



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

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**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee  
**From:** Dave Semple  
Director of Parks Operations

**Date:** November 13, 2003  
**File:** 7200-01

**Re:** 2010 Trails Strategy

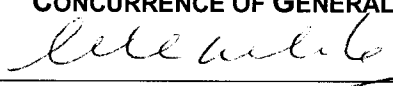
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**Staff Recommendation**

That Council endorse the 2010 Trails Strategy as the guide for developing the Richmond Trails System.

Dave Semple  
Director of Parks Operations  
Local 3350

Att.2

<p><b>FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY</b></p> <p><b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b></p> 
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## Staff Report

### Origin

On May 12, 2003 Council adopted the 2010 Trails Strategy report in principle and moved that staff seek public input on the Strategy and report back to Council. The document and power point presentation is on the City Website: [www.city.richmond.bc.ca/parks/trails/trails\\_index.htm](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/parks/trails/trails_index.htm).

This report summarizes the findings from the public input and outlines some of the recent initiatives and projects underway to make Richmond a more *walkable* and *cycle friendly* community.

### Analysis

The intent of the new 2010 Trails Strategy, *Linking People, the Community and Nature* is to provide a guide for developing:

*“a vibrant network of interconnected trails, greenways, blueways, and cycling routes that will support the City’s commitment to creating a livable, attractive and healthy community.” (2010 Trails Strategy page 13)*

Over 300 recommendations were made that range from short term construction projects to longer term strategies and coordination initiatives that will go beyond the year 2010.

### 1. Public Input Results

Public input was received through surveys completed at three venues: Garry Point Park on September 7<sup>th</sup>; Grauer Park Open House on September 10<sup>th</sup>; and Richmond Centre Mall on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003. In addition, surveys were available to staff at the City Works Yard and City Hall.

Presentation boards outlining the Trails Vision and Goals, the Framework for Neighbourhood Links and all the City-wide Links (with maps) were set up for viewing at the Richmond Centre Mall and manned by members of the Mobility Strategy Team.

Over 150 surveys were completed by the general public at the three venues with an additional 30 completed by City staff. (See attachment 1 for a copy of the survey.)

The intent of the public survey was to:

- determine level of support for the 2010 Trails Strategy;
- identify key priorities for development;
- identify improvements that could be made at the neighbourhood level; and
- elicit general comments.

**2010 Trails Strategy Highlights:**

- ❑ 97.8 % supported the Vision, *Linking People, the Community, and Nature* and agreed that this is an important goal for the City to pursue (76 % Strongly Agreed; 21.8 % Agreed);
- ❑ 72 % of people use the trails either daily or weekly;
- ❑ 73 % stated that their favourite trail area is (1) the Steveston/South Dyke area and (2) the West Dyke Trail;
- ❑ The *top priority* for future trail development was overwhelmingly the development of a continuous waterfront trail;
- ❑ Other top priorities included developing a series of connecting internal trails across Richmond and enhancing the natural environment along trail corridors to create “eco-corridors”;
- ❑ Other improvements or concerns listed by the respondents included:
  - more washrooms/garbage receptacles;
  - separation between cyclists and pedestrians;
  - connect to the lesser known trails e.g. Bath Slough;
  - more dogs off leash areas;
  - dog control/separate dog trails;
  - viewing tower;
  - more bike paths;
  - places to sit under covered areas;
  - lighting of some trails for evening/winter walks;
  - V.I.P. (Volunteers-in-Park) program to provide a presence;
- ❑ When asked where in Richmond the City should focus future development a large number responded with East Richmond, No. 6 Road area, and Bridgeport areas. This was in line with the priority to create a continuous waterfront trail system and interconnecting trails around the Island;
- ❑ Neighbourhood improvement suggestions included:
  - more safe bike lanes #1 priority;
  - wider sidewalks and boulevards to separate trails/paths from traffic;
  - maps and signage showing connections between neighbourhoods;
  - special events to promote community input/seasonal walks;
  - more programs in the Leisure Guide for group walks or cycle events;
  - good lighting;
- ❑ And finally, general comments were very positive about the work the City has done and the Strategy for the future. These comments included:
  - “The City has improved immensely in the last ten years.”;
  - “I feel this is a great proposal for the future and have had much positive response from visiting guests so far to what Richmond has to provide.”;
  - “Richmond is one of the most beautiful cities to live in!”;
  - “Love the trails keep improving a good thing.”;
  - “Great ideas, hope they come to fruition.”

## **2. Current *Walkable and Cycle Friendly* Projects and Initiatives**

One of the main reasons to undertake the 2010 Trails Strategy at this time was the need to coordinate and build upon all the various City and outside agency initiatives and projects. The true success of the Trails Strategy depends upon many different City departments working towards making Richmond a walkable community and to provide alternative transportation modes such as cycling.

The 2010 Trails Strategy was presented to staff in eight different departments in the City and to the Advisory Committee on the Environment and the Richmond Public Art Commission.

There are numerous projects or initiatives administered by the different City departments that are currently underway. A list of these projects is attached with a map showing their locations (see attachment 2).

In summary, the Public surveys indicated a strong support for the 2010 Trails Strategy and the ongoing development of the trail system, in particular, the creation of a continuous waterfront trail around the Island. The priorities were the City-wide trails and protection of the natural environment enjoyed along the waterfront and internal trails. People felt they would be encouraged to walk and cycle more in their neighbourhood if there were more bike trails, better lighting, signage, and programs and events that promoted cycling and walking.

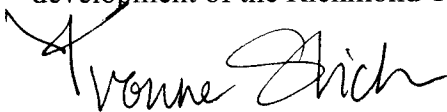
### **Financial Impact**

Council has approved a Trails Capital Budget Program over the years for approximately \$250,000 per year. This amount has been requested for approval in the recent 2004 Capital Program submissions. Many of the projects listed above have been funded through developer contributions or have value added by combining capital work programs, e.g. Blundell Road ditch infill.

### **Conclusion**

Public input indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the work the City has accomplished to date on the Trails System and supports the 2010 Trails Strategy. The ongoing coordination of the numerous City projects and initiatives will ensure the success of the Trails Strategy. This Strategy will contribute to the City's Vision of being the most appealing, livable and well managed community in Canada.

Staff is recommending that Council endorse the 2010 Trails Strategy as the guide for the future development of the Richmond Trails System.



Yvonne Stich  
Park Planner  
(3310)



## 2010 Richmond Trails Strategy Public Survey

October 9, 2003 - Richmond Centre

*Thank you for taking the time to fill this survey in. Your input is valuable to us.*

1. How often do you use the trails in Richmond? (*check one*)

daily     weekly     monthly     occasionally     never

2. Which is your favourite trail or trail area in Richmond and why?

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3. The Trails Strategy's overall Vision is *Linking People, the Community, and Nature* through a network of connecting trails and greenways. Do you agree that this is an important goal for the City to pursue?

Strongly agree     Agree     Somewhat agree     Disagree

4. The 2010 Trail Strategy identifies a number of key priorities for future trail development and improvements.

*Give each priority a rank from 1 to 4.*

*1 = Strongly Agree    2 = Agree    3 = Somewhat Agree    4 = Disagree*

A key priority for the future trail development is:

- a continuous waterfront trail around Richmond
- a series of connecting internal trails across Richmond
- developing local trails that link neighbourhoods to each other
- improving the pedestrian environment in City Centre with linear parks/trails
- higher maintenance along the trails
- interpretation and promoting awareness of Richmond's heritage and natural environment
- providing more amenities e.g. boardwalks, piers
- trail signage for direction, distance and "You are Here" location maps
- enhancing the natural environment along trail corridors to create 'eco-corridors'  
(*eco-corridors allow the movement of nature and wildlife between green spaces*)

5. What other improvements or amenities would you like to see on the trail system? What concerns do you have?

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6. Where in Richmond do you think the City should focus future trail development?

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7. One of the goals of the new 2010 Trails Strategy is to encourage people to walk/cycle in their own neighbourhoods and local communities (e.g. to school, shopping, for leisure).

What improvements could be made at a neighbourhood level to encourage you and others to walk or cycle more?

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8. Any other comments you would like to make?

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To help us better understand where our trails users come from please us provide your postal code:

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*Once again, thank you for taking the time to answer this survey.*

City of Richmond Parks Department  
October 9, 2003

## Current Walkable and Cycling Friendly Projects and Initiatives 2003

The following is a list of projects underway (see attached map for locations):

### A. Rezoning and development projects:

- Portions of Garden City Greenways in South and North McLennan areas under construction by developers;
- Internal neighbourhood pathways through public rights-of-way have been negotiated and are under construction in at least eight townhouse developments in North McLennan;
- Public access to a new improved waterfront boardwalk negotiated as part of the Great Canadian Casino Corp. (Bridgeport area);
- Garden City Greenway to be constructed south of River Road to Sea Island Way through the Great Canadian Casino project and City capital funds (includes bike lanes on the road);
- Riverport Landing project in the Fraser Lands includes a public waterfront trail and amenities as part of their rezoning application;
- Walkways and trail improvements negotiated as part of the ongoing London/Princess area redevelopment; and
- Ferry Lane trail to be constructed as part of a rezoning along 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### B. Public Art initiatives:

- Public art projects promoting the Garden City theme are underway in two North and South McLennan developments( Leighton Green and Wellington Court);
- The Millennium (Portals into the Future) stone sculptures have been installed at the Hollybridge Pump Station/Trails Staging area;
- Neighbourhood trails directional signage is being developed for the London/Princess area; and
- Proposed Francis Road pump station redevelopment along the West Dyke Trail will include public art.

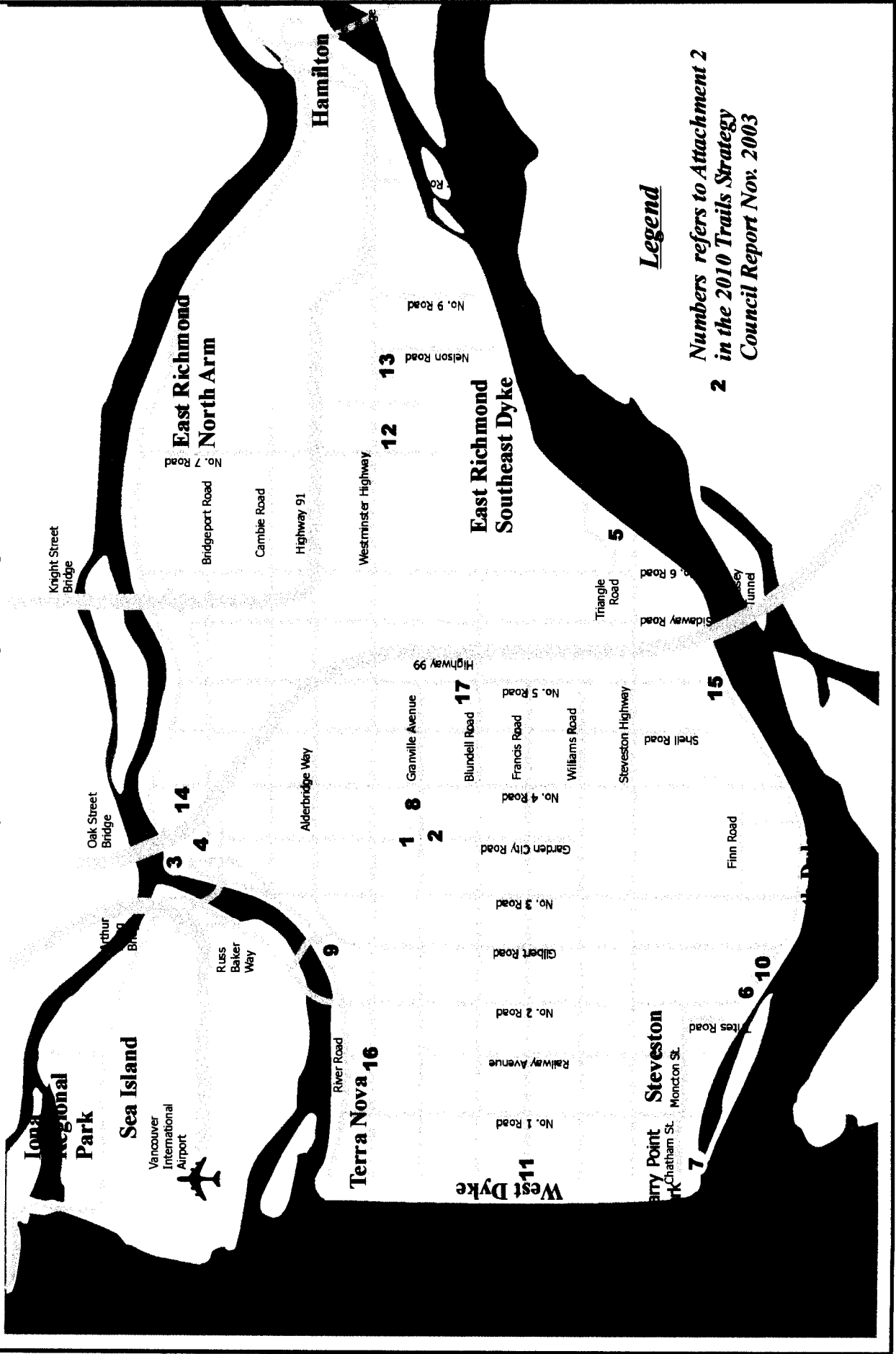
### C. City Funded Construction projects:

- No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road bike/pedestrian path along Westminster Hwy. under construction (A TransLink Grant 50/50 cost-sharing with the City);
- Redevelopment of Nelson Road intersection will include 100 metres of a new bike lane;
- No. 4 Road trail in the Tait area has been constructed from the Bridgeport Trail to the dyke;
- No. 5 Road trail south of Rice Mill to Dyke Road has been constructed;
- The McCallan Road trail from Westminster Hwy to skateboard park under construction; and
- The Blundell Road ditch infill project included a walkway along the south side.

### D. Other Initiatives

- The Walkable Richmond Accord has been ratified by City Council, Richmond School District, and the Richmond Health Services;
- The City continues to support and sponsor the Way to Go Program and the recent International Walk to School Day for children;
- The Mobility Strategy Team is working with Tourism Richmond to review the potential of developing walking/driving theme maps such as “If you had 2 or 4 hours in Richmond, here is what you could see” and specific Environmental, Public Art, Agricultural, or seasonal themed tour maps (these could be on the City website as well); and
- A Trail Etiquette Session was held at Garry Point Park in September to promote etiquette and safety awareness on the trails.

# "Walkable and Cycle Friendly" Project Locations 2003



## Legend

Numbers refers to Attachment 2 in the 2010 Trails Strategy Council Report Nov. 2003