



Fact Sheet 5

Recreation and Tourism

Recreation is an important part in the daily lives of residents in the municipality and is increasingly becoming an integral part of the local economy.



What We Heard



When asked what makes the community a great place to live, the natural environment was top of mind with access to nature taking the top spot, and access to trails being the fourth most popular response.



Balancing the needs of recreational trail users was another issue that came up consistently across engagement methods, with many wanting to determine appropriate usage of the trail into St. Peter's (whether it should be motorized or non-motorized, or a combination, for recreational use).



We also heard concern about the loss of long term rental housing to the short term rental market (like VRBO, Airbnb, etc.). There was also a recognition that tourist accommodations are an important part of the local economy and that this land use should be permitted.



Images on this fact sheet have been sourced from www.tourismns.ca

For more information or to share your feedback on the draft documents, please visit www.planrichmond.ca or email the project team at hello@planrichmond.ca



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Image source: tourismns.ca

What is Being Proposed

The proposed planning documents introduce the **Commercial Recreation Zone** to enable and facilitate the growth of indoor and outdoor recreation in the municipality. This includes accommodations, adventure parks, golf courses, bowling alleys and other recreational facilities.

RV Parks and Campgrounds

There has been major growth in the region when it comes to RV Parks and Campgrounds, and while these uses have many potential benefits to a community, they can also have negative impacts on neighbours. With this in mind, RV Parks and Campgrounds are permitted within the Commercial Recreation Zone by Site Plan Approval. This process provides additional oversight and requires the development to meet certain evaluation criteria that limit the impact on surrounding properties.

*Campground means a plot of ground upon which **four or more campsites** are located, established, or maintained for occupancy by camping units as temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes.*

Tourism Accommodations

The approach taken in the draft planning documents enables tourist accommodations in ways that balance the importance of such accommodations within the wider housing spectrum.

- ▶ Tourist accommodations can be permitted as a home-based business on residential properties where the business owner has their primary residence. Up to five sleeping units are permitted on a lot as a home-based business in most residential zones, with more considered via the development agreement process.
- ▶ Standalone tourist accommodations, where the property is not the businesses owner's primary residence, are permitted in zones that are focused on commercial uses.

Existing commercial tourist accommodations that do not align with the proposed zoning but are legally operating prior to the adoption of these planning documents would be permitted by the *Municipal Government Act* to continue as a "non-conforming use".

Please note that any tourist accommodation, whether existing or new, is required to be registered with the Province under the *Tourism Accommodation Registration Act*.

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