

# Part I

## 1.0 Introduction

### *The Past*

The City of Richmond's existing trail system is well recognized locally and regionally and provides a diversity of amenities and experiences. The foundation of much of the work and development of the existing system over the years has been the original 1979 Council Adopted Trails Plan. The main focus of the plan was to establish recreational trails around the perimeter of the island and to establish internal trails to connect to these perimeter trails. The only other trail plans that have been officially adopted since then have been the 1994 Steveston Greenways Waterfront Plan and numerous individual trail design plans. The 1999 Official Community Plan does, however, contain many policy statements that support and promote trails and greenways as a valuable asset to be protected and further developed to ensure that the City continues to evolve into a park-like City for future generations.

### *The Future*

The City can be proud of the work that has been accomplished since the 1979 Trails Plan was adopted. However, Richmond has grown and changed over the last 20 years and it is time to update the plan and develop a comprehensive Trail Strategy that supports the City's Vision of being the *most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada*. In addition, the 2003-2005 Corporate Plan has created a number of strategies to support this Vision. Three of the key strategies that this 2010 Trails Strategy directly supports are:

- Waterfront Development Strategy
- Community Mobility Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy

The Strategy seeks to preserve, develop and improve Richmond's trail system by:

1. Developing a conceptual framework for a comprehensive network of interconnected trails, greenways blueways, and cycling routes that connect people with their neighbourhoods, community and nature;
2. Identifying key opportunities that maximize the many benefits to the users and the community of a well planned trail system;
3. Identifying the opportunities for co-ordination of the many initiatives occurring throughout the City and external agencies; and
4. Developing an Implementation Plan for the city-wide trails that identifies the critical missing links and development priorities to be constructed as opportunities arise in the future.



Steveston Harbour and Garry Point Park



Steveston Greenways Directional Signage



West Dyke Trail