



About BCRPA

Fitness Program

Recreation and Parks

Forms &  
Publications

Training &  
Symposium

Member Benefits &  
Services

Jobs

HOME ›

PROVINCIAL AWARDS

User login

E-mail: \*

Password: \*

## 2011 BCRPA Provincial Awards

### Parks & Open Spaces Award

*Township of Langley*  
Willoughby Community Park



- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

The Township of Langley took what could have been a barrier to the development of Willoughby Community Park and turned it into a unique feature for the community. The development of Willoughby Community Park was initiated in 1999 to provide a space that was planned, designed, built and programmed with the best interest of all park users in mind. To get there, they first had to solve the issues of the parks' proximity to the Latimer Creek watershed and how to handle water runoff.

Rather than just creating the usual detention pond within the park, the Township went a step further to develop a landscape guideline for the pond utilizing native trees and shrubs. This has not only increased the visual appeal of the park but also brought wildlife habitation back to the area. With all site drainage from the park and the Events Centre draining into the pond, rain gardens were created in the park plaza area and storm-water bioswales were incorporated into the parking lot designs. The two rain gardens feature native plants, with one garden accepting drainage from the active recreation spaces and the other filtering run-off from the spray park. Both storm-water strategies recharge groundwater and slow down storm-water discharge from storm events.

Keeping with the nature influenced design of the park, native trees and shrubs were used throughout the landscaping of Willoughby Community Park and around its facilities. Many of the park's features also incorporate a wood theme design, including a tree-house playground, forest-themed spray park and wood textures stamped into the concrete.

Willoughby Community Park offers something for everyone with its playgrounds, picnic areas, sports venues, amphitheatre and spray park, and makes a concerted effort to incorporate the area's natural elements and protect the surrounding environment. For its innovation, creativity and forethought in design, the BCRPA is pleased to present Willoughby Community Park with a Parks and Open Spaces Award.



Al Neufeld, Manager Parks Design and Development,  
and Blair Arbutnot, landscape architect; and Leslie  
June (middle), BCRPA President

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