

MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY OF SURREY WINS BCRPA 2023 PARKS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Vancouver (May 4, 2023) -- BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its **Parks Excellence Award** today to the City of Surrey for Edgewood Park (www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards). The award recognizes outstanding design and development of park spaces using natural elements or repurposing materials. The park space must reflect innovative community culture, which is accessible to all patrons and encourages individuals and communities to get out into nature.

Edgewood Park in South Surrey's Grandview Heights neighbourhood features an accessible playground and is bordered by a natural corridor planted with native tree species and understory shrubs and groundcover.

Two tiers of whimsical play circuits were created from an existing four-metre mound during the design process. Near the playground are seating areas, a multi-sports court, table tennis tables, and an informal soccer grass field. The playground includes a gently graded path meandering around the mound and accessible equipment such as roller table, universal spinner, and a dish swing.

Edgewood Park is also part of Surrey's city-wide Biodiversity Conservation Strategy to be a healthy, livable, and sustainable city. A pollinator meadow was added adjacent to the playground with educational signage and has subsequently drawn in volunteer groups, such as Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP).

"The City of Surrey embarked on an innovative redesign that successfully preserved and utilized the community's natural resources to benefit all residents," says Katie Fenn, CEO of BCRPA. "Surrey is well deserved of BCRPA's Parks Excellence Award for its accessibility and success of the pollinator meadow."

The Parks Excellence Award is one of seven Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium conference in Vancouver. Each award is presented on behalf of more than 4,400 recreation and parks sector members from across BC working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

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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.

Ours is a story of creating community connectedness and individual well-being based on the knowledge and recognition that recreation and active living, as well as access to parks and the natural environment, have significant impacts on our physical and mental health.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities that improve the quality of life of every British Columbian.

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