



City of Richmond
Administration

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Councillors
From: Ted Townsend
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
Date: February 29, 2008
File: 01-0185-01/2008-Vol 01
Re: **Garden City Lands Open Houses Public Input**

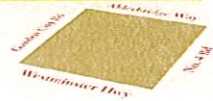
Please find attached the report on the public input received from the recent public consultation conducted by the partners to the Garden City Lands agreement.

The report includes summarized results from the individual questions posed, as well as copies of all the feedback forms received, which include additional written comments. As well, a summary of the consultation process and copies of all the materials used are also included.

This report will be posted on the City's website at www.richmond.ca/gardencitylands and will be included along with other written correspondence as part of the record for the upcoming Public hearing.

Ted Townsend
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications

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INTERIM CONSULTATION REPORT

Open House Consultation For Garden City Lands

February 2008

Prepared for:
City of Richmond, Canada Lands Company
and Musqueam Indian Band

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Richmond, together with the Canada Lands Company and Musqueam Indian Band, hosted a series of open houses in February 2008 to provide information about the Garden City Lands proposal, to educate the public on the Garden City Lands agreements and to encourage the public to provide input on the future of the Lands.

This phase of consultation involved three open houses held in Richmond, one at the Musqueam Indian Band Office, and two week-long public displays at the Musqueam Indian Band Office and Richmond City Hall.

1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the consultation and notification activities undertaken by the three partners (Canada Lands Company, Musqueam Indian Band and the City of Richmond) as part of the ongoing Garden City Lands public consultation program.

This report will also summarize the public input received throughout the open house period, which concluded February 15, 2008.

2.0 CONSULTATION PROGRAM

2.1 Open Houses

Between February 8 and February 15, 2008 a total of four open houses were held in Richmond and Vancouver.

There were also open house displays available for public viewing with feedback forms onsite between February 11-15, 2008 at both Richmond City Hall and the Musqueam Indian Band Office.

Representatives from the three partners as well as environmental and planning consultants were on hand for specified periods of time at each open house to answer the public's questions on the project. There were no formal presentations made at the open houses.

Eleven presentation panels were developed by the three partners.¹ The panels illustrated the history of Garden City Lands; details of the agreements between the three partners and background information on each partner; principles that will govern future development of the Lands; as well as possibilities for the Lands and next steps.

In addition to having translated materials on hand, a Chinese translator attended the Open House at Aberdeen Mall.²

Online feedback forms were also available on the City's website at www.richmond.ca/gardencitylands, along with complete open house display panels and Chinese translated materials.

¹ Open house informational panels are included in Appendix 1.

² Chinese material is included in Appendix 2.

The table below outlines the dates and times of the open houses, as well as the times the three partners were in attendance to answer any questions:

Open House Date and Time:	Location:	City of Richmond, Canada Lands Company and Musqueam representatives were on hand from:
Friday, February 8 10:00am – 9:00pm	Lansdowne Mall 5300 No.3 Road Richmond, BC	12:00pm – 2:00pm and 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday, February 9 11:00am – 2:00pm	South Arm Community Centre 8880 Williams Road Richmond, BC	11:00am – 2:00pm
Monday, February 11 11:00am – 7:00pm	Aberdeen Centre 4151 Hazelbridge Way Richmond, BC	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday, February 12 3:00pm – 6:00pm	Musqueam Band Office 6735 Salish Drive Vancouver, BC	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Monday, February 11 – Friday, February 15 8:15 am – 5:00 pm	Richmond City Hall 6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC	Display only
Monday, February 11 – Friday, February 15 9:00am – 4:30pm	Musqueam Band Office 6735 Salish Drive Vancouver, BC	Display only

2.2 Program Participation

A total of **498** people attended the open houses and participated in this phase of consultation.

The tables below provide a breakdown of attendance:

Open House Date and Time:	Location:	Number of Visitors:
Friday, February 8	Lansdowne Mall	218
Saturday, February 9	South Arm Community Centre	51
Monday, February 11	Aberdeen Centre	212
Tuesday, February 12	Musqueam Band Office	17
Total		498

3.0 NOTIFICATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Notification activities were undertaken by the three partners to provide advance notice about the open houses to members of the public. Notification activities included:

- Advertisements³
- Public Notices
- Media advisories

As well, a Garden City Lands page was created on City of Richmond website with open house details, additional background information and online feedback form. A special shortcut link (www.richmond.ca/gardencitylands) was created to make page easily accessible and this link was promoted in all advertising and publicity materials.

³ Advertisements are included in Appendix 3.

The table below outlines the print schedule of the ads placed in local media:

Newspaper	Publish Date	Circulation
Richmond News	February 1, 2008	46,650
Richmond Review	January 31, 2008	47,500
Sing Tao Daily*	February 1, 2008	50,000
World Journal*	January 31, 2008	40,000

*Ads were translated for the Chinese readers.

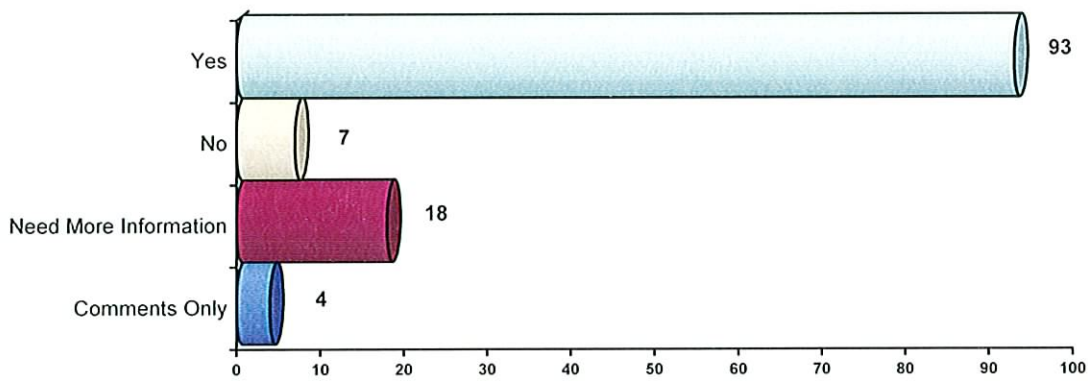
4.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Feedback forms were prepared by the three partners for the open houses. The feedback forms sought public input on the future of Garden City Lands. A total of 129 feedback forms, both online and paper versions, were submitted by the public in response to the open houses.⁴

The feedback forms were tabulated, and below is a detailed summary of the responses for each question. All feedback forms received have been included for individual review in Appendix 4.

Question 1

Richmond's City Centre Area Plan outlines the planned densification of the downtown core to accommodate a population up to 120,000 residents over the next 100 years. Based on this plan do you believe there will be a community need for large areas of parkland and green space in the city centre area?

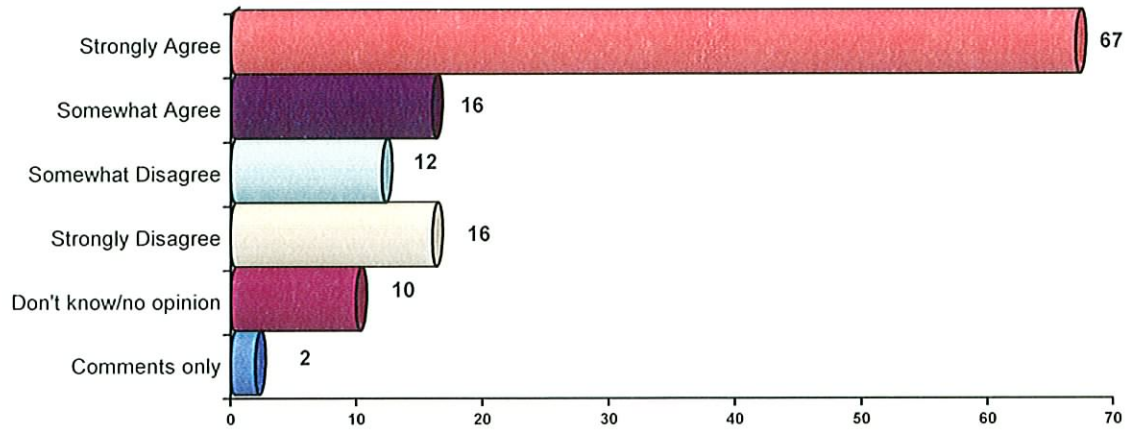


There were 58 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 1**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

⁴ Copies of all of the feedback forms are available in Appendix 4.

Question 2

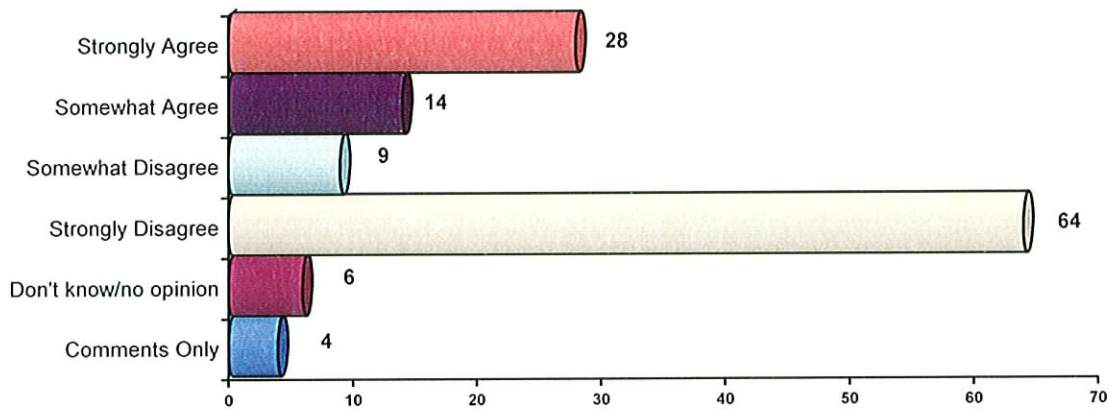
The Garden City Lands boundary on the current city centre area and lie adjacent to its main arterial roads and transit links. Given this, do you agree that the land would be the best choice to meet the city's future needs for parkland and green space?



There were 46 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 2**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 3

The planned densification of Richmond's city centre area aims to mitigate future urban sprawl. Given this and the \$10 million, 10-year agricultural endowment fund plus the limited agricultural viability of the land, do you agree that the removal of the Garden City Lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve will have an overall benefit to agriculture in Richmond?

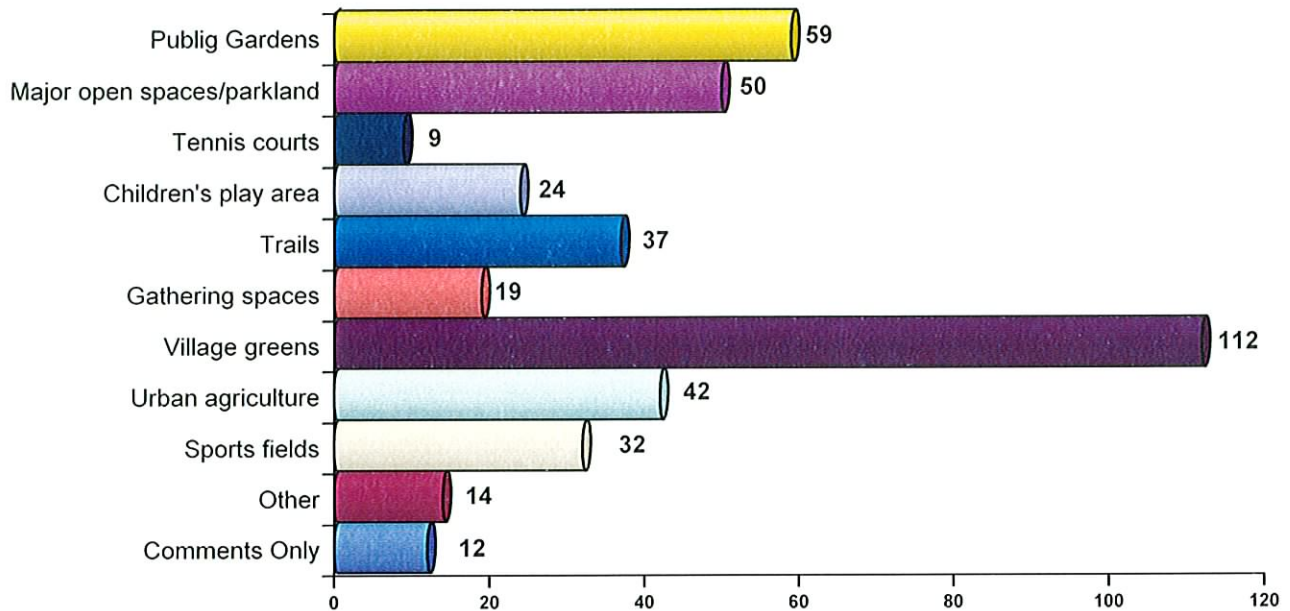


There were 49 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 3**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 4

Richmond Council endorsed Community Wellness and Enabling Healthy Lifestyles, Urban Agriculture and Showcasing Environmental Sustainability as Richmond's preferred uses on the City's portion of the Garden City Lands. Should the city's application to the Agricultural Land Commission on behalf of the three partners be successful and the land is removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve, which of the following elements would you like to see on the city's portion of the land?

(Participants were asked to circle their top 3 preferences)



All "Other" uses specified:

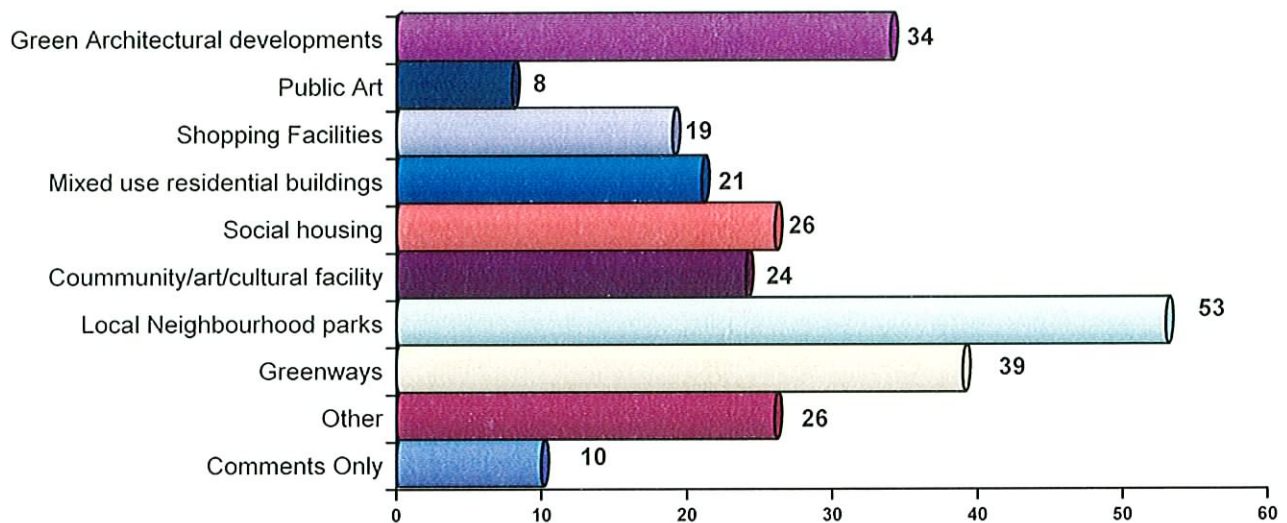
- Keep the lands in ALR/as is (6)
- A multipurpose use with a Musqueam Indian Band Interpretive Centre (1)
- Artificial Lake (1)
- Community Centre (1)
- Co-Op Garden Plots (1)
- Farm (1)
- Social housing (1)
- Kwantlen College Farm uses (1)
- Research centre for mentally ill and drug addicts (1)

There were 45 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 4**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 5

Should the city's application to the Agricultural Land Commission on behalf of the three partners be successful and the land is removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve, which of the following elements would you like to see on the Canada Lands Company and the Musqueam Indian Band's development portion of the land? What other uses would you like to see?

(Participants were asked to circle their top 3 preferences)



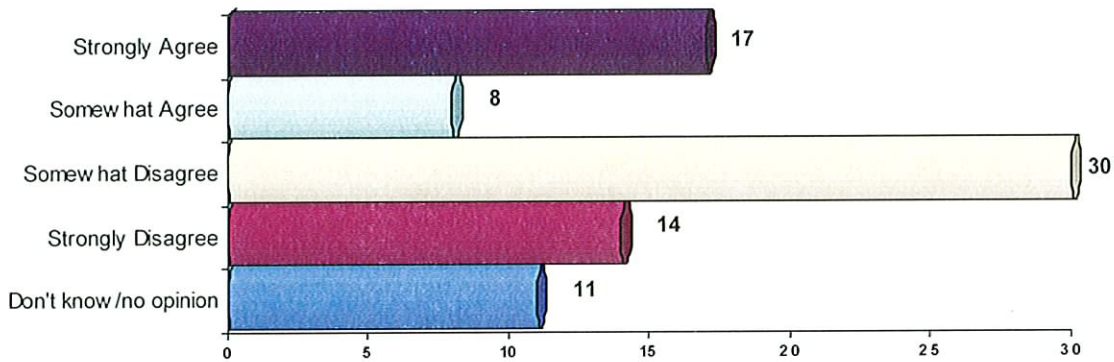
All "Other" uses specified:

- 100% green space and agriculture on Canada Lands Company and Musqueam share too. (1)
- A single contiguous park under ALR is the best (1)
- All ALR permitted community uses (1)
- Keep land in ALR (1)
- Urban Agriculture, A community farm (1)
- Urban agriculture, major open space/parkland and public gardens (1)
- Use for agriculture (1)
- Farm (2)
- Farmers Market Space and community gardens. (1)
- Gardening plots to allow city dwellers to connect (1)
- None of the above (3)
- None of these - this needs to stay as ALR (1)
- NONE - no development! (1)
- Public gardens/parkland (6)
- Rehabilitation Facilities focused on native people (1)
- Sports fields (1)
- Cemetery (1)
- Community police centre (1)

There were 41 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 5**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 6

The principles of “Smart Growth” involve urban development approaches that are socially, environmentally and fiscally responsible. The Smart Growth principles are: building a complete community; building green; building economic vitality; and fostering a legacy. The agreement between the three partners will allow the City of Richmond to follow these Smart Growth principles on future development of Garden City Lands. Do you support future development of Garden City Lands based on the Smart Growth principles?



There were 41 additional comments recorded in the comment area provided in **Question 6**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 7

Describe your vision for the future of the Garden City Lands

There were 106 additional comments recorded in the answer area provided in **Question 7**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

Question 8

Is there anything else you would like us to take into consideration?

There were 69 additional comments recorded in the answer area provided in **Question 8**. Please see Appendix 4 for complete details.

5.0 NEXT STEPS: ONGOING CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION

This is only one phase of public consultation on the future of the Garden City Lands. Richmond City Council will convene a Public Hearing on the Garden City Lands issue on March 11, 2008.

Other opportunities for public comment will occur as part of the Block Application process through the Agricultural Land Commission. If the Block Application is successful, public consultation will be incorporated into the master planning process prior to any submission to the City to develop the Garden City Lands. Furthermore, public consultation is required as part of the municipal regulatory process to amend the Official Community Plan and Rezoning Application.

In addition, the City of Richmond has established an email address to respond to project related questions.

The three partners will continue to provide the latest project information the city's website www.richmond.ca/gardencitylands.