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For Immediate Release

## Richmond's new ecological strategy lays out roadmap for environmental enhancement

**Richmond, BC** – The City's Ecological Network Management Strategy, adopted at the September 28 Council meeting, represents the first city-wide environmental strategy for Richmond and offers a blueprint for ecological enhancement and the establishment of greener infrastructure. The strategy provides a roadmap for the City, businesses and people working and living in Richmond to achieve this.

"The Ecological Network Management Strategy recognizes that the on-going protection and enhancement of natural areas in the community is a critical step to achieve an ecologically connected and livable community," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The strategy offers an essential guide to the management of our ecological resources while meeting the needs of a growing City. Over the course of the coming year, we will be initiating a number of short-term priorities from the strategy, many of which will be supported by community outreach and engagement."

The strategy refers to the interconnected system of natural and semi-natural areas throughout Richmond. This includes Terra Nova Rural Park, Richmond Nature Park, the Northeast Bog, Bath and Horseshoe sloughs, and many other natural areas that are interwoven into our urban and rural landscapes. Areas such as Iona Beach Regional Park and Sturgeon Bank and South Arm Islands wildlife management areas are also identified in the strategy.

All the natural areas captured within the ecological network support critical ecosystems services on which the City and its residents depend upon, including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, drainage, food production and recreation.

The strategy's action plan sets out a series of initiatives that are both collaborative and opportunistic, with the intent to strengthen and enhance the City's natural spaces and ecosystem services over the long-term. Public engagement and stewardship is an important component. Some of the upcoming projects under the strategy include the Bath Slough Revitalization Initiative, promoting backyard natural landscaping, and supporting stewardship programming.

One of the first major projects under the Ecological Network banner occurred this summer in Bridgeport Industrial Park, with the planting of a 1.05 hectare (2.6 acre) pollinator pasture that serves to attract native bees and butterflies - ecologically enhancing the park corridor. For more information on this project visit [www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/communityaction/bathslough](http://www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/communityaction/bathslough)

The full Ecological Network Management Strategy is available online at [www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/ecology](http://www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/ecology)

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