

## Community Farming Benefits

Community farming offers many benefits to farmers who want to practice sustainable agriculture and to communities who want fresh, healthy, locally-produced food.

### Healthy Local Economies

Community farms are locally owned and operated, and democratically controlled. Local farms keep money circulating in their communities, and the benefits are passed on to local restaurants, farmers markets, retailers, and consumers.

### Environmental Solutions

Agriculture and farming practices can both harm and protect environmental systems and processes. Groups that farm cooperatively may feel a strong sense of stewardship and responsibility to the land. By basing their agricultural activities on sustainable practices, community farms balance environmental sustainability with retention and protection of valuable and threatened farmland.

### Local Food Security

Rural communities import much of their food. In the context of a global food crisis, establishing more local suppliers of diverse food products increases food security in small rural communities. Communities that invest in community farms help secure farmland and build local food systems for ongoing food production.

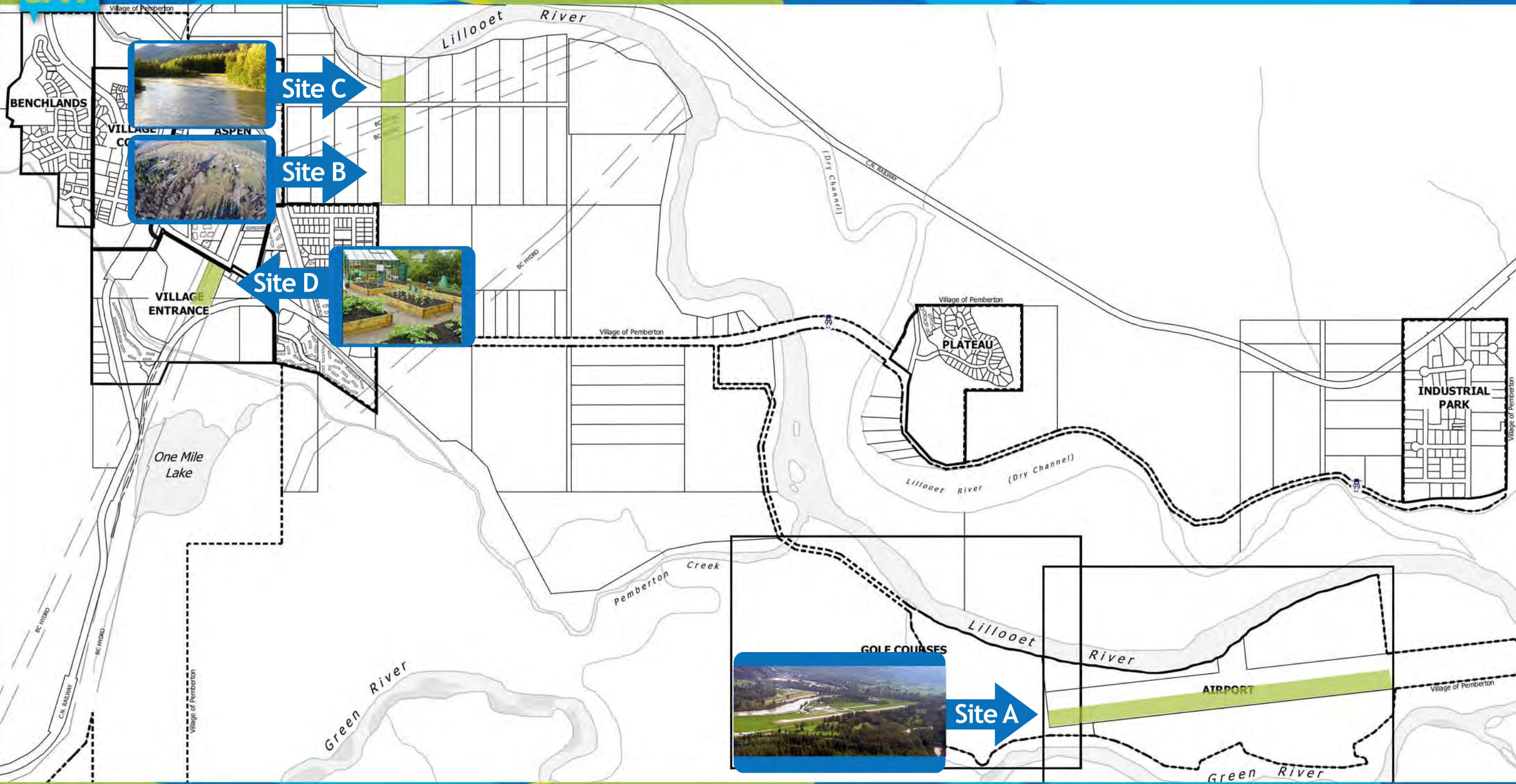
### Market Stability

When a community invests in a farm, its long term viability and security as a food production (and social) system are supported. Farmers benefit from market and price stability when communities support their farmers through community shared agriculture programs, farmers markets, and local distribution networks.

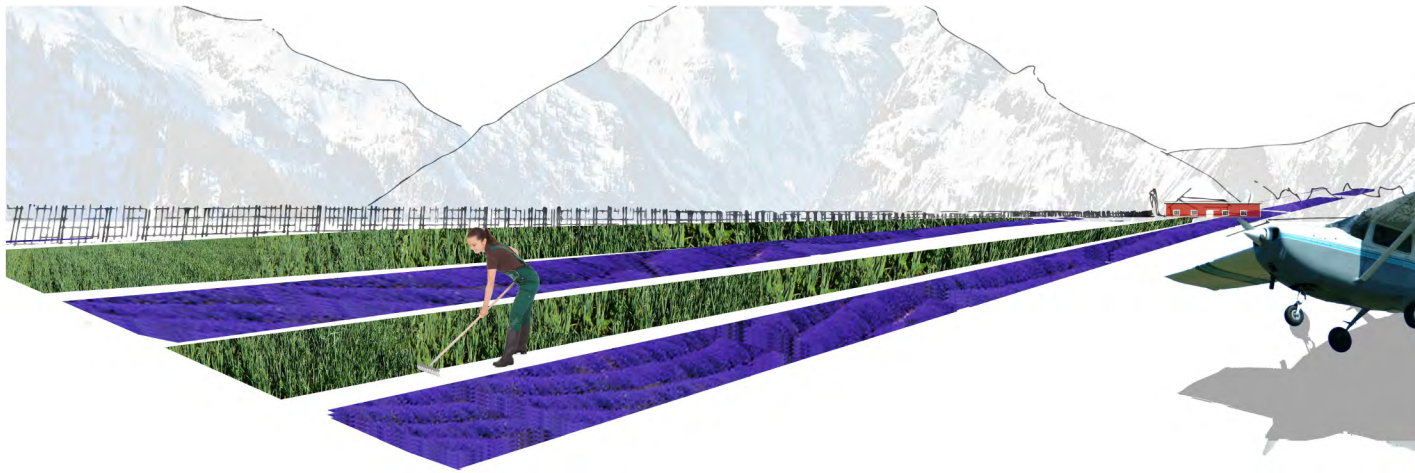
### Social Capital and Community Amenities

Community farms build 'social capital' by involving a diverse group of individuals – farmers, community members, and organizations – with different skills and knowledge. This social capital, or wealth, helps create community amenities beyond food production, including environmental and agricultural education, recreational opportunities, and nature conservation areas.











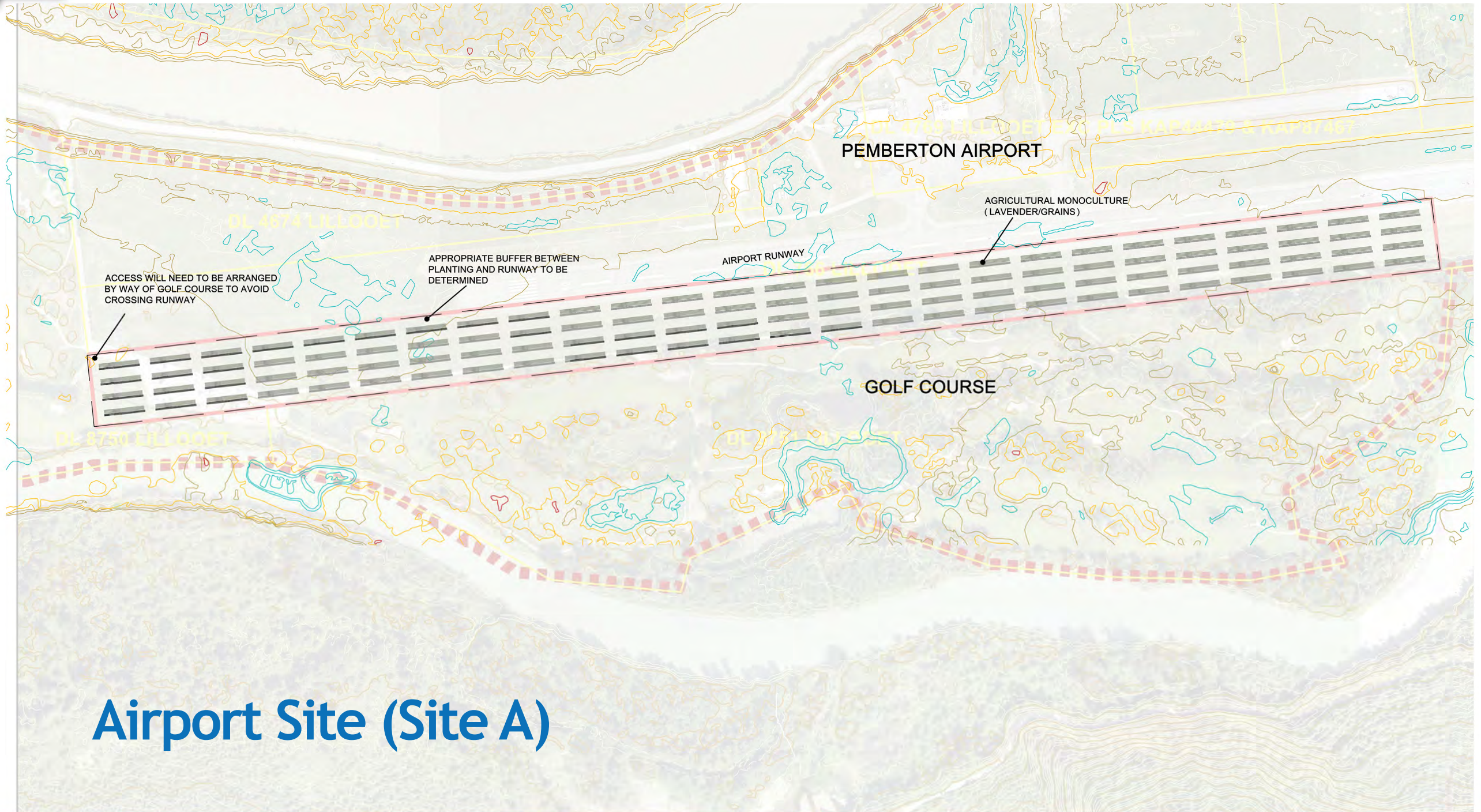


- Access to the site will be limited due to aircraft operations
- Security and safety when using the site is a priority
- Fencing, large scale irrigation, and other infrastructure will be limited
- Best site management option is to lease it for a specified time period to an established farmer

## Best Agricultural Options for Airport Site (Site A)

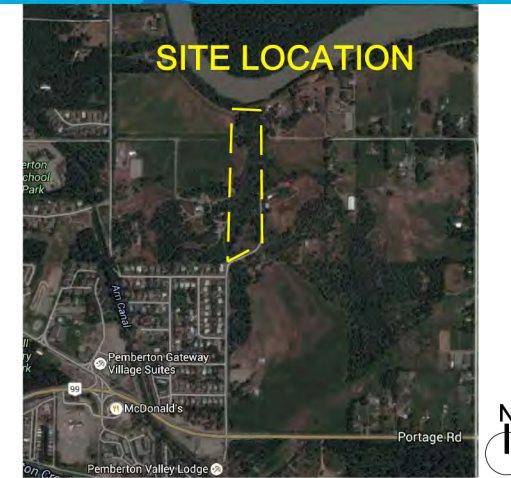
Agricultural Use		Considerations
	Alliums: garlic and onions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can seasonally rotate plantings: onions in spring, garlic in fall.</li> <li>• Soil amendments for organic matter required.</li> <li>• Mulching, compost, and weeding will be required but overall fairly low maintenance.</li> <li>• No large equipment needed.</li> <li>• Irrigation will be required during hot dry summer – could be hoses, drip irrigation, or sprinklers.</li> <li>• Pest management: aphids, rodents.</li> </ul>
	Bulb flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good drainage required.</li> <li>• Planting depth is 4-8 inches.</li> <li>• Susceptible to predation by slugs, deer, other wildlife. Lack of fence may be a challenge.</li> <li>• Liming, fertilizer will be required annually.</li> <li>• Cutting / harvesting will need to be frequent in summer months.</li> </ul>
	Cereal grains or improved hay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the status quo.</li> <li>• Grains may attract bears or other animals.</li> <li>• May require addition/mixing of organic matter or fertilizer for improved yields.</li> <li>• Fairly low maintenance once established but planting and harvest equipment is large.</li> </ul>
	Lavender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lavender prefers hot sunny weather (8 hours a day). This may be a challenge in winter.</li> <li>• Raised beds or hills may be required for production to be feasible as lavender does not like wet soils.</li> <li>• May require liming as lavender likes pH in range of 6.7 – 7.3.</li> <li>• May require netting or other bird deterrents.</li> <li>• Fairly low maintenance – pruning in spring.</li> </ul>





## Airport Site (Site A)










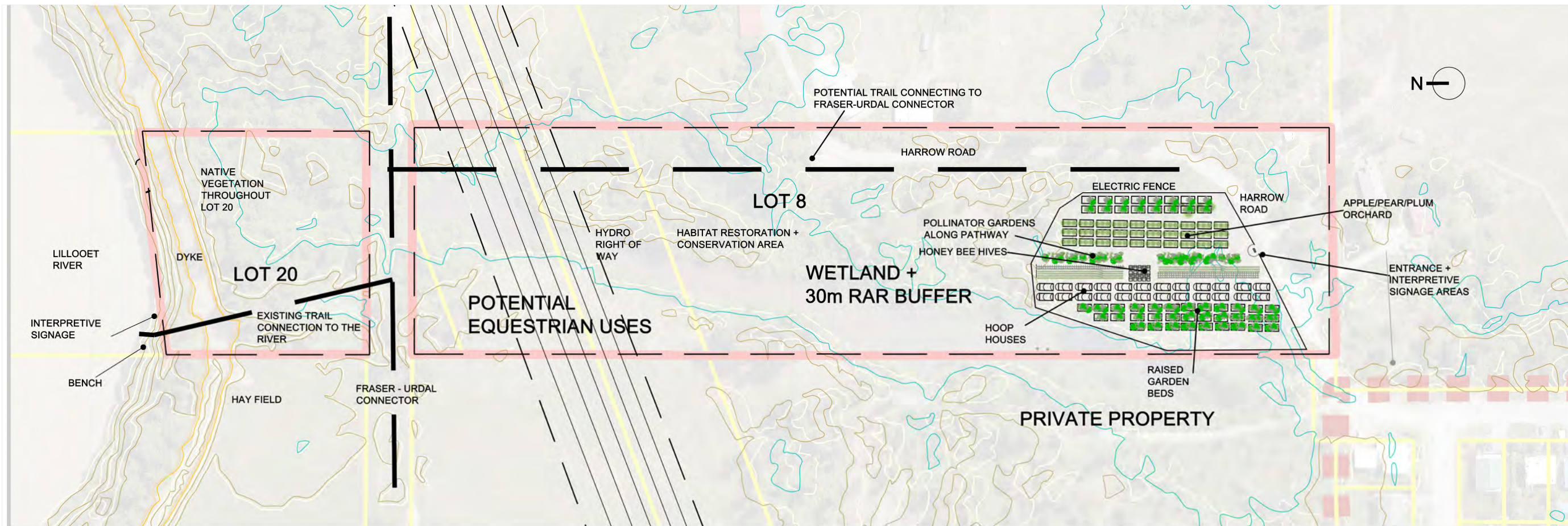
## Best Agricultural Options for Sites B & C



- Majority of site is covered by a wetland, therefore cultivable area is small.
- An enhanced community garden could provide amenities for the nearby urban neighbourhood.
- Partnerships with SLRD and PVTA are a possibility to increase connectivity.
- Best site management option is to co-manage the site with a non-profit NGO.

Agricultural Use		Considerations
	Fruit and nut trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial purchase costs will need to be considered.</li> <li>• Freeze &amp; thaw cycle may challenge establishment.</li> <li>• Requires deep mineral soils for deep rooting requirements – soil structure may be a challenge in some area.</li> <li>• Fruit trees don't like wet feet – will need to plant trees in drier areas.</li> <li>• Pollinators required.</li> </ul>
	Raised garden beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires labour for initial construction and establishment.</li> <li>• Will require addition of soil matrix (compost/soil mix).</li> <li>• Management of access and membership required.</li> </ul>
	Mixed berries (strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial purchase costs will need to be considered.</li> <li>• Annual pruning and fertilizers required.</li> <li>• Will require electric fencing.</li> </ul>
	Honey bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require electric fencing.</li> <li>• Skilled labour required to maintain the hives.</li> <li>• Possibility to partner with local beekeeping groups.</li> </ul>
	Community trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility to partner with local trails groups.</li> <li>• May provide an opportunity to connect existing trails.</li> <li>• Depending on parcel boundary location, a bridge over the wetland may be required (labour).</li> <li>• May include interpretive signage.</li> </ul>





## Lots 8 & 20 (Sites B & C)










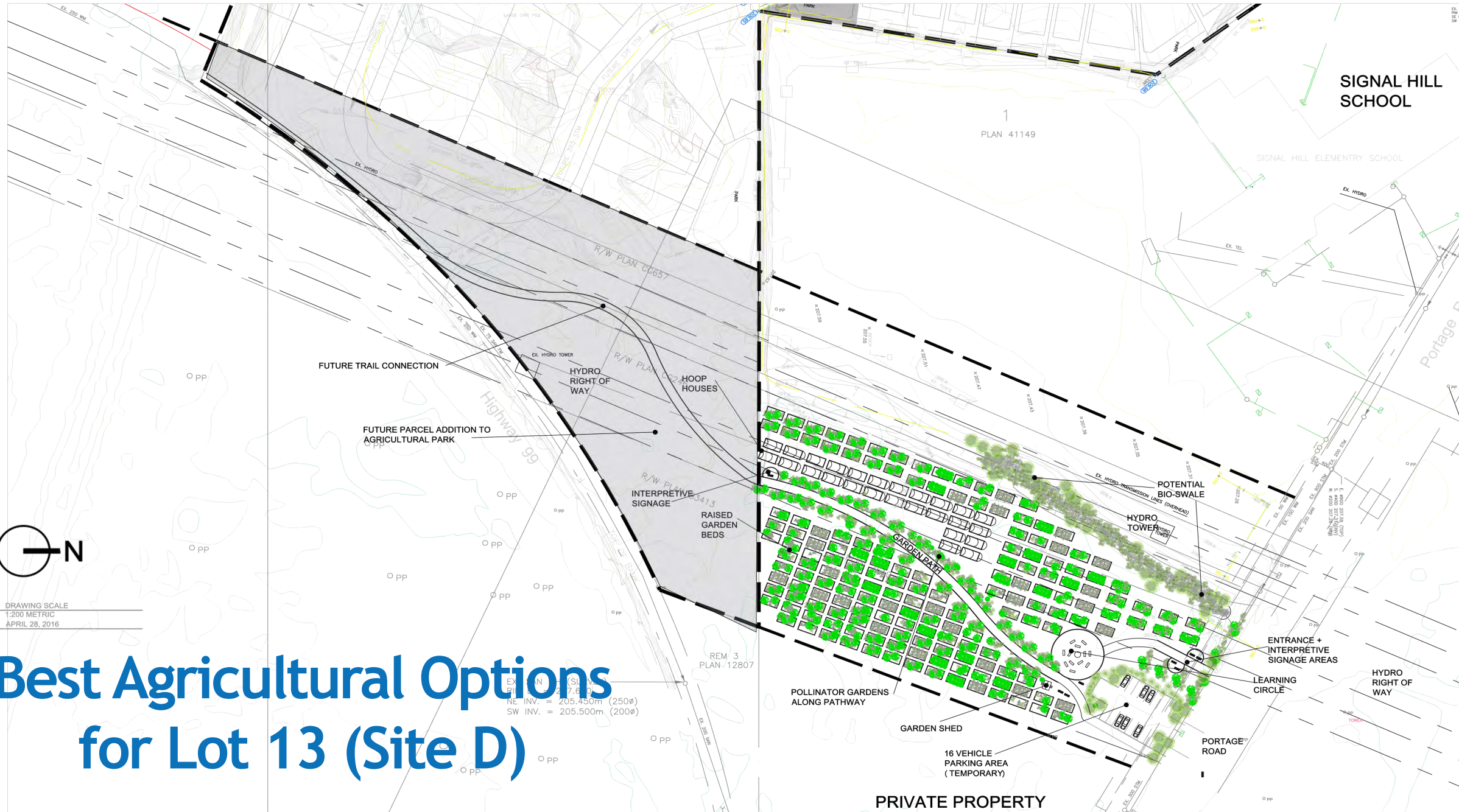
## Best Agricultural Options for Site D

- Site is located underneath BC Hydro power lines.
- Hydro lines limit the activities permitted on the site ( e.g. fencing, irrigation) .
- Nearby lot owner has suggested possible trail connectivity at the south end of the site.
- Possibility of partnering with the local school district could be explored.
- Community partnerships with other user groups will be another priority.
- Best site management option is to co-manage the site with a non-profit NGO.



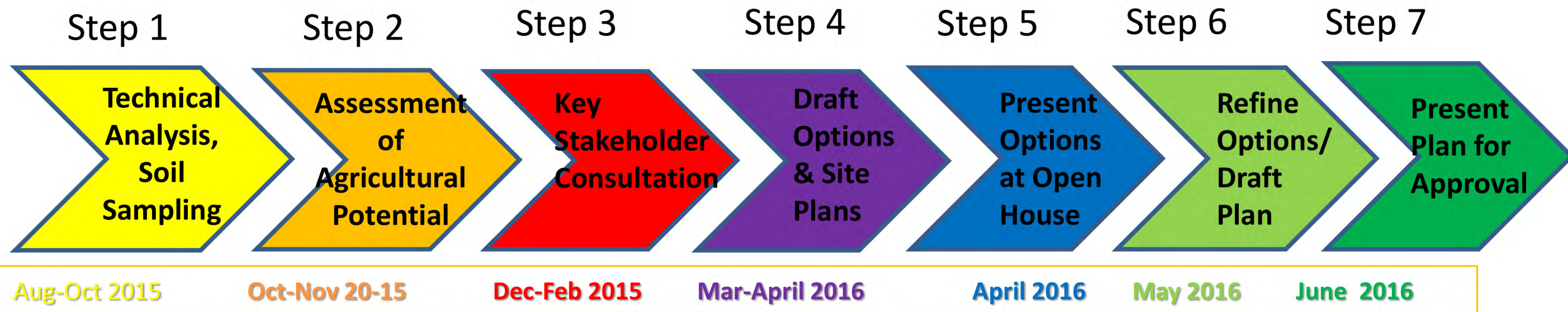
Agricultural Use		Considerations
	Mason bees and butterflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native pollinator enhancement opportunities (e.g. mason bees, butterflies).</li> <li>• May provide an educational opportunity for school children.</li> </ul>
	Small hoop house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low to the ground about 7' tall.</li> <li>• Allows early plant starters and year-round production.</li> <li>• Will require a bit of capital for startup.</li> </ul>
	Raised beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires labour for initial construction and establishment.</li> <li>• Will require addition of soil matrix (compost/soil mix).</li> <li>• Management of access and membership required.</li> </ul>
	Garden trails and Bioswales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May include interpretive signs.</li> <li>• 3m wide, cedar chips for trails.</li> <li>• Bioswales can help with on-site drainage.</li> </ul>
	Garden shed, outdoor classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The small additional structures will provide a value-added experience for school children and community garden members.</li> </ul>





## Best Agricultural Options for Lot 13 (Site D)







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