

Pottery at NVRC

North Vancouver Recreation & Culture (NVRC) operates two pottery studios at the Parkgate Community Centre and Delbrook Community Recreation Centre and delivers recreational pottery programs for participants of all ages and abilities. The studios also serve approximately 80 members annually. Studio membership numbers are determined by studio, storage and kiln capacity, as well as facility capacity.

High demand is creating access challenges

Demand for pottery studio space at NVRC is outpacing available studio space, with increasing interest in both pottery programming (classes and workshops) and studio time. In addition, there is very little turnover of membership spaces, resulting in long waitlists and complaints from people who are unable to access the studios.

NVRC is making some changes to the pottery studios to ensure fair access for all and increase the number of participant spaces. We will do this by shifting from a studio membership system to a seasonal studio pass system and freeing up more space in the studios.

Pottery studio changes

Following a review of NVRC's pottery services, NVRC will be making the following changes to the pottery studios in 2025:

1. **Seasonal passes:** In mid-2025, studio memberships will be replaced with seasonal passes obtained through NVRC's standard registration process to give more people the opportunity get access at multiple times during the year. This will result in more than 500 seasonal studio pass spaces available per year between the two studios, in contrast to approximately 80 annual memberships.
2. **Increased studio space:** Studio storage will be limited to current projects only, creating more space and the ability to accommodate more users.

These changes will increase the number of spaces for people to participate in pottery and align with the registration process for other NVRC programs, supporting NVRC's commitment to fair access to services.

Information sessions for the NVRC pottery community

NVRC appreciates the established ceramics communities that have developed at Parkgate and Delbrook. Some existing studio membership holders may have questions about the upcoming changes to studio operations and what the changes may mean for their studio access. Information meetings for pottery studio members, waitlisted individuals, and other interested parties will be held Dec 11-14, 2024 (visit nvrc.ca/pottery for more information). If you are unable to attend a session, NVRC also welcomes your comments by email at pottery@nvrc.ca.

NVRC staff look forward to speaking with you and will do their best to answer your questions. The pottery team is here to support the community through this change and will continue to work with you to shape the future of pottery programming and amenities at NVRC.

Why is NVRC making changes to the pottery studios?

The changes will allow NVRC to increase opportunities to access the pottery studios by offering over 500 individual seasonal studio passes per year between the Delbrook and Parkgate studios, compared with approximately 80 annual studio memberships for both studios under the current system.

What NVRC pottery studios will the changes affect?

The changes will affect Parkgate Community Centre and Delbrook Community Recreation Centre. The art studio at Memorial Community Recreation Centre does not offer studio memberships or individual project storage. There will be an updated seasonal firing schedule for each studio.

I have an existing pottery studio membership at Delbrook or Parkgate. What does this mean for me?

Your existing studio membership will no longer be valid after June 30, 2025. As of July 1, 2025, you will need to have a valid seasonal studio pass to access studio time. Registration for seasonal studio passes for July-September 2025 will open in April or May 2025. In early 2025, NVRC will send an email, post to nvrc.ca/pottery and put notices in the studios to let you know the exact registration date and time so you can mark your calendars. These are the key dates to keep in mind over the coming months:

Key dates:

- December 31, 2024 — Last opportunity to purchase a 6-month studio membership
- March 31, 2025 — Last opportunity to purchase a 3-month studio membership
- May 31, 2025 — Last opportunity to purchase a single-month studio membership
- April/May 2025 (TBC) — Registration for seasonal (summer) studio passes opens for the first time
- July 1, 2025 — Seasonal studio pass system starts; studio memberships are no longer in effect

Will the studio hours be changing?

No, there are no current plans to change studio hours. Participants are expected to check in at the front desk to access the studio each time they visit. NVRC will review studio use trends over the coming years and may adjust the schedule in future if certain times are not being used.

Who can get a seasonal studio pass?

To register for a seasonal pass, you must be:

- A previous NVRC studio membership holder or have completed at least two NVRC pottery programs
- Familiar with facility equipment and the techniques of pottery and able to work independently in the studios ensuring health and safety of all
- 19+ years of age

An orientation will be held the first week of each seasonal pass period. If a person does not meet the criteria, their pass will be refunded, and their space will be given to someone on the waitlist.

Existing pottery studio membership holders will be pre-approved as having the required experience to make it easier for membership holders to transition to the seasonal pass registration system.

NVRC will share more details about the registration process in early 2025. It will include a procedure for ensuring registrants are familiar with facility equipment and the techniques of pottery and are able to work independently in the studios, ensuring the health and safety of all.

Will the seasonal studio passes be for a specific studio?

Yes, participants will only be able to register for a seasonal pass in one of the two pottery studios each season.

How will I register for a seasonal studio pass?

Registration will happen four times per year, like other NVRC programs, and you will be able to register online, in-person, or over the phone. Registration will be done through the same registration system as is used for all of NVRC's programs. If you've ever registered for a pottery program or booked time in a studio, it will be a familiar process. Like with other NVRC programs, a waitlist will be in place if there is higher demand than there are spaces in the program.

How will I know when registration for seasonal passes is happening?

Registration dates will be sent via email to people who have a current membership, are on the waitlist, or have registered for a pottery program within the past 9 months. We will also post registration dates in the pottery studios, on NVRC's website and on our social media channels so you can plan ahead. Visit our webpage at nvrc.ca/registration for tips on preparing for registration day.

Registration for seasonal studio passes will happen before registration for pottery programs (classes and workshops), so participants will already know if they have a seasonal pass and can better decide whether they wish to register for a pottery class or workshop.

How much will a seasonal studio pass cost?

Current membership fees will increase by 5% on January 15, 2025 (going from \$73.50 to \$77.18 per month). The seasonal studio pass fees will be announced in spring 2025 and will be in line with the per-month cost of a studio membership. Seasonal studio pass fees will follow the same periodic review and update process as other NVRC fees and charges.

I'm on a studio membership waitlist. What happens to my waitlist spot?

There will be no more need for a studio membership waitlist, as everyone 19+ years who meets the registration requirements will have the same opportunity to register for a studio pass each season.

How do I register for a pottery class or workshop?

Registration for pottery classes and workshops is not changing. You will still register online, in-person, or over the phone as with other all NVRC programs.

If I get a seasonal studio pass, will I need to sign up for studio time in advance?

No, the three-month seasonal pass will provide access to all studio times offered—no need to sign up for specific times in advance. In the future, if there are capacity issues at certain times, registration may be required but we do not anticipate this in 2025.

How did NVRC come up with these changes?

NVRC is a publicly funded organization that provides community recreation, sport, arts and culture programming to all North Vancouver residents on behalf of the City and District of North Vancouver. There is high demand for

pottery programming and studio time in North Vancouver, and the upcoming changes are required to provide more opportunities for pottery studio access and to ensure those opportunities are fairly available to all.

NVRC started a review of its pottery service model in summer 2023 in response to high demand. Staff worked with an arts consultant to review pottery studio operations and the practices of other local pottery programs. Staff provided a report to the NVRC Commission in 2024 detailing the review's findings and provided recommendations to increase access, improve fairness and align with service delivery as a community resource.

How will the studios be cleaned and maintained?

Participants will still be required to take care of the pottery studios and participate in cleaning. In addition to routine cleaning, there will be cleaning dates set within each three-month period.

What if I have questions about the program transition?

Some existing studio membership holders may have questions about the upcoming changes to studio operations and what the changes may mean for their studio access. NVRC will be holding information sessions for pottery studio members, waitlisted individuals, and other interested parties on:

- Wednesday, December 11 | 1-2:30pm | Parkgate Community Centre, Large Multi-purpose Room
- Thursday, December 12 | 6-7:30pm | Parkgate Community Centre, Mary Hunter Hall
- Friday, December 13 | 11am-12:30pm | Delbrook Community Recreation Centre, Arbutus Room
- Saturday, December 14 | 2-3:30pm | Delbrook Community Recreation Centre, Arbutus Room

Visit nvrc.ca/pottery to register.

If you are unable to attend a session, we also welcome your comments by email at pottery@nvrc.ca.

What happens next?

NVRC will review how the transition is going over the coming year, and work with seasonal pass holders and program participants to maximize access and programming of the spaces as we move forward. If you have comments or questions, please email pottery@nvrc.ca.