



Office of the Mayor

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November 30, 2020

Re: Yorklands Green Hub's vision for the Guelph Innovation District

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Guelph, I am writing to ask that, as Infrastructure Ontario moves forward with the sale of the Guelph Innovation District lands (former correctional institute property), you consider ways the Yorklands Green Hub can be part of repurposing these lands.

Guelph City Council has expressed its support for the Yorklands Green Hub vision on a number of occasions.

On May 12th, 2014, Council approved Official Plan Amendment No. 54 for the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan. As part of this motion Council approved the following amendments of support:

5. That Council express support in principle, the Yorklands Green Hub's vision for the use of a small portion of the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan to showcase environmental education and green technology demonstration.
6. That staff continue to discuss the Yorklands Green Hub's submission with the group.

Following that, on December 19th, 2016, Council reaffirmed their support of the Yorklands Green Hub through choosing Option 4 (City/Provincial Collaboration) as their response to the Province's Expression of Interest on the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan.

Most recently, on January 16, 2019, Council listened to a proposal from the Yorklands Green Hub about the possibility for collaboration in the purchase of a portion of the pre-aggregated former Guelph Correctional Lands.

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Building on this legacy of support, on behalf of the City of Guelph, I want to reaffirm our support of the Yorklands Green Hub vision. In the City's view, the Yorklands Green Hub embodies the principles of the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan because it seeks to protect the natural heritage system and cultural heritage resources, create sustainable and energy-efficient infrastructure, and create an attractive and memorable place. It also aligns with our smart cities project, Our Food Future, through its proposal to pair urban agriculture with outdoor education, recreation, and heritage preservation. Its proposed renewable energy demonstration projects support the City's goal to become a net-zero community by 2050.

As the Province moves forward with the sale of these lands, the City hopes your agency will consider ways the Yorklands Green Hub can be part of the next chapter for this remarkable, century-old public institution.

Sincerely,



Cam Guthrie
Mayor

c: Councillors, City of Guelph
Scott Stewart, CAO, City of Guelph