

From: Sharon MacGougan, President, Garden City Conservation Society, Richmond
To: Special Planning Committee meeting, September 22, 2021
Re: 2022 Lulu Awards in Urban Design

Dear Planning Committee,

The Garden City Conservation Society strongly supports and welcomes the proposed new category **Ecological Design and Innovation** to our city's **Lulu Awards in Urban Design**. We are pleased with the thoughtful and substantive criteria that this category would encompass.

Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse is considered one the five top risks according to the **World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risks Report**. This is not a faraway problem; it is happening in every city and in every neighbourhood.

According to the **State of the Birds Report 2019**, three billion birds have been lost since the 1970's. The main reason is habitat loss. Some of these are common backyard birds, the ones many of us have grown up with. Unless serious efforts at mitigation of ecological loss are made, these birds will disappear forever. That's a big loss for our future generations and it is up to us to ensure this does not happen.

We need to honour and celebrate those developers who have taken on this challenge, the ones that incorporate nature into their planning instead of shutting it out.

Richmond is located on the Fraser Delta, which is considered a **Key Biodiversity Area** (nationally identified site that contributes significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity). What we do in Richmond to protect or restore biodiversity matters. It certainly matters to the birds, who are, by their very existence, part of our larger family.

The big question of how to mitigate ecological loss is not an easy one to answer, but every effort that is made towards this end helps. We are grateful that our Planning department acknowledges the importance of ecology and biodiversity within their Lulu awards. It is a positive step forward!

In conclusion, I give **Birds Canada** the final word on this:

Birds Canada fully supports the City of Richmond in implementing progressive, bird-friendly initiatives. To that end, we also support the Garden City Conservation Society and the idea of including an ecological category in the Lulu Awards in Urban Design. We sincerely hope that the design award can include such a category in the interests of wildlife and their habitat.



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