

I'm Jim Wright, 8300 Osgoode Drive, speaking for the Garden City
Conservation Society on Item 3, Garden City Lands Up

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the
Parks, Recreation & Cultural
Services Committee meeting of
Richmond City Council held on
Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Councillor Steves and all Council members,

As a visual aid, you have copies of our Garden City Lands
PARC concept. I should mention that PARC, P-A-R-C, stands for
Parkland for Agriculture, Recreation and Conservation because
our central park can be 100% for Agriculture, 100% for
Recreation and 100% for Conservation.

It is a pre-planning concept graphic from over four years
ago, *not* a plan. It shows givens and near-givens.

First, *congratulations* on the Garden City Lands funding and
the intent to start on the perimeter trail, which we see as an
ALR farmroad dike trail. Garden City Conservation has *not*
been consulted much, but the city *will still* benefit if we *are*
consulted, starting with the trails. The graphic shows them as
(1) the perimeter trail a little in from the arterial roads and (2)
eco-trails where additional *diking* is needed. For water
management reasons they *all* need to be planned at this time.

In the graphic, we only showed uses based on what the city
had looked at. Perhaps surprisingly, we didn't show an eco-trail
between the hub hub and the other eco-trails. It *is* needed, but
at that time no *specific* spot was a near-given for its diking effect.

As a quick aside, the *whole* Garden City Lands is a *hub* in the
City's environmental strategy, so we've used another label for
the *hub* of the *hub*.

The diking effect of the ALR farmroad trails is crucial, but the
elevated clean clay soil in the northwest corner *already* has
that effect. In that one area, agriculture could be feasible *soon*
without the flood and drainage problems that the later diking
will address.

In the PARC concept graphic, that northwest corner is shown as “Urban agriculture research and education” because Kwantlen Sustainable Agriculture has always indicated it fits their concept. That goes back to when council directed staff to study the Kwantlen concept on 48 acres of the Garden City Lands in February 2008. *The Kwantlen assessment is clear proof that the northwest corner is suited to agriculture.* The city should **not** have misled the Agricultural Land Commission about it, as the ALC letter of April 2014 *seems* to imply.

To add to the concern, the park graphics that the city presented in public engagement all show sports fields in that corner with “Community Fields” labels, and the City’s bit of soil testing on the Lands skipped that area. Misuse of that very agricultural ALR land would be another lost legacy.

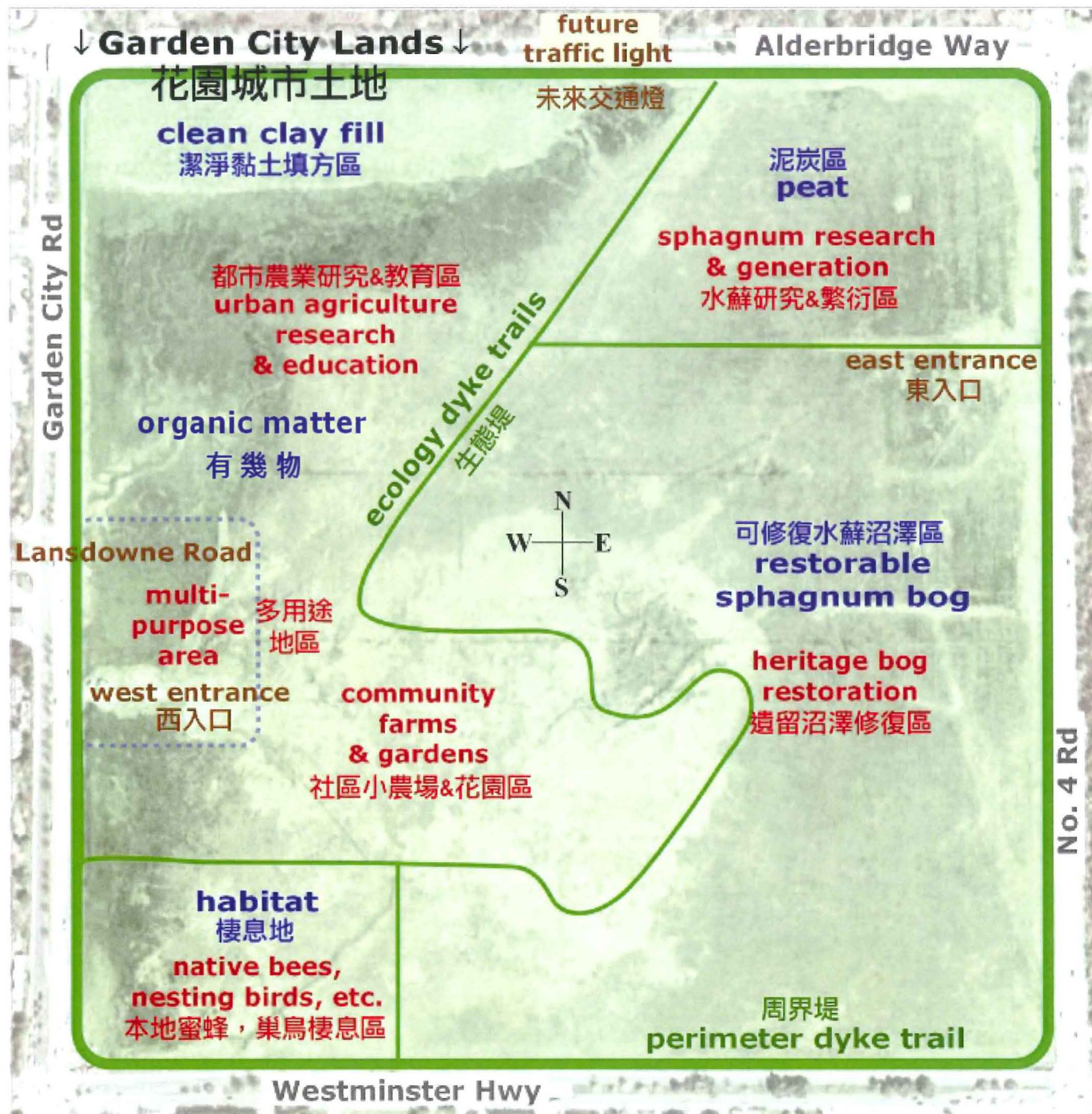
By the way, experts like Arzeena Hamir have always seen a partner like Kwantlen as a key component for the community’s agricultural success on the Lands. Arzeena is a Professional Agrologist who was closely involved in the Terra Nova Sharing Farm success. She was the main writer of the Sustainable Food Systems Park concept —presented to council in early 2007— *which made that point.*

The people have always seen the Garden City Lands as ALR parkland, and the City now professes to agree. We need the City to put that intent into action.

You may wonder why the clear sleeves holding the handout are sealed at the *top*. It keeps the contents dry on eco-tours. You’re invited to the next one, joining Anita Georgy and Marie Fenwick, two good consultants. It’s on Wednesday, June 3rd from the East Entrance at 4:20 pm, Even if you’ve taken part before, we learn something new every time. I’ll send details.

Parkland for Agriculture, Recreation & Conservation

農業，娛樂，保護多功能公園土地



Blue 藍色 = existing condition 現存狀態

Green 綠色 = existing & logical borders & their fitting functions 現存合理的邊界及適用功能

Brown 棕色 = existing entrances & logical future entrances 現存入口及合理的未來入口

Red 紅色 = fitting uses for parts ("multi-purpose" includes ALR-permitted buildings & parking)
適宜用途 ("多功能" 包括農業用地保護法允許範圍內的建築和停車場)

Listening to the Garden City Lands = PARC

This discussion is illustrated by the PARC graphic. Park stands for Parkland for Agriculture, Recreation & Conservation.

When we look and listen, the Garden City Lands tell us what's good for them.

In the graphic, the underlying image is a satellite view in rainy season. Wetter areas look darker. Notice, for example, the light "clean clay fill" in the northwest corner and the darker—and wetter—lower-lying land south of it.

More subtly, several of the labeled areas convey the close-range view of Michael Wolfe, who knows and loves the ecology of the lands. He spent time with them in the spring to map where he found native species, streams, and more.

A few streams caught the satellite's eye, but Michael located a hidden one with banks of abundant cloudberry and sphagnum. It's east of the green "ecology dyke trails" label and parallel to it, easy to miss but well worth conserving.

Aspects like that are the lands' way of showing us the "restorable sphagnum bog," which can be saved with dyking that holds in the acidic bog water and lets precipitation raise the water table. Michael was recording Nature's wishes when he drew a slanting and winding western border, which could be the future route of a dike trail.

In the northeast, Michael found none of the living sphagnum moss that enables a sphagnum bog. Still, it remains a field of ancient peat. With the right planting method and water levels, that's an ideal base for regenerating sphagnum. The city would witness the rebirth of a bog in its midst.

Although the bog ecosystem of the Garden City Lands is in critical shape, the published resources of the Canadian Peat Moss Association prove there are Canadian experts who could help. Also, the 2008 *Lulu Island Bog* book describes efforts to save bog remnants east of the Garden City Lands, and we can learn from the scant success. Leading-edge care is essential. Deep commitment will enable full recovery.

Agriculture expert Kent Mullinix says the higher land in the northwest is suited to orchard trees and farm animals, which would rather not stand in water. South of that, the soil is more organic. With drainage, it can become productive for growing.

The areas for agricultural education and community farms and gardens could be crisscrossed by a trail system designed to feed visitors' interest while prompting respect for what others grow.

The Garden City Lands have cousins, the Terra Nova Rural Park and Natural Area far to the west, role models to imitate in adapted ways. Farming groups outgrowing the Terra Nova Sharing Farm in the rural park would make good early adopters of community farms on the lands, and Food Bank clients might be able to help grow their food there.

In time, the 120,000 people who will be jammed into the city centre may require 25 acres for community gardeners on the lands. They'd grow culturally good food, chat with their garden neighbors and passers-by, and savor the settings of mountains and woods.

Around the west entrance, the most disturbed part of the lands is labeled "multi-purpose area." Clean clay fill, which would be brought in for trail-bearing dykes, could also extend the existing firm ground. That would suit buildings like a multi-purpose community barn and farmgate market, along with a little parking.

In the southwest corner, nesting birds and native bees reminded Michael that the water conditions and vegetation there are just right for them. Bee expert Brian Campbell tells us that native bees are best for pollinating native plants. Some species don't fly far from their nests, but they can be helped to find homes where their work is needed. For natural harmony, the "habitat" corner calls for distinct handling.

Those who listen to the Garden City Lands love to share the joy. They envision peaceful gathering places, tai chi beside reservoir lakes, theme playgrounds, lookouts, and lots of interpretive signs on all-weather trails for walking, cycling, and access.

By B.C. law this ALR land is agricultural, by nature it cries out for conservation, and as green wellness space in the city centre it's vital for recreation. So the Garden City Lands can be a great "PARC," which is more than a nod to bilingualism *en français*. As PARC, they're Parkland for Agriculture, Recreation & Conservation for community wellness.

The prospects are exciting. When we listen to the lands, enthusiasm is natural.

聆聽花園城市土地= PARC

以下文字可由 PARC 的圖示作進一步說明。PARC 代表農業，娛樂及保護多功能公園用地。

讓我們來一起觀察和聆聽，花園城市土地將告訴我們什麼對他們有益。

圖中的圖像是一幅雨季衛星視圖。更潮濕地區看起來較暗。例如，位於西北角的“潔淨粘土填方區”顏色淺，位於其南邊的更潮濕的低窪土地顏色較暗。

更細微之處是，圖中幾個標示的地區傳達了 Michael Wolfe 所觀察到的近距離景象。他了解並熱愛這塊土地的生態環境。今年春天，他在這裡用了許多時間，在地圖上標示出他找到的本地生物種，小溪，等等。

衛星圖還撲獲到幾條小溪，但 Michael 发现一处隱蔽的流水，那里生长着成排的大量的野生黃莓和水蘚沼澤。它位于绿色“生态堤道”标签以东并与其平行，容易错过，但值得保护。

以上幾處是花園城市土地展示其“可修復水蘚沼澤區”的方式，可通過堤壩阻擋酸性沼澤，讓沉澱提高地下水位的方式加以保護。當 Michael 描畫出一條傾斜，彎曲的西部邊界時，他是在記錄大自然的願望，這可能是一條堤道的未來路線。

在東北地區，Michael 沒有發現任何可以生成水蘚沼澤的現存泥炭蘚。盡管如此，它仍為一個擁有古老泥煤的地域。運用正確的種植方法和水位，這是一個再生水蘚的理想基地。我們的城市將見證一塊沼澤在其地域深處的再生。

雖然花園城市土地的沼澤生態系統正處在緊急的情況下，加拿大泥炭蘚協會公布的資源顯示將有加拿大的專家可以提供幫助。此外，《2008 年露露島沼澤》一書描述了挽救位於花園城市土地東部的沼澤殘余的努力，我們可以借鑒其有限的成功。有前瞻性的看護必不可少，深度的努力將帶來全面的復蘇。

農業專家 Kent Mullinix 說，西北地區的高地適合果樹和家畜的生長，因為他們不喜歡泡在水裡。其南部的土壤更為有機，排水之后，它將具有生產力，適宜種植。

農業教育和社區農場花園的領域可通過試驗體系交叉進行，該體系將培養游客的興趣，同時促進人們對他人種植物的尊重。

花園城市土地的兄弟發展地區，特拉諾瓦鄉村公園(Terra Nova Rural Park) 和位於較遠西邊的自然區都是可以效仿的榜樣。特拉諾瓦鄉村公園的共享農場中裝不下的農耕小組將成為這塊土地上社區農場的早期接管者，而食品銀行的客戶或許可以幫助在城市土地上種植他們的糧食作物。

隨著時間的推移，被迫進入擁擠的市中心區的 12 萬人可能需要這塊土地中的 25 英畝用於社區園林栽培。他們會種植培育良好的食物，同花園的鄰居和路人聊天，並欣賞高山和樹林的景觀。

在西入口附近，受擾最多的一部分土地被標志為“多用途地區。”清潔粘土填方可用於路徑堤壩的建設，也可以擴展現有的堅實地基。這將適於構建多功能社區谷倉和農貿市場等，外加一個小型停車場。

在西南角，巢鳥和本土蜜蜂提醒 Michael 那裡的水分條件和植被對他們十分適宜。養蜂專家 Brian Campbell 告訴我，本土蜜蜂是給本地植物授粉的最佳選擇。某些品種不會飛到遠離他們巢穴的地方，但可以幫助他們在需要其工作的地方安家落戶。“棲息地”角落需要獨特的關照以實現自然的和諧。

那些聆聽花園城市土地的人們樂於分享其喜悅。他們憧憬寧靜的聚會場所，水庫湖邊的太極，主題游樂場，瞭望台，四季皆宜的適於步行，自行車騎行的道路，以及大量的有教育意義的說明標志。

根據卑詩的法律，這片農地儲備土地（ALR）為農業區，其本質決定其急需保護。同時作為市中心的綠色健康空間，它對人們的休閒生活至關重要。因此，花園城市土地可以成為一個了不起的“PARC”，這不僅僅是用法語詞匯表達對雙語的支持，如果這個詞 PARC 所代表的：農業，娛樂，及保護多功能公園土地。

前景令人振奮。當聆聽這片土地時，我們的熱情油然而生。