

Toronto Island * Gardenworld Park Proposal

Toronto Island Airport has problems. It requires taxpayer subsidies to stay in business. The federal Port Authority is selling public land, under its care, as a way of subsidizing airport operations. These problems are coming under public scrutiny, as the city considers whether or not to renew the airport land lease, called the Tripartite Agreement, for maybe a dollar a year, for another 50 years.

*IF t*he Tripartite Agreement is not renewed, the city can take possession of 215 acres of lakefront real estate. <u>Island Airport land is truly the most valuable land in the city</u>, with its unique location and panoramic view of the harbour.

This particular piece of land is the Toronto equivalent of the point of land which houses the Sydney Opera House. With the airport gone, the island airport site has the potential to house an iconic landmark, which could make Toronto famous, perhaps with a Planetarium, or Stardome Center, whatever that might be...

The question is... What is the Best Use for this very valuable Waterfront Property, when the airport shuts down? One option is a proposal for Gardenworld Theme Park, which can serve as a waterfront playground for the entire city, and draw tourists to experience a unique Toronto Waterfront exhibition.

Gardenworld Park is a proposal full of possibilities. It can present natural gardens, with greenhouses to display floral beauty from around the world, all year round. There can be agricultural features, with an experimental farm, to demonstrate how cities can feed themselves in times of agricultural shortages, and how communities can survive future climate change challenges.

There's no limit to how far a Gardenworld Park can go, as a floral theme park. It could function as a floral Disneyland, with rides and exhibits, and feature nature displays which transport visitors into an environmental paradise, with artworks and multimedia displays, to remind us of nature through the dark days of winter. Runways can be painted as floral mazes, and used for roller skating & basketball.

As an environmental theme park, Gardenworld could host entertainment, music, community events, and scientific conferences on how to manage climate change. Its relationship with Harbourfront Centre and the Toronto Music Garden can be developed, to present Toronto's Harbourfront as a world class tourist attraction.

As a nature based tourist attraction, Gardenworld Park represents the potential of Toronto's Waterfront to attract and entertain the world. And most important, to provide all Torontonians with leisure and recreation facilities for everyone.

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