

7.2 Terra Nova Area/West Dyke/Middle Arm Trails

Vision

The Terra Nova/West Dyke/Middle Arm trails will continue to provide public access to this regionally significant landscape with awe inspiring open vistas of distant mountains, water, marsh ,and a variety of wildlife habitats. The key principles will include maintaining the tranquil and natural experience of these trails by ensuring sensitive and appropriate development that focuses on enriching the public's awareness and appreciation of the environmental value and richness of the area.

Location

Along the Middle Arm of the Fraser River from No.2 Road to the River Road road end at the entrance onto the West Dyke Trail and south to Garry Point Park.

Key Links and Destinations

Steveston Village and Steveston Waterfront Greenways; Garry Point Park; Sturgeon Banks; Terra Nova Natural Area; Terra Nova North West Quadrant (TNWQ) future park development; Terra Nova, Thompson and Dover residential areas; the No.2 Road Bridge and Sea Island; the City Centre Middle Arm waterfront and the Downtown District of the City Centre.

Other City and External Plans

The vast estuary along the West Dyke Trail beyond the toe of the dyke is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government who published the Sturgeon Bank Wildlife Management Area Management Plan in 1994. Their goal is conservation with a recognition of the high recreational use of the adjacent trail. Plans for boardwalks or piers that may extend out into the marsh area would need to be negotiated with the provincial government as well as FREMP. In 1995, the Parks Section developed a West Dyke Trail Design Plan as a guide for developing the trails and amenities. Improvements were implemented in 1996 and 1997. This plan provides a number of conceptual designs for trail amenities such as an interpretation plan and observation platforms that are still valid. The recent Terra Nova North West Quadrant(TNWQ) Inventory and Analysis was presented to Council in 2002. The immense ecological, historical and recreational value of this site is due to its location adjacent to the river, estuary and trail system. The next phase will be developing a design and management plan for the area. Public Works has ongoing dyke and pump station improvements along the West Dyke that provide opportunities to upgrade staging areas at the same time.



Great Blue heron



West Dyke Trail - north end



Terra Nova Natural Area



Adopt-a-Garden on West Dyke Trail



Terra Nova walkway



Sturgeon Banks



West Dyke Trail - near Garry Point Park



View of Sea Island and Vancouver International Airport from Middle Arm Trail

Recommendations

Short Term

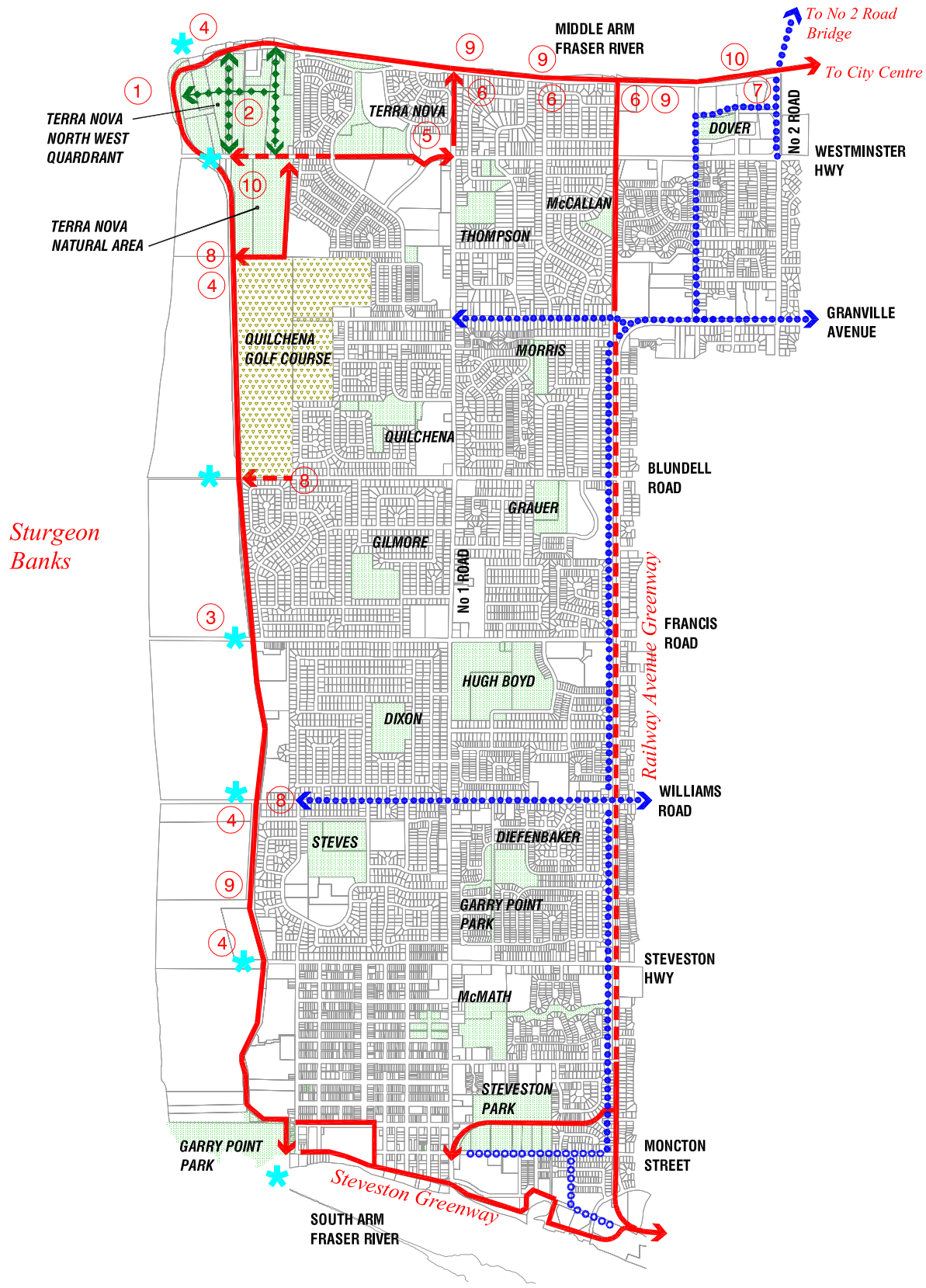
1. Include the existing waterfront dyke trails and River Road into the planning and design process for the Terra Nova North West Quadrant (TNWQ) site and develop the whole area in a comprehensive manner.
2. Develop a series of trails throughout TNWQ site that connects with the waterfront and Terra Nova Natural Area.
3. Coordinate with Public Works on the design of new pump stations and their surroundings to ensure the overall improvement of the associated trail staging area (e.g. Francis Road pump station).
4. Continue with the interpretation program along the dyke and minor trail amenity improvements.
5. Improve neighbourhood Green Links by providing signage from No.1 Road and Westminster Hwy. directing people to Terra Nova Natural Area, the West Dyke, and to Spulc'wuck School/ Park.
6. Develop design plans for the Middle Arm entrance points onto the dyke trails to improve accessibility and safety.
7. Provide directional signage and an orientation map at the No. 2 Road pedestrian/cycling ramp and dyke trail intersection.

Medium Term

8. Improve the road end parking conditions at Blundell Road and Williams Road.
9. Implement the improvements to the Middle Arm access points.
10. Improve the waterfront open space immediately to the east of the No. 2 Road Bridge.

Ongoing / Long Term

11. Work with FREMP and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection on the potential of providing controlled access into the marsh with boardwalks and observation platforms specifically at Terra Nova and the Francis Road staging area.
12. Consider the acquisition of privately owned lands outside the dyke.
13. Negotiate with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the potential of adding onto their pier structure in the future while respecting their concern for security.
14. Consider the closure of Westminster Highway to vehicular traffic west of Parkes Drive if all private properties have been acquired in the future. Maintain pedestrian and cycling access and integrate the road into the park to create one seamless site that would include Terra Nova Natural Area and the TNWQ site.



West Dyke / Terra Nova / Middle Arm Area Trails

N. T. S.

	EXISTING TRAILS / GREENWAYS		EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES
	PROPOSED TRAILS / GREENWAYS		PROPOSED CYCLE ROUTES
	RECOMMENDATIONS		PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN LINKS
	PROPOSED STAGING AREAS		

