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Promoting nature awareness in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and beyond

SUMMARY OF THE BURKE MOUNTAIN NATURALISTS' VALUES AND VISION FOR THE RIVERVIEW HOSPITAL LANDS

Our vision for future use of the Riverview Hospital site should be based on an understanding of its history and appreciation of its existing unique values, namely:

- a haven for care of the mentally ill and a place where the pathway begins for re-integration of patients with society,
- an exceptional arboretum with a world-class collection of mature trees growing throughout the grounds,
- a heritage site with important examples of architecture constructed throughout the 20th century in a graciously landscaped setting, and
- significant natural areas and streams which provide wildlife habitat and connections to nearby parks.

Future uses at Riverview should build upon these significant values. Thus, our vision includes the following objectives and recommendations for action:

1. Ensure that all of the land is kept in public trust and managed as a single unit, even though a variety of functions may occur in the future. The site is owned by the Province of BC.; therefore, this land is our land and should be used to benefit society.
2. Consider designation as a Provincial Heritage Site.
3. Respect Riverview's heritage and build on the existing values, i.e., mental health care, significant tree collection, heritage buildings and natural assets.
4. Continue Riverview's role in providing mental health care, with possible expansion into related health care areas, e.g., care facilities for those suffering from dementia; assisted living facilities. Promote Riverview as a centre of excellence in health care.
5. Site new buildings in the footprint of demolished buildings or on "brown" spaces (e.g., paved or gravelled areas) to ensure continuity of landscaping and to avoid impacts on the tree collection and natural areas.
6. Find appropriate uses for the older buildings if no longer needed for health care while ensuring architectural features and landscaping are preserved to the greatest extent possible (e.g., heritage museum, government offices, use by non-profit societies, botanical garden facilities, etc.).
7. Develop the full potential of the arboretum as a major tourist attraction for Coquitlam and consider expansion into a complete botanical garden/horticultural/education centre.
8. Preserve and enhance natural habitat areas and streams. Ensure that such work complements the development of a botanical garden. Complete flora and fauna inventories. Encourage public appreciation of these values.
9. Consider development of more formal links with nearby greenspaces (e.g., Riverview Forest Park and Colony Farm Regional Park) for public use and wildlife movement.

We want to ensure a land use planning process that will build on the existing values of Riverview and respect its heritage.