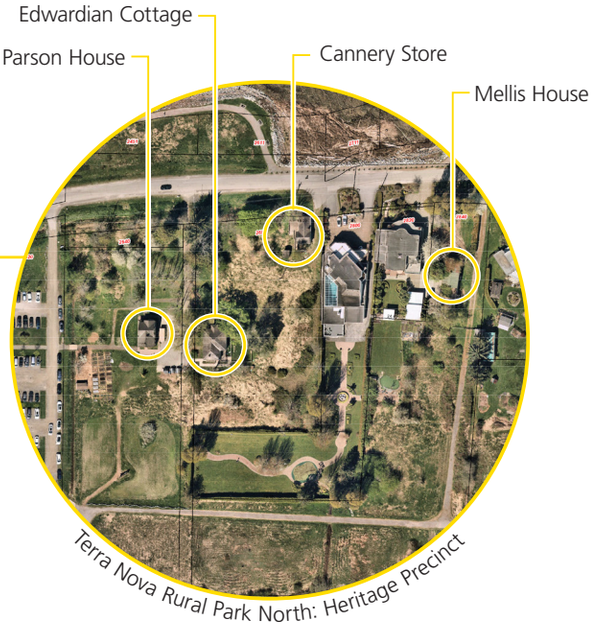
# 1 Purpose of the Program Plan

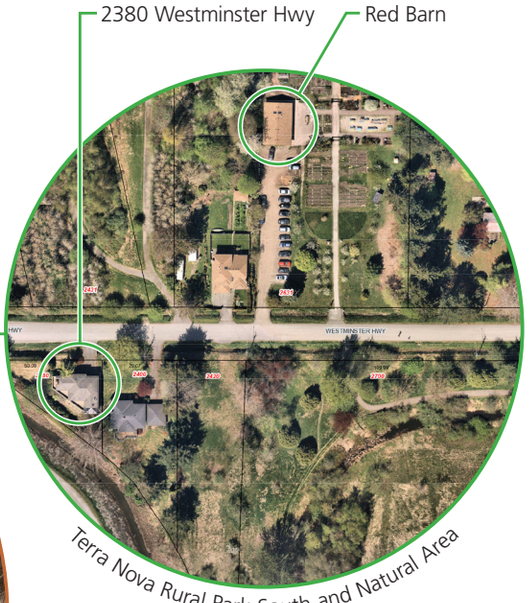
The City of Richmond is developing the Terra Nova Rural Park Historical Assets Program Plan to preserve, activate and interpret the Heritage Precinct, historic landscapes and other assets within Terra Nova Rural Park.

## Terra Nova Rural Park Context Map




Terra Nova Rural Park North: Heritage Precinct

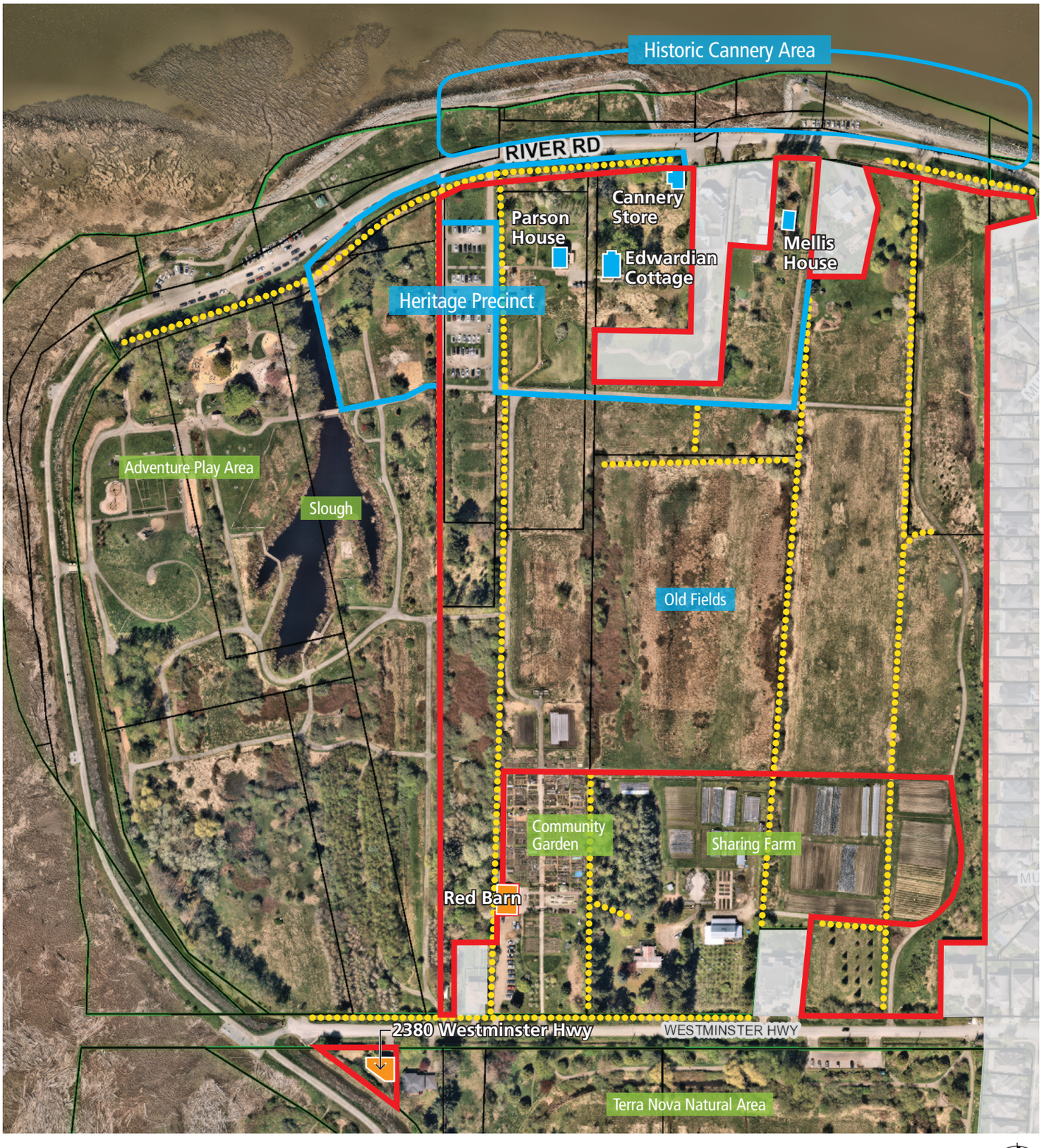



Terra Nova Rural Park South and Natural Area



# 2 Terra Nova Rural Park Context Map

The park has a blend of recreational, cultural and ecological features that give it a unique sense of place. The historical assets that contribute to it include the Heritage Precinct with the heritage buildings and their surrounding landscapes, the waterfront where the former canneries were located, the dike and ditches, and the agricultural fields which are now managed as Old Field Habitat. There are two contemporary buildings, the Red Barn and the house at 2380 Westminster Highway, that will also be included in the Program Plan.



# 3 Did You Know...

## Heritage Buildings

There are a variety of heritage buildings that tell the stories of the people who shaped the land at Terra Nova Rural Park. These buildings are under consideration to potentially be used for public programs:



### Parsons House (2640 River Road)

The Parsons House dates from the early 1890's and is one of the older buildings remaining in the city. A rare example of Queen Anne Revival style, it was built on one of the original eight lots when Terra Nova was first settled. The exterior of the building was restored in 2007.



### Edwardian Cottage (2680 River Road)

The Edwardian Cottage was constructed around 1905 and is significant as a simple, cottage-style building, unique to both the Terra Nova settlement and to Richmond. It has been completely restored and is currently programmed by Thompson Community Association for a full-time, nature-based preschool and after school care programs.



### Cannery Store (2760 River Road)

The Cannery Store, constructed around 1897, was part of the Terra Nova cannery complex and was the cannery's office and company store. The building was restored in 2014 with some modifications to prepare it for public use.



### Mellis House (2840 River Road)

The Mellis House, also known as Cold Comfort Farm, was constructed in 1891 and may be one of the first houses built by the Terra Nova settlers. It has an unusual combination of architectural style elements reflecting the owner's roots in Nova Scotia. The building is in poor condition. An assessment of the building condition will determine whether it can be conserved.

# 3 Did You Know...

## Historic Landscape

There is visible evidence of historic land use patterns still in existence today, including:

- the dike and the perimeter ditches, which are in similar locations to those originally constructed by the early settlers in Terra Nova
- modifications to the shoreline from the former canneries, including remnant pilings
- the internal ditches and hedgerows, which follow the property lines from the original subdivisions of the land
- homestead sites with mature trees, tree-lined driveways and remnants of gardens
- the agricultural patterns of the fields



## Non-heritage Buildings

In addition to the buildings within the Heritage Precinct, two other contemporary buildings fall within Terra Nova and have been included in the Program Plan to consider their potential for future use. These include:



### Terra Nova Red Barn (2631 Westminster Highway)

The Terra Nova Red Barn is a modern structure of approximately 1,000 sq. ft. (305 $m^2$). Half of the building is a multipurpose room space that can be used for workshops, classes or other events. The other half of the building is a commercial-grade kitchen.



### City-Owned Home (2380 Westminster Highway)

2380 Westminster Highway is a residential house that was built in 1983. The house is within the Terra Nova Natural Area and has views across the dike to the Sturgeon Banks.

# 4 Guiding Principles

Richmond City Council has endorsed these guiding principles, which will be used to guide decision making about future uses and interpretive programs:



## Park Ecosystem and Uses Are Balanced

1. Balance the park's unique rural character with wildlife, cultural and recreational uses.
2. Activate and interpret the park to minimize impacts to natural areas while maximizing the potential of active and passive recreation zones.



## Protect, Celebrate and Activate

3. Bring natural and cultural heritage to life through active engagement, education and interpretation.
4. Protect the heritage values of historical assets while minimizing changes to the character defining elements.
5. Celebrate Terra Nova's significance as a key component of Richmond's Ecological Network, the Fraser River Estuary and the Pacific Flyway.



## Program for Current and Future Generations

6. Program sustainably to preserve the site for future generations.
7. Recognize the impact of climate change and adaptation when programming the site and its impacts to the site's ecology.
8. Support and enhance the site's role in addressing food security and local food production in Richmond.