



City of Richmond

Report to Committee


To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** May 7, 2013
From: Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks **File:** 11-7200-01/2013-Vol 01
Re: National Hiking Trail

Staff Recommendation

That Richmond's participation in the National Hiking Trail initiative, as described in the report, "National Hiking Trail," dated March 18, 2013 from the Senior Manager, Parks be approved.

Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks
(604-247-4942)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: GI

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond has been approached by Hike BC, an affiliate of Hike Canada, to participate in the National Hiking Trail initiative.

Hike BC is a not-for-profit society that was founded in 2000 to coordinate the development and implementation of the National Hiking Trail in British Columbia. The National Hiking Trail was originated by Hike Canada in 1971 to achieve the following goals:

- To create a trail system that connects the nation from coast to coast (in essence, “a footpath across Canada”).
- To promote general fitness through healthy outdoor activities.
- To help preserve places of natural, scenic, heritage, cultural and historical value.
- To promote non-motorized tourism and education.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for including sections of the Dyke Trail as part of the National Hiking Trail.

This report responds to Council’s term goal of Community Wellness, and in particular Priority 10.4 “Continued emphasis on the development of the City’s parks and trails system.”

Analysis

Proposed Linkages Through Richmond

Currently, the National Hiking Trail begins in the east at St. John’s and crosses the provinces of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. In BC, the trail currently connects over 40 communities and integrates a number of established heritage trails. Hike BC is in the process of completing linkages in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. Staff have met with representatives from Hike BC to identify possible linkages to the National Hiking Trail. As this particular segment of the trail strives to connect Peace Arch to Cypress Provincial Park, the proposed option through Richmond is as follows:

- South Dyke Trail, beginning at No. 5 Road to Garry Point Park.
- West Dyke Trail from Garry Point Park to Terra Nova.
- Middle Arm Dyke Trail to Aberdeen Canada Line station.

At the southern connection, hikers would be encouraged to bus through the George Massey Tunnel and pick up the trail at the South Dyke (see attachment 1). At the northern connection, hikers from Richmond would board the Canada Line at the Aberdeen Station and take rapid transit to the terminus station in downtown Vancouver where it would connect to the seawall and Stanley Park, or the sea bus and North Vancouver.

Benefits of Participation

Richmond's participation in the National Hiking Trail will increase the profile of Richmond's dyke trail system and its waterfront amenities. The route would be identified as part of the National Hiking Trail through the inclusion of small trail markers to be added to existing trail signage (see attachment 2). Promotion of Richmond's inclusion on this nationwide network would occur on Hike BC's website www.nationalhikingtrail.org, through Hike BC promotional campaigns, and through the development of an Android application for mobile phones that is currently being developed.

Synergies with Existing and Proposed Trail Programs

The National Hiking Trail is one of two original cross-Canada trails and has a vision to create "a footpath across Canada." With its focus on hiking, the National Hiking Trail (managed by Hike BC) differs slightly from the Trans Canada Trail (managed by Trails BC), which is a multi-use amenity that features cycle paths as a large part of its network. The two trails occasionally intersect and work in partnership when it is beneficial for the communities involved.

Currently, the Trans Canada Trail does not connect through Richmond, although Trails BC has recently expressed interest in exploring a "Blue Heron" bicycle path connection from Vancouver to Delta by way of the Shell Road Trail and the Canada Line Bridge. Trail BC's timeline for this trail connection is 2017, and this proposed route is complimentary to the linkages proposed by Hike BC's National Hiking Trail as it showcases a different component of Richmond's dynamic trail system.

The National Hiking Trail's proposed linkages through Richmond support the City's participation in the *Experience the Fraser* Project that was endorsed by Council in May 2012. *Experience the Fraser* is a collaborative multi-agency initiative to promote the Fraser River as a world-class river destination and to stimulate economic investment through tourism opportunities. In Richmond, Steveston has been identified as a node where people can come to "experience the Fraser," and the National Hiking Trail will reinforce this node as it will be prominently featured as part of the trail connection.

Financial Impact

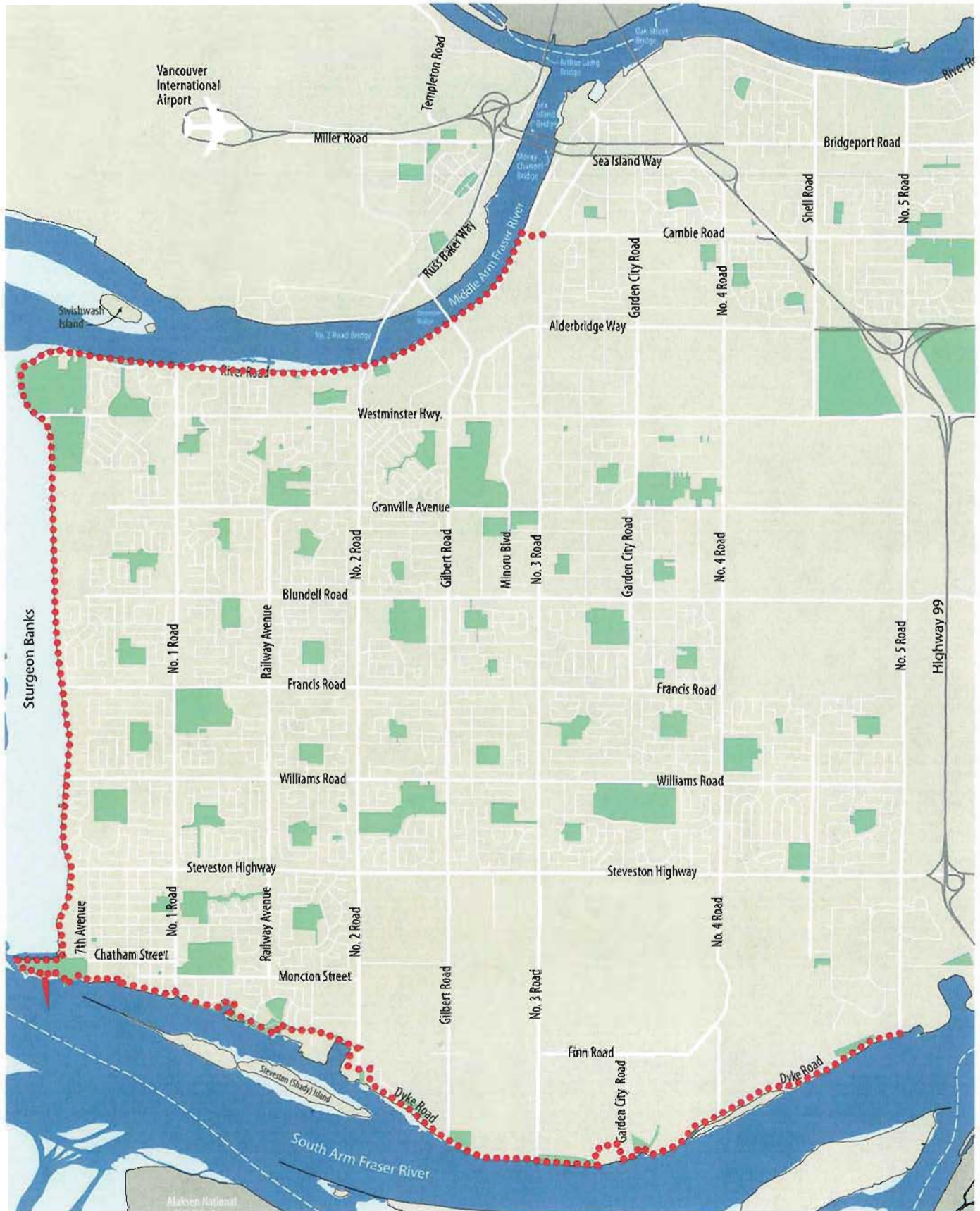
None.

Conclusion

Richmond's participation in the National Hiking Trail is an opportunity to showcase Richmond's dynamic dyke trail network while promoting connectivity to other trails within the region.



Serena Lusk
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-233-3344)



National Hiking Trail - Proposed Linkages Through Richmond
PRCS - 37



Example 1



Example 2