



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: July 8, 2013

From: Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks

File: 06-2345-20-GCIT1/Vol 01

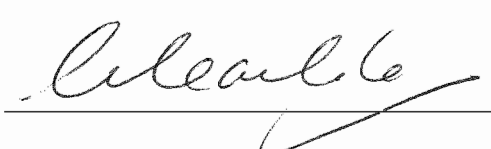

Re: Garden City Lands – Phase One Vision and Guiding Principles

Recommendation:

That the Vision and Guiding Principles as detailed in the report “Garden City Lands –Phase One Vision and Guiding Principles” from the Senior Manager, Parks dated July 8, 2013, be endorsed as the basis for the Garden City Lands future planning, Phase Two – Concept Development.

Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks
(604-247-4942)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW	REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

Staff Report

Origin

On October 22, 2012 the following resolution was adopted by Council:

“That the Garden City Lands planning process as described in the staff report titled Garden City Lands – Planning Process 2013-2014 dated October 4, 2012 from the Senior Manager, Parks be endorsed.”

In addition, this report directly relates to the achievement of the following Council 2011-2014 term goal:

“7.4. Commence planning for the eventual use of the Garden City Lands.”

The purpose of this report is to respond to the October 22, 2012 Council direction to commence a planning process, by presenting the findings of the Garden City Lands Phase One- Planning Process including a Vision and Guiding Principles which will then be used as the basis for commencing with the Garden City Lands Phase Two- Concept Development.

Findings of Fact

The City owned Garden City Lands (the Lands) are approximately 136.5 acres (55.2 hectares) located on the eastern edge of Richmond City Centre, between Westminster Highway, Garden City Road, Alderbridge Way and No. 4 Road. The Lands are located within the provincially designated Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and are currently vacant. The Metro Vancouver 2040 Regional Growth Strategy has designated the Lands ‘Conservation and Recreation’.

In the current 2041 Official Community Plan (OCP) Land Use Map, the Garden City Lands are designated as ‘Conservation’. This is defined as being natural and semi-natural areas with important environmental values that may also be used for recreation, park, agricultural and food production purposes. The Lands are also zoned Agriculture.

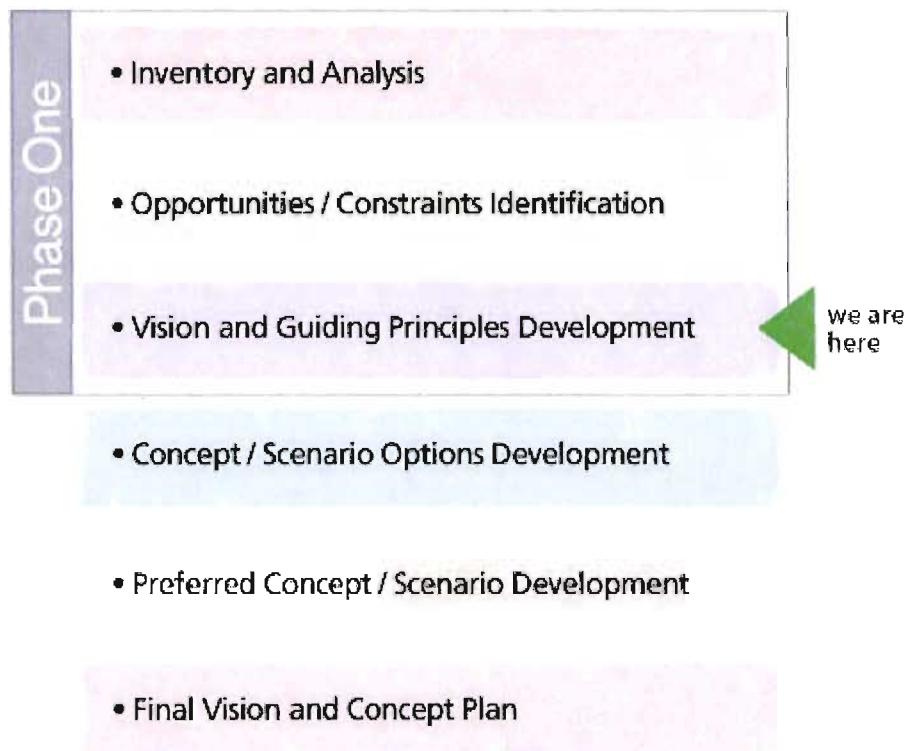
Analysis

BACKGROUND

One of Council’s 2011-2014 term goals is to commence planning for the eventual use of the Garden City Lands. Staff were directed at the July 24, 2012 Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Committee to report back on a public consultation process for the Lands. In response to that referral a report entitled “Garden City Lands – Phase One Planning” was presented at the September 25, 2012 Parks Recreation Committee that outlined both a planning process and a range of public engagement opportunities.

At this meeting, staff were directed to bring forward a revised work program and a compressed timeline for the planning process. On October 22, 2012 Council adopted the following revised planning process with a completion date of June 2014:

KEY PLANNING STAGES



The first three steps outlined above have been completed as Phase One. This phase has focused on two main goals: ‘getting to know the land’ through conducting a technical review of the land and site context, and ‘getting to know the community vision’ through a creative public engagement process.

Key objectives of Phase One:

1. To have a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the existing site, the physical and community context, and identify key factors influencing future decision-making. This foundational information is vital to moving forward with developing options and a final concept plan.
2. To provide well defined, transparent, and easily understood documentation and presentation of the information gathering process and inventory results that can be used for communication and ongoing dialogue.
3. To undertake an innovative public engagement process that is transparent, well-documented, inclusive, and reaches the broadest community audience.

Since Council approval of the planning process in September 2012, the key steps as detailed above have been completed and are presented in this report.

PHASE ONE – INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS/OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

The first two steps in Phase One included a biophysical and historical inventory of Garden City Lands and a review of relevant City strategies. This information was used to develop presentation material for the public engagement process (**Attachment 1**).

A brief sampling of the key findings from the review process is presented below:

- The majority of the City Centre residents will live within a 2 km walking distance of Garden City Lands.
- The Lands are a 10 minute walk to a Canada Line Station.
- Over 25,000 cars pass by the Lands during peak hours on weekends.
- From 1903 until 2010 the Federal Government owned the Lands.
- The Vancouver Rifle Range was established on the Lands in 1904 and operated until 1928. It was a recreational and a military training location.
- In 1974 the lands were included in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- Permissible uses have evolved over the years. In addition to farming uses, other uses are permitted such as: ecological reserves, passive recreation, open parkland, horticulture and nurseries, education and research, and agri-tourism.
- There are no historic records indicating the land has ever been actively farmed.
- Any potential crop farming will require amending the soils and infrastructure upgrades.
- Garden City Lands are located at the west edge of the Greater Lulu Island Bog.
- The lands have been mown and cleared for the last one hundred years.
- The plants on the site are predominately native with some invasive plants.
- It takes up to 500 years to create 30 cm of a peat bog. Peat depths are between 50 cm and 100 cms on the Lands.
- The Lands contain the remnant bog landscape and seasonal wetland areas.
- Annual mowing has kept the trees from emerging and shading out the low growing bog plants.
- These Lands together with Nature Park and the federal DND Lands create a significant 472 acre ecological hub.
- Managing the hydrology on the site is critical to the health of the bog environment.
- The Garden City Lands are 2 km from the Oval and Middle Arm waterfront linked by Lansdowne Road.
- Walking has been identified as the most popular recreational activity in Richmond.
- Community cohesiveness is stronger when there are opportunities for informal social interaction, and where people of diverse ages and backgrounds can engage in shared experiences.
- Access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is a human right.
- Expressing creativity through art pieces, engaging events, festivals, and performances are key to evolution of a 'great place' destination.

CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

As part of the public engagement process the City committed to an extensive communication program to inform the public about the Garden City Lands project. A dedicated website, **creategardencitylands.ca**, was developed, along with a supporting Facebook page and Twitter account. A unique project logo and visual identity was also created.

The project web site was launched in early May with background information about the Lands. From May 15 to June 1, 2013 daily *Fast Facts* were provided on the website, posted on Facebook page and distributed via Twitter in the lead up to the Ideas Fair held on June 1, 2013. All the materials including the questionnaire from the Ideas Fair have been uploaded to the site and posted on the City's Let's Talk Richmond online engagement platform.

A community-wide media information campaign was also initiated that included numerous newspaper advertisements, special briefings conducted by staff and the Mayor, and extensive media coverage from local and regional news outlets.

An Ideas Fair was held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 which provided the public with an opportunity to be on the Lands for the first time, view and respond to the information display boards, and participate in a series of idea generating activities. A Stakeholder workshop was held on June 6, 2013 with a number of community groups to discuss values and potential visions from their individual and representative group perspectives.

Attachment 2 details the community engagement process, the various engagement tools, and presents a summary of the key input from the public. An overview of the different public engagement opportunities is provided below:

- 650 people attended the June 1st Ideas Fair
- 220 questionnaires were filled in
- 99% said that they enjoyed the Ideas Fair
- 28 video conversations were taped
- 60 people took part in the eco-tours
- 1121 document downloads from the City website
- 112 questionnaires filled in on-line
- 12 people attended the June 6th Stakeholder Workshop
- Numerous proposals, letters, and e-mails were sent into Council and staff
- In all, there were 15 different ways that the public has provided input.

Other Consultation:

Detailed submissions were received from the Garden City Lands Conservation Society outlining their vision for the lands, along with visions and plans/sketches from other residents.

The Richmond Sports Council forwarded a copy of the 1986 City vision for the Lands detailing a sports complex scheme over the entire site as envisioned in support of the unsuccessful 1994 Commonwealth Games bid. A sports complex would require removal of the site from the Agriculture Land Reserve. City staff are working with the Sports Council to identify community sports needs for the future and where these needs would best be served in the City.

A meeting was also held with a representative from the Kwantlen Polytechnic University to discuss the request for a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Laboratory Farm at Garden City Lands as part of the newly formed Applied Science in Sustainable Agriculture program. A preliminary proposal has been received that outlines initial financial commitment, site requirements and the rationale for this particular site. Further discussions with the University will occur over the summer and the results will be the subject of a separate report to Council in Fall 2013.

Information gathered from the many engagement opportunities indicated that activities and uses supporting Community Wellness and Active Living were the number one priority closely followed by Environmental Sustainability and then Urban Agriculture. The following graphic is one example of the results from the questionnaire at the June 1st Ideas Fair and Let’s Talk online engagement platform (**Attachment 2**).

How would you create a legacy gift for all City residents? Tell us which of the following farm and non-farm activities permitted within the ALR you would support?



7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The synthesis of the community aspirations, values and ideas gathered through the public engagement process provided clear and consistent messages. That together with the key findings from the background inventory and analysis provides a solid basis for the development of guiding principles and an overall vision. These following principles and vision will be used as the foundation for Phase Two - Concept development.

Encourage Community Partnerships and Collaboration

Working together with others to achieve a common vision is critical to creating a productive and sustainable legacy for the Lands. Success will be a result of the coordinated efforts and commitment to a vision by many stakeholders.

Respect Agricultural Land Reserve

Respect the agricultural designation and encourage viable and sustainable agricultural uses that benefit the community. Find creative and innovative ways to allow for a full range of other permitted uses on the Lands while ensuring agricultural viability. Applying *agro-ecology* sustainability principles will ensure the careful and thoughtful integration of ecology, wildlife, culture, economics, and society with agricultural production.

Strive for Environmental Sustainability

The conservation and restoration of the higher ecological value bog areas and the unique bog plants and wildlife represents a green legacy for future generations to enjoy and learn from. Managing the existing biodiversity of the site and enhancing the wetland ecology will increase the ecosystem or natural services that the Garden City Lands provide and position the City well for climate change resiliency. Green infrastructure such as stormwater detention ponds can also add biodiversity to the site and provide recreational and aesthetic benefits. In addition to looking at the environmental values of the site itself, there is an opportunity to develop strong ecological connections with the surrounding areas.

Promote Community Wellness and Active Living

Well designed and placed amenities and infrastructure will foster access to year round activities such as walking and cycling, picnicking, nature appreciation and gardening. Trails, boardwalk, and viewing platforms carefully sited to protect the ecological values of the site will provide access for people to enjoy the fresh air, open skies, views and the changing seasons. Innovative programs and creative interpretation features will encourage ongoing discovery and learning. The amenities and infrastructure will have a distinct design and character that respects and reflects the unique landscape and history of the lands. This will be a place of social interaction and community cohesiveness where new memories and traditions will be created.

Maximize Connectivity and Integration

There will be seamless connection and integration with the surrounding urban, natural and rural landscapes through physical, visual and ecological links and networks. Recreation, ecological areas, and agriculture functions on the site will be integrated in a way that is respectful and beneficial. A culture of walking and cycling will be promoted. Access from the surrounding

neighborhoods will be safe, comfortable, and clearly delineated with crosswalks, a trail network and a series of clear and distinct entryways.

Allow for Dynamic and Flexible Spaces

Spaces will be dynamic and able to adapt- expand or contract- depending upon seasons, community interests and needs over the years, new innovative programs and cultural opportunities. The Lands will allow for a range of experiences - quiet spots for serenity and contemplation to areas that encourage vibrancy and excitement through community celebrations, performances, inspiring and engaging programs, and social interactions. Carefully and strategically placed permanent and/or temporary art/landscape installations will add another layer of interest to the Lands and help create a distinct character.

Develop Science-based Resource Management Plans

Natural processes are complex and evolve over time. The bog environment is very sensitive to changes in soil conditions and relies on a strictly maintained hydrology regime. The potential enhancement of the current seasonal wetland areas to permanent water features will need to be carefully considered. An integrated eco-systems approach will be applied to short term and long term enhancement projects. Changes to the land will require ongoing monitoring and research. The lifecycle of physical infrastructure will also be considered in planning, design and construction of amenities.

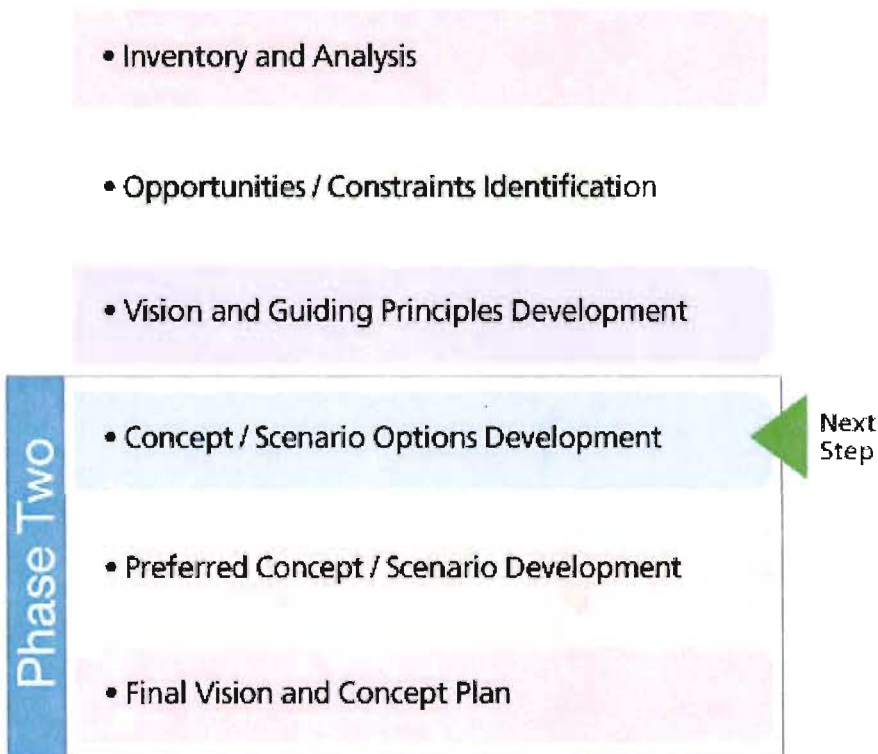
Building on the public input and Guiding Principles, the following Vision for the future planning of the Lands has emerged:

The Garden City Lands, located in the City Centre, is envisioned as an exceptional legacy open space for residents and visitors. Visible and accessible from many directions, the Lands are an impressive gateway into Richmond's downtown, and a place of transition and transformation from the rural to the urban. Its rich, diverse and integrated natural and agricultural landscape provides a dynamic setting for learning and exploration. It is inclusive with a range of spaces, amenities and experiences that encourage healthy lifestyles, social interaction and a strong sense of community pride.

NEXT STEPS

Phase Two, as illustrated below, will involve developing concepts for the Garden City Lands based on the Guiding Principles and Vision, and the many valuable ideas from the public engagement process. Opportunities for the public to provide input will continue throughout Phase Two.

KEY PLANNING STAGES



Financial Considerations:

Funding for the Phase One and Two Garden City Lands Planning Process was approved by Council in October 2012.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Garden City Lands is a legacy green space in the heart of the City. Council approved a planning process in October 2012 for the development of a Concept Plan for the Lands. Phase One which focused on two main goals: ‘getting to know the land’ through conducting a technical review of the land and site context, and ‘getting to know the community vision’ through a creative public engagement process has been completed. A very successful Ideas Fair was conducted on June 1, 2013 at Garden City Lands with 650 people attending and on June 6, 2013 a focus group workshop was held with representatives from community organizations. A website was also created that provided the public with another venue to receive information and

provide input.

The public input together with the findings from the background inventory and analysis provided the basis for the development of guiding principles and an overall vision. These principles and the vision will be used as the basis for the Garden City Lands future planning in Phase Two-Concept Development.



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Welcome to Create Garden City Lands

Very few cities in the world have the opportunity to plan and implement such a large and unique space that links urban and natural settings.

- The Garden City Lands are big. At 136.5 acres, it is the second largest public space in Richmond.
- It is located in City Centre, the fastest growing neighbourhood in Richmond.
- The Lands contain a rare piece of Richmond's remaining natural bog heritage.
- It is a unique finger of designated agricultural land located within an urban setting.
- The City purchased Garden City Lands for community use.

It is our legacy to create.



Terra Nova Rural Park
65 acres

Terra Nova for scale comparison





Planning Process

WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

- The purpose is to inform you about the Garden City Lands, and to get your ideas about the possible future uses of the Lands.
- In October 2012, City Council approved a public consultation and planning process to determine the future of the Garden City Lands.

Today is the launch of this public process!

PRCS - 20

KEY PLANNING STAGES

- Inventory and Analysis
- Opportunities / Constraints Identification
- Vision and Guiding Principles Development
- Concept / Scenario Options Development
- Preferred Concept / Scenario Development
- Final Vision and Concept Plan

we are here



WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

- The Inventory and Analysis Step is the gathering of information about the history, ecology, agricultural designation and community context of the site.
- This allows us to collectively, as a community, identify opportunities, as well as challenges or limitations to future uses.
- The results of this first phase will be presented to City Council this summer.

The public consultation will incorporate several phases over the year, and is to be completed by 2014.

For updated information, please check www.creategardencitylands.ca



CONTEXT





The Planning Framework

THE STARTING POINT

In **2007** Council endorsed three major themes in thinking about potential uses and amenities for the Garden City Lands. These included:

- **Community Wellness and Enabling Healthy Lifestyles**
- **Urban Agriculture**
- **Showcasing Environmental Sustainability**

THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

In **2013** we need to determine:

- **Are these original themes still relevant?**
These themes were introduced at a time when the City was considering 65 acres of public land that was to be removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- **What do they mean today given the different context?**
The City now owns the 135.6 acres and the land is within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

- **Are there themes that are missing?**
The City has a vision of being the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

PRCS - 21



CONTEXT





Heritage

The stories and memories of the land can quickly get lost. The landscape you see in front of you is the result of both human activities, and natural processes.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 10,000 years ago Richmond Islands began to form with the retreat of the Glaciers.
 - The Land is located within the Musqueam Indian Band's traditional territory.
 - No First Nations archaeological features are known to exist on the land.
 - The names of the first pioneer Richmond families to own the property will be recognized by Richmond residents: F.W. Ferris (Ferris Elementary School) and J.W. Sexsmith (Sexsmith Road).
 - The Garden City Lands takes its name from Richmond's reputation as the "Garden City" due to the many market farms and gardens located here that provided fresh food and plants to the surrounding Lower Mainland.
 - From 1903 up until 2010, the Federal Government owned the land.
 - The Vancouver Rifle Range was established in 1904 – 1928. Portions of the land were cleared, drained and structures put in place.
- During World War I, Canadian soldiers used the range for training.
 - Peat bog fires were common in the 1930's and 1940's and the land was mown and cleared to manage the fires. The bog was also often set on fire to prevent trees from establishing.
 - In 1974, the Lands were included in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
 - From 1949-1994 communications and navigation towers were located on the land for Coast Guard purposes. Their concrete bases are still evident on the land.

In 2010, Richmond acquired the lands for public use.



HERITAGE



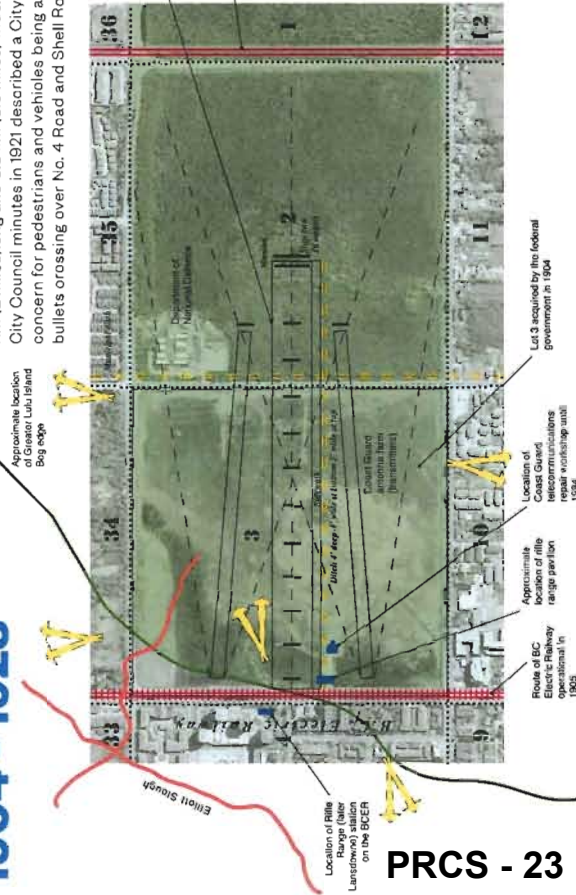


Heritage

1904 - 1928

Careful Crossing No. 4 Road!

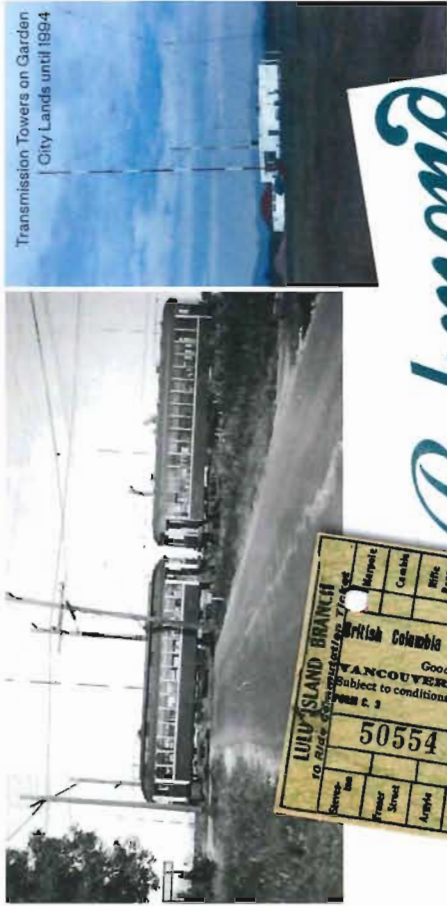
The rifle range on the Garden City Lands spanned 3.2 Km (2 miles) long and 0.8 km (0.5 miles) wide. Richmond City Council minutes in 1921 described a City Councillor's concern for pedestrians and vehicles being at risk from bullets crossing over No. 4 Road and Shell Road.



PRCS - 23

(Above right) Interurban Railway tram near the Garden City Lands, with navigation towers in the background. (Right) Tram ticket from the Lulu Island route.

1950s



Transmission Towers on Garden City Lands until 1994



Blueberry picking



Note Interurban Tram poles behind building



Rifle Range

HERITAGE





Years of Interest in the Lands

DID YOU KNOW?

- Records show that the City has been actively interested in purchasing these Lands and the lands to the east (now Nature Park) since 1955.
- The Richmond Nature Park lands were eventually acquired in the 1970's.
- In 1986, Council established a Task Force to review the potential of a major sports complex on the Lands with the additional intent of hosting the 1993 Canada Games and the 1994 Commonwealth Games. In the end, the Games were held in another city.

- When the Federal Government determined the Lands were surplus in 2001 a new era of negotiations and planning began.

PRCS - 24

From 2005 to early 2009, the Musqueam Indian Band, the City and the Canada Lands Company worked together and developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to share and jointly develop the lands. Sixty-five acres of the site would have become a City park and open space.

A key condition, though, was the removal of the Lands from the ALR to allow for a range of land uses. This proposal was not supported by the Agricultural Land Commission during two separate applications.

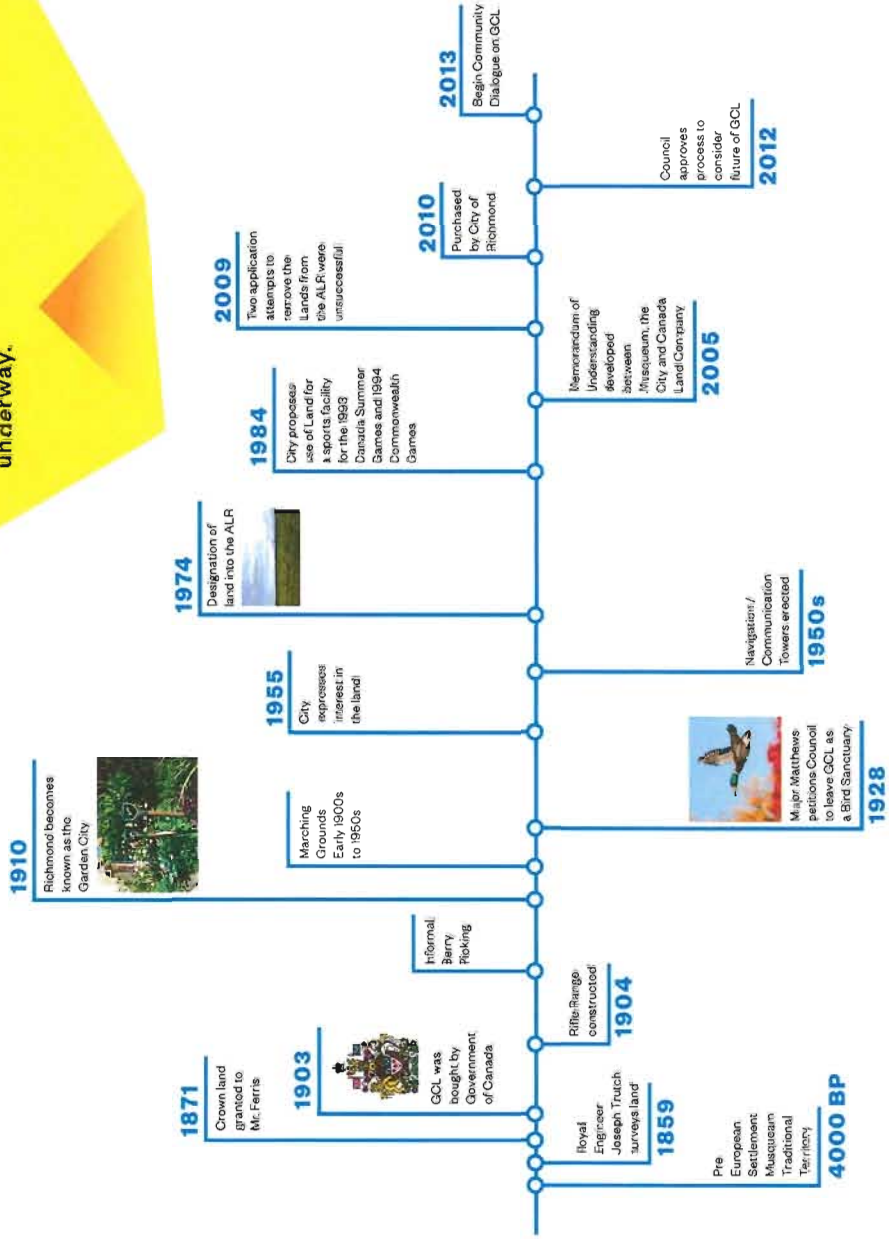
- Throughout this time there was an extensive public hearing process with many views heard by Council. A number of community groups such as the Garden City Lands Coalition Society, Richmond Sports Council, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the Food Security Society came forward with concept plans for alternative uses.

- In 2010, Council made a landmark decision to acquire all the Garden City Lands for community use.

1928

"It would be a pity to let it fall into private hands and ... hope to hear some day that Richmond has secured it." - J.S. Matthews

Finally, after 82 years, Major Matthews got his wish. Creating a legacy for the citizens of today and the future is now underway.



HERITAGE





The Environment

WHAT MAKES UP GARDEN CITY LANDS?



To some people the Garden City Lands may appear flat and seemingly vacant, however, a closer look reveals a web of complex ecological function and life.

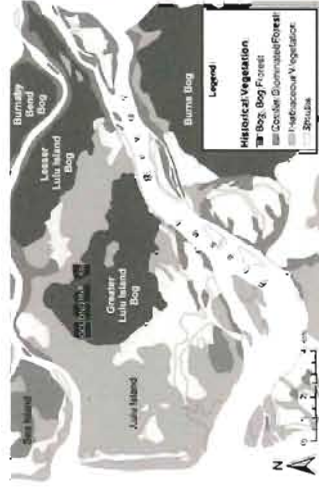
- Garden City Lands provides a rare glimpse of the remaining natural bog heritage of Richmond
- It is the front edge of the large former Greater Lulu Island Bog which formed 4000- 5000 years ago
- To create 30 cm of a peat bog takes a long time - up to 500 years!
- The Garden City Lands has peat depths that vary between 50 and 100cm (2-3')
- Bog environments are disappearing. Historically, they have been disturbed by peat mining, drainage, invasive plants, and removed for commercial cranberry and blueberry production.
- Bogs were also burned to keep trees out of the bog and support the harvest of native cranberries and blueberries



ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY DIAGRAM

What is a peat bog?

Peat bogs are poorly drained low-lying ground where water collects and sits. The decomposing plant material, which is often composed of mosses and is highly acidic. The lack of oxygen combines with the high acidity to slow down the decay of the plant materials, creating partially carbonized composites known as peat.



- More recently, bogs have become recognized for their environmental contribution as a carbon sink in helping to combat global climate change
- Garden City Lands add significantly to Richmond's green infrastructure and together with the Department of National Defence Lands and Nature Park, create a significant 472 acre ecological hub with connections to the river.**

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY





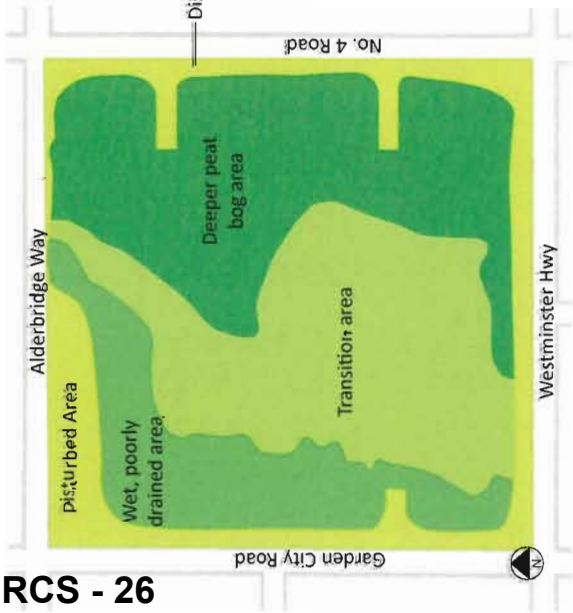
Site Ecology

The subtle changes in the topography, the soil conditions, and 100 years of management has resulted in a unique and biodiverse landscape.

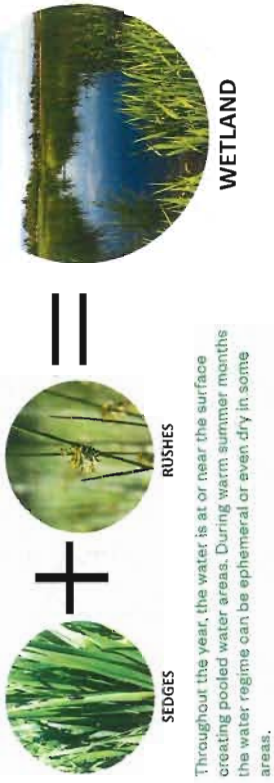
DID YOU KNOW?

- The bog soil and hydrology supports unique plant and wildlife that are adapted to these very specific conditions.
- Why no trees? The Lands have been mown, cleared and even set fire to over the last 100 years.
- The result is a predominance of low-growing plants such as mosses, lichen, grasses, sedges, ferns, and small shrubs.
- Plants on the site are predominately native with some invasive plants (e.g. blackberry, reed canary grass and Japanese knotweed).
- A unique plant is the velvet-leaved blueberry. This plant is thought to be a remnant from the Ice Age. Its natural habitat is in Central and South-eastern British Columbia.
- Annual mowing has slowed down natural succession to dense trees and shrubs resulting in a diverse bog and fen wetland habitat.
- The wetland conditions provide nesting, perching, refuge, and foraging habitat for wildlife.

PRCS - 26

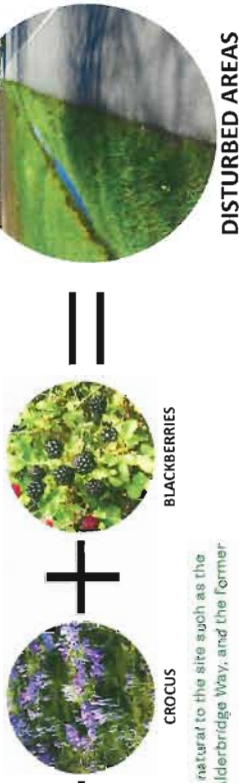


General Map of Conditions



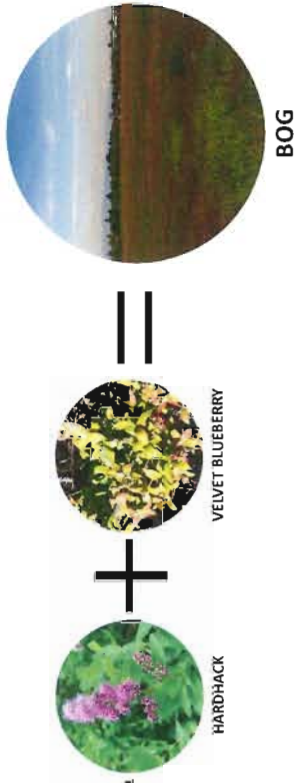
Throughout the year, the water is at or near the surface creating pooled water areas. During warm summer months the water regime can be ephemeral or even dry in some areas.

WETLAND



These are areas that are not natural to the site such as the road edges, the fill close to Alderbridge Way, and the former Coast Guard parking areas.

DISTURBED AREAS



Managing the water is vital to maintain a healthy bog environment. Mowing has kept the plants low. If this is stopped new plants species will emerge such as trees.

BOG

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY





Some Ideas



maintain water areas on-site year round



restore sphagnum moss habitat



invasive plant control



protect ground nesting areas



PRCS - 27

plant for raptors



consider adding trees



create songbird habitat



the appropriate native plants



manage access to sensitive areas



provide educational programs



encourage curiosity

GARDEN CITY LANDS,
WHAT
IS YOUR
VISION?
...we want to know

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY





Surrounding Community

Goals for the growth and development of the City Centre include:

- Build a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive community;
- Build a "green" and sustainable downtown;
- Build economic vitality; and
- Build a proud legacy for today and future generations.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Growth of Richmond's City Centre is booming.
- It has a central location in the region, new Canada Line service, and proximity to an enviable range of unique assets including its waterfront setting, panoramic mountain views, convenient transportation access, strong business and employment base, and extensive farmlands and natural areas such as Garden City Lands
- The Garden City Lands, make up 5% of the City Centre's land base.
- Over the next 20 years, the City Centre's population is expected to double, from 45,000 to 90,000 residents.
- That is approximately 2,600 new residents each year!
- A 2 km walk! A large proportion of City Centre residents, workers, students, and visitors will be within a 2 km walking distance of the Garden City Lands.
- Consideration must be given to how Garden City Lands might be used to meet the area's growing park, public open space, and sustainable agricultural and environmental needs.

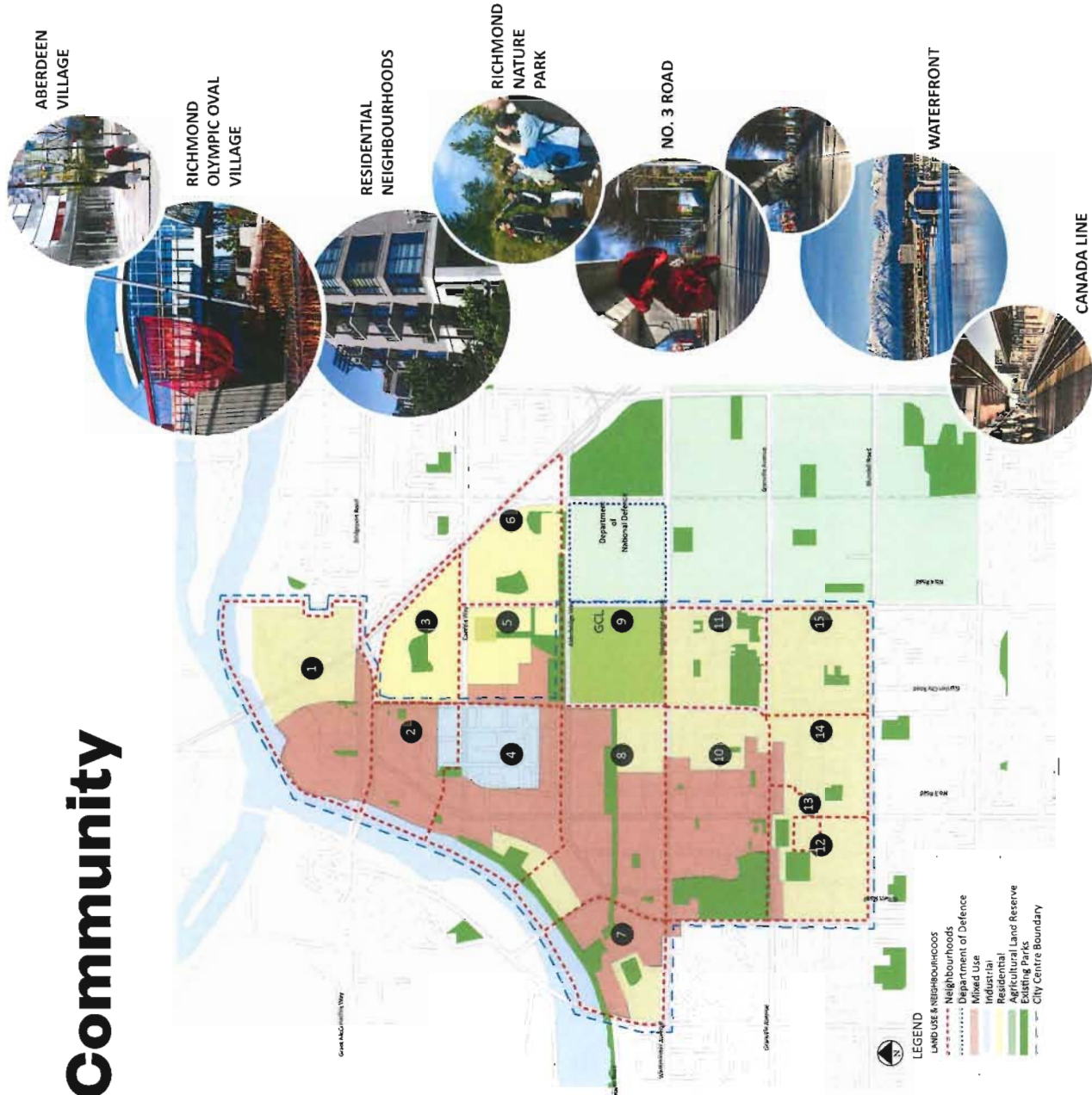
PRCS 28

The Lands will act as a transition between the urban areas to the north, west and south and the natural and rural landscapes to the east.

NEIGHBOURHOODS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Bridgeport Village | 11 | McLennan North |
| 2 | Capstan Village | 12 | Moffat |
| 3 | The Oaks Neighbourhood | 13 | Acheson Bennett |
| 4 | Aberdeen Village | 14 | St Albans |
| 5 | Alexandra Neighbourhood | 15 | McLennan South |
| 6 | Odin Neighbourhood | | |
| 7 | Oval Village | | |
| 8 | Lansdowne Village | | |
| 9 | ESA Strategy | | |
| 10 | Brighton Village | | |

CONTEXT





Parks & Open Space Network

Parks and public open spaces that capture the social and natural heritage, culture and landscapes help create a 'distinctly made in Richmond' open space network.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As the City Centre grows, its need for convenient, attractive park and public open space will likewise grow, from roughly 77 ha (190 acres) today to 118 ha (292 acres) by 2031 – an increase of 41 ha (102 ac).
- The City Centre will have a wide range of parks in the future to provide a diversity of experiences and landscapes.
- The Lands has the potential to become a signature destination park within the City and Region due to its location, size, unique ecology and Agricultural Land Reserve designation.
- It will also serve as a community and neighbourhood open space for the residents living and working in the surrounding neighbourhoods within an easy walking and cycling distance.

PRGS - 29
 Garden City Lands will provide an opportunity for something completely different and complementary to other park spaces both in the City Centre and Richmond as a whole.

1. RICHMOND NATURE PARK
 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION



2. MINORU PARK
 ACTIVE RECREATION & CULTURAL EVENTS



3. GARDEN CITY PARK
 PASSIVE RECREATION, NATURE PLAY AND DISCOVERY



4. THE OVAL
 OLYMPIC SPORTS CENTRE & MIDDLE ARM GREENWAY



LEGEND
 PAINS (with City Communities)
 Golf Course / Green Open Space
 Neighbourhood Parks
 Community Centres
 Future Parks



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS





Wellness & Active Living

Contact with nature and even simple green spaces with grass and trees have been shown to have profound psychological and physical benefits.

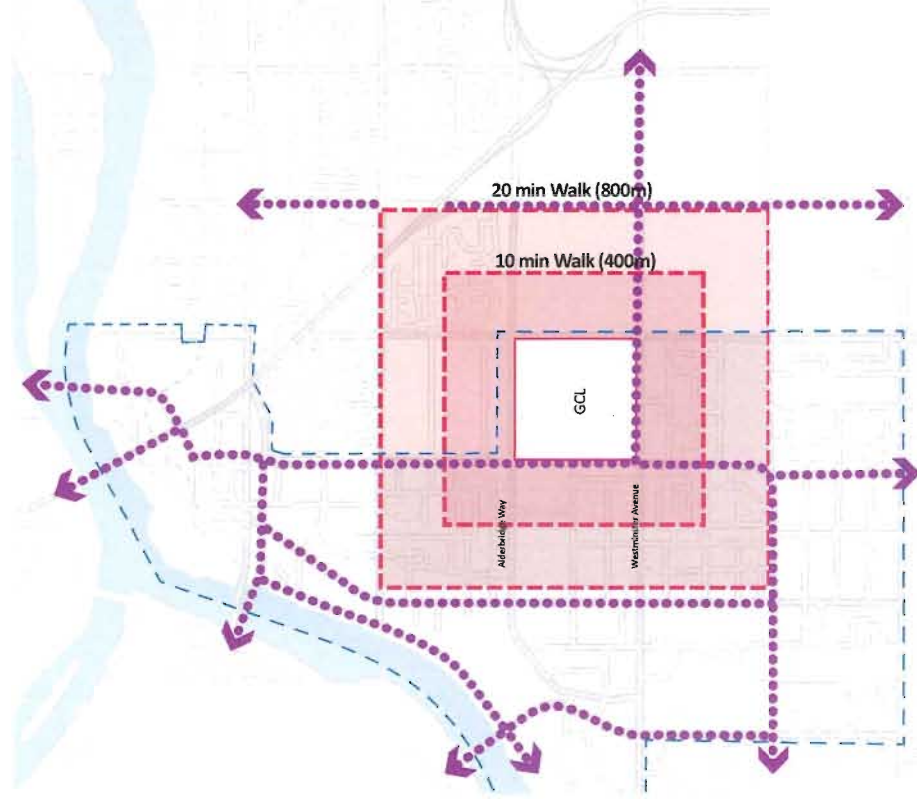
DID YOU KNOW?

- The number one recreational activity in Richmond is walking.
- Only a 2 km walk! Many of the City Centre residents, workers, students, and visitors will be within a 2 km walking distance of the Garden City Lands

- Linking People, Community and Nature
 - A key factor in creating a livable community is linking people to each other, to their neighbourhood, to their community amenities, and to nature.

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- Community cohesiveness is stronger where there is an opportunity to engage in informal social contact, to play together, and where people of diverse ages and backgrounds can engage in shared experiences.
- Being physically active can help increase strength and fitness, build self-esteem and confidence, and increase the likelihood of adopting healthy lifestyles.



LEGEND

- Pedestrian Access
- Walking Distance
- Sidewalk
- Bike Routes



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS



Some Ideas



PRCS 31



GARDEN CITY LANDS,
WHAT IS YOUR VISION?
...we want to know

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS





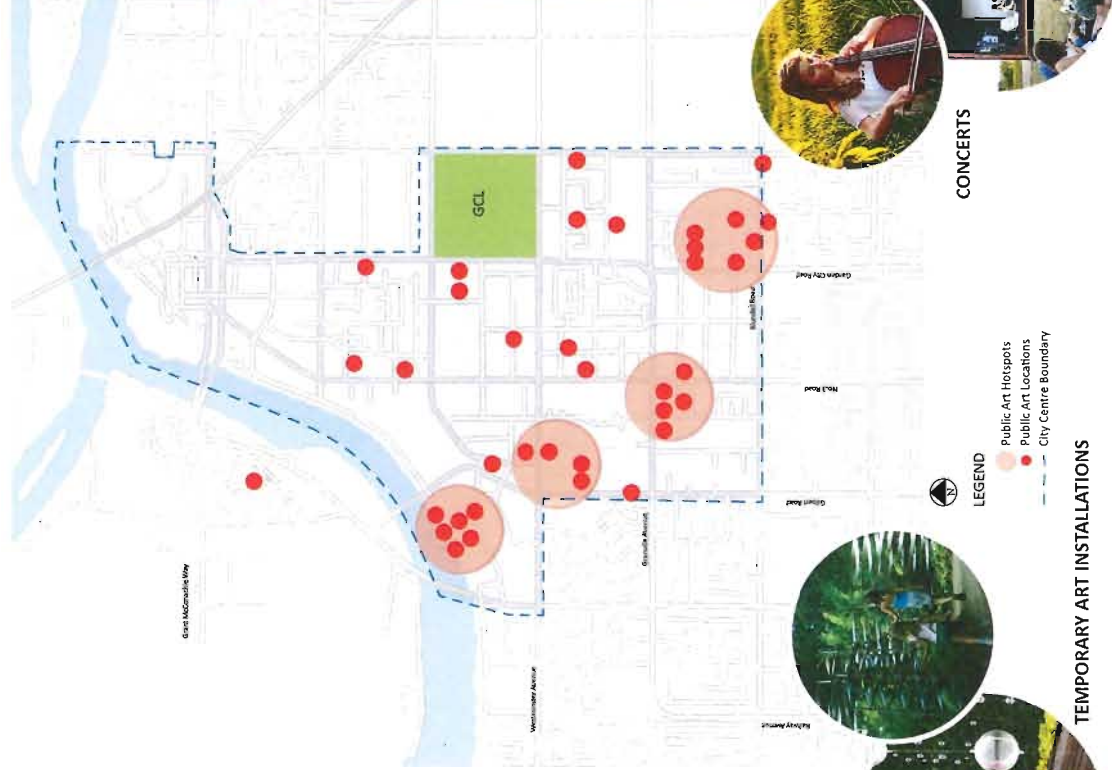
Placemaking

A great public space cannot be measured simply by physical attributes, it must serve people as a vital place.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Placemaking is a popular term used by many communities- for a good reason!
- It is about focusing on creating spaces that people enjoy, that are not only comfortable and safe but also memorable, vital, and build pride.
- Here is how people have described placemaking:
 - *“creating an environment that people gravitate to.”*
 - *“the process of giving space a story that is shared by many.”*
 - *“purposely creating character and meaning in a public space.”*
 - *“leaving a legacy for our children”*
- The opportunity for creativity and art can be integral to creating a Great Place. It is a way to spark our curiosity.
- Land-based artwork can heighten awareness of our relationship with the natural world by working with it.
- Incorporating art into functional things like benches or bridges helps interpret the world around us both in a serious and whimsical way.
- The arts provide an opportunity to build inspiring spaces.

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LAND ART



TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATIONS



CONCERTS

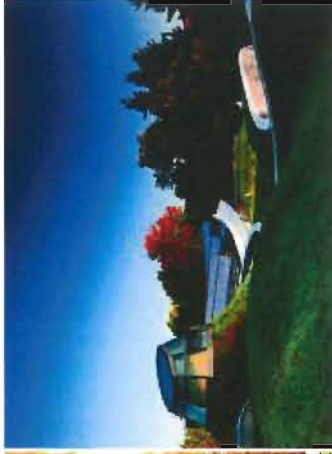




Some Ideas



PRCS - 33



GARDEN CITY LANDS,
**WHAT
IS YOUR
VISION?**
...we want to know

ARTS & CULTURE





Agricultural Land Reserve

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Province established the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in 1974 to protect British Columbia's dwindling supply of agricultural land.
- Richmond has significant amounts of agricultural land compared to most cities in the Lower Mainland. Nearly 39% (5,993 ha.) of its land base is protected within the ALR.
- Richmond has established many policies within its Official Community Plan to protect agricultural land and increase farm viability and manage the expansion of urban growth.
- The Garden City Lands have been protected in the ALR since 1974.
- According to historic land records, Garden City Lands has never been actively farmed.
- Permissible uses with the ALR have evolved over the years. For example, golf courses, once considered an acceptable use within the reserve, are now considered unacceptable.
- Permissible uses continue to evolve subject to new rulings and direction from the Agricultural Land Commission, the provincially-appointed agency that oversees the land reserve.

PRCS

What's permitted in the ALR?

The ALR Act sets out land uses which are permitted in the ALR. In addition to farming (the cultivation of crops and animals), other types of land uses are permitted such as:

- Ecological reserves
- Passive recreation
- Open Parkland
- Horticulture and nurseries
- Education and Research
- Construction of buildings necessary for farming
- Storage and farm retail sales of agricultural products if they are produced on the farm on which the storage and sale is taking place
- Agri-tourism



NATURE PARK



FARMING



AGRI-TOURISM & EDUCATION



CRANBERRY & BLUEBERRY FARMING



GOLF: NO LONGER A PERMITTED USE



Existing ALR uses currently in Richmond



COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS & CITY NURSERY

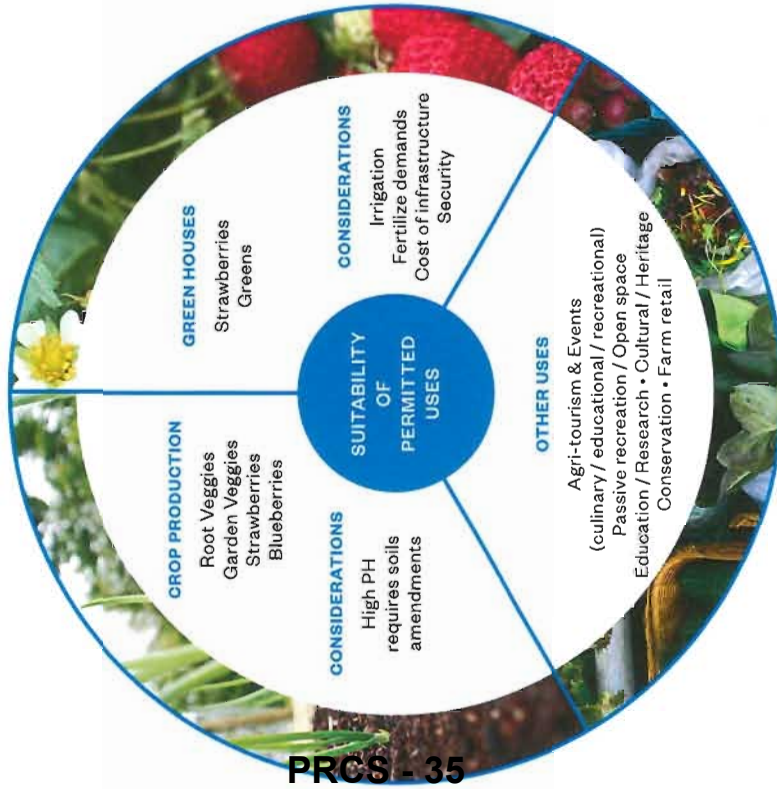


URBAN AGRICULTURE





Urban Agriculture



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DID YOU KNOW?

- According to historic land records, the Garden City Lands have never been actively farmed.
- The soils are generally good for farming yet the high acidity of the soils are currently only suitable for a narrow range of crops.
- Any potential crop farming will require amending the soils, such as, adding lime to the soils. Infrastructure upgrades, like, adding drainage and bringing irrigation to the property will also be needed. There is a cost to making these improvements to the site.
- Conservation and agricultural considerations are part of new movements such as Agroecology-food production that uses ecological principles respecting the land.
- There are many innovative and creative ways to look at urban agriculture. Determining what is suitable and viable for agriculture on these lands will need creative solutions and partnerships.

“Agriculture must mediate between nature and the human community, with ties and obligations in both directions”
 ~ Wendell Berry

- The City owns a number of other sites at Terra Nova Rural Park, the Gilbert Road City Nursery site, and the Gardens (the former Fantasy Gardens) that currently or will soon support farming programs and partnerships .
- Consideration will need to be given to how Garden City Lands complement these other existing City lands and programs.





Some Ideas




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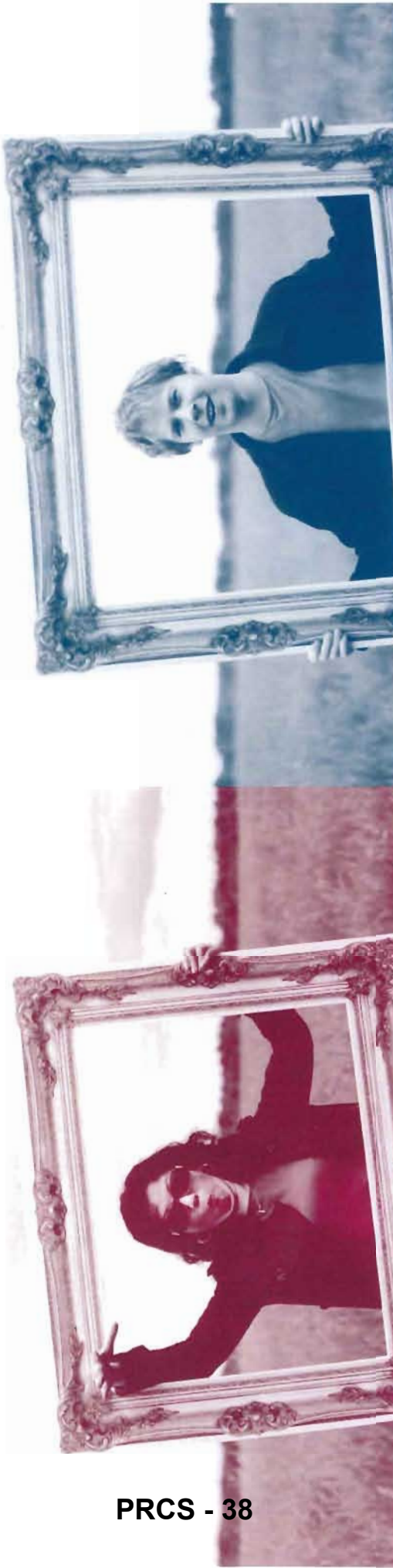
URBAN AGRICULTURE





create Garden
CityLands

a legacy



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create garden citylands
 what have we heard?
 Public Engagement Summary
 JUNE 2013



Prepared for: City of Richmond
 Prepared by: CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.

create **garden** **city** lands

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IV. STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP	16
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I. Executive Summary

This document is the result of a community and stakeholder ideas and visioning process for the Garden City Lands in Richmond, B.C.

The Garden City Lands is a 55-hectare (136 acre) open space acquired by the City of Richmond in 2010. It is located in the growing City Centre and is surrounded on three sides by urban development and on the fourth side by natural and rural uses. The Lands are provincially designated Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and are Conserved by the City.

As part of the ALR, the Lands have a limited array of permitted potential uses. Yet, within those parameters, and noting that the City's population is anticipated to grow to 212,000 by 2021, the Garden City Lands present to the community a unique opportunity to **create a legacy for the future of Richmond.**

City Council initiated a six step planning effort to help shape this rare opportunity. The work is to be concluded by 2014. As part of the first phase Site Analysis and Public Engagement, the City undertook an extensive investigation into the Land's history, its natural systems, and its potential role in supporting City-wide policies. The intent of the site analysis was to inform a subsequent and interactive dialogue between the community and stakeholders about the future of the Garden City Lands.

These initial steps of the process, including development of the 'Create Garden City Lands' logo & graphics standards, culminated in an Ideas Fair at the Lands on Saturday June 1, 2013 where over 650 participants learned about the City owned property and provided their ideas for the future. A further stakeholder workshop was undertaken on Thursday June 6, 2013 to obtain ideas and input from a variety of groups, and to provide specialized insights.

Further City-wide participation was encouraged and all the materials developed for the Ideas Fair and the Stakeholder Workshop were provided on-line through the project web site at creategardencitylands.ca.





IDEAS FAIR

The Ideas Fair was held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. It provided members of the public the opportunity to tour the Lands, and view the displayed series of informative stations. This culminated in a series of interactive and themed stations to develop a collection of ideas for the future of the Lands.

Over 650 people attended and provided input via:

- Over 200 questionnaires
- Hundreds of ideas on post it notes
- Numerous dots on preferred images
- 28 video thoughts
- 11 ideas on folded paper animals; and
- 40 written "Postcards from the Future"



VIDEO

During the Ideas Fair, video footage was shot to gain peoples' insight into their memories or their ideas for the future. Twenty-eight people stood in front on the camera to share their thoughts. Over one hour of video was condensed down to a 2-4 minute overview and will be available through the project web site.



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

A focused workshop was held on Thurs June 6, 2013 from 6:30 to 9:00. It was intended to build a shared understanding of the Lands and the various opportunities and constraints present. Specifically, the workshops served as an opportunity for community groups to express their values and visions for the site.

The inclusion of community groups in the public dialogue is valuable in building support for the process and fostering a sense of ownership of project outcomes. The discussion took into consideration the investment of time, energy and ideas previously made by the community in relation to the Garden City Lands.



EMERGING DIRECTIONS

Through the input gathered at the Ideas Fair, online, at the Stakeholders Workshop, and through discussions and letters - some consistent messages have emerged:



MEDIA COVERAGE

For this project, a community-wide/ media information campaign was undertaken including a 4-page newspaper wrap advertising the Ideas Fair in the Richmond Review and advertising in Sing Tao, Ming Pao and the World Journal.

The campaign generated coverage in a variety of local and regional news outlets, including extensive coverage in the Richmond Review and Richmond News and major Chinese language print radio and TV media. It also had feature coverage in the Vancouver Sun, News 1130, CBC, CKNW, Metro News and other outlets. Four media outlets attended the Ideas Fair and provided subsequent coverage. Media coverage also included an editorial cartoon by Graham Harrop in the Saturday, June 1st edition of the Vancouver Sun, as seen above.

In addition, invitations were mailed to 3500 residents in the surrounding area.

COMMUNICATIONS

As part of the process the City committed to an extensive communication program to inform the public about the Garden City Lands project and offer them opportunities to engage with the project. A dedicated website, creategardencitylands.ca was developed, along with a supporting Facebook page, Twitter account and dedicated project email.

A unique project logo and visual identity was also created. From May 15th to June 1, 2013 Daily Fast Facts were provided on the website, on the Facebook page, and distributed via Twitter in the lead up to the Ideas Fair. Background information on the history, the process, a photo gallery and information on the Ideas Fair were also provided on the project website. All the materials from the Ideas Fair including the questionnaire have been uploaded to the site and the Let's Talk Richmond online engagement platform. To date approximately 112 questionnaires have been filled in on line. There have been approximately 2,000 visits to the website.

1 IDEAS FAIR



1

5 DISCUSSION TOPICS

- AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE
- HERITAGE
- ENVIRONMENT
- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- CONTEXT

20

BOARDS

6 GAMES

TO SOLICIT IDEAS

1
STAKEHOLDER
WORKSHOP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GROUPS REPRESENTED



16 PARTICIPANTS

650+

IDEAS FAIR PARTICIPANTS

1,192

HITS TO THE WEBSITE

1,121

DOCUMENT DOWNLOADS

112

WEB FEEDBACK FORMS

227

PEOPLE ON THE EMAIL LIST

28



VIDEO IDEAS

1



VIDEO

220



FEEDBACK FORMS



II. Introduction

BACKGROUND

After close to 60 years of interest, the City of Richmond finally purchased the Garden City Lands in 2010. Acquired for community use, the City is now amidst a 6 step planning process to determine the future of the Lands. Given the vastness and strategic location of the Lands, this presents to the community a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to create a legacy park.

Knowing this, the City has undertaken the first few steps in its process - an extensive analysis of the Lands and its natural systems followed by an ideas-generating engagement effort with community residents and stakeholder groups. The intent of the public engagement process was to be as broad and inclusive as possible. While the site analysis continues, the summary of the initial engagement events is summarized through this report.

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INVENTORY + ANALYSIS

The City of Richmond engaged a series of experts to undertake site-specific inventories of the history and heritage of the land; vegetation analysis; biodiversity analysis; wildlife assessment; soils assessment; agriculture capability and suitability.

This work provided the basis for a series of informational display panels on the planning process; site heritage and history; and the ecology of the site.

Further analysis work was undertaken to inform of the surrounding neighbourhoods in the City Centre area; the relationship of the Garden City Lands to the existing parks and open space network; health and wellness; place-making and the ALR.

Opportunities and limitations were identified and streamlined into a series of "Did you Know" information sections for each of the information display panels.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

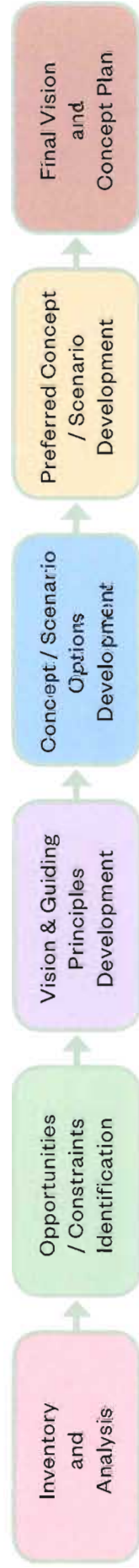
The informational panels were shared with the community at the Ideas Fair, the Stakeholder Workshop, and have remained on-line through the project web site.

The Ideas Fair was located on the Lands and provided the opportunity for people to experience the Lands first hand. It also provided the opportunity to see the views, the wide-open space, and the flora and fauna of the Lands. The ability to access the site was genuinely appreciated by the public attending, many doing so for the first time.

For the Stakeholder Workshop, post-it note brainstorming teased out the participants' thoughts on the values related to the Lands. This was complimented by graphic facilitation, where participants ideas are visually recorded, during a discussion on people's visions for the future.

The following pages provide more detailed information on both the Ideas Fair, Stakeholder Workshop, and the outcomes from the input gathered.

PLANNING STEPS





III. Ideas Fair

One of the objectives of the Ideas Fair was to engage people about their potential pre-conceptions of the Lands, inform participants on the opportunities and limitations inherent to the Lands and set them free to create and shape their ideas for the future.

GOALS

- Develop Community Awareness of the Garden City Lands
- Experience the Garden City Lands first hand
- Understand the parameters of the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Learn about the Ecology, Heritage, Context and the Planning Process
- Generate Ideas

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INFORMATIONAL DISPLAY PANELS

Informational display panels were developed to educate the community on the following Garden City Lands subjects:

- Planning Process & Framework
- Heritage & History
- Agriculture Land Reserve & Urban Agriculture
- The Environment & Site Ecology
- Surrounding Neighbourhood Context
- Parks & Open Space Context
- Wellness & Active Living
- Place-making



IDEA GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Below are descriptions of some of the Ideas Fair public engagement efforts focused on engaging with people, and generating discussions and valuable feedback.



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VISUAL EXPLORER GAME

The Visual Explorer™ game is a tool for creative conversations, using imagery. A wide variety of images were set out on a table. The images were tailored to those relevant to the Garden City Lands. Participants chose an image that inspired them. People then described why and what it meant in terms of the future of the Garden City Lands.

Comments voiced often by participants included:

- Preserve Nature
- Place for Picnics and Families
- Richmond Landmark
- Growing Food, Farm Tours
- Relax, Breath, Retreat



CREATE GARDEN CITY LANDS: THE GAME

Participants had the opportunity to show their creative side by working with various tools, such as post-it notes, tracing paper, coloured pens, Lego and small toys to describe what they envisioned at the Garden City Lands.

Themes that reoccurred when describing participants' creations included:

- Education and Interactive
- Wellness, peace, calm
- Natural - trees, plants, flowers
- Urban Agriculture, Community Gardens



VIDEO TO THE FUTURE

PRCS - 49 The video booth provided a window to the future. Participants held up a frame and provided their memories, comments and/or ideas for Garden City Lands.

A summary video is available through the website at creategardencitylands.ca.



FOLDING PAPER FUN

Drawing upon the Lands for inspiration, participants had the opportunity to learn the art of folding paper, creating animals, birds and shapes often found on the Garden City Lands, as a means of demonstrating the transformative power of creation. Some people drew or provided their thoughts on the final folded creations.

Two reoccurring comments included:

- A Park for All Ages
- Organic Agriculture



POSTCARDS FROM THE FUTURE

Participants were provided a postcard and asked to write or draw their vision as if they were in the year 2100. The messages shared describe what they saw at the Lands and how the Lands might look 100 years from now.

Popular messages from the future described:

- Preserved Park
- Community Pride, Ownership
- Walking Trails, Boardwalks
- Farming
- Iconic Destination



GARDEN CITY LANDS IMPRESSION TREE

The folded paper art, postcard & individual thoughts were attached to a string and hung on one of three trees to be shared with all those attending. The overall intent was to create a piece of temporary public art on the Lands during the event. The trees provided were re-planted in a street median the following week.



SITE TOURS

Site tours out onto the Lands were undertaken every 30 minutes guided by botanists and staff from the Nature Park. This provided the public with an understanding of the flora and fauna of the property. It also gave many attendees the first opportunity to experience the views, size and vastness of the Lands.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

In addition to those activities already identified, people were provided with a range of additional opportunities to provide feedback including:

- Questionnaires
- Sticky Notes
- Placing dots on images that resonated
- Verbal discussion with staff and the consultant team

The verbatim responses from all these opportunities were recorded and are available through the Appendix.

WHAT WE HEARD

Participants were asked "What did you learn today that you did not know before?". Bubble sizes correspond to the number of times each topic was indicated in feedback.



WHAT WE HEARD

Three possible themes have been previously identified for the Land by Council. However, other themes may be considered as well. We asked "How important are these themes to you?"

Members of the public were invited to rank the three major themes previously outlined by Council at the outset of the Garden City Lands. The intent of the question was to rank the three themes in order of importance, which most people did. Some people, however, chose to simply tick off the themes that resonated most to them. In either circumstance the order of importance remained similar.

The attendees were asked to describe other possible themes that might help shape the next phases of the process. Predominantly the "other" comments tended to focus more on uses than on themes including keeping it natural or as park.

Some further possibilities or future directions included provision of education, an art fair grounds, sports activities, and a zoo. Commercial or business development, an RV park, a hospital, and some form of Civic Centre were more intensive ideas identified. While all contributions are valued, it is noted that some of these other ideas are not consistent with the Agricultural Land Reserve parameters due to the intensity of development required.



1

ENABLING COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



2

DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



3

SHOWCASING URBAN AGRICULTURE

WHAT WE HEARD

Participants were asked "How would you create a legacy gift for all City residents? Tell us which of the following farm and non-farm activities permitted within the ALR you would support."



Ecological Reserve
(e.g. Richmond Natural Park)



Passive Recreation
(e.g. walking trails, boardwalks, bird watching, picnics)



Open Parkland
(e.g. community gathering spaces, community gardens)



Site-related Education and Research
(e.g. sustainability centre, farm school)



Crop Production
(e.g. root and green vegetables, berries, greenhouses)



Agricultural Tourism
(e.g. farmers markets, farm tours, farm retail)



Leave As Is
(e.g. for future generations)

QUOTES FROM IDEAS FAIR PARTICIPANTS

"23 years ago, there was nothing here in Richmond. Now there is too much development. Most people live in apartments. Need more public space."

"My grandfather used to tell me that this (land) was emergency landing for planes."

"More than once I have seen foxes in the GCL from my residence."

"I do biking a lot ... I like this wild place. It's hard to find such a place in an urban area ... the green grass, the blue sky, the yellow wild flowers and the birds together make a picture, which makes me very happy."

"Please come here in the morning during sun rise, the sun is up - the land gives you a lot of encouragement. Please love your land, where ever it is. Richmond is here because of this land!"

"The land was actually among the few things that attracted me to reside in Richmond in the first place. I'd like to see it still be there when I am old and my children bring back their children in the future."

"In 2006, when I was in ESL class, we had a discussion about this land. I said we could build a business centre, but now I say "NO WAY!"

"I grew up on Lansdowne Road. My mother used to send me to the bog with a little pale to pick some blueberries and she would bake a pie. In December I would take an axe in the bog and pick out a nice scotch pine for a Christmas tree ... hunters used to hunt pheasants in the bog and practice with clay pigeons. Used to be a lot of bird life, wild rabbits that had a lot of hiding spaces in the shrubs. One bad happening every late August and September was people smoking in the bog would drop lit cigarettes on the dry peat and start a bog fire that was impossible to put out. The October rains come and put the underground fires out."

"It was a wonder to see a coyote run along the GCL on an evening with a full moon - amazing sight in an urban area."

"Try to remember when you were a kid and your neighbourhood park- where you could do everything without all the rules and penalties."

WORKING TOWARDS A VISION

From the material collected through all questionnaires, sticky notes, postcards and folded paper elements a number of directions began to emerge:

- **Retain the Lands as Green:** Words and ideas related to this direction included preserving habitat and nature; enhancing water elements on the Lands; providing trees; encouraging birds and enhancing ecological networks.
- **Improve Access, Links and Connectivity:** This included walking paths around and through the Lands; cycling improvements and connections; and ecological networks.
- **Provide Health & Wellness Opportunities:** along with walking and cycling, opportunities for low impact outdoor exercise like tai chi were identified.
- **Maintain the legacy views:** People desire to retain the views and some open space especially to the mountains.

- **Incorporate Environmental Art &**

Cultural Experiences: The consensus was that arts, culture and place-making activities could occur on the Lands as long as they do not negatively affect the ecological health of the site. Performance space, festival space and land or agricultural art was identified as some of these complimentary opportunities.

- **Provide contemplative spaces:** Places to sit and view nature, picnic and experience the open space.
- **Consider an Education Centre:** Some form of education that incorporates agriculture or sustainability was seen as appropriate for the Lands. Related was the ability to have an agricultural teaching garden. Also some form of food services was indicated as a desire.
- **Incorporate youth and multi-cultural activities or opportunities:** youth participants in the Ideas Fair spoke of the Lands as one day serving their children, offering open space opportunities for multi-generations, across all cultures.
- **Incorporate Low Impact Agriculture:** Ideas related to this direction included community gardens, flower gardens, bee keeping, botanical gardens and interpretation; the opportunity to provide food to address food security.
- **Do something:** People loved the opportunity to come out onto the Lands and would like to see the City do something in the short term in relation to access and making use of the Lands.





IV. Stakeholder Workshop

BACKGROUND

Held on Thursday, June 6th, from 6:30pm to 9:00pm, the workshop brought together representatives from a number of community groups including the Advisory Committee on the Environment; Garden City Lands Conservation Society; the Heritage Commission; Public Art Advisory Committee; Richmond Food Security Society; Richmond Nature Park Society; Richmond Poverty Response Committee; Richmond Sports Council; S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; and Vancouver Coastal Health.

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Other invited groups that conveyed their regrets included Agricultural Advisory Committee; City Centre Community Association; Community Services Advisory Committee; Intercultural Advisory Committee; Richmond Chinese Society; Richmond Multicultural Society; and the Seniors Advisory Committee.

To augment the workshop conversations, the City also undertook separate meetings and conversations with representatives from the Richmond Sports Council, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the Richmond Centre for Disability.

WORKSHOP GOALS

- Build awareness of the current process
- Understand the core values of community group representatives
- Generate ideas for the future

GARDEN CITY LANDS STAKEHOLDERS' IMPRESSIONS

At the onset of the meeting attendees were asked for their spontaneous impressions of the Garden City Lands. These impressions were recorded. At end of the session, after the discussions, participants were asked if there were any further impressions they want to add. These impressions are highlighted as a "word cloud" at the end of this section with a discussion of the outcomes and the emerging directions.





PRESENTATION

For those not able to attend the Ideas Fair on Saturday, June 1, a brief presentation was provided to the group focusing on the project process and the context of Garden City Lands including the surrounding neighbourhoods, parks and open space, and arts and cultural elements.

Also presented was also specific information related to the Lands' history, its ecology and its designation within the Agricultural Land Reserve. It was identified that there will be further opportunities to provide input in future and subsequent phases of the process.

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VALUES DISCUSSION

Underpinning discussions about the Garden City Lands and their future use rests a set of community or intrinsic values. With an interest to identify those inherent values a series of interactive methods were used to obtain input and encourage discourse. Through which, participants spoke to why the Garden City Lands were important to them or their group and if there were specific ideals that should be integrated into future thinking on the Garden City Lands. From the group discussion a series of observations were identified.

- **Priceless** – the Lands have an intrinsic value even without anything on them
- **Unique** – the Lands are a unique asset due to their size, location and existing habitat
- **Preservation and conservation** – the Lands are home to distinctive ecosystems and species
- **Wellness** – the Lands are a natural space that can potentially foster physical, social, mental, spiritual connections between nature and people
- **Flexible** – Future use of the Lands need to ensure flexibility in the long term
- **Accessible** – the Lands need to be accessible to all ages, social, ethnic and economic groups
- **Community** – the Lands are a benefit to the overall community and needs to be well integrated into the community
- **Agricultural** – the Lands are a viable agricultural food production resource for the community
- **Historical** – the Lands have heritage that should be celebrated while planning for the future



VISION DISCUSSION

The second discussion of the Stakeholder Workshop focused on visions for the future. At times, the discussion focused on individual perspectives, and at other times reflected collaborative and shared perspectives. The synthesized ideas provide insights into potential future uses of the Lands.

Potential Visions for the Lands describe it as a place:

- To preserve natural, green, and diverse ecosystems and habitats
- That will strengthen the connections of nature and people, people-to-people and people-to-their-community
- For family, youth, seniors and multi-cultural groups to gather
- Where accessible trails, green-ways, paths and boardwalks are available to the community, and where water is enhanced and celebrated
- Where nature play spaces are incorporated without disturbing surrounding ecosystems

For education about the land - its history, sustainability and agricultural e.g. demonstration gardens

To incorporate interpretive features such as art, habitat, the bog, and First Nations

Of technological innovations like outdoor spaces for youth to plug in

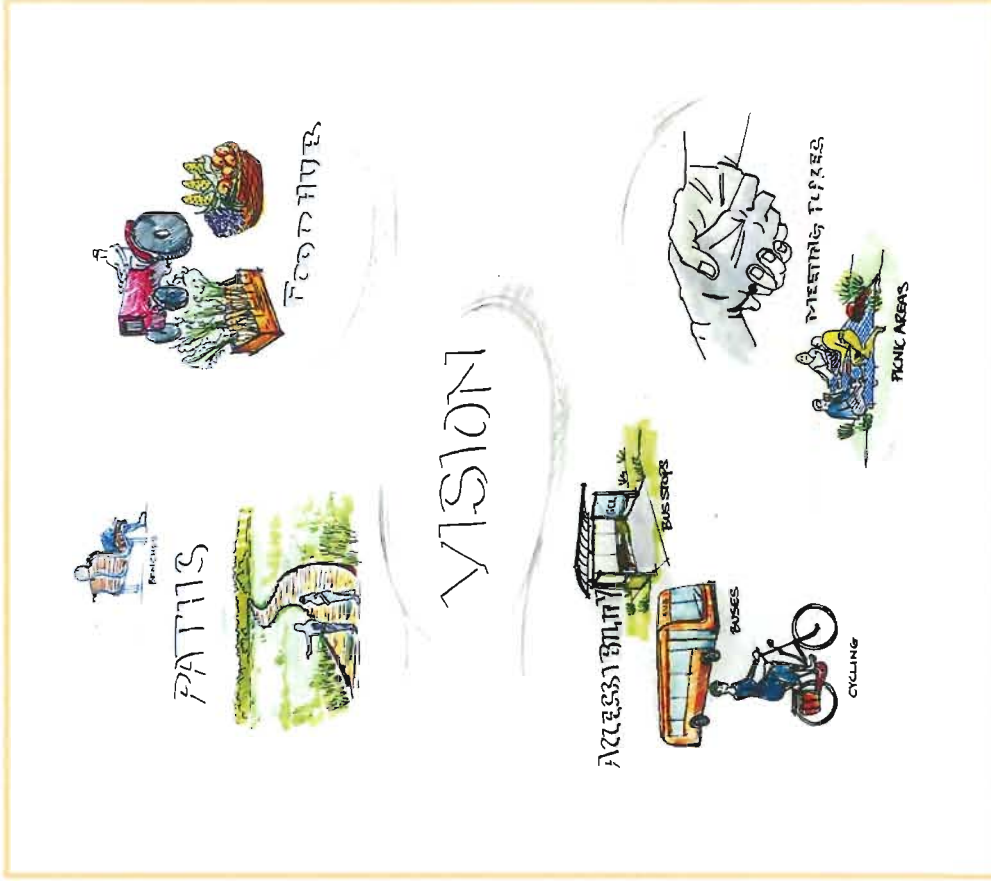
Where temporary events like outdoor films, music or art fairs can be held so long as they do not impact the Lands

For community farms and edible gardens as a food hub for sharing

To connect art and nature with the community

For social, spiritual and mental wellness

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VISION

PLACES & BUILDINGS
to support
SUSTAINABILITY
AS
RESEARCH
WINTER SPACES.



OPEN SPACE
WIDE OPEN
GOOD
VISUAL
LINKS



LISTEN
TO THE
LAND.



PLACES for YOUTH
and multi-occupies.



FILM



MUSIC



CONTRIBUTING to
SUSTAINABILITY
THRU INVENTIONS

PLACES for
FAMILY



Picnic
spaces

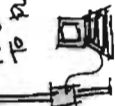
NATURE PLAY SPACE



- Healing Garden
- Boardwalk
- Art space - Poetry, Film
- Greenway

Link
Spaces

INCLUDE TECHNIQUES
PLACE FOR YOUTH
TO PLUG IN



ENGAGE
YOUTH

ZONED AS A
LINK



VISION

FARM ROAD /
DYKE TRAILS



LUNGS
of the CITY



MULTI-PURPOSE



LET'S USE IT COLLABORATIVELY

USES APPROPRIATE
TO THE LAND

POSS
NATURAL

WET AREA
- Birds
- Vegetation



INTERPRETIVE
FEATURE

COMMUNITY
FABRIC





V. Conclusions

The Ideas Fair was extremely well attended by City Centre and Richmond-wide area residents. The feedback on the event was overwhelmingly positive in terms of the information provided, the multiple avenues to provide feedback, and for many, the opportunity to visit the Lands for the first time.

The Stakeholder Workshop was representative of a cross-section of interests with additional conversations having been undertaken by the City to ensure as broad a spectrum of input, as possible.

Overall there were approximately fifteen ways to provide input and feedback, including on the "Create Garden City Lands" website, and through "Lets Talk" online. The project also has a Facebook page and a Twitter presence. The review and synthesis of all feedback includes:

Ideas Fair - 220 questionnaires, several hundred sticky notes, 40 post-cards, 28 video ideas, 11 thoughts on folded paper and hundreds of dots on preferred images.

Online input – 112 additional questionnaires

Stakeholder workshop input – 10 groups represented

City Discussions – 4 additional discussions with various groups

Letter/proposals – 6 provided to the City

Through all the input some consistent messages have emerged:

- Tread lightly on the Lands
- Provide a legacy for the future generations
- Preserve, conserve and enhance the natural and habitat assets
- Establish strong linkages and connections to and from the wider community
- Develop future uses collaboratively to include education, preservation, passive recreation and agriculture
- Build upon the values of the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Ensure limited human intervention
- Reflect the history and heritage of the Lands
- Incorporate social, spiritual and cultural gathering spaces
- Develop access in the short term without impacting future the Lands for future generations

The outcomes and emerging directions identified in this report, as well as the key messages outlined above, will form the basis for further refinement of the preliminary themes established by Council as the process progresses. The information will also provide the foundation for the development of a set of guiding principles to further shape the on-going community discussions about the Garden City Lands, its planning and its future.



Appendix



Garden City Lands Ideas Fair Questionnaire

Thank you for attending the Garden City Lands Ideas Fair. Your thoughts, ideas and comments are important as we kick-off this comprehensive community planning process to create a new legacy for the City of Richmond.

Please take a few minutes and complete this questionnaire before leaving today. You can also complete the questionnaire online or get more information by visiting www.creategardencitylands.ca.

What is your postal code? _____ Are you a City of Richmond Resident? Y N
Which neighbourhood do you call home? _____ Did you enjoy today's Ideas Fair? Y N
What did you learn today that you did not know before? _____

THINK QUIICK!

What words describe your FIRST IMPRESSIONS of the Garden City Lands upon arriving today?

What words would you use after having/learned more about the Garden City Lands today?

LETS GET STARTED

Below are three possible themes previously identified for the Lands by Council. However, other themes may be considered as well. How important are these themes to you? Please rank in order with 1 being the highest priority.

- ___ Community Wellness and Enabling Healthy Lifestyles
- ___ Showcasing Urban Agriculture
- ___ Demonstrating Environmental Sustainability
- ___ Other (please explain): _____

CREATE

How would you create a legacy gift for all City residents? Tell us which of the following farm and non-farm activities permitted within the Agricultural Land Reserve you would support:

- Crop Production (e.g. root and green vegetable, berries, greenhouses)**
- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support
- Agricultural-Tourism (e.g. farmers markets, farm tours, farm retail)**
- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support
- Ecological Reserve (e.g. Richmond Natural Park)**
- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support

Continued ▶



Passive Recreation (e.g. walking trails or boardwalks, bird watching, picnics)

- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support

Open Parkland (e.g. community gathering spaces, community gardens)

- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support

Site-Related Education & Research (e.g. sustainability centre, farm school)

- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support

Leave As Is (e.g. for future generations)

- Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat don't support Strongly don't support

Other (please explain)

INSPIRE

Is there a cherished memory or a story of the Garden City Lands you would like to share?

ENVISION

Close your eyes and tell us what you see

Today?

Tomorrow?

100 years from now?

Until **Saturday June 15, 2013** your completed questionnaires or comments can be sent to:

THE CREATE GARDEN CITY LANDS PROJECT

c/o Community Services Department
City of Richmond, 65699 Lynas Lane, Richmond BC V7C 5B2
Email: gardencitylands@richmond.ca

Also, don't forget to visit www.creategardencitylands.ca and register yourself for continued updates, and more fun facts about this extraordinary open space called the Garden City Lands.

