



Garden City Lands – 55 hectares of extraordinary community space

The Garden City Lands is 55 hectares of City-owned open space. It is destined to remain in the public realm, entirely for community use, for Richmond's future generations to come.



Bill McNulty
Councillor

Thousands of people participated in an unprecedented, year-long public engagement process to discover what the community wanted for this large, centrally located area destined to become extraordinary community space. All of this input helped inform the Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan, which City Council approved in June. The plan will be a guide for more detailed planning and implementation of the vision.

The plan envisions seven specific zones within the Lands – each having its own unique characteristics and programming opportunities: bog, wetland, sanctuary, fields, mound, community hub and the Edges.

The Edges is our first impression of the Lands. The ability to walk around the site was a top priority for the public. We will ensure there is a perimeter trail, 2.5 kilometres long, with entrances to the rest of the park at intersections and corners.

I support a plan that both utilizes the beauty of the land and introduces components of our strategy methodically, rather than rushing them. As we proceed, and as great ideas evolve, we may discover opportunities to add complimentary aspects to the park, provided they fit within the legacy plan.

As an example, imagine that the perimeter pathway is lined with a series of gardens, perhaps small botanical plots representing landscape design and native plants from various countries around the world. It could be somewhat representative of Richmond's renowned Highway to Heaven which features several spiritual faiths harmoniously co-existing side by side. It's an opportunity to provide added enjoyment for those using the perimeter path. Think about how much pleasure the Kuno Japanese Memorial Garden at Garry Point Park brings to people.

I have been advocating for the expansive space we know as Garden City Lands to be public community space since the early 1970s when I supported the City obtaining it from the Ministry of Transportation. It's rewarding to see that we are close to fulfilling that quest. I join you in looking forward to the following years as we finalize planning and begin creating the landscape zones for everyone to enjoy for many generations. Remember Richmond, it's your future park – visit it.