



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: November 15, 2023

From: Todd Gross
Director, Parks Services

File: 11-7200-20-01/
2023-Vol 01

Re: Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan Guiding Principles and Next Steps

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan Guiding Principles as outlined in the staff report titled "Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan Guiding Principles and Next Steps," dated November 15, 2023, from the Director, Parks Services, be endorsed; and
2. That staff proceed with Phase 2 of the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan.

Todd Gross
Director, Parks Services
(604-247-4942)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation & Sport Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

In 2004, Council endorsed the Terra Nova Concept Plan and received the Terra Nova Conservation Review in 2014. In December 2015, Council endorsed a Capital Budget Submission for the Park Characterization of Terra Nova Rural Park (the Site) for the purposes of activating the park with programming. With capital funding approved by Council, staff initiated the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan (Program Plan) process.

The Program Plan is currently nearing the completion of Phase 1, with the drafting of the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan Guiding Principles (Guiding Principles) and beginning the community engagement process. The Guiding Principles will inform the ongoing development of the Program Plan and be a continual reference during the planning process.

The purpose of this report is to outline the next steps in the process and seek Council's endorsement of the proposed Guiding Principles.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

1.3 Increase the reach of communication and engagement efforts to connect with Richmond's diverse community.

1.4 Leverage a variety of approaches to make civic engagement and participation easy and accessible.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.

6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.

Analysis

Background

The 63-acre Site is the result of a long history of community involvement starting in the late 1980s with preserving the former farmland for park purposes. Preservation of the Site culminated in 1996 with a referendum approving the acquisition and development of Terra Nova as a park.

While this land was being assembled, an inventory and analysis of the biophysical, historical and landscape character features were completed. This information was invaluable in identifying and assessing the cultural and ecological values of the different parts of the park and were used as the background context for the development of the Terra Nova Concept Plan in 2004.

Consistent with the 2004 Terra Nova Concept Plan, this community-wide park has evolved to focus on stabilizing, preserving and enhancing the environmental and cultural assets of the landscape. This included daylighting the buried slough, constructing the community gardens and the Sharing Farm, creating universally accessible paths, implementing way-finding signage, installing public art, constructing the Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment, and the restoration of several assets in the Terra Nova Historical Area. The park also hosts recreational assets and activities including the Terra Nova Nature School, a preschool and fresh air-learning program operated by the Thompson Community Association, as well as nature-based programming including Barn Owl and Tree Swallow nest boxes. The Sharing Farm Society and Urban Bounty host popular food security and urban agricultural activities for Richmond residents and contribute to the Site's stewardship.

The Terra Nova Historical Area refers predominantly to the land in the northwest quadrant of Terra Nova. This location is historically significant due to its historical use by the Musqueam First Nations. In the late 1800's, migrants from the Maritimes and Japan, along River Road also settled in the area.

The historical features of the area include historical buildings, remnants from agriculture and fishing-related past uses, and a cultivated landscape highlighting early settlement and development on Lulu Island.

Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan

The purpose of the Program Plan is to identify priorities and strategies to allocate space to present and future users for the heritage buildings, other underutilized buildings, and the cultural landscapes within the Site. Preservation, adaptive re-use and equitable allocation of these assets will result in an increased level of service for Richmond residents to a broad range of community partners.

The Program Plan will provide recommendations for potential facility upgrades of the existing built assets for future program use. A decision making process that will provide staff with a clear, open and transparent way to evaluate future program proposals provided by present and future community partners will be developed. Additionally, a framework will be created, allowing staff to evaluate the needs of community partners in comparison to the capacity of the

park's indoor and outdoor spaces to support their activities. Ultimately, the intent of the Program Plan is to find a balance where the Site is utilized to its maximum capacity, providing a broad range of programming options in alignment with the Terra Nova Concept Plan while respecting the capacity of the parks' built and natural assets to host users, events and programs.

Park Historical Assets

The Site is home to a number of historical park assets. They are a part of the Program Plan because they either host current uses or will potentially be utilized in the future based on their capacity and potential program needs. The assets the Program Plan will include are:

1. Parsons House (2640 River Road): listed on the Heritage Inventory and also on the Heritage Register. It is currently unrestored and vacant;
2. Edwardian Cottage (2680 River Road): listed on the Heritage Inventory and fully restored. Currently used by Thompson Community Association for the Terra Nova Nature School;
3. Cannery Store (2760 River Road): listed on the Heritage Inventory with external rehabilitation work completed, but the interior is unrestored and vacant;
4. Mellis House (2840 River Road): listed on the Heritage Inventory and also on the Heritage Register. Currently unrestored, in very poor condition and vacant; and
5. Natural park assets (throughout the park and along River Road): view corridors and natural landscape assets including meadows, wooded areas, drainage ditches, hedgerows, the slough and historical pilings: currently not interpreted.

A heritage conservation review of the buildings and other historical assets on the Site was conducted in 2014, and although they have significant historical value, they currently do not hold formal heritage designations. These assets have been identified by staff and considered by Council as a major facility project in the next 10 year timeframe.

Additional Park Assets

In addition to the abovementioned historical assets, two other assets fall within the Site that have been included in the Program Plan to ensure alignment of future uses for the Park as a whole. These assets include:

1. Terra Nova Red Barn (2631 Westminster Highway): multipurpose room and commercial kitchen rented by community partners; and
2. City-Owned Home (2380 Westminster Highway): a recently acquired residential house that is vacant.

A map showing the included assets in the Program Plan can be seen in Attachment 1.

Program Plan Development Process

The development of the Program Plan is comprised of three phases. They are:



We are currently at the end of Phase 1 of the planning process. In order to further proceed with the Program Plan, Council’s consideration and endorsement of the Program Plan Guiding Principles is required.

Program Plan Guiding Principles

The eight Guiding Principles (below) will inform the development of the Program Plan’s concept options which will occur in Phase 2 of the process. Having the Guiding Principles in place will assist staff and community partners alike to ensure the completed Program Plan incorporates the values and goals contained within them.

PARK ECOSYSTEM AND USES ARE BALANCED

1. Balance the Park’s unique rural character with wildlife, cultural and recreational uses.
2. Activate and interpret the Park to minimize impacts to natural areas while maximizing the potential of active and passive recreation zones.

PROTECT, CELEBRATE AND ACTIVATE

3. Bring natural and cultural heritage to life through active engagement, education and interpretation.
4. Protect the heritage values of historic assets while minimizing changes to the character and heritage defining elements.
5. Celebrate Terra Nova's significance as a key component of Richmond's Ecological Network, the Fraser River Estuary and the Pacific Flyway.

PROGRAM FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

6. Program sustainably to preserve the site for future generations.
7. Recognize the impact of climate change and adaptation when programming the site and its impacts to the site's ecology.
8. Support and enhance the site's role in addressing food security and local food production in Richmond.

The proposed Guiding Principles were developed based on the following inputs:

- Related City strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the 2004 Terra Nova Concept Plan, the 2014 Terra Nova Conservation Review, the Parks and Open Space Strategy, Official Community Plan, Ecological Network Management Strategy, Cultural Harmony Plan, and Community Wellness Strategy;
- Background research including, but not limited to, the natural and cultural history of the site, precedent studies, infrastructure studies and environmental studies; and
- Input from community groups, key community partners (including those presently operating at Terra Nova) and a wide-range of City staff.

Community Partner Engagement

Strong relationships have been established with a number of community partners within the Site including The Sharing Farm Society, Urban Bounty and Thompson Community Association. These partners have effectively utilized available built facilities and outdoor spaces in order to provide valuable services and programs to the community.

All three community partners were provided with individual presentations on July 13, 2023, detailing the process staff employed to draft the Guiding Principles. Staff were provided feedback on the draft Guiding Principles, which were well received by the majority of those who attended the presentations. Their input was incorporated into the draft Guiding Principles presented in this report. See Attachment 2 for a detailed graphic summary of the community partners' feedback.

Preliminary Public Information and Awareness

Preliminary information to create awareness of the Program Plan was provided to the public on Sunday, August 20, 2023, taking advantage of the large number of visitors at the Sharing Farm's Richmond Garlic Festival.

Next Steps

Should Council endorse the Guiding Principles, the planning process will proceed to Phase 2 with public engagement and the development of the Program Plan concept options. Additional public engagement will be included as part of Phase 2 and will reach out to the broader community by a Let's Talk Richmond survey and a public open house proposed for November. Staff will report back to Council with the results of Phase 2, where staff will then seek endorsement to proceed to Phase 3 of the Program Plan.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Staff request Council's endorsement of the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan Guiding Principles. These Guiding Principles will serve as touchstones for staff to reference at key decision points involving design, programming and implementation decisions. The Guiding Principles will also inform staff on how to develop programming options for public consideration and feedback as staff advance the process to Phase 2 of the Program Plan.

Staff will provide Council periodic updates as the project proceeds through the remaining two Phases of the Program Plan process and will present the final Program Plan for Council endorsement upon completion.



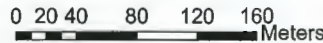
Alexander Kurnicki
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-276-4099)

- Att. 1: Terra Nova Program Plan Site Map
- 2: Terra Nova Program Plan Summary of the Community Partner Engagement Results



Terra Nova Rural Park, Richmond

Map Produced: 2023-08-16
Aerial Photograph: 2021
Locations are approximate



Legend

-  Study Area
-  Ditches and Hedgerows
-  Non-Heritage
-  Heritage

Terra Nova Program Plan Summary of the Community Partner Engagement Results



TERRA NOVA HISTORICAL ASSET PROGRAM PLAN THE SHARING FARM SOCIETY

OPPORTUNITIES

Sharing space is collaborative but small...

STORAGE!

Housing for farm manager

more office space

mini houses? porches? 2580?

Inclusive facilities

increase food security

more space on the dyke visibility

sustainable
REGENERATIVE

RABBITS CHALLENGES

RED BARN

Challenging to book

... fees would be prohibitive

Lack of signage

LACK OF ACCESS OPTIONS

THEFT

FINANCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

ABOUT US

COBB O' LEN

GARLIC FESTIVAL

refugees, new women, families with young children, food banks, organizations, Musqulam, o's h, farm stall market, online store

Volunteer!
inclusive

- elders
- folks with disabilities
- retirees
- families
- Afghan women
- teens
- corporate

School tours
cooking classes

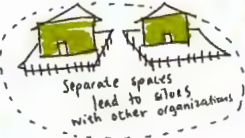
- fermenting
- baking

TERRA NOVA HISTORICAL ASSETS PROGRAM PLAN

qualities / tone of this special place will shift with changes like businesses

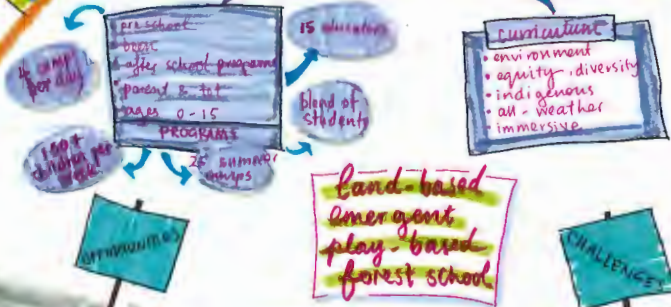


addresses an overall need for children's education



TERRA NOVA NATURE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

who we are



great funding for
 re-orientation
 Federal
 Heritage



manage flora and vegetable gardens



Stewards of this place

