



## Richmond Oval Precinct Site Preparation

July 27, 2005

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the Richmond community of the City's overall guiding planning principles and specific expected site preparation activity planned to occur over the next few months as preparations begin for building construction.

The City has established four master planning principles to guide the site development of the Oval and Riverfront Neighbourhood:

- Build a "Legacy"
- Build a "Complete Community"
- Build "Green"
- Build "Financial Viability".

The "Build Green" principle incorporates commitment to:

- Respect existing natural features and habitat; and,
- Incorporate high standards of design, construction and operation of the Oval and other uses on the City's lands as a benchmark for sustainable development in Richmond.

Specifically, the City is committed to achieving a LEED™ silver building rating. LEED™ ratings certify that buildings meet specific high quality design and construction characteristics which:

- minimize environmental impacts
- optimize resource efficiency
- minimize long-term financial operating costs and
- result in healthy indoor building environments.

The City has also undertaken an Environmental Assessment for the Oval project as required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). This assessment identified a series of best management practices and commitments to be followed to further minimize potential environmental impacts.

Beginning August 1 2005, the City anticipates that it will begin site preparation activities to prepare for actual building construction of the Richmond Oval. Key activities include:

- tree relocation
- site clearing
- site preloading.

Site preparation activities will occur in three phases:

### • Phase 1: Oval Building Construction site

The first phase will include site preparation activity of the actual Oval building site and some immediate surrounding area where construction activity will occur. Activity will include the transplanting of some trees now located on the property, as well as removal of other trees not suitable for transplanting. The City anticipates that it will commence preloading of the building site in mid-August.

### • Phase 2: River Road Realignment

The second phase of site preparation activity will occur in late November, 2005, and will include the area immediately adjacent to River Road. This will allow the City to proceed with preloading in support of construction of a new waterfront plaza and park and proceed with the realignment of River Road between No. 2 Road and Hollybridge Way. The English Oaks along River Road will be removed in this phase. Many of the Oaks are in poor condition with trunk wounds, decay and other impacts resulting from proximity to each other and to the roadways.

- **Phase 3: Future Development Site**

The final phase of site preparation will occur on the remaining westerly portion of the Oval site, which is slated for future development. This will include additional tree re-location, vegetation clearing, and other pre-construction activities. A schedule for this phase has not yet been determined.

The City's approach to vegetation management is as follows:

### **Retain**

The City is committed to retaining as many trees as is possible. This includes the riparian vegetation along Hollybridge Canal and the Oaks along the foreshore near the pump station.

### **Transplant**

While trees will be retained to the maximum extent possible, many trees will need to be removed to accommodate pre-load requirements. The City will be transplanting as many of the trees that need to be removed as feasible (based on their condition and size). Based on a recent arborist study, it is anticipated that at least 35 trees will be re-located to local parks or other City property.

### **Use of Best Management Removal Practices**

Where tree retention and relocation are not viable options, the City will be adhering to best management practices to minimize clearing impacts including use of measures to:

- Protect vegetation to be retained
- Minimize potential for introduction of invasive plant species
- Avoid wildlife impacts.

### **Re-Use**

Where tree retention and relocation are not viable options, the City is exploring opportunities for re-use including the use of timber for public art and site furniture in the construction of the Oval project.

### **Re-Generate**

The City will be taking cuttings from designated Oval trees to maintain the genus of hereditary and historical significantly trees.

### **Re-Plant**

The City is developing a Landscape Plan for the Oval site that will include extensive tree planting to compensate for any tree loss. The City will be adhering to at least a 2:1 tree replacement ratio either on site or elsewhere in the area, maximizing opportunities for integrating ecological-based plantings and re-introducing regenerative species of heritage value.

### **Inter-tidal Marsh Enhancement**

The City is also planning to enhance the existing marsh along the foreshore at the westwardly edge of the City property.

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The City will be conducting informational sessions throughout the entire project development.

Scheduled to open in 2008, the Richmond Oval will be home of the long track speed skating venue for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Post-Games, the Oval will become BC's premier multi-purpose sports, recreation and community facility. The project also includes creation of a major new City Centre park and plaza surrounding the Oval. The Oval Precinct will also include a new City Centre riverfront neighborhood on the Fraser River.

For general Oval Project information, please visit the City of Richmond website ([www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)).

For further information on the Environmental Assessment of the Richmond Oval, please visit the Canadian Environmental Assessment website ([www.ceaa.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca)).