# **?**əyalməx<sup>w</sup>/Iyalmexw/Jericho Lands Discussion Guide:

# NATURAL SYSTEMS & OPEN SPACE

Engagement period: March 29-April 25, 2021.











# NATURAL SYSTEMS É OPEN SPACE

## **Exploring Emerging Ideas**

This is one of a series of four Discussion Guides that will frame Phase 2 public engagement for the ?əýalməx<sup>w</sup>/lýálmexw/Jericho Lands site.

The themes covered in the Discussion Guides are:

- Natural Systems & Open Space
- Connections & Mobility
- Inclusive Neighbourhood
- Sustainability & Resilience

The Discussion Guides build on the **Jericho Lands Guiding Principles**, **site analysis**, and **input received to date**, as well as City of Vancouver policies and objectives, and landowner aspirations.

Each of the Discussion Guides includes background information about the themes, along with reference to precedent projects from elsewhere. Each of the Discussion Guides identifies a set of 'Emerging Ideas' that will be considered during Phase 2 of public engagement. The outcomes of this process will be used to guide site planning and preliminary site concepts for the Jericho Lands.

## How can you get involved?

We are looking for your feedback on the Emerging Ideas contained in the Discussion Guides.

A survey link is provided, along with discussion questions. You can also provide feedback by participating in upcoming virtual Design Workshops scheduled in mid-April 2021. The Design Workshops will include presentations and small group discussions focused on the Emerging Ideas.

Join us for a virtual Design Workshop about the Natural Systems and Open Space theme.

You can register to participate at **shapeyourcity.ca/jericho-lands**.

?əýalməx<sup>w</sup> is the place name in the hənqʻəminəm' language spoken by Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh ancestors.

ly álmexw is the place name in the Skwx wú7mesh language spoken by Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh ancestors.

# **Embedding Indigenous Values**

?əýalməx<sup>w</sup>/lýálmexw/Jericho Lands (pronounced Ee'yullmough) lies in the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əýəm (Musqueam), Skwx wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lílwəta? (Tsleil-Waututh) ("MST"). Redevelopment of these lands is an opportunity for the MST to express their deep connection to the land, while bringing forward new opportunities for prosperity for future generations. The stories, traditions and ways of being of the MST provide a cultural foundation that will be embedded through planning and design.

# INTRODUCTION

?əýalməx\*/lýálmexw/Jericho Lands is defined in part by the natural systems and features of the site, including their connections to a larger ecological network. These natural systems have the capacity to be ecologically significant at the site, neighbourhood and city scales.

For the MST, natural systems lie at the centre of everything. Stewarding this land for all future generations is of utmost importance. The health of people is interconnected with the environment we all inhabit, and we need to enable a healthy natural world.

?əýalməxw/lýálmexw/Jericho Lands is a culturally and ecologically significant place of abundance: of biodiversity, trees, topography, water, and green spaces.

# **Biodiversity and Trees**

The Jericho Lands site has been disturbed as it was developed over the years, and most of the original trees on the site were logged following colonial settlement. However, a forested area at the centre of the site, along with several smaller stands of significant trees scattered across the site, provide canopy, habitat and the potential for natural system connectivity on and beyond the site.

Trees, and in particular cedar trees, hold tremendous cultural and spiritual significance for the MST. Cedar is considered to be the tree of life, with every part of the tree offering important resources. Cedar, pine, Douglas fir and spruce are present on the site, and there is a large oak grouping on the west side of the site.

We've heard that the green spaces, natural habitats, mature trees, trails, and other greenery that exist on the Jericho Lands are valued by the community.







## **Topography**

The natural topography of the Jericho Lands sets the site apart as a prime lookout location with spectacular and culturally significant views of the mountains, water and downtown skyline. Views to natural features in the distance carry significance to the MST; in the words of MST Nations community members, "the sky, mountains, rivers tell our stories."

A ridge traverses the site, and is a connection to the sea and to other inland sites of significance to MST. The ridge was of great importance to the MST, who have stories about how warriors would watch from look outs along the ridge and run to the various village sites to inform the heads of families that guests were coming, and whether those guests were friends or foe.

There are considerable grade changes across the site, which generates a blend of steep slopes balanced by terraced areas. One of the largest flat areas is at the northeast corner, adjacent to Highbury Street.

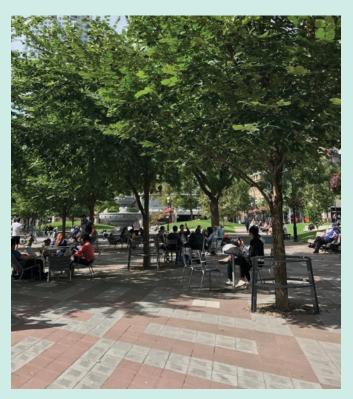
Through our engagement to date, we have heard many comments that the topography of the site is unique and is a defining feature that should be embraced in planning for the future. The toboggan hill on the western slope is widely appreciated as a place to experience the steep slopes of the area. Views, in particular those experienced from the adjacent West Point Grey (Trimble) Park, are strongly valued by the neighbourhood.

### Water

The natural movement of rainwater follows the topography of the lands, weaving its way from ridge to sea along several primary flow lines that traverse the site. There is an opportunity to slow and capture its flow, store water where it pools, and reuse it as a valuable resource.

Water is an important part of MST legends and origin stories. Musqueam are the People of the River Grass. Squamish are the Salmon People. Tsleil-Waututh are the People of the Inlet. Connecting to water offers an opportunity to listen to messages from ancestors to help with daily life and to remember the old teachings.

Through our public engagement we've heard a desire to integrate green infrastructure/water management into open spaces. Planning for the Jericho Lands also provides an opportunity to support the City's ongoing sewer separation process, which is oriented toward protecting and restoring the receiving water bodies.





# **Parks and Open Spaces**

Paýalmax // jálmexw/Jericho Lands is located near existing parks and open space, including Jericho Beach Park, West Point Grey (Trimble) Park and Queen Mary Elementary School.

For the MST, an opportunity to be in the land allows for quiet connection with the natural world. It offers moments of peace and prayer, and feelings of happiness and of being at home.

Public feedback has emphasized the importance of natural greenspaces, habitat, and open spaces,

and appreciation for informal recreational uses of the site today. The mature trees, public access and trails, and plantings on the site are highly valued. The naturalization of the landscape, including the planting of native and edible species is considered desirable. Access to the beaches and ocean, as well as to nearby parks and trails, is also highly valued by the community. There is also a desire for a network of pedestrian and bicycle friendly pathways throughout the site, as well as enhanced connections to surrounding parks.

# SITE PLANNING EMERGING IDEAS

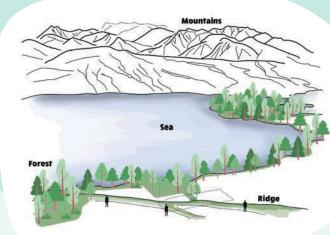
The following Emerging Ideas have been prepared to help us think about how to plan and design the ?əýalməx\*/Iýálmex\*/Jericho Lands site in a way that addresses opportunities and objectives related to Natural Systems and Open Space.

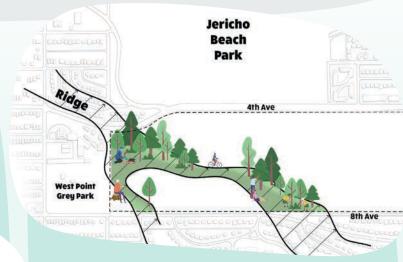
#### **EMBED INDIGENOUS VALUES**

• Tangibly express Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh culture and identity in the planning and design of all aspects of the site.

### START WITH THE LAND

 Respond to and enhance the site's natural systems. Biodiversity, significant trees, hydrology, ecologically rich open spaces, the dramatic topography of the site and ridge are foundations of the new development.



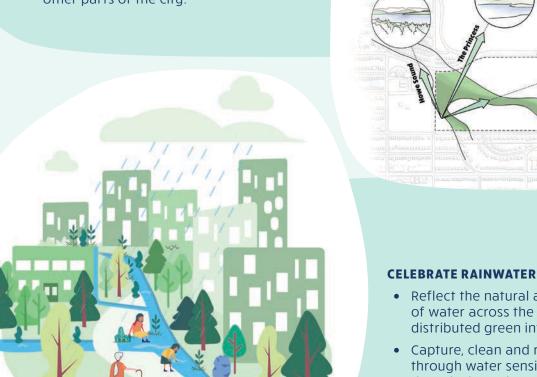


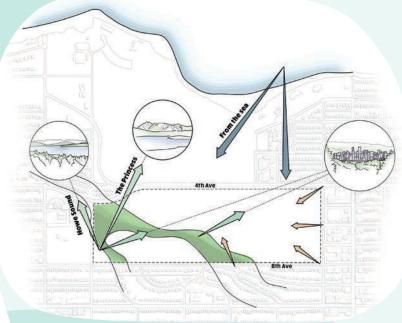
#### **RECOGNIZE THE RIDGE**

- Incorporate the ridge as a form shaper.
   Accentuate the site's topography and the ridge through intentional placement and design of buildings, mobility corridors and open space network.
- Maximize the ridge's ecological value by retaining significant trees and sensitively incorporating gently sloped walking and cycling connections while also maximizing ecological connectivity.

#### **FRAME SIGNIFICANT VIEWS**

- Consider the meaning of specific views to mountains and sea. Preserve and emphasize culturally important and locally valued public views of the water, mountains and the city. Define and frame new views within the site to support wayfinding and placemaking.
- Create views into the site from important points of arrival to welcome people to key places in the lands.
- Mark the Jericho Lands as a distinctive space in the larger cityscape, visible from other parts of the city.





- Reflect the natural and historic movement of water across the site by incorporating a distributed green infrastructure system.
- Capture, clean and reuse rainwater on site through water sensitive urban design that threads through a range of natural and open spaces, connections, buildings and more urban settings.
- Create a resilient rainwater system that manages water quantity and quality across the site and responds to the impacts of climate change and its impacts over time.



# ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS

- Enhance and integrate ecological connectivity through public, semipublic and private spaces on the site while connecting to the larger networkbeyond the site.
- Protect significant trees and key habitats that enrich the ecology of the site and provide natural carbon capture and storage.

#### **CONNECT PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

- Provide a connected network of parks and open spaces responding to the site's natural systems and features and the neighbourhood's needs for a series of passive and active spaces to gather, make connections, and recreate.
- Create a hierarchy of welcoming and inviting park, open space, semipublic, and semi-private spaces that are integrated with the site and its built form. These spaces will be programmable to serve a diverse range of needs, ages and abilities.
- Foster intentional connections to adjacent and nearby parks, naturally managed areas, open spaces and cultural significant locations.



# IDEAS FROM ELSEWHERE

We are gathering ideas, and learning from local and international urban redevelopment projects. The following projects offer some examples of ideas related to Natural Systems and Open Space.



## **WESBROOK VILLAGE (UBC)**

At the southern end of the UBC campus, Wesbrook Village is a new residential neighbourhood designed to be both vibrant and ecologically sensitive. Water is planned for comprehensively, with green roofs and other opportunities for infiltration. Plants were also selected carefully to reduce watering requirements, and to promote habitat and biodiversity.



#### **DOCKSIDE GREEN (VICTORIA, BC)**

The largest development in Victoria, this 30-acre waterfront neighbourhood promotes urban living in an integrated sustainable development. In addition to other sustainability features, stormwater is collected through rain gardens or guided to a local waterway via permeable paving.



#### **UNIVERCITY (BURNABY)**

UniverCity is a sustainable, urban community adjacent to Simon Fraser University's Burnaby Mountain campus. It is a transit-oriented neighbourhood that is currently home to over 3,000 residents and will eventually grow to 10,000 residents. The community offers a full range of amenities, stores and services that enable residents to meet their daily needs without leaving Burnaby Mountain. Sustainability is a key feature of the community, including a comprehensive stormwater management system that mimics nature by returning nearly 100 per cent of stormwater to the ground instead of diverting it into conventional drainage pipes or storm sewers.



#### ROYAL SEAPORT (STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN)

The City of Stockholm sought to redevelop this former brownfield site into a new urban neighbourhood allowing "nature to do the work." The site integrates into surrounding parks with habitat corridors and connections that support biodiversity. There is also a series of green spaces, such as courtyards and green roofs which serve both gathering and water retention functions.



#### VASTRA HAMNEN (MALMO, SWEDEN)

This waterfront site has transformed from an industrial park into a lively, mixed-use district over the past decades. Access to nature is integrated into the site, with pollinator-friendly plants and habitat for insects and animals. Efforts were made through landscape to design public courtyards mimicking natural systems to attract birds and other wildlife.

# WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

We're looking for your feedback on the following questions:

- What do you think of the Emerging Ideas proposed for Natural Systems and Open Spaces? Are there any you especially like or don't like, and why?
- In your opinion, what are the most important natural features on the site that should be retained and enhanced?
- Which public views do you think are the most important to consider?
- Are there ways to manage and celebrate rainwater that you think are relevant to this site?
- One of the Emerging Ideas is to create a network of parks and open spaces designed to both protect and enhance natural areas, and provide space for passive and active outdoor uses. Which types of parks and open spaces are important to you? Are there other types of parks and open spaces you would like us to consider?
- Are there any other site planning ideas related to Natural Systems and Open Space that you would like us to consider?

Visit **shapeyourcity.ca/jericho-lands** to complete the online surveys or to register for the virtual Design Workshops.

# **Emerging Ideas for Planning the Site**

A summary of the Emerging Ideas in the four Discussion Guides is provided below for context. We invite you to provide feedback on each Discussion Guide.

Theme	Site Planning: Emerging Ideas
	Embed Indigenous values
NATURAL SYSTEMS & OPEN SPACE	Start with the land Recognize the ridge Frame significant views Celebrate rainwater Enhance biodiversity and ecological connections Connect parks and open space
CONNECTIONS & MOBILITY	Design to be welcoming and inclusive Prioritize walking, rolling and cycling Encourage transit use through site design Enhance neighbourhood connections Re-imagine West 4th Avenue Design the site to be car-light
INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD	Diverse housing choices  Design a new neighbourhood with distinct districts  Create a destination for culture, jobs and shopping  Provide amenities to support the neighbourhood  A unique and vibrant public realm  Neighbourhood spaces foster health and well-being  Recognize land as a limited resource
SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE	Plan for a low carbon neighbourhood  Design with climate change in mind  Define a place that is resilient and adaptable  Amplify reconciliation and long-term prosperity

# **STAY INFORMED**

While restrictions on large gatherings and social distancing measures remain in place, we are committed to providing ways for you to continue to engage in the Jericho Lands planning process. In addition to the upcoming engagement activities, there are a variety of ways for you to provide input and stay informed with the process.

# VISIT THE PROJECT WEB PAGE

To learn more about the Jericho Lands planning process, the public engagement completed to date, participate in a survey, or ask a City staff member a question, you can visit:

shapeyourcity.ca/jericho-lands

# SIGN UP TO THE CITY'S PROJECT EMAIL LIST

The best way to keep up-to-date with the planning process is by signing up to the project email list. You will receive updates from the City's planning team informing you of any upcoming engagement opportunities or project milestones. To sign up, visit the project web page and leave your contact information under "Get updates." Alternatively, you can email the project team and ask to be added to the list.

# CONTACT THE CITY'S PROJECT TEAM

If you would like to contact the City's project team, you can email us at jericholands@vancouver.ca, or leave a question on the Q&A section of the project web page. Alternatively, you can send your inquiries via mail by writing to:

c/o Jericho Lands planning team 453 W 12th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4