown on Maps 3 and 4 (Appendix 2), most residents live within a five-minute walk of an outdoor amenity and a 10-minute drive of a community recreation centre.

**North Vancouver's indoor recreation facilities and amenities include:**

- 10** indoor recreation facilities
- 7** indoor pools at 4 locations, plus up to 6,500 hours/year at Pinnacle Pool for NVRC lane swim programming
- 2** public arenas with seasonal ice and dry floor space, plus 3 ice sheets at Canlan Arena, with up to 2,800 hours/year for NVRC programming
- 6** fitness centres
- 6** gymnasiums (basketball, pickleball, badminton, volleyball)
- 9** indoor tennis courts
- 6** seniors-oriented multi-purpose spaces
- 6** youth-oriented multi-purpose spaces
- 2** courts that convert to racquetball/squash
- 1** squash court



**North Vancouver's outdoor recreation facilities and amenities include:**

- 83** playgrounds
- 48** sports fields (9 artificial turf, 32 grass, 7 gravel)
- 53** tennis courts
- 39** basketball courts
- 23** pickleball courts (16 dedicated, 7 shared)
- 7** spray parks
- 6** skateboard parks
- 3** lacrosse/ball hockey courts
- 3** running tracks
- 3** pump tracks
- 1** BMX track
- 1** disc golf course
- 1** outdoor ice rink

### Comparison to other jurisdictions

North Vancouver provides as many or more public amenities than comparable Canadian communities of similar size and demographics (Appendix 3).

Direct comparisons with other Lower Mainland communities are difficult given varying geography, land use and populations. However, North Vancouver’s per capita supply of public recreation amenities generally meets or exceeds the regional averages (Appendix 4).



### Notable comparisons per capita – North Vancouver vs municipalities in the region

<b>Community recreation centres</b>		Highest in region
<b>Indoor amenities (swimming pools, ice sheets, fitness areas)</b>		Meets or exceeds average
<b>Sports fields</b>	Artificial turf fields	Above average with new fields under construction at Handsworth Secondary School and Inter River Park
	Grass and gravel fields	Below average (excludes the 25+ gravel fields available for community use on School District property.)
<b>Tennis courts (indoor and outdoor)</b>		Above average
<b>Pickleball courts</b>	Dedicated courts	Above average
	Total courts (dedicated and shared indoor/outdoor)	Above average
<b>Skateparks</b>		Above average (second highest in the region)



## 2 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

### ENGAGEMENT METHODS

Through community engagement, the project team learned about residents' recreation preferences, amenity use patterns, participation barriers, satisfaction with current facilities and amenities, and opportunities for enhancements. This process included:

- A survey of over 150 organized groups that use recreation and sport facilities, distributed to representatives of community organizations, resulting in 41 group responses. NVRC, CNV and DNV also received supplemental information from groups through formal correspondence and meetings. A list of the organizations that responded is provided in Appendix 5.
- Discussion sessions and interviews were held with a variety of individuals and groups, including service partners, and representatives of equity-deserving communities, with 58 participants engaged.
- A random survey of North Vancouver residents, inviting 30,000 households to take part. A total of 963 responses from households were received, providing a representative community-wide perspective with a margin of error of  $\pm 3.14\%$ , 19 times out of 20.
- An open survey, identical to the random survey and available to anyone wishing to complete it. It received 1,478 responses.

NVRC also met with staff from the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to discuss barriers to participation, opportunities for additional collaboration, and plans for more infrastructure within their communities.

## SURVEY RESULTS

The random survey results show that North Vancouverites are highly active: 80% of households participate in activities using indoor recreation facilities and amenities and 82% participate in activities using outdoor amenities in the community (Source: 2023 Project data – Representative Community Survey)

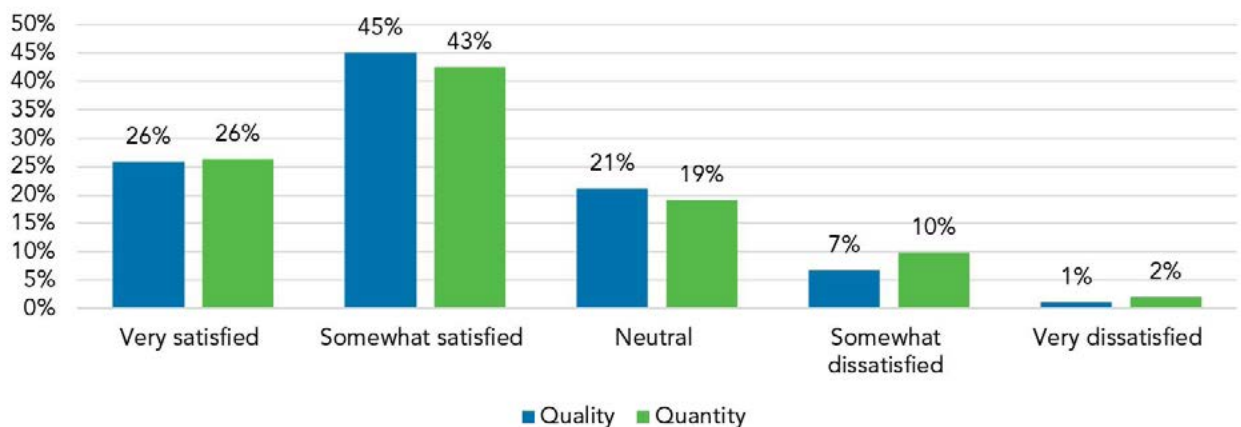
Surveyed households take part in a wide range of activities (Appendix 6), with the top four being:

- 1. Outdoor physical activities (91%)** – walking, hiking, cycling, gardening or skateboarding
- 2. At-home leisure activities (83%)** – reading and games
- 3. Social activities (82%)** – getting together with friends and family
- 4. Indoor physical activity (72%)** – working out in a gym or doing yoga

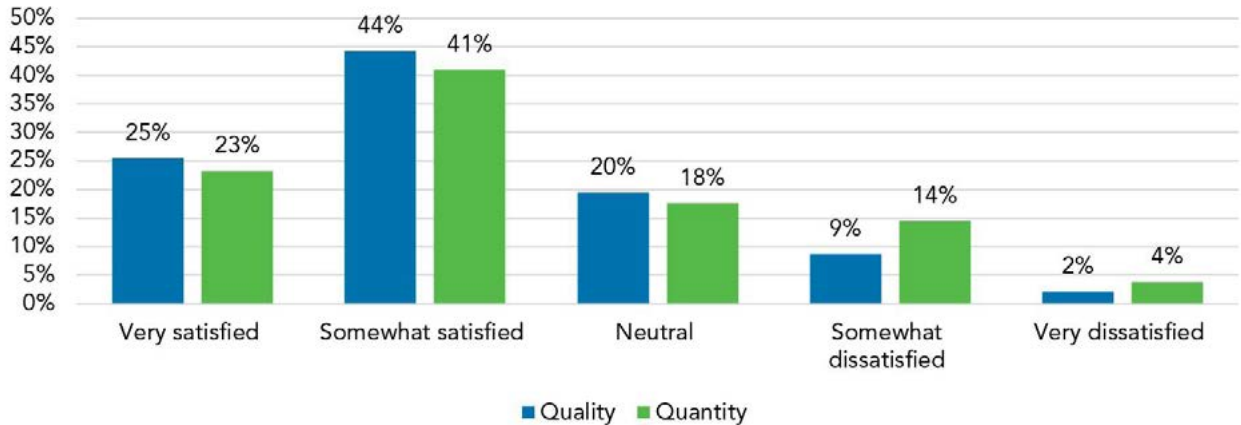
Households that used outdoor facilities most often visited paved multi-use trails, passive park spaces, beaches, and unpaved hiking trails. The survey responses indicated that residents were satisfied with the availability and quality of public facilities and amenities in North Vancouver. 69% were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the availability of outdoor amenities and 71% were highly satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of those amenities. For indoor facilities and amenities, 64% were very or somewhat satisfied with the availability, and 69% were very or somewhat satisfied with the quality.



**Satisfaction with the Quality and Quantity of Outdoor Amenities**

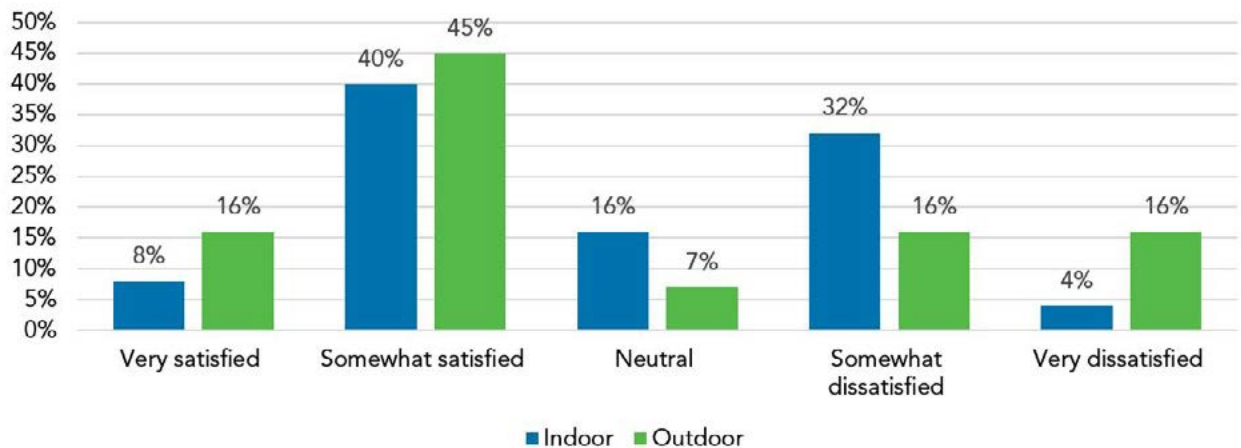


### Satisfaction with the Quality and Quantity of Indoor Amenities



Organized recreation and sport groups deliver services that primarily rely on municipal facilities, such as fields, gymnasiums, pools, and arenas. The 2023 survey of organized groups indicates that demand for bookable space continues to rise, with 67% reporting increased membership and 76% offering year-round programming, beyond traditional seasons. With that growth, 80% of groups reported that they face challenges accessing enough amenity space for their regular activities, 54% noted difficulty securing spaces for special events, and 44% felt that current facility types do not fully meet their program needs. Despite access challenges, 61% are satisfied with the quality of outdoor facilities and 48% with indoor facilities. (Source: 2023 Project data – Organised Recreation and Sport Group Survey)

### Organised Group Satisfaction with the Quality of Indoor and Outdoor Amenities





## 3 DEMAND

### RECREATION TRENDS

The research identified several broad recreation and sport trends that influence demand for community recreation amenities in North Vancouver. These include:

**Unstructured casual use:** Residents increasingly look for informal, spontaneous activities in parks and open spaces, which require supporting amenities like shade, seating and signage that welcome casual use.

**Popular outdoor amenities:** The most desired outdoor amenities include outdoor pools, outdoor fitness equipment, beaches, trails, picnic areas and open spaces.

**Sport participation trends:** Interest is rising in pickleball, soccer, baseball, tennis, cricket, rugby, mountain biking, field hockey, basketball and disc golf.

**Amenity rental demand:** Increased demand for indoor and outdoor amenities, particularly fields, gymnasiums, pools and arenas, as organized group programs expand and activities extend beyond traditional seasons.

**Equity-focused:** With growing and more diverse populations, a greater focus is needed on equitable access to amenities and services in underserved neighbourhoods and by equity-deserving segments of the population.

**Climate impacts:** Environmental conditions, including more extreme weather and decreased air quality due to seasonal wildfires, are affecting the use of outdoor amenities. With longer term climate trends for hotter/dryer summers and increasingly rainy winters, there will likely be an increasing demand for indoor and covered outdoor amenities.

**Technology in parks:** Increasing use of smart park features (solar charging benches, EV stations, QR codes for education) and operational tech for maintenance efficiency.

**Multi-use community hubs:** Recreation facilities are evolving into integrated spaces combining aquatics, fitness, arenas, arts, social areas, libraries, early years/preschool spaces and low sensory spaces to maximize operational efficiency and provide formal and informal participation for families and individuals of all ages and abilities. Community recreation centres promote belonging and social connection; they serve as inclusive, accessible places to gather, connect and engage in activities that promote well-being.

**Accessibility and inclusion:** Universal change rooms, barrier-free design and spaces that accommodate all genders, abilities and cultural backgrounds have become standard in modern facilities.

**Participation shifts:** Increased demand for flexible, drop-in activities and spontaneous recreation spaces alongside traditional structured programs. For example, community living room spaces have been incorporated into recent facility designs, providing informal spaces for people to feel a part of the community without having to register for a program.

**Operational pressures:** Staffing shortages for lifeguards and swim instructors and volunteer fatigue are straining operations. With younger, less experienced staff and more public incidents, enhanced training in conflict resolution and decision making is needed.



## FACILITY AND AMENITY USE

Operational and utilization information derived from NVRC’s amenity bookings and indoor participation data confirms that demand for outdoor and indoor spaces during peak times is consistently high and continues to grow. The challenge is that most individuals and community groups share similar windows of availability: early mornings, late afternoons and evenings on weekdays, and then all day on weekends. This creates significant competition for indoor and outdoor amenities during peak times.



**Indoor amenities:** Most indoor amenities support a combination of uses, including casual public use, participation in NVRC programs and services, as well as exclusive use or rentals by community organizations, sports groups and individuals. As a result, pools, arenas, gymnasiums and multipurpose spaces are consistently in high demand. Balancing these different types of usage is complex and supported by policy-based allocation processes. For example, NVRC’s swimming programs, that serve the entire local population, have a higher priority for pool use than third-party sport organization rentals. There is data on participation of these indoor spaces which helps inform programs and facility planning.

**Outdoor amenities:** Most outdoor amenities are available for casual public use and can either support multiple users at one time (playgrounds) or are available on a casual drop-in basis, such as sport courts. Public amenities that are available for exclusive use, such as sports fields, are managed through a fee-based permit process administered by NVRC, with a prioritization and allocations process based on approved policy and procedures. As a result, verifiable outdoor amenity usage data is limited to bookable amenities such as sports fields.



**Sports fields:** Artificial turf, grass fields and ball diamonds are used by many types of community and school sports, including soccer, field hockey, football, rugby, baseball, softball and ultimate. With increasing popularity and overlapping seasons, artificial turf and grass sports fields are consistently in high demand. Demand for gravel fields has been lower; however, with limited availability of artificial turf and grass field time, bookings for gravel fields have been increasing during peak times. Following the pre-season field allocation process, remaining available time on artificial turf fields is typically limited to 9am to 4pm on weekdays at non-school based sites, such as Fen Burdett, William Griffin or Kirkstone.



**Sports courts:** The North Vancouver Tennis Centre provides programs and access to nine bookable indoor tennis courts. These are the only public indoor courts on the North Shore. There is high demand for programs and court bookings throughout the year, but particularly during the winter months. To help meet the increasing demand, NVRC has expanded the Tennis Centre's hours of operation and implemented a priority registration system for North Vancouver residents.

Indoor pickleball programs are offered in several community recreation centres, and demand is consistently high. Like badminton, the smaller court size makes it possible to play pickleball in a gymnasium.

As outdoor sports courts are primarily used on a casual basis, usage data is limited to the hours booked by community sports organizations, primarily for tennis and pickleball. Public outdoor courts cannot be reserved for individual use and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The North Shore Tennis Society and North Shore Pickleball Club report that courts are in high demand from spring to fall, with usage shifting to more indoor play during the winter months. The reallocation of land in the City of North Vancouver that had previously provided access to eight public tennis courts has resulted in concerns from the tennis community.





## 4

# MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES AND MAJOR INITIATIVES

CNV and DNV continue to make substantial investments in the planning and delivery of outdoor and indoor facilities and amenities to support community well-being and provide enhanced opportunities for participation in recreation and sport.

## NORTH VANCOUVER-WIDE INITIATIVES

**Outdoor fees and charges review:** NVRC, CNV and DNV are working through a review of policies and practices regarding fees for booking of outdoor amenities. An updated approach to fees and charges that is fair, efficient and effective will help maximize use of existing assets and ensure appropriate cost recovery to support maintenance and replacement of high-demand bookable outdoor amenities, such as sports fields and sports courts. The plan is to provide recommendations in early 2027.

### **Indoor and outdoor allocation policy**

**review:** The policy review will establish a principle-based framework for allocating indoor and outdoor spaces that ensures access is fair, transparent and aligned with community values. The framework will communicate clear priorities and seek to balance new and emerging groups and sports, while respecting the value of established user groups. The plan is to provide recommendations to the Commission in 2027.

### **NVRC facility accessibility assessments:**

Supporting access and inclusion is a fundamental part of NVRC’s mission to build healthy individuals, families and communities. NVRC is conducting an accessibility review of the facilities it operates to identify barriers and recommend priority improvements to the built environment. A future phase will include a review of programs and services. The plan is to provide recommendations for future capital budget submissions.

**Adapted aquatics service plan:** This plan builds on NVRC’s solid foundation of aquatics services to foster participation, enhanced confidence, improved health and wellness outcomes and a stronger sense of belonging for all. It focuses on direct program delivery, leisure counselling, specialized staff training, investment in adaptive equipment, facility design and equipment enhancements and strategic partnerships. The plan is to begin implementation in 2027.



## CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER INITIATIVES

**Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre:** Currently in the final stages of construction, this centre will open in mid-2026. It will provide new and enhanced accessible indoor and outdoor amenities to support community needs for activity, creativity, wellness, celebration and connection. Program elements include: 500-spectator NHL-sized arena, an expanded aquatics centre with a large leisure pool, 10-lane 25-meter lap pool, arts spaces and youth, early years and pre-school spaces. Key additions include a full-size gymnasium, extensive indoor/outdoor fitness spaces, a new skate park, outdoor playground, half-court basketball and a community kitchen. The Silver Harbour Seniors Activity Centre is located adjacent to the CRC.



**Harbour Swimming Deck:** This project will deliver an innovative new outdoor public swimming amenity space at Waterfront Park. The first of its kind in Burrard Inlet, the swimming deck will provide safe, accessible and free public access to Burrard Inlet, as well as 50-metre swimming lanes, a shallow pool and recreational jumping platforms. The project is expected to be complete in 2027.

**Parks and Public Space Plan:** A CNV Parks and Public Space Plan is in development that will establish a 10-year vision and recommendations for enhancements to meet community needs. The planning process will build on data collected through this project to determine appropriate service levels for parks and outdoor recreation amenities, develop an equity framework, develop a vision for a connected network of parks and public spaces, and identify priorities for enhancing community health and well-being.

**Tennis Feasibility Study - Quick Starts:** CNV will be assessing service levels, identifying opportunities to increase capacity and optimize existing courts, and exploring options for new tennis amenities. For 2026 CNV will be assessing the condition of existing courts and the feasibility of adding lights to the four courts at Ray Perrault Park.

**New parks:** New parks are being created to enhance access to public open space and outdoor amenities in Central Lonsdale. Topo Park was completed in 2025 and features a large lawn area, playground and climbing wall. A new park at 1600 Eastern Avenue is currently under construction and will provide a central green surrounded by a variety of playful features and a fenced off-leash area. It is scheduled to be completed in mid-2026.



**Mahon Park skateboard plaza:** Constructed in 2022, the skateboard plaza added a new public amenity to the site of the decommissioned outdoor pool. Four pickleball courts and a basketball court had previously been built on other portions of the site, creating a new community sport hub.

**Disc golf:** The course at Eastview Park is planned to be enhanced in 2026, providing more separation between golfers and casual park users. This will include the development of a new perimeter trail and forest and habitat improvements. Disc golf has seen significant growth in recent years, and the project aims to address increased community demand while reducing impacts on the neighbourhood and other park users.

**Kings Mill Walk Park:** This park is getting a major upgrade as part of the revitalization of the Harbourside neighbourhood and climate-resilient shoreline improvements. The park will feature an all ages play zone, outdoor fitness stations, beach volleyball court and off-leash dog area. The shoreline improvements and park renewal will take several years and are expected to begin early 2026.

## DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER INITIATIVES

New community recreation centres: Over the last nine years, DNV has opened three new centres, providing a significant expansion in service levels and adding amenities to growing town centres.

- Delbrook Community Recreation Centre opened in 2017, replacing the old William Griffin and Delbrook Community Recreation Centres. With a lap pool and leisure pool, gymnasium, large fitness area and a variety of multi-purpose rooms, Delbrook has been the busiest indoor recreation facility in North Vancouver.
- Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre opened in 2022 in Lions Gate Town Centre. The new building provides a gymnasium, community living room, multi-purpose spaces, express library and home for NVRC's service partner, Capilano Community Services Society. In response to community feedback, NVRC is exploring the opportunity of adding a fitness centre in the future.
- Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre opened in early 2025, replacing the former Seylynn Hall. The centre provides a gymnasium, community living room, multi-purpose spaces, childcare centre and access to library resources. The facility is in the new Lynn Creek Town Centre, next to the North Shore Spirit Trail, providing easy bike and pedestrian access to the surrounding neighbourhoods.



**Artificial turf fields:** DNV has made significant investments in artificial turf fields in the last five years, constructing the new field at Argyle Secondary School (2023), and installing new turf at William Griffin (2024) and Windsor Secondary School (2025). New fields are currently under construction at Inter River Park and Handsworth Secondary School, with completion in 2026. In the longer term, DNV is also planning to convert an existing gravel field to artificial turf.

**Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy:** This strategy focuses on identifying ways to maximize use of DNV’s sport courts. In addition to enhancements to the existing inventory of tennis courts, the strategy recommends increasing the number of pickleball courts in appropriate locations where concerns about noise, parking and support amenities can be addressed. Given the low demand for lacrosse boxes, DNV is exploring the feasibility of constructing new pickleball courts on the underutilized former lacrosse court site in William Griffin Park.

**Kirkstone skatepark:** This skatepark was recently enhanced with lighting and improvements to skateable features to maximize use.

**Disc golf:** DNV is engaging with the North Shore Disc Golf Association to explore potential options for a new course.

**New parks:** The District is adding new parks and completing upgrades to existing park spaces in town centres, recognizing the importance of providing park space amenities near new housing and density. Belle Isle Park was opened in 2025, providing additional public open space and amenities in Lions Gate Town Centre. The park complements the plaza and spray park adjacent to the community recreation centre, and features a playground, outdoor exercise equipment and fenced off-leash area.

Construction of a new park on the former Delbrook Lands was also completed in late 2025. The site now includes a playground, spray park, pump track, basketball court with some skateboard features, walking circuit and washroom building. The existing lit tennis courts were also refurbished.





## OPPORTUNITIES

Future recreation and sport capital project priorities will be determined after both municipalities finalize and adopt their Official Community Plans (OCPs), as these plans shape expectations for future growth and population density in accordance with new, provincially-mandated requirements for increased housing.

Until then, innovative planning and asset management offer opportunities to maximize facility use and community benefit.

### **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO PLANNING**

This project has been advanced through a coordinated effort by CNV and DNV and has included the development of the first North Vancouver-wide geospatial inventory of public indoor and outdoor recreation assets. The results show that the history of collaboration between the municipalities has generated an extensive network of amenities and a high level of service. This approach leverages the unique and complementary characteristics of both jurisdictions to provide North Vancouver residents with a diverse range of recreation opportunities that function as one integrated system. The information gathered through this project provides the foundation for future analysis to identify long-term infrastructure priorities and is currently being used to support parks and recreation planning by both municipalities.



## LEVERAGE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Explore opportunities to collaborate with Skwxwú7mesh and səlilwətał Nations on shared amenities. The Skwxwú7mesh recently completed a new covered outdoor sports court (the first on the North Shore) and the səlilwətał is constructing a new artificial turf field.

School grounds and gymnasiums form an important part of the community's system of amenities, and the municipalities have partnered with the North Vancouver School District on a variety of projects from joint-use artificial turf fields to playground enhancements. There may be opportunities to establish new amenities on school sites (such as tennis courts) and to ensure gymnasium use is maximized.

## MAXIMIZE USE

With growing populations, limited land and more people living in attached forms of housing with limited private outdoor space, it will be increasingly important to identify strategies to maximize the utility of existing facilities and parks amenities, while also exploring opportunities to enhance access to open space and recreation amenities near town centres. Adding lighting to existing outdoor amenities, such as sport courts, and increasing hours of operation, where possible, can be a cost-effective way of expanding capacity to meet growing needs.

Continuing the gradual conversion of gravel and grass sports fields to artificial turf is another way to expand capacity. North Vancouver's wet climate significantly reduces the utility of grass, and one artificial turf field provides the equivalent playing time of approximately 10 grass fields. As a result, North Vancouver has prioritized artificial turf fields over grass and gravel fields.

As the inventory of artificial turf fields increases, there may be opportunities to re-purpose some other fields to support other park uses. Given the high cost of acquiring land, and limited supply of flat terrain in North Vancouver, this approach could be part of a long-term strategy for meeting future community needs.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Some community sport organizations and clubs have expressed interest in exploring potential partnerships with the municipalities to fund the construction and operation of new indoor facilities or sport-specific outdoor amenities through capital contributions or loans, and user fee-based cost recovery. This approach was used for the initial construction and operation of what is now the North Vancouver Tennis Centre. There may also be opportunities for more public-private partnerships, such as the District-owned, privately operated Canlan Sports Arena. There may be opportunities to explore these types of partnerships in the future. The challenge, however, is that this approach requires access to public land, which is in short supply.

## PLANNING FOR FACILITY RENEWAL

Ron Andrews and Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centres require renewal or replacement in the next decade. Both facilities are near town centres and have been identified as priorities in DNV's Strategic Facilities Plan. Planning for these facilities will incorporate findings from this project.

## ENHANCING FACILITY USE DATA COLLECTION

As technology continues to evolve, there are opportunities to implement new methods for collecting data on amenity usage. Outdoor recreation data collected by NVRC is currently limited to hours of use and number of permitted bookings for a few amenities. The current outdoor user fee and allocation process also makes it challenging to track actual usage versus scheduled usage, which is critical to effectively manage system capacity.

Community recreation centres track registration, admissions and amenity rentals. However, they lack data on which specific amenities are used by day pass holders or monthly pass holders, since these passes provide access to multiple amenities and activities. There is also no data on passive use of spaces such as community living rooms. Enhanced data collection on usage of public amenities can support evidence-based decisions on priorities for maintenance and renewal, align bookings with actual demand and ensure equitable access.





## NEXT STEPS

The next steps will involve assessing the implications of the revised OCPs and anticipated population growth on recreation facility and amenity planning, defining appropriate service levels, identifying gaps and recommending infrastructure enhancements. While there is always a demand for more, both the technical analysis and engagement with users conducted through this project combined with anecdotal, daily feedback at facilities demonstrates that residents are well-served and satisfied with the diverse and extensive network of parks and recreation facilities and amenities in North Vancouver. Continuing a collaborative, North Vancouver-wide perspective to parks and recreation planning will help ensure that the supply of facilities and amenities is right-sized for the community.

Recreation facilities and amenities are highly used and valued by residents and provide many benefits to the entire community. As indoor and outdoor amenities age, and operation and construction costs escalate, there will be more pressure to focus and prioritize limited resources on maintenance and enhancement of existing assets. Another important consideration will be to provide outdoor and indoor amenities together, where possible.

Following CNV's OCP updates, the Parks and Public Space Plan will build from the information collected through this project to establish a new 10-year vision, with service levels and recommended outdoor recreation priorities for the community. The new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre will provide a world-class facility to meet community needs.

Anticipated updates to the District's Town and Village Centre Implementation Plans provide the opportunity to consider the integration of public amenities, such as parks.

With the long-term community and neighbourhood plans updated, DNV will be well-positioned to consider the scope and timing of enhancements to Ron Andrews and Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centres.

Priority actions to expand and enhance the District's outdoor amenities include constructing new fields at Inter River Park and Handsworth Secondary School and implementing the Sport Court Optimization Strategy.





## FINDINGS

North Vancouver's recreation and sport system depends on four factors: community demand, amenity supply and distribution, operational realities, and the broader municipal planning context. Together, these factors define right-sized recreation and show that North Vancouver's facility network is diverse, equitable and well-positioned to serve both current and future needs.

- 1. Community demand remains consistently high,** with residents participating in a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation. Household survey data shows strong participation, reaffirming recreation as a core contributor to community health and wellbeing.
- 2. The supply, type and geographic distribution of amenities in North Vancouver is strong.** Across both municipalities, residents benefit from an extensive network of community recreation centres, parks, trails, courts, fields, pools and specialized amenities that function as one integrated system. Inventories demonstrate that most service levels meet or exceed those in comparable municipalities, and that the system is well distributed across neighbourhoods, ensuring relatively easy access for all. The diversity of amenities supports a wide range of interests, abilities and cultural activities.
- 3. Operational data shows how residents use the system,** underscoring both strengths and pressures. Peak time hours are busy and that is unlikely to change. However, the system functions within these challenges because of coordinated allocation practices, strong program delivery, and collaboration between CNV, DNV and NVRC.
- 4. The larger planning and policy environment is reshaping future needs.** Provincial housing legislation, updated OCPs, demographic changes, shifting trends and interests and aging facilities all influence long-term recreation planning. Both municipalities continue to invest strategically in infrastructure renewal such as new community recreation centres, sport courts, artificial turf fields and park improvements while incorporating equity, climate resilience, accessibility and intergovernmental partnerships into decision-making. These four commitments maximize the potential to be responsive to community evolution.








## CONCLUSION

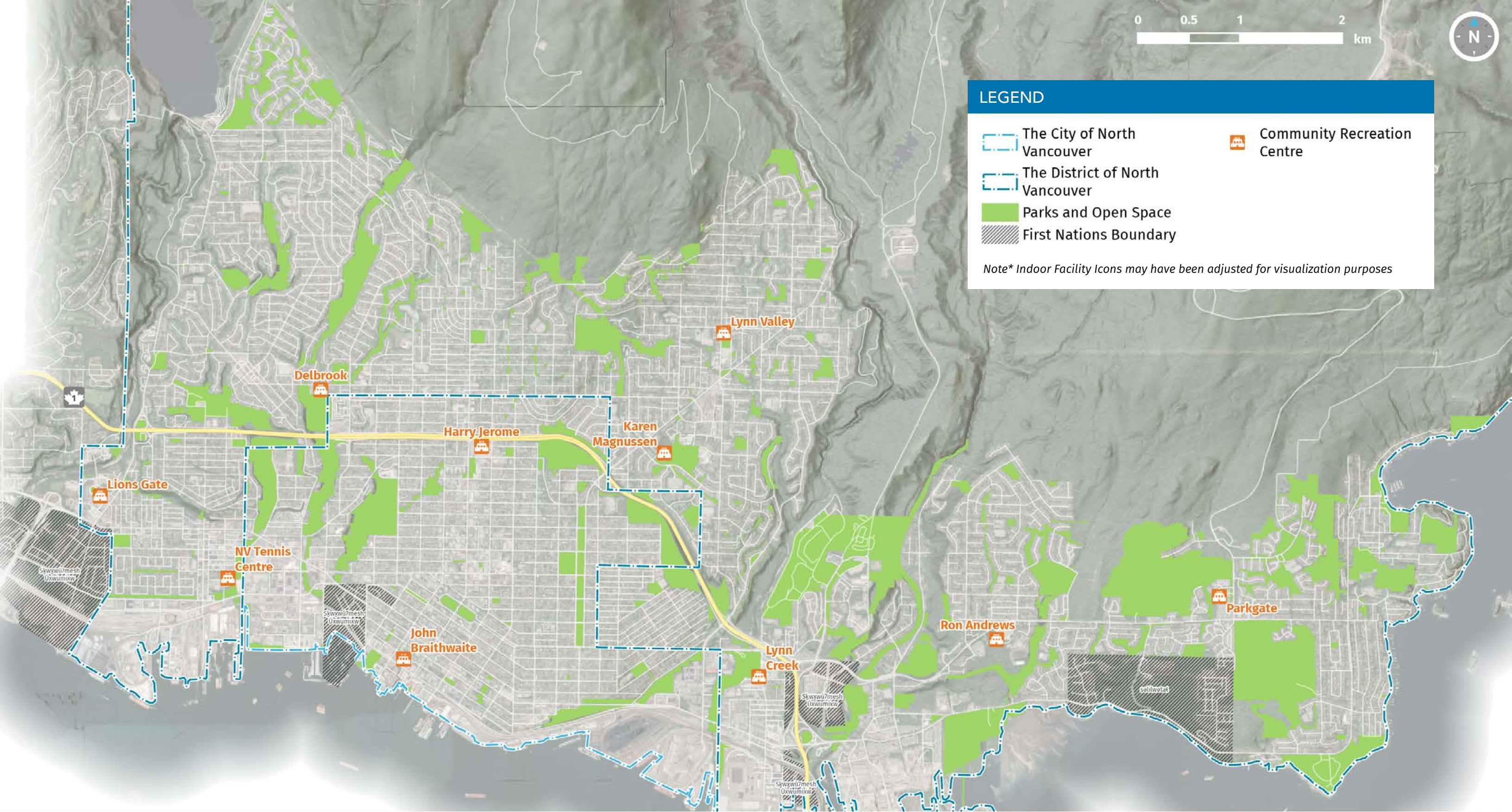
North Vancouver has a robust, right-sized system by national and regional standards; one that is comprehensive, diverse, geographically balanced and highly valued by residents. At the same time, the insights from this project illuminate opportunities to refine, enhance and future-proof the system through data-informed planning, partnerships and targeted upgrades. With a strong foundation and a coordinated municipal approach, North Vancouver is well-positioned to continue delivering an inclusive, resilient and adaptable recreation system that supports the health and vitality of its growing communities for decades to come.

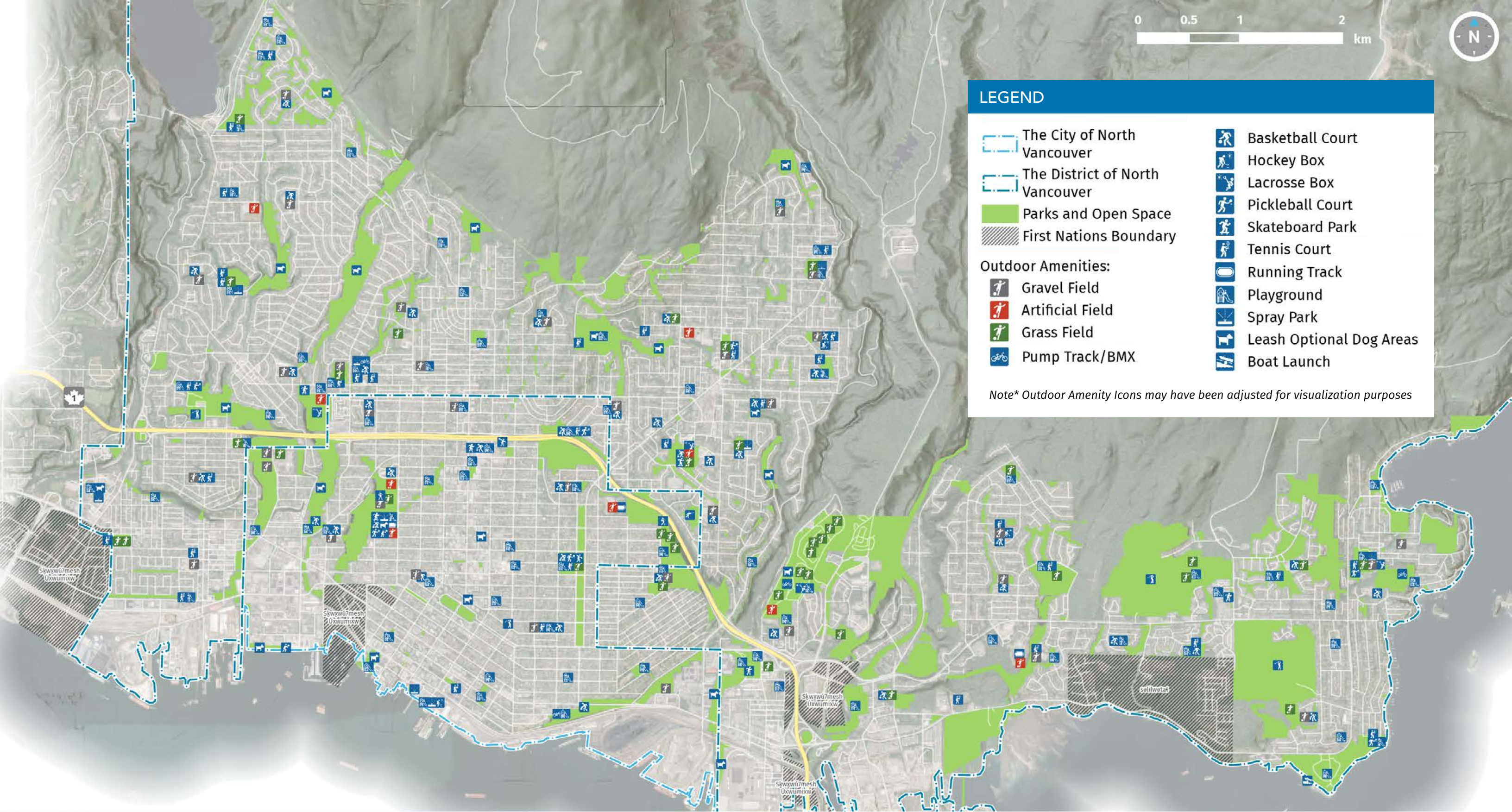


**LEGEND**

-  The City of North Vancouver
-  The District of North Vancouver
-  Parks and Open Space
-  First Nations Boundary
-  Community Recreation Centre

*Note\* Indoor Facility Icons may have been adjusted for visualization purposes*

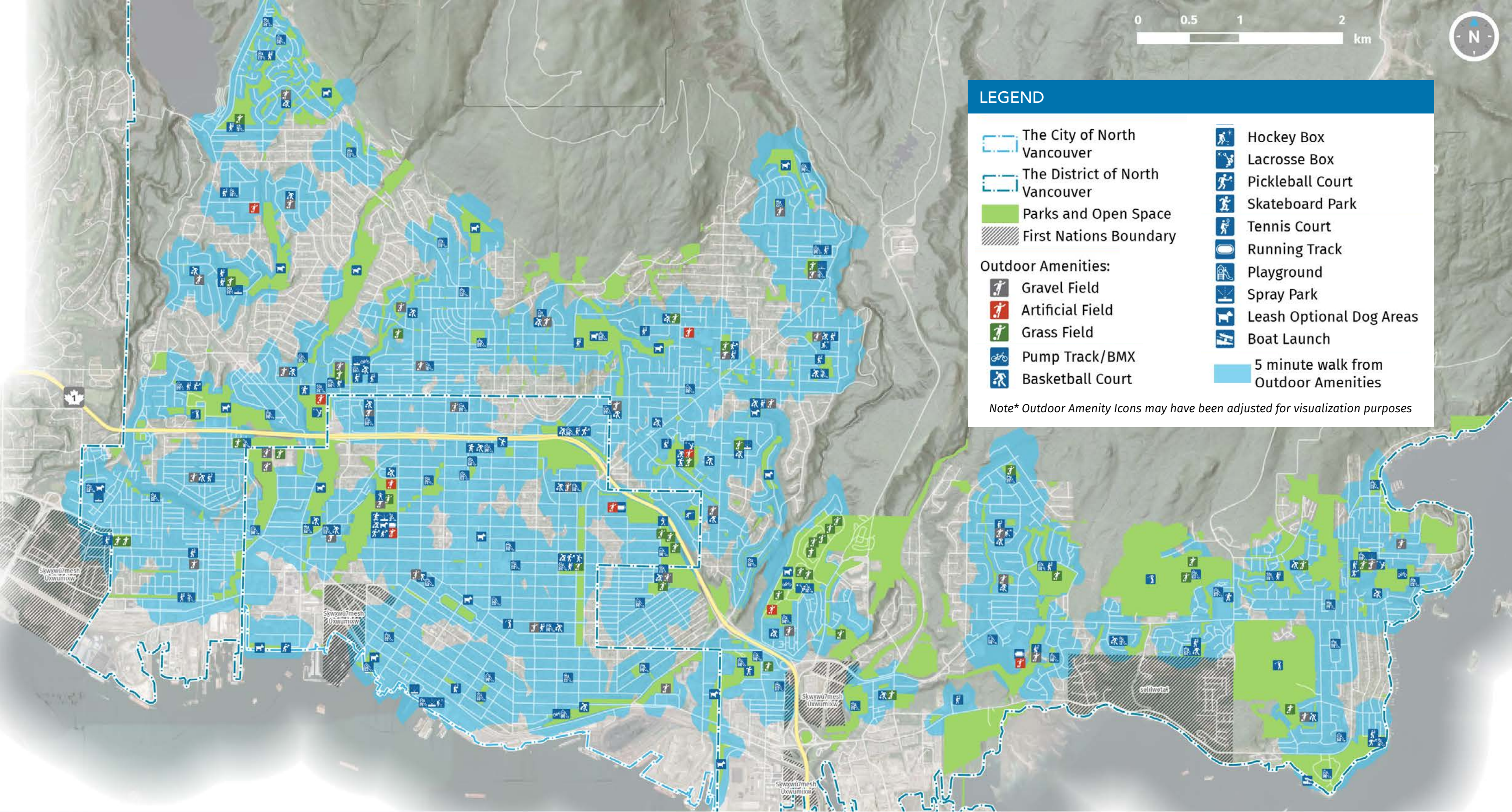




**LEGEND**

- The City of North Vancouver
- The District of North Vancouver
- Parks and Open Space
- First Nations Boundary
- Outdoor Amenities:**
  - Gravel Field
  - Artificial Field
  - Grass Field
  - Pump Track/BMX
  - Basketball Court
  - Hockey Box
  - Lacrosse Box
  - Pickleball Court
  - Skateboard Park
  - Tennis Court
  - Running Track
  - Playground
  - Spray Park
  - Leash Optional Dog Areas
  - Boat Launch

*Note\* Outdoor Amenity Icons may have been adjusted for visualization purposes*



0 0.5 1 2 km



**LEGEND**

- The City of North Vancouver
- The District of North Vancouver
- Parks and Open Space
- First Nations Boundary
- Hockey Box
- Lacrosse Box
- Pickleball Court
- Skateboard Park
- Tennis Court
- Running Track
- Playground
- Spray Park
- Leash Optional Dog Areas
- Boat Launch
- 5 minute walk from Outdoor Amenities

**Outdoor Amenities:**

- Gravel Field
- Artificial Field
- Grass Field
- Pump Track/BMX
- Basketball Court

*Note\* Outdoor Amenity Icons may have been adjusted for visualization purposes*



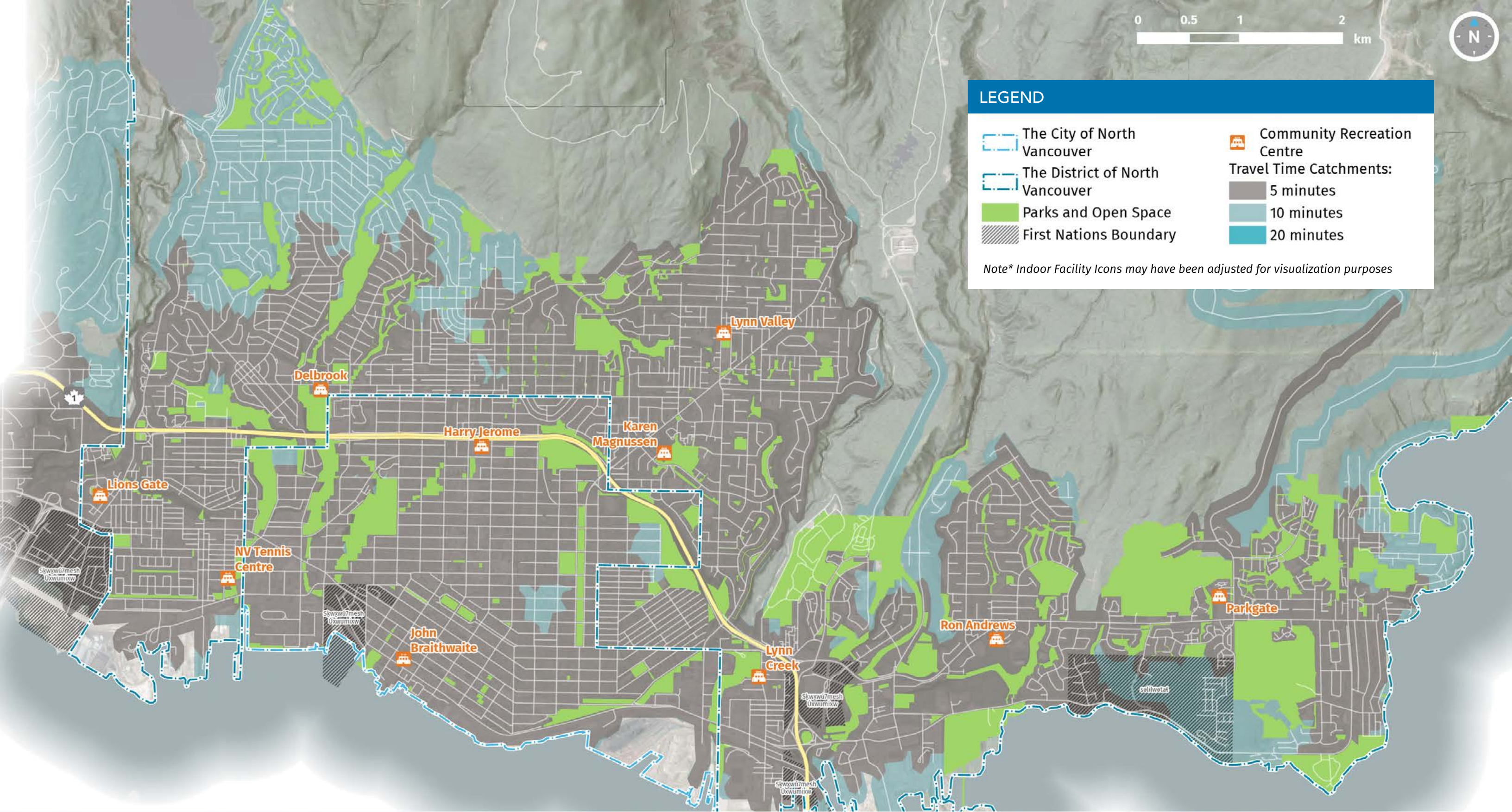
**LEGEND**

- The City of North Vancouver
- The District of North Vancouver
- Parks and Open Space
- First Nations Boundary
- Community Recreation Centre

**Travel Time Catchments:**

- 5 minutes
- 10 minutes
- 20 minutes

*Note\* Indoor Facility Icons may have been adjusted for visualization purposes*



## APPENDIX 3: Municipal Comparisons

*Prepared by: Project Research Consultant, RC Strategies.*

This appendix summarizes municipal benchmarking comparing North Vancouver's recreation infrastructure to comparable Canadian communities.

For the purposes of this Assessment, municipalities studied were the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan, the City of Victoria and the Capital Region District, and the City of Burlington and the Regional Municipality of Halton. These communities were selected due to population, context within a broader metropolitan area, and other community demographic characteristics.

Results are grouped into greater, similar, and lower supply categories.

### **Greater Supply**

North Vancouver provides above-average supply in: Artificial turf fields, fitness/wellness facilities, multipurpose program rooms, basketball courts, indoor/outdoor tennis courts, pickleball courts, ball diamonds, parks, off-leash dog areas, cricket pitches, and lacrosse boxes.

### **Similar Supply**

Supply levels are consistent for: Pools, gymnasiums, bike skills/pump/BMX tracks, disc golf, grass fields, spray parks, and skate parks.

### **Lower Supply**

North Vancouver has fewer full-sized ice sheets compared to comparator municipalities but has the ice rink at The Shipyards for casual public use.

### **Benchmarking Considerations and Limitations**

Benchmarking should be interpreted alongside demographic, geographic, and historical context. Facility counts do not reflect quality or usability. Municipalities track amenities differently; private/third-party facilities are excluded, and inventories may change over time.

### Indoor Amenity Comparison

Amenity	Avg Qty	North Van Qty	Avg Ratio	NV Ratio
Pools	3	7*	37,696	36,572
Fitness / Wellness	3	6	37,696	24,381
Gymnasiums	9	6	12,565	16,254
Ice Sheets	6	5	18,848	29,258
Indoor Tennis Courts	3	9	37,696	16,254
Multipurpose Rooms	22	52	5,140	2,813

### Outdoor Amenity Comparison

Amenity	Avg Qty	North Van Qty	Avg Ratio	NV Ratio
Ball Diamonds	33	48	3,427	2,760
Basketball Courts	11	43	10,281	3,751
Bike Pump/BMX Tracks	1	4	113,089	36,572
Cricket Pitches	1	2	113,089	73,144
Community Parks	88	141	1,285	1,038
Disc Golf Courses	1	1	113,089	146,288
Dog Off-Leash Areas	7	18	16,156	8,127
Lacrosse Boxes	1	3	113,089	48,762
Pickleball Courts	10	23	11,309	6,360
Skate Parks	5	6	22,618	24,381
Grass Fields	23	32	4,917	4,571
Artificial Turf Fields	3	9	37,696	16,254
Spray Parks	6	7	18,848	20,898
Tennis Courts	18	53	6,283	2,475

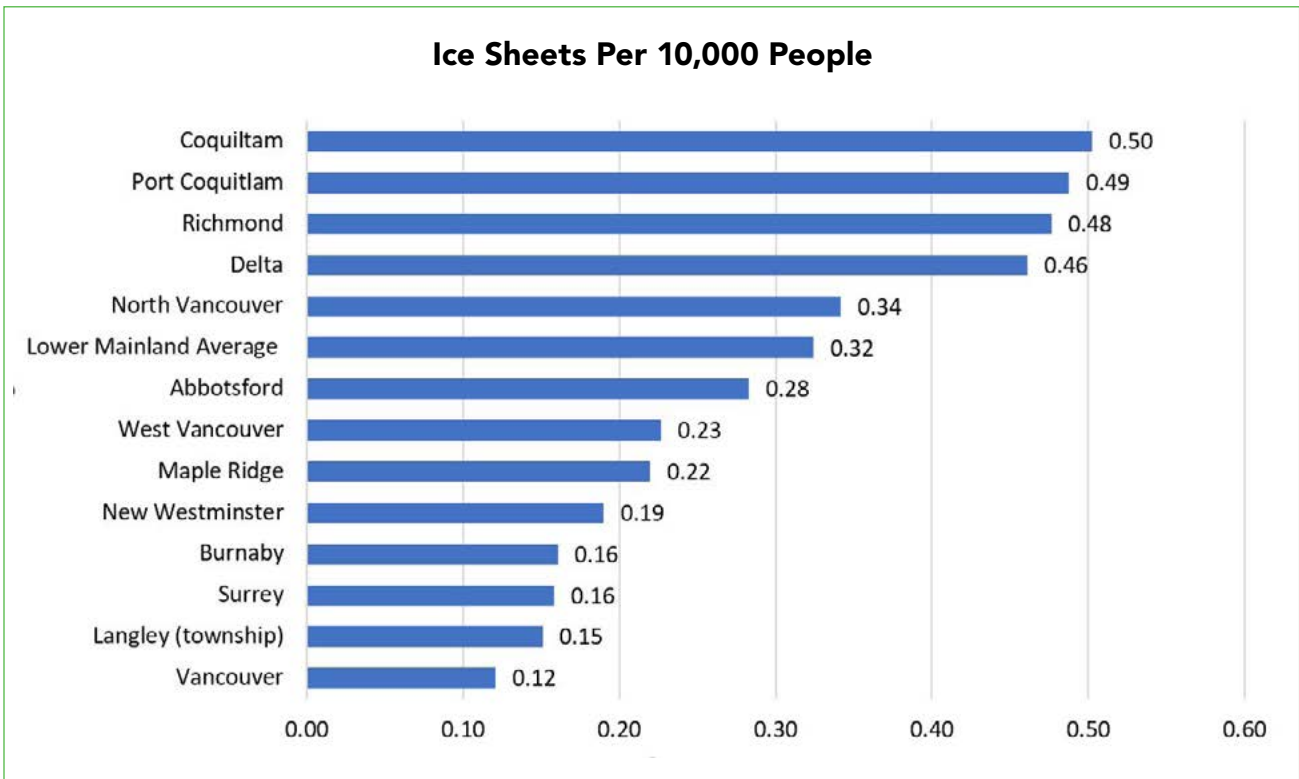
### Municipal Comparators

	North Vancouver	Kelowna / RDCO	Victoria / CRD	Burlington / Halton
Population (2021)	58,120 / 88,168	144,576	91,867	186,948

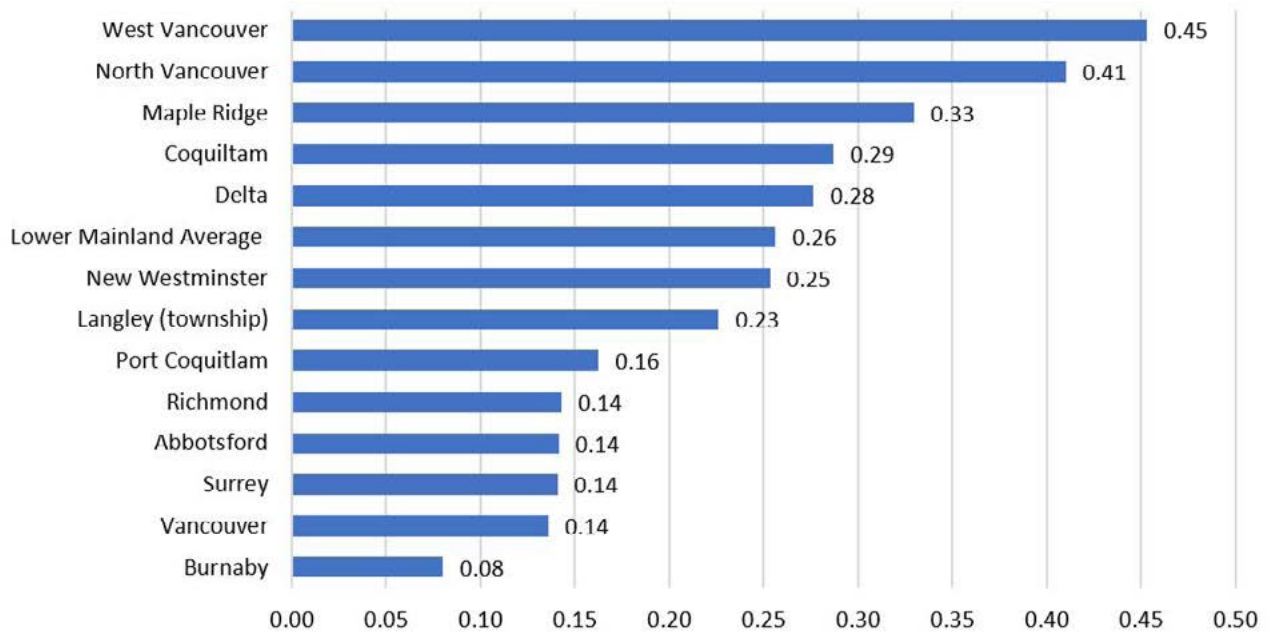
\*Includes new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre

## APPENDIX 4: Regional Comparisons

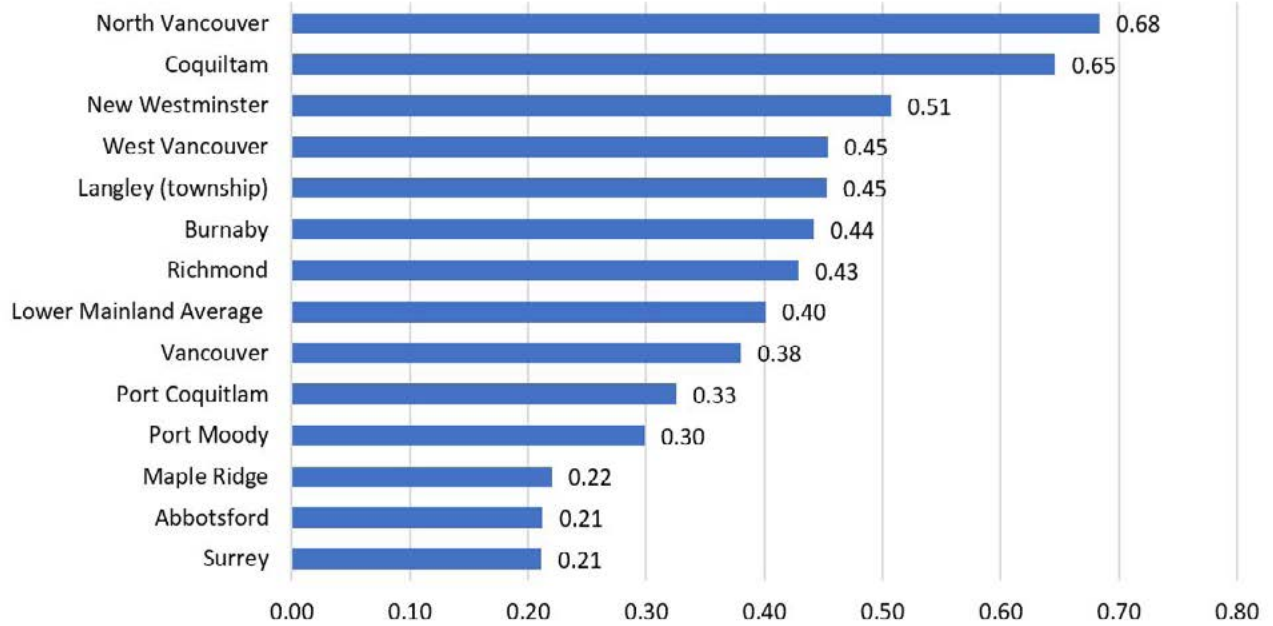
The following graphics compare the amount of recreation facilities and amenities in North Vancouver to other major communities in the Lower Mainland. The results utilise Canadian Census population data (2021), and online municipal recreation data to provide the number of amenities per 10,000 people.



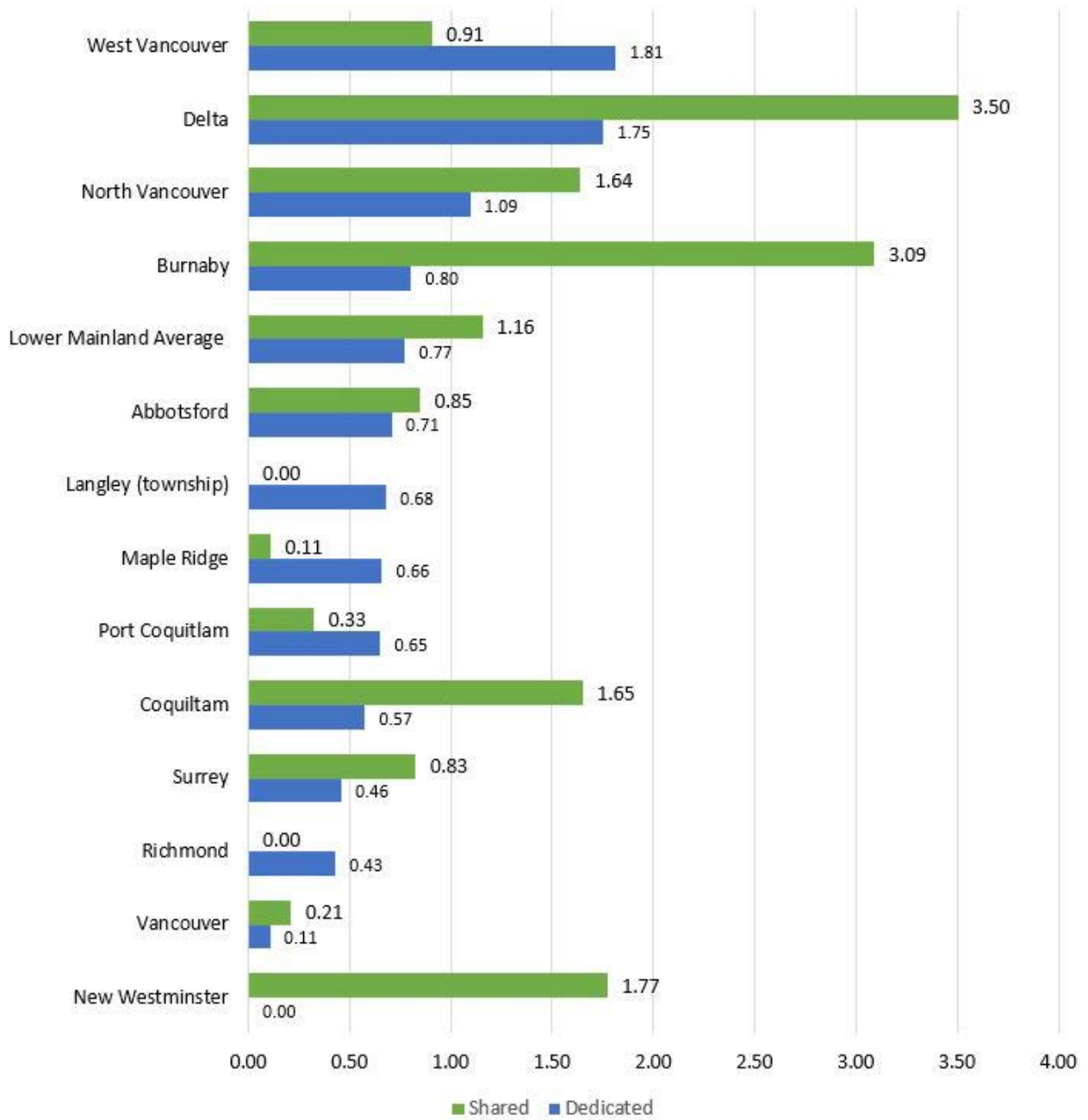
### Skateparks Per 10,000 People



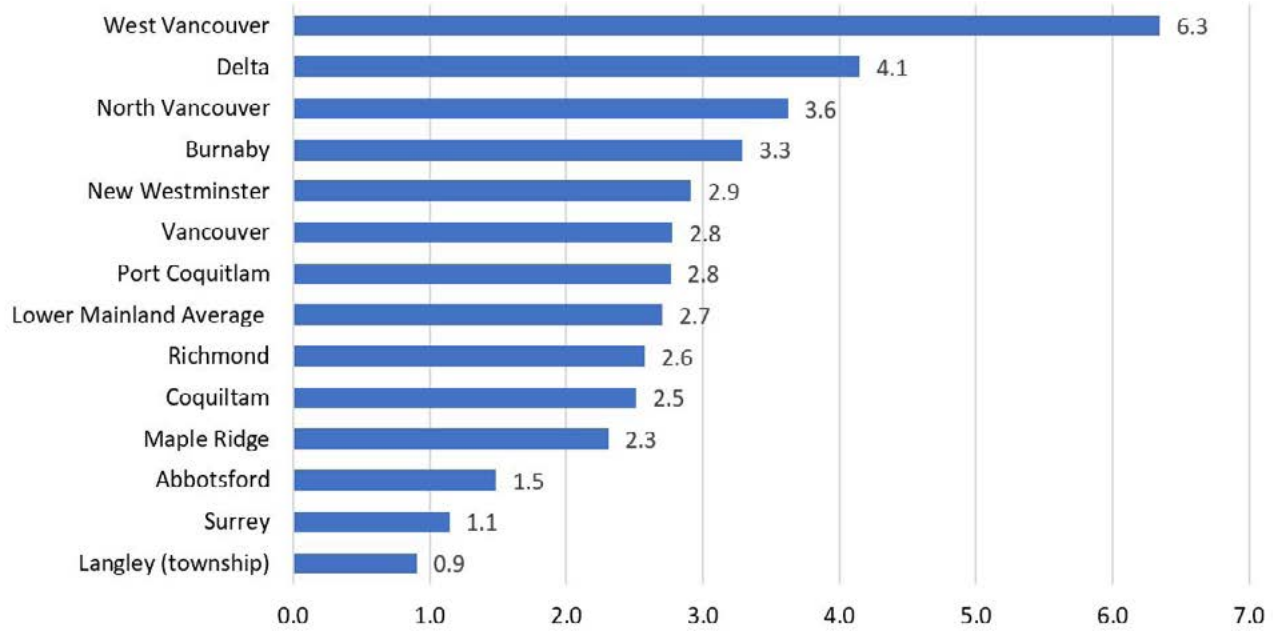
### Community Recreation Centres Per 10,000 People



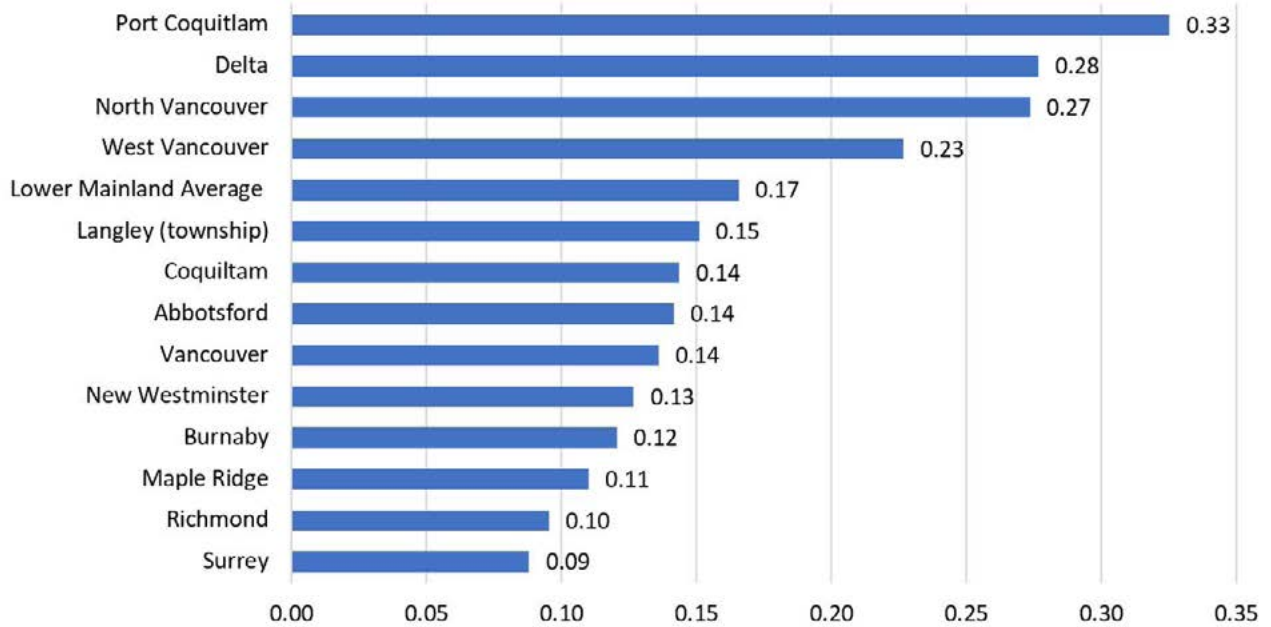
### Pickleball Courts Per 10,000 People



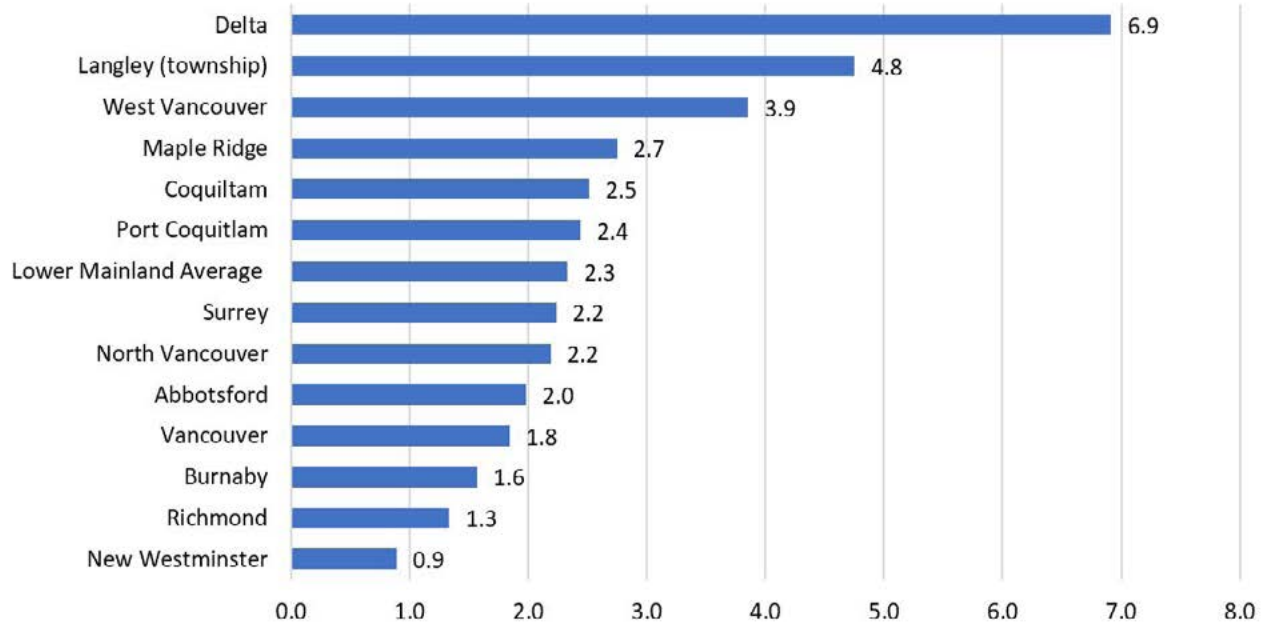
### Outdoor Tennis Courts Per 10,000 People



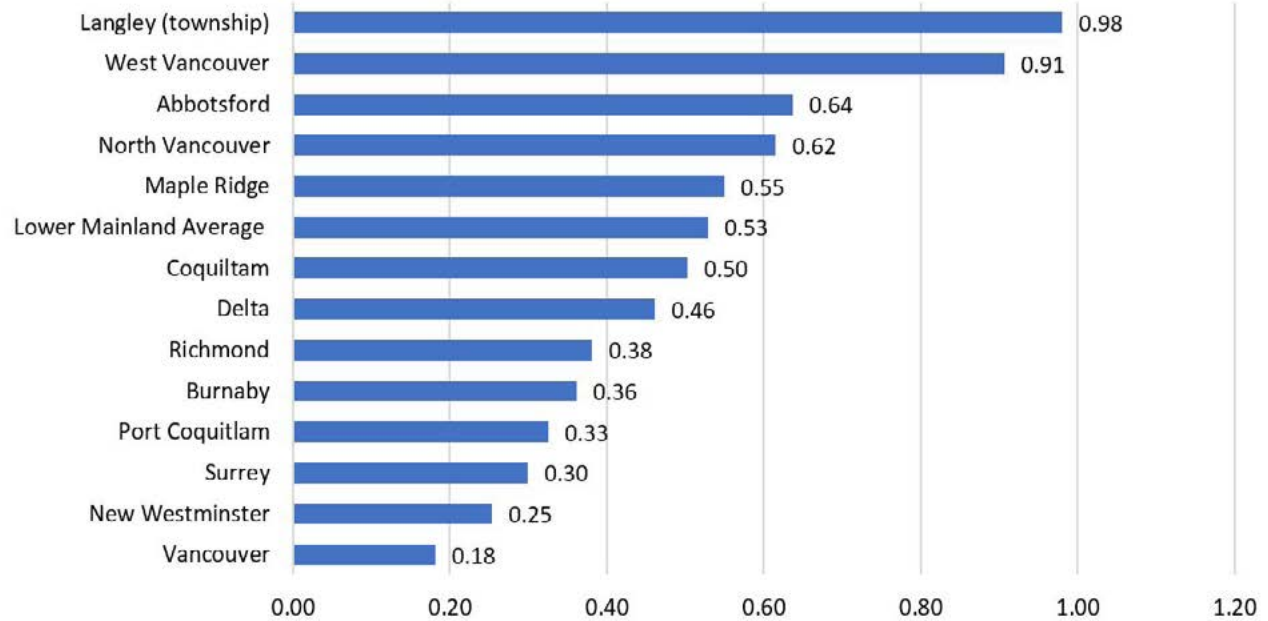
### Indoor Pools Per 10,000 People



### Grass Sports Fields Per 10,000 People



### Artificial Turf Fields Per 10,000 People



## APPENDIX 5: Group Survey Participants

1. 604 Volleyball
2. Altus Arts Tennis Club
3. BCO Volleyball
4. British Columbia Rugby Union
5. Chena swim club
6. Colour the Trails Advocacy Inc
7. DEVO (Developmental Escape Velocity Organization)
8. Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club
9. Grouse mountain flying team
10. Grouse Mountain Tyee Ski Club
11. Inter River Community Association
12. Little Kickers North Shore
13. Norgate Park Community Association
14. North Shore Baseball Association
15. North Shore Basketball Academt
16. North Shore BMX (Inter-River BMX Association)
17. North Shore Curling Association
18. North Shore Disc Golf
19. North Shore Dolphins Dive Club
20. North Shore Equestrian Centre
21. North shore girls Fastpitch
22. North Shore Inline Hockey League
23. North Shore Mountain Bike Association
24. North Shore Pickleball Club
25. North Shore Seniors Slo-pitch Association
26. North Shore Tennis Society
27. North Shore Thirty Something Women's Soccer League
28. North Shore Titans Water Polo Club
29. North Shore Twins
30. North Vancouver FC
31. North Vancouver Minor Hockey Association
32. NorWesters Track and Field Club
33. NS Seniors Slo-Pitch League
34. Pemberton Heights Community Assoc.
35. Powerwest Volleyball Society
36. Roll Jiu Jitsu Academy
37. Spectrum Skateboard Society
38. STANS (Seniors Tennis Association of the North Shore)
39. SwimFaster Club
40. The Yoga Root
41. Vancouver North West Hawks AAA Hockey program

## APPENDIX 6: Household Survey Recreation Activities

Source: 2023 Project Data: Representative Community Survey

