



## Staff Report

### Origin

In 2015, the Bridgeport Industrial Park Pollinator Pasture (Bridgeport Pasture) was established in support of the council adopted Bath Slough Revitalization Initiative. A joint project between the City and Emily Carr University's Border Free Bees (BFB), the implementation of the Bridgeport Pasture saw a 1,000 ft. stretch of an otherwise underutilized utility and pedestrian corridor converted to a beautiful wildflower 'earthwork'. Used as a pilot project, the Bridgeport Pasture has received positive attention, most recently helping BFB secure the 2017 Pollinator Advocate Award for Canada. The Bridgeport Pasture continues to thrive as it moves into its third year, providing food and habitat for a wide range of pollinators and an aesthetically pleasing amenity for pedestrians and area residents.

Following the success of the first pasture, the City and the BFB team have reengaged to establish a new wildflower pasture at an underutilized space within Terra Nova Rural Park.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

*Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.*

*4.2 Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.*

### Analysis

The Terra Nova Pollinator Meadow (Terra Nova Meadow) is a partnership project with BFB and is headed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere of Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Associate Professor Nancy Holmes of the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The project's mission is to "raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators; empowering communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss by transforming under-utilized urban sites into pollinator meadows". The project highlights the principles of the City's Ecological Network Management Strategy, which aims to enhance, protect and connect natural space across Richmond through projects and public engagement.

The Terra Nova Meadow will utilize public art strategies to produce an aesthetically pleasing wildflower meadow, engage the surrounding community and create sustainable habitat for the benefit of wild pollinators. The site will feature a plethora of wildflowers along with a central apiary/didactic that will house information about the project and the benefits of pollinators while providing native pollinator habitat.

Additionally, the new Terra Nova Meadow will complement the existing pollinator plantings at Terra Nova provided by the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Rangers, a citizen-led movement that has successfully provided habitat for bees and butterflies across Canada.

Initial site preparation of the Terra Nova Meadow has commenced with some tilling and solarizing so as to not miss the opportunity to have the site ready for planting in 2018. Construction will wrap up in the spring months with the seeding of the wildflowers and the addition of paths and didactics. Upon Council approval, the City will enter into an agreement with BFB and with them work together to plan, design and construct the site. It is envisioned that the site will be ready for hosting community outreach events and other activations.

### **Financial Impact**

The City will provide in-kind services associated with site-preparation and coordination of the project while the BFB team will fund the construction and programming components via a Partnership Development Grant approved by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

### **Conclusion**

The City and its partners wish to establish another wildflower meadow within Terra Nova Rural Park. The Terra Nova Meadow is intended to build upon the success of the Bridgeport Pasture by providing suitable habitat for native pollinators, while raising community awareness about the importance of expanding pollinator habitat in Richmond. A key goal for the project is to encourage the same planting strategies for private property.



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Att. 1: Proposed Location for Terra Nova Pollinator Meadow

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