

Report to Committee

To:

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Date:

November 19, 2021

Committee

From:

Todd Gross

Director, Parks Services

File:

06-2345-20-01/2021-

Vol 01

Re:

Community Gardens Public Consultation Results Update and Next Steps

Staff Recommendation

That, as described in the staff report, "Community Gardens Public Consultation Results Update and Next Steps," dated November 19, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, the following locations:

- 1. Geal Road at Williams Road;
- 2. Between Williams and Steveston Hwy, adjacent to Hollymount Gate; and
- 3. Railway Avenue, North of Steveston Highway;

be approved as community garden sites along the Railway Greenway and construction of these new community gardens commence once public input has been considered and included, as appropriate, into site specific design.

Todd Gross

Director, Parks Services

(604-247-4942)

Att. 7

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Sevena.	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
	LV0
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

At the July 2021 Park, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Committee meeting, the report titled "Community Gardens Referral Response," dated July 2, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, was discussed and received for information. The report indicated that staff intended to conduct a City-wide public consultation process from August to September 2021 on the benefits and desired locations of future community gardens as Council has indicated that construction of additional community gardens is a priority. The consultation also focused on specific potential community garden locations along the Railway Greenway.

As the consultation is now complete, the purpose of this report is to provide a synopsis of the findings of the public consultation process and seek approval for the locations of future community gardens along the Railway Greenway and describe the next steps relative to their development.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

- 2.3 Increase emphasis on local food systems, urban agriculture and organic farming.
- 2.4 Increase opportunities that encourage daily access to nature and open spaces and that allow the community to make more sustainable choices.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.

Analysis

Background

Currently, the demand for community gardens in Richmond is high. The waitlist, which is managed by Urban Bounty (UB) on behalf of the City, sits at over 680. While the City is working with UB to reduce the waitlist by constructing additional plots, staff continue to identify viable locations for future sites on public land.

In Spring 2021, the City of Richmond launched the 2021 "Capital Project Highlights" via its virtual Let's Talk Richmond (LTR) portal. This online platform highlighted proposed

6759571

community gardens at Garden City Lands, an expansion of the existing Cook School Community Park community garden and along the Railway Greenway south of Branscombe House. During this online public consultation period, a number of residents from Birchwood Estates that back onto Branscombe House contacted Parks staff regarding the City-wide Community Gardens project. The residents noted concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed garden in relation to their private property, as well as the perceived lack of consultation with the community. These concerns were brought to the attention of Council. Subsequent to this, discussions occurred at PRCS meetings in June and July, 2021 resulting in staff receiving direction to conduct a public consultation process. This report discusses the results of that City-wide consultation process.

Let's Talk Richmond Public Consultation: Summary of Results

Public consultation was conducted through the Let's Talk Richmond portal between August 23 and September 12, 2021. The purpose of the public consultation process was to better understand residents' level of support for the community gardens program on a City-wide basis as well as to identify the level of support for sites along the Railway Greenway corridor. Additional information was included providing residents background information about community gardens in general. Residents were notified of the survey via several means:

- 1. Site signage along the Railway Greenway;
- 2. Postcard notices sent to 995 individual addresses (residences and businesses) within 100 meters of the Railway Greenway corridor;
- 3. Social media; and
- 4. An email notification to all LTR registrants (approximately 8,000 subscribers).

The LTR web page included the following material:

- 1. An introduction and outline of the public consultation to visitors;
- 2. A downloadable document providing background about community gardens in the City of Richmond entitled 'Community Gardens in Richmond';
- 3. A 'Community Garden Proposed Locations' document identifying ten potential community garden sites along the Railway Greenway (Attachment 1);
- 4. The Report to Committee re: Community Gardens Referral Response, dated July 2, 2021; and.
- 5. A survey requesting residents provide their input about community gardens in Richmond, including questions gauging their overall support of the program, which neighbourhood they live in, any concerns they might have about community gardens and whether or not they are currently or will be community gardeners (Attachment 2).

As a result of this process, the City received significant feedback from the community. Nearly 600 people visited the web page. Of those, 320 filled out a survey and one hardcopy of a completed survey was returned directly to staff.

The following is a summary of responses to the survey:

- 87% of respondents strongly support or support community gardens in Richmond with 6% opposed or strongly-opposed;
- Over 84% of respondents are already or would like to be community gardeners;
- 80% strongly support or support a community garden located in their neighbourhood (that is, the area the respondent identified where they lived e.g., Steveston or Hamilton) with just over 12% opposed or strongly opposed;
- Of the total respondents, 36% live within 400 meters of the Railway Greenway;
- 75% of respondents strongly support or support locating community gardens along the Railway Corridor with 13% opposed or strongly opposed; and,
- Of the overall respondents by neighbourhood, 46% indicated they lived in Steveston, 9% in Seafair, 7.5% in Broadmoor and 6% in Thompson.

For additional information and a detailed graphic representation of the survey results, please see Attachment 3.

Railway Greenway Garden Sites

In November 2012, a Report to Council titled "Railway Corridor Greenway - Phase 1 Implementation Plan" summarized the results of a public consultation process which requested public input on the design and programing of the proposed Railway Greenway. In the report, Council was provided information including the potential programing elements along the Greenway, including community gardens (Attachment 4). Three locations were identified for community gardens:

- 1. Between Blundell and Francis Roads adjacent to Colbeck Road;
- 2. Between Williams and Steveston Hwy, adjacent to Hollymount Gate; and,
- 3. South of Branscombe House at the McMath Greenway.

The Greenway plan was endorsed to proceed to construction at the November 2012 Council meeting. To date, while none of these sites have been developed for community gardens, other elements of the Plan such as natural area plantings, seeding, tree planting, orchards and meadow areas, and the Railway Granville Bike Park have been implemented along the Railway Greenway.

In the intervening years, demand for community garden space has risen. Community gardens, as a proposed programmatic element along the Railway Greenway is consistent with the 2012 Council endorsed Implementation Plan.

As part of the LTR consultation process, Attachment 1 presented ten potential community garden sites along the Railway Greenway including the three identified in the 2012 Plan. Based on staff review of the survey feedback, review of the 2012 Railway Corridor Greenway - Phase 1 Implementation Plan and specific site design drivers such as available space and proximity to

available parking and site services, staff propose to proceed with additional consultation and construction for the following specific locations:

- 1. Geal Road at Williams Road, 10-15 plots (Attachment 5);
- 2. Between Williams and Steveston Hwy, adjacent to Hollymount Gate, 45-60 plots (Attachment 6); and
- 3. Railway Avenue, North of Steveston Highway, 30-40 plots (Attachment 7).

Public Consultation and Construction Process

For the sites proposed along the Railway Greenway, additional consultation will occur which will include the steps listed below. Construction will only proceed once staff have addressed resident concerns to the greatest extent possible (as much as budgets, site planning considerations and scope of work) can accommodate. Throughout the process, staff will endeavor to incorporate resident feedback while remaining consistent with Council's direction to provide more opportunities for residents to access community garden plots in their neighbourhood.

- <u>Site signage</u>: Signage will be erected at each site indicating that the site is a future community garden project. Signage will detail the approximate number of proposed plots, general size and location of the garden and other pertinent site features. Staff contact information for additional project related details will also be included;
- 2. <u>Conceptual Site Plan Distribution:</u> Staff will distribute conceptual site plans to local residents within the immediate area of the proposed project;
- 3. <u>Design Input</u>: Based on the level and content of resident feedback, staff will incorporate resident feedback as feasible into the design. Incorporation of feedback will also be contingent on project budgets and balancing the needs of end users with local residents; and
- 4. <u>Site Meeting</u>: Based on the level of resident feedback in Step 3, staff will meet with residents to address any site specific concerns. If staff receive minimal feedback, a site meeting may not be required.

This same consultation process will occur for the development of any future new community garden sites elsewhere in the City. For pre-existing or expansion garden sites (for example, Cook Community Gardens or Terra Nova), basic site signage will be erected to notify residents of an upcoming project and construction.

Railway Greenway Community Garden Site Design Considerations

All proposed Railway Greenway community garden sites will have a minimum 10 meter (30 feet) setback between the community garden fence enclosure and the fence line of adjacent private properties.

The estimated number of community garden beds proposed in the attached conceptual designs (Attachments 5 to 7) are based on the standard community garden plot sizes of 10 ft. x 20 ft. (200 sq. ft.) or 8 ft. x 10 ft. (80 sq. ft.). The two size options provide layout flexibility to maximize the efficient use of the space while allowing for comfortable spacing between beds. The final number of beds will be determined through consultation with Urban Bounty, the community and staff configuring the beds for maximum efficiency and convenience.

Future City-wide Garden Sites

Apart from the sites identified along the Railway Greenway, staff will work to construct more community gardens throughout the City. Additional future potential City-wide sites include Riverport Waterfront; the Gilbert Lands along South Dike; King George Park; Paulik Park; Terra Nova Rural Park; Alexandra Neighbourhood Park and Greenway; Garratt Community Garden; and McCallan Neighbourhood Park. Some of these locations may be expansion projects on existing community gardens, while others will be new community gardens.

Financial Impact

Capital funding to implement the proposed consultation and construction of the recommended sites has been previously approved and no additional funding is required at this time.

Conclusion

Following Council's direction, staff will continue to work with Urban Bounty and residents to construct more community gardens. With the conclusion of the City-wide community garden public consultation process, where residents indicated strong support for constructing more community gardens, staff will proceed with consultation and construction of new community gardens at three sites along the Railway Corridor. Staff will identify the most suitable site-specific design solution while addressing the extensive City-wide waitlist for new community garden plots. Staff will continue to provide Council updates throughout the process.

Alexander Kurnicki Manager, Parks Programs (604-276-4099)

1.4

- Att. 1: Railway Greenway: Potential Community Garden Sites, August 23, 2021
 - 2: Form Community Gardens in Richmond Survey
 - 3: Let's Talk Richmond: Summary Report for August 23 to September 12, 2021
 - 4: Railway Avenue Greenway Community Workshop Display Boards 2012
 - 5: Railway Greenway Corridor Contemplated Community Garden Site Study Site 1: Geal Road at Williams Road
 - 6: Railway Greenway Corridor Contemplated Community Garden Site Study Site 2: Between Williams and Steveston Hwy, adjacent to Hollymount Gate
 - 7: Railway Greenway Corridor Contemplated Community Garden Site Study Site 3: North of Steveston Hwy



All sites shown are CONCEPTUAL and for the purposes of this public consultation process only. Should a specific site be considered at a future date for construction, further public consultation and Council approval will occur prior to construction.

Site 1: Blundell Road to Colbeck Road



Site 2: South of Colbeck Road, north of Francis Road





Site 3: Francis Road and Railway Avenue



Railway Greenway: Potential Community Garden Sites
August 23, 2021

CNCL - 185





All sites shown are CONCEPTUAL and for the purposes of this public consultation process only. Should a specific site be considered at a future date for construction, further public consultation and Council approval will occur prior to construction.

Site 4: Geal Road at Princeton Avenue





Site 5: Geal Road at Pendlebury Road and Woodwards Road





Site 6: Geal Road at Williams Road



Railway Greenway: Potential Community Garden Sites

August 23, 2021

CNCL - 186



All sites shown are CONCEPTUAL and for the purposes of this public consultation process only. Should a specific site be considered at a future date for construction, further public consultation and Council approval will occur prior to construction.

Site 7: Mid-block, south of Williams Road





Site 8: 10000 block Railway Avenue



Site 9: Branscombe House



Railway Greenway: Potential Community Garden Sites August 23, 2021

CNCL - 187





Community Gardens in Richmond Survey

Parks Department 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

We would like to ask you a series of questions about community gardens.

- Some questions are specifically focused for existing community gardeners.
- Some are for residents who may live in the vicinity of an existing or future community garden.

Please answer as best you can.

1.	Ov	erall, I support co	nmı	ınity garden	s in t	the City of	Richm	ond:		
		Strongly support		Support		Neutral		Oppose		Strongly oppose
2.	l a	m: (please select ONE a	nswe	·)						
		Currently a member	er of	a community	gard	len in Rich	mond [f YES, proceed t	o Questi	on 3]
		Currently on the wa	aitlis	t for a commi	unity	garden plo	t [If YES,	proceed to Ques	stion 4]	
		Am considering be	com	ing a membe	r in t	he near fut	ure [If Y	ES, proceed to C	Question	5]
		Am not considering	g be	coming a mer	nber	[If YES, proce	ed to Que	estion 5]		
3.	Th	inking about how	aet	to my comn	nunit	v garden	locatio	n		
٠.		•	•	•						
	a)	I am a member of		•		unity gard	en:			PLANTA AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
	b)	I usually get to m	y ga	rden plot by	:					
		□ Driving					Taking	the bus		
		□ Walking					Other	(please specify)_		
		□ Riding a bike								
	c)	It takes this long	to d	rive to my pl	ot:					
	d)	Parking is availab	le n	ear my com	muni	ty garden	: 🗆 Ye	es 🗆 N	l o	
	e)	I can walk to my p	olot:	☐ Yes		No				
	f)	If I can walk to my	, plc	ot but don't, i	it is I	oecause:_		·		
	g)	I can ride a bike to	o my	plot: 🗅 Ye	S	□ No				
	h)	If I can ride a bike	but	don't, it is b	ecai	use:				

LetsTalkRichmond.ca



,	I can take a bus to my plot: Yes								
l an	n currently on the waitlist for the fo	ollowing commu	nity garden locatio	n(s):					
l fe	el the following about a community	y garden being l	ocated in my neigh	bourhood:					
	Strongly support Support	□ Neutral	□ Oppose	☐ Strongly oppose					
At r	my place of residence, I have acces	ss to garden spa	ice to grow food:						
	Yes [If YES, proceed to Question 7]		No [If NO, proceed to Q	uestion 8]					
I have access to garden space at my place of residence, and I have chosen to become a community garden member because:									
-									
City	had the power and authority to loc y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.]								
City	y-owned park land, I would place it			ing the top of your list an					
City	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.]		ons as you wish, with 1 be Close to availa Close to the wa	ing the top of your list an able car parking ait-listed individuals					
City	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields		Close to availa Close to the way	ing the top of your list an able car parking ait-listed individuals ence					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields		Close to availa Close to the way	ing the top of your list an able car parking ait-listed individuals ence					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools		Close to availa Close to the war places of resid Expand existin sites only	ing the top of your list an able car parking ait-listed individuals ence					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools Under utilized park space		Close to availa Close to the war places of resides to the sites only Do not support	ing the top of your list and ble car parking ait-listed individuals ence ag community garde					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools Under utilized park space In more rural locations Close to transit	: [Rank as many option —	Close to availa Close to the war places of reside Expand existing sites only Do not support Don't know; ne	ing the top of your list and lible car parking ait-listed individuals ence ag community garded the further expansion seed more information					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools Under utilized park space In more rural locations	: [Rank as many option —	Close to availa Close to the war places of reside Expand existing sites only Do not support Don't know; ne	ing the top of your list and lible car parking ait-listed individuals ence ag community garded the further expansion seed more information					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools Under utilized park space In more rural locations Close to transit	: [Rank as many option —	Close to availa Close to the war places of reside Expand existing sites only Do not support Don't know; ne	ing the top of your list and able car parking ait-listed individuals ence ag community garded the further expansion are and more information and are are as a second and are are and are are as a second are					
City 11 be	y-owned park land, I would place it eing the bottom of your list.] Any available public land Sports fields Near schools Under utilized park space In more rural locations Close to transit	in the previous	Close to availa Close to the war places of resides to the war places of the war places to the war places of resides to the war places of resides to the war places of the	ing the top of your list and able car parking ait-listed individuals lence ag community garded the further expansion seed more information e:					

The Railway Greenway Corridor

City Council has directed City staff to build more community gardens throughout the city to address the waitlist demand for new garden sites. That said, a significant proportion of those on the current community garden waitlist live in Steveston and neighbourhoods west of No. 3 Road.

Railway Greenway is greenspace with a large proportion of open space currently underutilized and available for opportunity. The greenway runs from the Fraser River's Middle Arm at the north to the Steveston neighbourhood at the south end.

While some areas have public facilities such as the Railway Granville Bike Park, seating areas and naturalized and tree planting areas, the rest of the greenway remains open turf and/or vegetated areas. Much of the greenway backs onto neighbouring residents such as individual homes, medium density townhomes or low-rise apartment buildings.

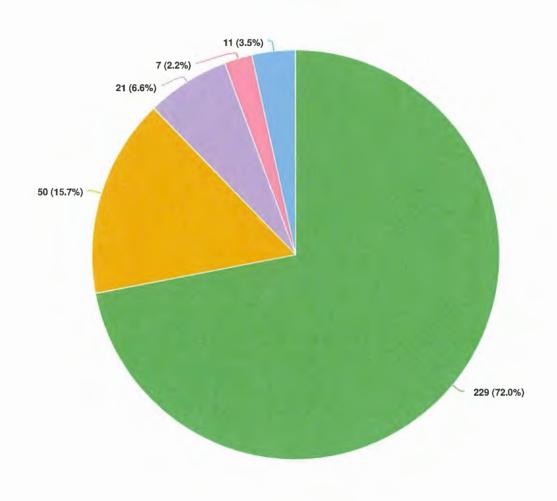
Please review the three attached maps before answering the following questions related specifically to the Railway Greenway corridor.

11.		am an area resident living within 500 metres of the Rail						ailway Greenway No	:	
12.	Му	level of support fo	r lo	cating more o	com	munity ga	ırde	n plots along the	Rail	lway Greenway is
		Strongly support		Support		Neutral		☐ Oppose		Strongly oppose
				The second of th		and the second second second second				
D	en	nographic Qu	иe	stions						
13.	Hiv	ve in the neighbou	rho	od of:						
		Blundell						Hamilton		
		Broadmoor						Sea Island		
		Bridgeport						Seafair		
		City Centre						Shellmont		
		East Cambie						Steveston		
		East Richmond						Thompson		
		Fraser Lands						West Cambie		
		Gilmore								
14.	l h	eard about this eng	gage	ement via: (ch	ieck a	II that apply)				
		Email from LetsTal	kRid	hmond.ca			Signage along the Railway of other Community Garden loPoster at my local CommunWord of mouth			
		Visiting LetsTalkRid	chm	ond.ca websit	te				n locations	
		Visiting richmond.c	a w	ebsite					nunity Centre	
		Postcard mailed to	my	residence						
		City's social media Twitter or Instagrar		nnels (Facebo	ook,					

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

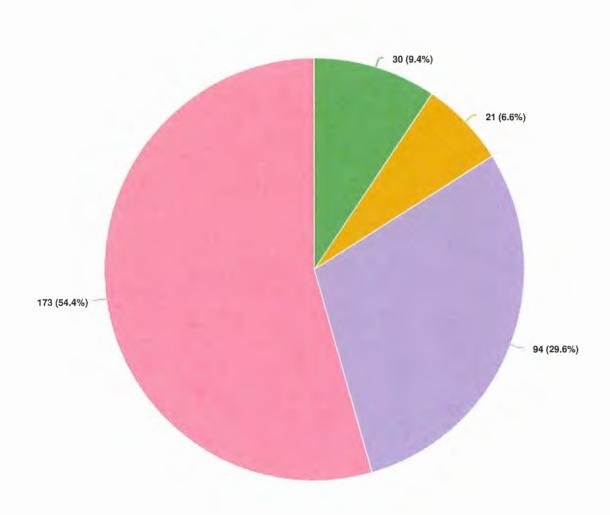
Community Gardens in Richmond

Overall, this describes my support for community gardens in Richmond:



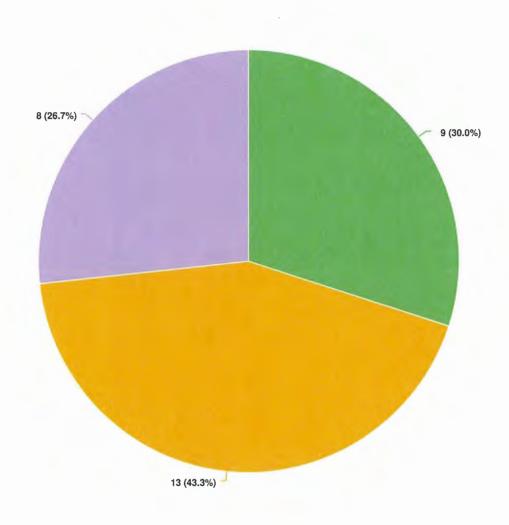


I am: (please select ONE answer)



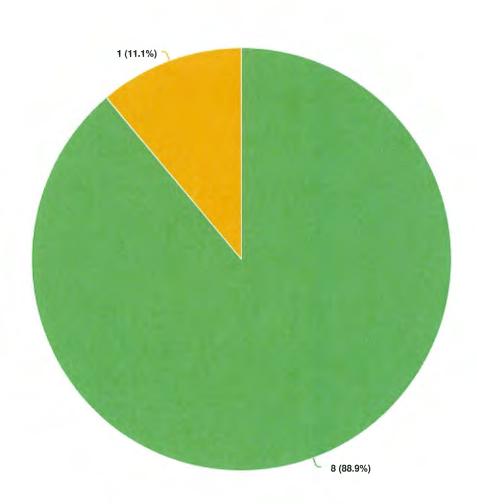


I usually get to my garden plot by:



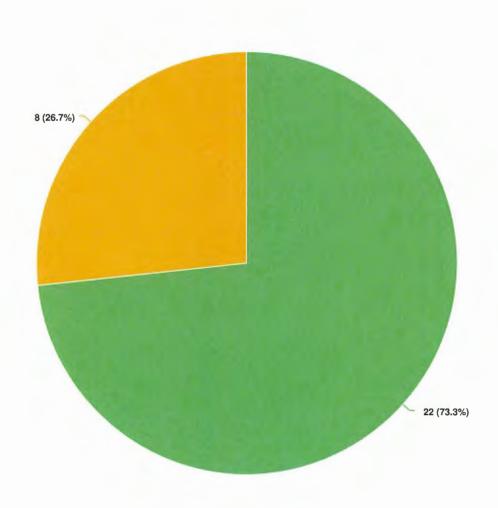


Parking is available near my community garden:



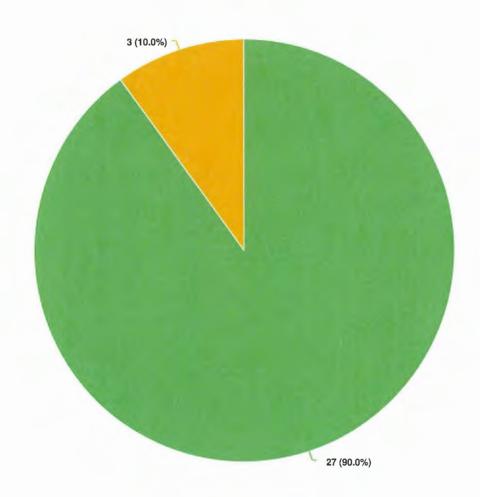
Question options Yes No

I can walk to my plot:



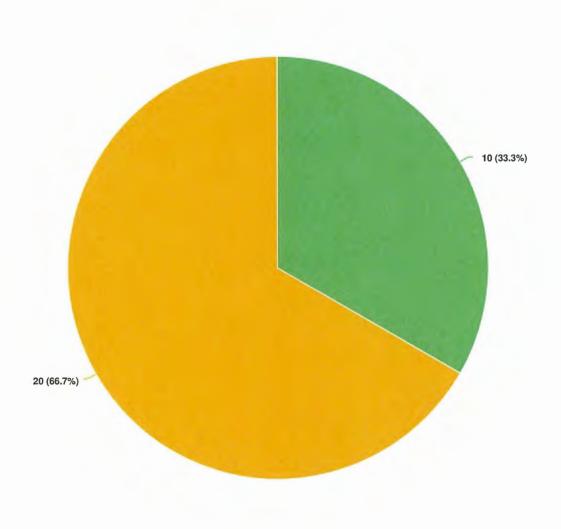


I can ride a bike to my plot:



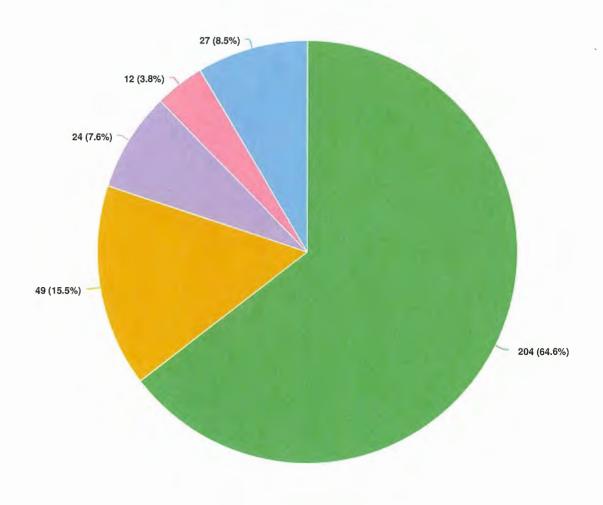
Question options Yes No

I can take the bus to my plot:



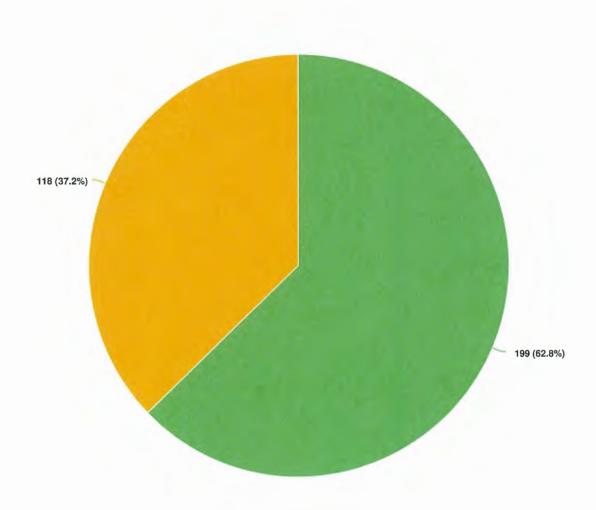
Question options Yes No

I feel the following about a community garden being located in my neighbourhood:





At my place of residence, I have access to garden space to grow food:



Question options Yes No

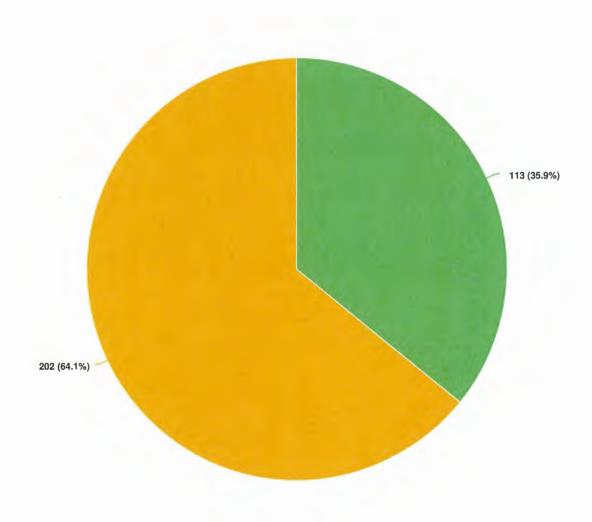
If I had the power and authority to locate a community garden anywhere in Richmond on City-owned park land, I would place it: [Rank at least 3 options and up to 11, with 1 being the top of your list and 11 being the bottom of your list.]

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK	
Under utilized park space	2.42	
Any available public land	2.93	
Near schools	3.16	
Close to the wait-listed individuals' places of residence	3.54	
Close to transit	3.84	
Close to available car parking	4.25	
In more rural areas	4.30	
Expand existing community garden sites only	5.45	
Sports fields	5.95	
Don't know; need more information	7.79	
Do not support further expansion of the program	8.14	

Optional question (317 response(s), 3 skipped)

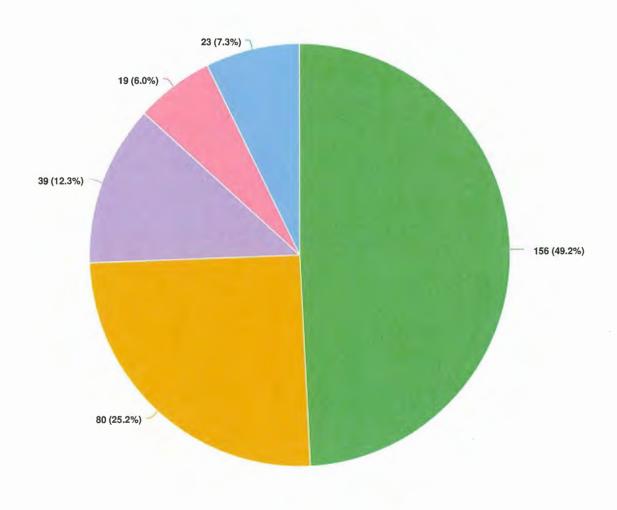
Question type: Ranking Question

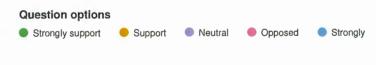
I am an area resident living within 500 metres of the Railway Greenway:



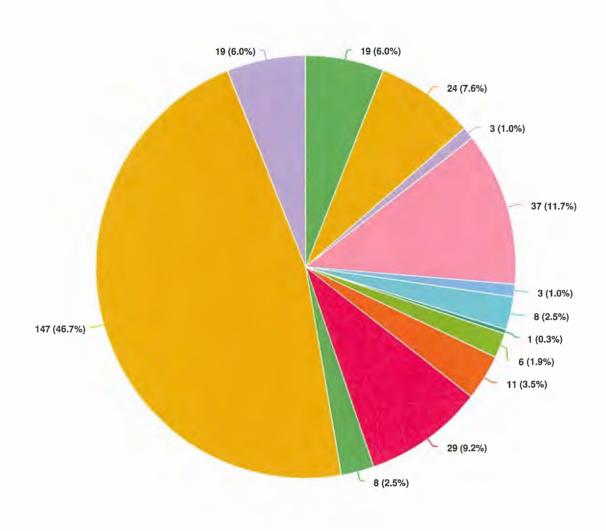


My level of support for locating more community garden plots along the Railway Greenway is:





I live in the neighbourhood of:

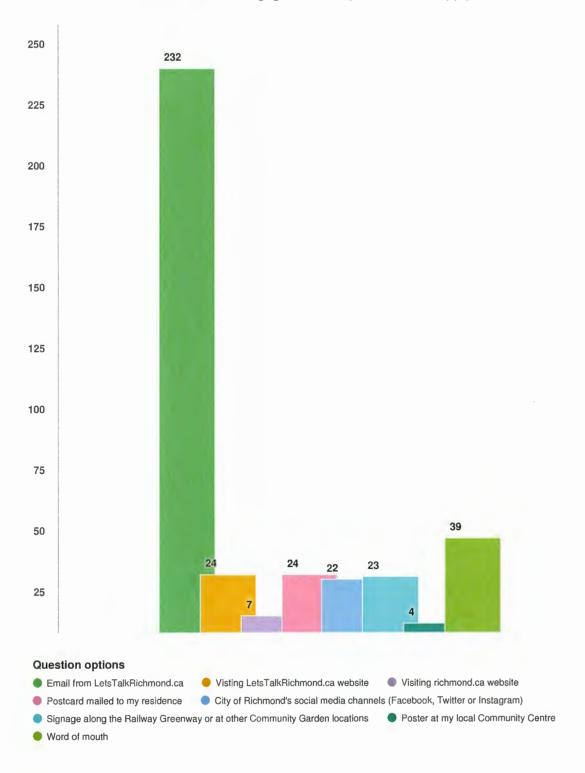




Optional question (315 response(s), 5 skipped)

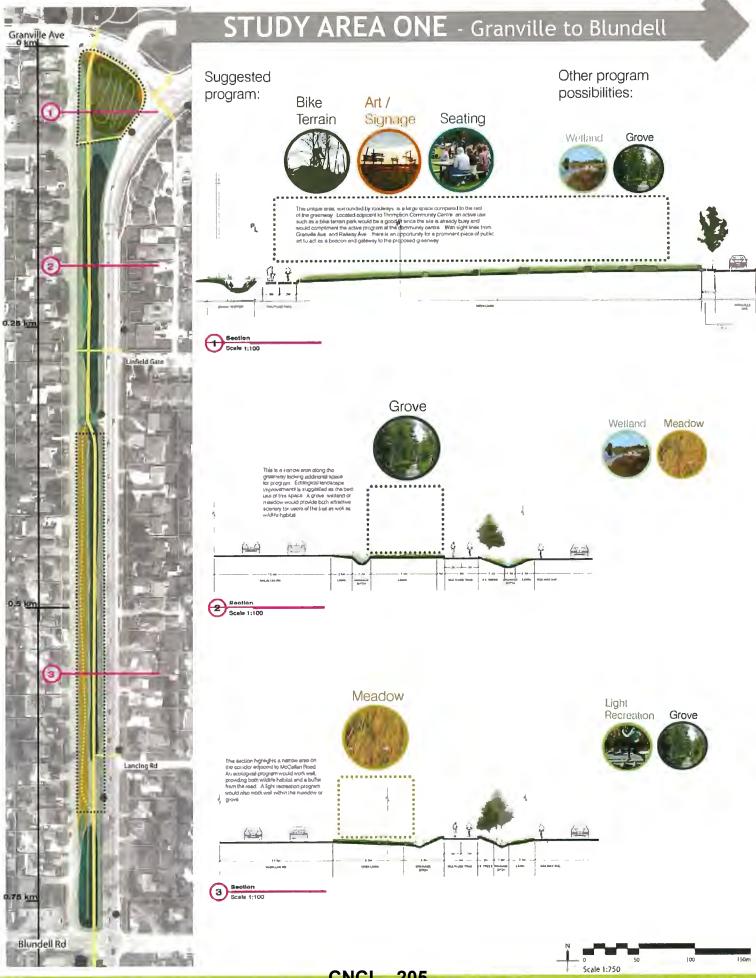
Question type: Radio Button Question

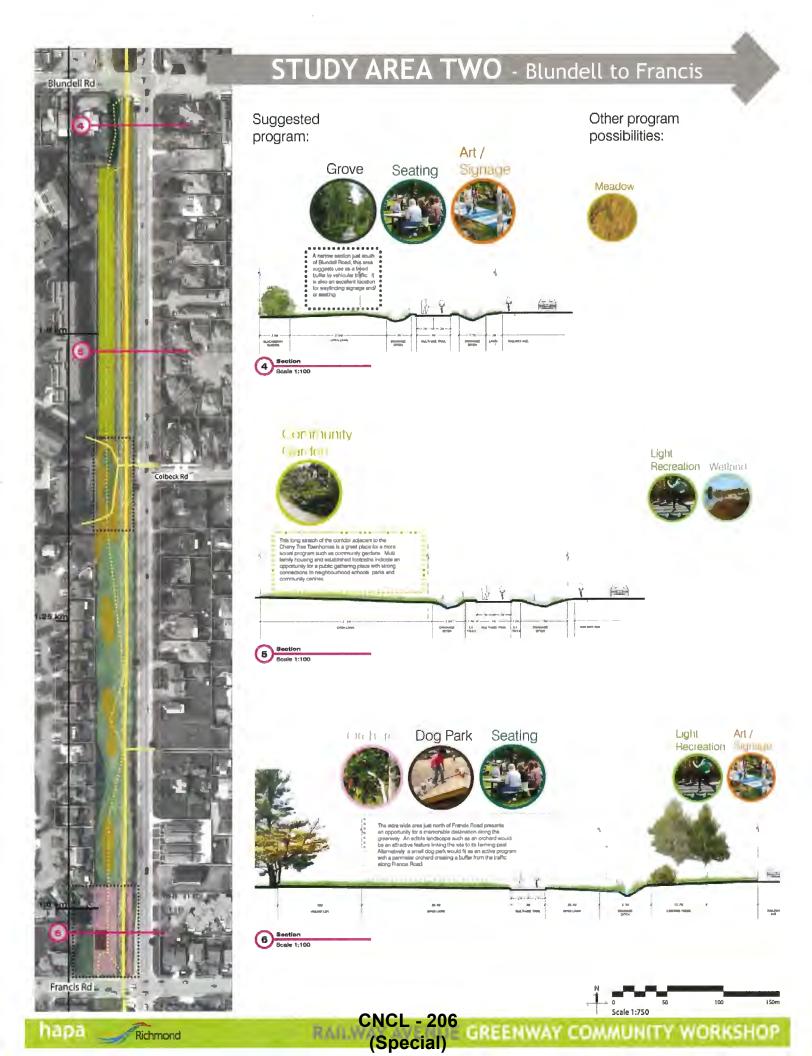
I heard about this engagement via: (check all that apply)



Optional question (314 response(s), 6 skipped)

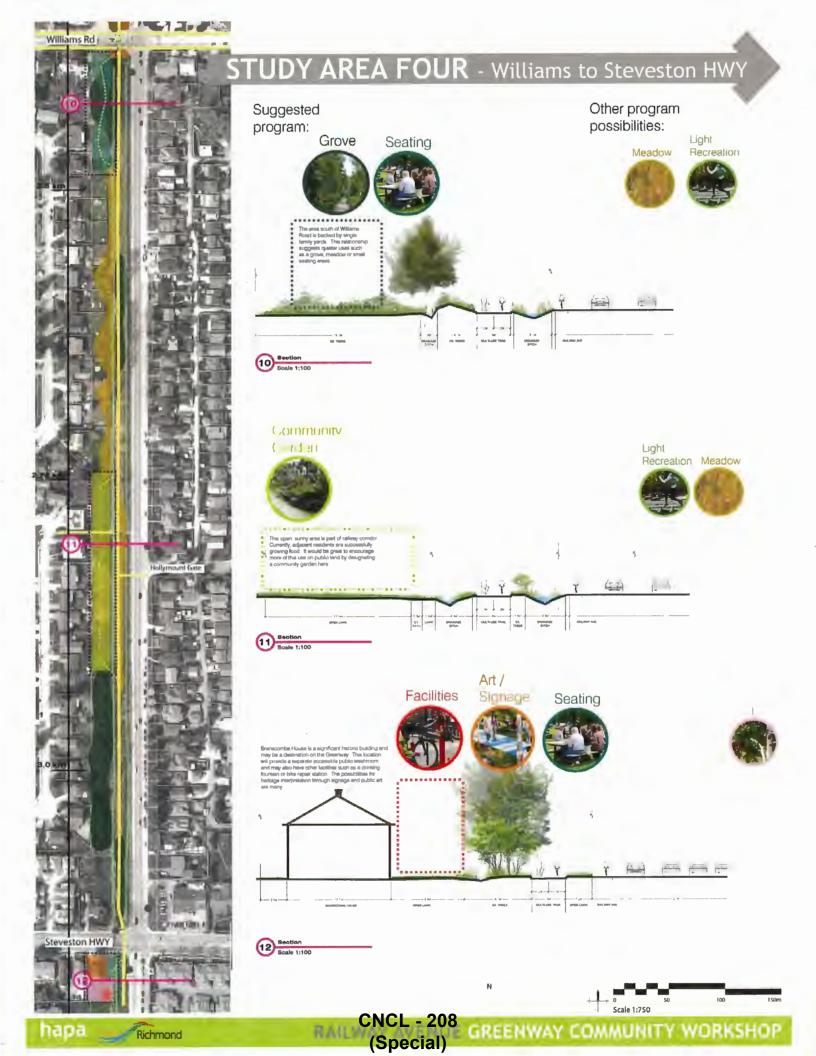
Question type: Checkbox Question

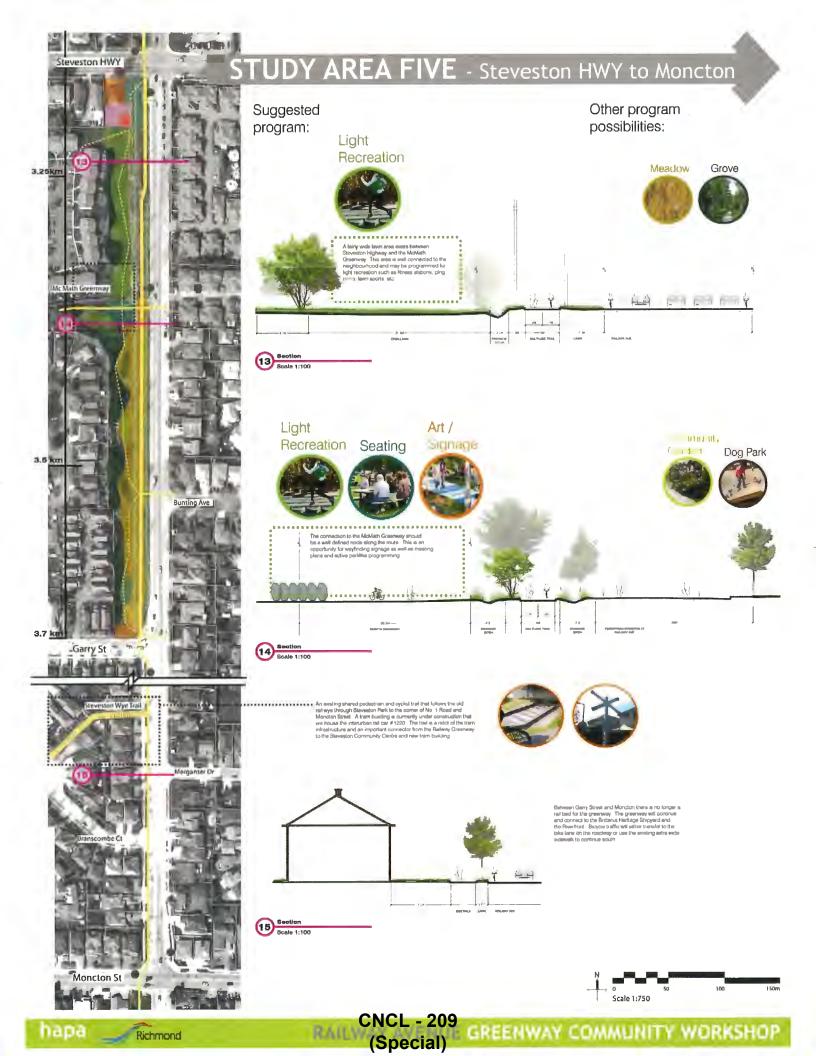


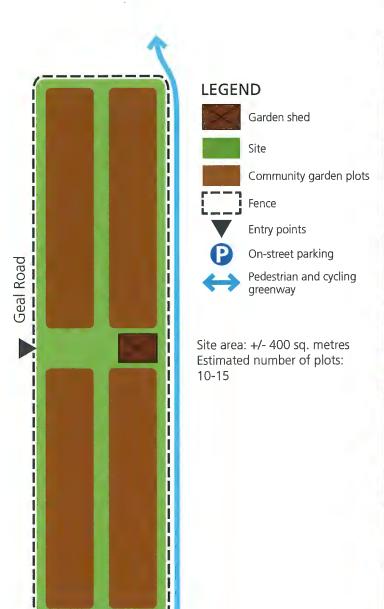




Wildland











Site 1: Geal Road at Williams Road

Note: conceptual plans are subject to change during the design and approvals process.

Estimated number of plots based on standard $10' \times 20'$ or $10' \times 8'$ plot sizes. Bed and walkway configuration shown for illustrative purposes only.

Attachment 6



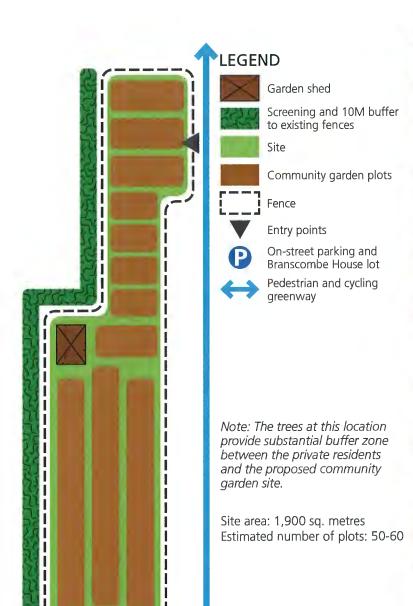
Note: conceptual plans are subject to change during the design and approvals process.

Estimated number of plots based on standard 10' x 20' or 10' x 8' plot sizes. Bed and walkway configuration shown for illustrative purposes only.

± 10M



Railway Greenway Corridor Contemplated Community Garden Site Study
Site 2: Between Williams **CNC** Land **23te** veston Hwy, adjacent to Hollymount Gate
(Special)





Note: conceptual plans are subject to change during the design and approvals process.

Estimated number of plots based on standard $10' \times 20'$ or $10' \times 8'$ plot sizes. Bed and walkway configuration shown for illustrative purposes only.

