

CENTENNIAL TRAILS

2006 and beyond



Joint Proposal of:
Engineering, Parks & Public Works and Planning
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INTRODUCTION



Trails are an integral part of what makes Saanich special. Many of our major roads began as trails connecting Downtown Victoria to the wilds of Saanich in the 1800's. Cedar Hill Road is an example of such a trail that became a road.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's Saanich recognized the importance of trails and environmentally sensitive areas. The Colquitz River Study and the Green Belt Study created policy that is still being implemented. Since then, the principle of preserving trail connections and creating new ones is embodied in Saanich Official Community Plan documents.

The Centennial Trails Project builds on the success of existing trails. These include the Colquitz River Linear Park, the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, and the Lochside Regional Trail and Blenkinsop Bridge Crossing. The recently completed Glendale Trail, which connects to Layritz Park, the Vancouver Island Technology Park, the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, and the Interurban Campus of Camosun College, will grow in use as more residents discover a new, more environmentally friendly way to reach these destinations.

In recognition of the Municipality of Saanich's incorporation, 100 years ago in 1906, the Centennial Trails Project will make trail connections East-West and North-South to all geographic areas of the municipality. This proposal creates a trail system that will serve pedestrians and cyclists far into the future. This work will be undertaken in 2 phases over 6 years. Additional projects have also been identified to continue the program after 2009 and into the next century.

SAANICH VISION STATEMENT

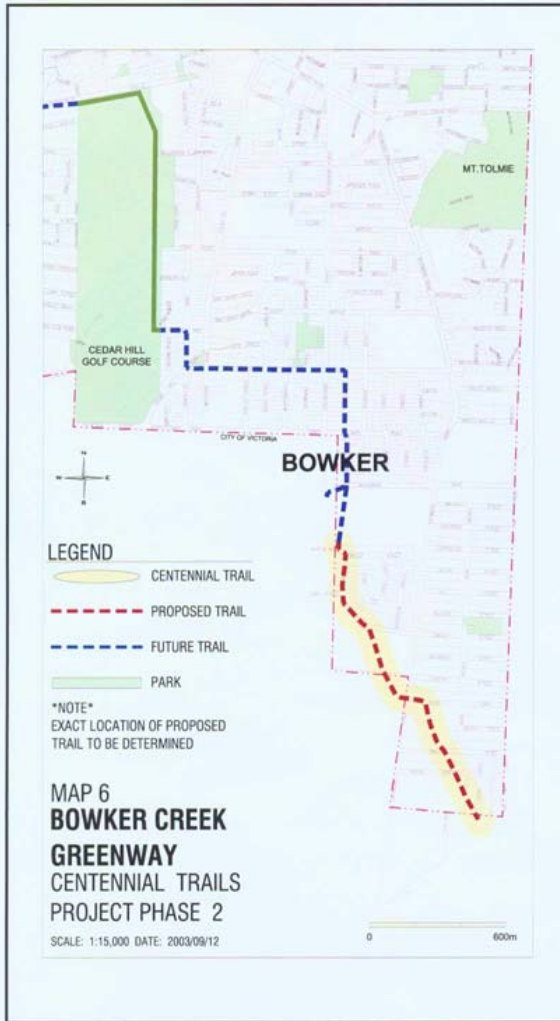
"THE URBAN AREA IS INTRA CONNECTED BY A BALANCED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS A CHOICE OF MODE FOR ALL RESIDENTS. SAANICH IS THE HEART OF AN URBAN REGION THAT DEFINES ITSELF AS THE WALKING AND CYCLING CAPITAL OF CANADA WITH EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSIT AND BICYCLE-FRIENDLY STREETS WITH TRAFFIC CALMING AND SAFE PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES."

OCP POLICY

10.7 IDENTIFY FUTURE TRAILS, FOOTPATHS, AND BIKEWAYS IN LOCAL AREA PLANS AND ACQUIRE RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR EASEMENTS AT THE TIME OF SUBDIVISION TO CREATE HIGH QUALITY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOODS.

10.8 ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN THE FINANCIAL PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTING QUALITY SIDEWALKS, FOOTPATHS, AND BIKEWAYS AND UPGRADING THE VISIBILITY OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS.

BOWKER CREEK GREENWAY



Bowker Creek is within one of the most urbanized local areas in Saanich. The result is that over the years much of the creek has been piped. Only a few sections of the creek remain within an open channel. Planning and design for a Bowker Creek greenway will provide the opportunity to create both pedestrian and cycling improvements in the Shelbourne neighbourhood and work toward environmental rehabilitation of the creek.

Greenway planning in the southern part of the local area is focused on open sections of the creek which pass through vacant land. Open space opportunities exist on several key parcels including Jubilee Hospital, unused BC Hydro land, unused municipal land, School District #61 sites and Saanich parks. Acquisition or access easements will be acquired. In other areas, bike lanes and/or sidewalks with boulevard landscaping and street furniture in existing rights-of-way will create the greenway within this urban neighbourhood. North of Cedar Hill Golf Course, considerable work will be required to determine the best routing and level of future improvements.

Support to plan for this Greenway is provided in the Shelbourne Local Area Plan and in the recently completed Capital Regional District "Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan, January 2003".

DESIGN CONCEPT

Neighbourhood and design concept work will be a major part of the initial work for this Phase 2 project. This will include identification and designation of trail routing, right-of-way acquisition, agreement on trail standards and opportunities and designs for riparian restoration work where the creek is open.

PHASE 2



The BC Hydro lands provide an attractive greenway opportunity



Environmental rehabilitation of Bowker Creek would enhance the trail experience

BEYOND THE PLAN

Planning and initial land acquisition work is the start of work on this Greenway. Identification of detailed trail routes to the north and west and infrastructure improvements will be needed in the future.

The Bowker Creek Greenway is just one of a number of greenways and trails projects proposed under Saanich's Centennial Trails Proposal