

# RECREATION SURREY

Healthy Communities. Active Together.



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

A close-up photograph of three children smiling joyfully. On the left is a young boy with light brown hair and a wide smile, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. In the center is a young boy with dark skin and a joyful expression, wearing a white shirt with blue stripes. On the right is a young girl with dark hair and a gentle smile, wearing a bright pink top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green wall. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**WE'RE  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

**AT RECREATION SURREY, WE MAKE A VITAL DIFFERENCE** each and every day. Through innovative programs and services, we create opportunities that inspire participation, encourage connection, and foster lifelong learning and growth. We believe in the power of recreation and play, and the lasting effects it has on building strong, vibrant communities - essential to the emotional, social, and physical well-being of everyone who lives here.

It all starts with our children and youth - they are our future, the next generation. By focusing on and contributing to their overall healthy development now, we are establishing a solid foundation that will positively impact our community for years to come.

At the core of it all is our talented team of dedicated staff and partners, who are passionate about what they do, and committed to promoting the benefits of recreation to all. Through our diverse range of programs and services and our many welcoming spaces, we are giving our children a strong sense of belonging, and the support they need to reach their full potential.

Our role is important and our influence is far and wide. With more than 120,000 children and youth calling Surrey home, we now have the largest population of young people between 0-18 years, in British Columbia. And those numbers continue to grow! Now more than ever, we need to make sure what we do today and in the future, gives our children their best start, and every opportunity to have their voices heard, and be engaged for life.



**MORE THAN 120,000 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CALL SURREY HOME.**





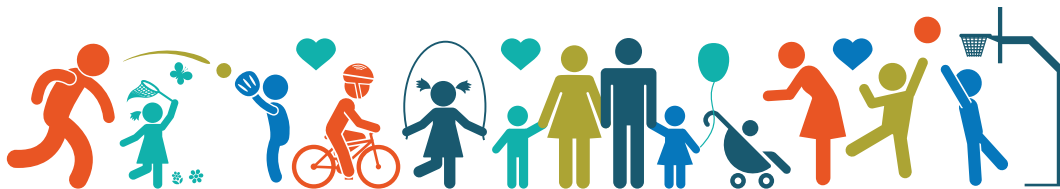
# A MODEL FOR SUCCESS

**DEVELOPING HAPPY, HEALTHY, RESILIENT CHILDREN** is at the centre of our work and the driving force behind everything we do. To achieve the greatest impact, our three distinct service areas (Early Years - 0-6, Middle Years - 6-12, Youth - 13-18) work together to provide a wide range of programs that are specifically tailored to what our children need now, while helping them to successfully transition through the many ages and stages of development.

The structure of our program design/delivery as well as our staff training, are guided by best practices and principles that are evidence based and built from: the Provincial Early Years Framework, Canada's High Five Quality Standards of Excellence program, and the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents.

Additionally, our partners play an important role in our overall success. By working collaboratively together we are able to leverage resources, and expand our programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our growing city. In 2015, we achieved significant progress towards our shared goals of building a safe, vibrant, healthy, and active community.

## **OUR MISSION: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE AND ENGAGED FOR LIFE.**



# OUR PROGRAMS

## WE'RE SHAPING THE FUTURE.

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD should be given the opportunity to access and attend quality programs and services within their community. With our ongoing commitment to providing safe, nurturing environments that foster inclusiveness, respect and compassion, we are creating impactful experiences, where our children can learn, explore, grow, and develop.

Our innovative programs and services are designed to nurture and support physical, social, emotional, creative, and cognitive well-being - all the fundamentals needed to create the best outcomes for children, as they transition through each developmental stage.



**1** OUT OF EVERY **3** CHILDREN/YOUTH  
IN SURREY PARTICIPATES IN OUR  
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

## DID YOU KNOW?

THERE WERE MORE THAN 1.1 MILLION VISITS BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO RECREATION SURREY FACILITIES IN 2015.

**16,625**   
 learned how to skate

**56,476**   
 learned to swim and be safe around water

**12,275**   
 developed fundamental movement and sport skills

**15,540**   
 children and families were supported through the Leisure Access Program



Local schools spent more than **1,700 HOURS** participating in **SWIMMING, FITNESS** and **SKATE** programs, helping to increase physical activity and extend learning across the community.

### SURREY RESIDENTS ENJOY...

**115**   
 playgrounds

**6**   
 aquatic centres

**185**   
 parks

**8**   
 youth parks

**8**   
 outdoor pools

**10**   
 community & recreation centres

**5**   
 arenas

**57**   
 soccer fields

"We are really **HAPPY** with how our son has been developing and learning in his preschool. He has made new **FRIENDSHIPS** and is excited to go to class every day. The teachers are always **SUPPORTIVE**. We couldn't be happier with his progress and the program overall."

STEVE, DAD OF THREE YEAR OLD, ASHTON, PRESCHOOL PARTICIPANT



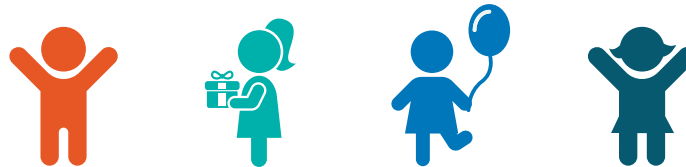


# THE EARLY YEARS (0-6)

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THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF A CHILD'S LIFE ARE A CRITICAL time for learning, nurturing, and exploring the world around them. Our Early Years program offers a diverse and exciting curriculum that includes parent participation, preschool recreation, camps, and year-long licensed preschools.

By supporting our children at a young age, we're helping them develop new skills, gain a sense of belonging, and establish a foundation for continued success. During the early years, our goal is to enhance positive self-regard/image amongst all children, as they journey through their first phase of life.



WITH RECREATION SURREY'S PLAY BASED PROGRAMS, WE ARE HELPING TO:

- **BUILD SELF CONFIDENCE**
- **ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY**
- **PROMOTE SHARING AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**
- **AID IN CONCEPT BUILDING**
- **GUIDE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

## HIGHLIGHTS

**4,437** PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS OFFERED.

**31,023** CHILDREN PARTICIPATING in registered programs.

**36,755** PRESCHOOL DROP-IN VISITS.

On April 11, Surrey held the 13th annual EARLY YEARS FESTIVAL, attended by over **1,000** SURREY FAMILIES and COMMUNITY PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS.

In October, launched AVENUES OF CHANGE, a new initiative to help alter the outcomes of vulnerable children, in collaboration with community partners and the United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM).

This project includes a grant from the UWLM of up to **\$400,000** PER YEAR OVER FIVE YEARS.

Opened **2 NEW** Early Years Centres in Newton and South Surrey:  
OPTIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES - NEWTON  
ALEXANDRA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE AT  
KENSINGTON PRAIRIE COMMUNITY CENTRE - SOUTH SURREY

"As a working parent, I was thrilled to find out about MYzone. The program has been so beneficial to my child and to me. It is such a relief knowing that my son has a **SAFE** and **SUPPORTIVE** place to go when school is out. The leaders are fantastic. They make sure the kids are constantly **ENGAGED**, and having **FUN!**"

JEANNETTE, MOM OF NINE YEAR OLD COLE, MYzone PARTICIPANT

# THE MIDDLE YEARS (6-12)



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WHEN CHILDREN ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 12, they undergo important cognitive, social, and emotional changes that establish their lifelong identity, and set the stage for adolescence and adulthood. Their worlds expand beyond family, as peers begin to play a larger role, and children move into ever widening social circles.

The average child in their middle years has approximately 67 hours of free time each week, which is more than they spend at school. The right programs at this age are crucial in helping children learn, feel good about themselves, solve problems, and develop a solid foundation for making healthy choices now, and in the future.

## PROGRAMS

### *MYzone*

During after school hours, children are most likely to be engaged in activities that could lead to injuries, victimization, physical and sexual abuse, and unproductive use of time. To support the needs of children during those “critical” hours between 3 and 6 pm, MYzone launched two new facilities in 2012, and has now grown to eight sites across the City of Surrey. This drop-in program has had a significant impact, reaching 1085 children to date. In 2015 alone, 639 children participated in the MYzone program.

### HERE'S WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAD TO SAY:

**80%** reported that the program made them feel good about themselves.

**86%** agreed that MYzone helped them get involved in group activities.

**80%** felt the program helped them feel more connected to their community.

**83%** attributed afterschool programs with helping them make new friends.

**85%** agreed the program helped them feel more included in gym activities.

**83%** felt MYzone helped them feel better about playing new sports and activities.

## **I AM Game**

Part of building a strong and healthy community is fostering participation, and enjoyment of sport and play. The city developed the I AM Game (IAG) program to increase and support physical literacy. Elements of IAG are built into all of our sport programs to ensure we support fundamental movement, and sports skills for life.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**312** children between grades one and seven attended the Ninth Annual KIDS CONFERENCE at Guildford Recreation Centre, and participated in workshops designed to support healthy lifestyles, social responsibility, and personal development.

Along with our community partners, Recreation Surrey provided out of school care for **1,312** children, giving them a safe and nurturing environment to grow, and learn through play.

Our **1,090** summer and day camps helped **10,881** children of all abilities acquire leadership skills, feel more connected to their community, make new friendships, and gain new experiences and interests.

The City of Surrey day camps employed over **120** summer camp leaders, building on leadership and employment skills for young adults.

“I had such a **POSITIVE** experience in the Youth Leadership Program. It helped me develop new skills and **CONFIDENCE** in my abilities to help others. For anyone who enjoys working with children and wants to make a positive impact, I would strongly **ENCOURAGE** them to take part in this program.”

MEGAN, FUTURE LEADERS PARTICIPANT





# YOUTH (13-18)

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**IN THIS LAST PHASE OF CHILDHOOD, youth between the ages of 13 and 18, are experiencing tremendous changes socially, mentally, and physically. During these crucial years leading up to adulthood, it is essential to equip them with skills that prepare, and launch them into the next phase of their lives.**

Recreation Surrey is supporting its youth with an array of programs aimed at positively influencing their behaviour, strengthening their connection to others, while helping to increase confidence, activity, and performance at school/work. Offering an array of programs, youth specific events, and drop-in activities across the city, we are helping today's youth grow into tomorrow's leaders.

Our approach to youth work is focused on engagement and creating positive relationships with young people. Recreation Surrey's staff are active in bridging connections for youth and encouraging them to get involved, share their voice, and make decisions about things that are important and meaningful to them. In 2015, Youth Engagement Teams were established in every town centre to further increase opportunities for youth to actively lead, contribute to, and participate in a range of community based experiences. These initiatives help to build confidence, increase health & well-being, and strengthen civic connection.

**722** PROGRAMS OFFERED TO YOUTH IN 2015.

**11,608** YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN REGISTERED PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT 2015.

**82,600** YOUTH DROP-IN VISITS.

## HIGHLIGHTS

As part of its commitment to increasing youth engagement and input into municipal decisions. The City of Surrey has allocated **2 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES** to sit on each of its Committees of Council. This opportunity ensures a strong voice for young people.

On September 12, **53** young musicians (ages 12-21) participated in the full-day BAND-AID YOUTH MUSICIAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, held at the Surrey Arts Centre. Led by industry professionals, this annual event brings together local singers, songwriters, and bands, helping them acquire skills, and develop relationships that will benefit their musical aspirations.

In collaboration with the South Surrey Youth Park Committee, **DARIO JAM** (a grassroots event, held in memory of Dario Bartoli), attracted more than 300 people and raised **\$8,000** for youth programs. This youth led event contributed to improvements throughout the Youth Park.

**“We are so thankful that the city listened and supported us with our event. We couldn’t have done it without them. This was so much more than raising money, it was about bringing the community together.”**

IAN, ORGANIZER OF DARIO JAM, YOUTH LED EVENT

# THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



We believe that together, we are better, and that collaboratively, with our partners, we can make a positive difference in our community for generations to come.

Thank you to all of our local community planning tables - Children First, Middle Childhood Matters, Children and Youth Committee (CYC), and Children's Partnership (CP) for their leadership, commitment to working together, and significant contributions to Surrey's children and families - all of which played a significant role in helping to build a vibrant and healthy community in 2015.

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