

7.3 Railway Avenue/McCallan Road Greenway

Vision

This West Richmond corridor will be a critical north-south greenway that links the west side of Richmond from Steveston Village to the gateway bridges along the Middle Arm of the Fraser River and ultimately to the City Centre. Notwithstanding the unknown future use of the CPR lands adjacent to Railway Avenue, this will be developed as a major natural and recreational greenway with public open spaces along the route. Key principles will be respecting and building upon the fact that this is a major historic and present day transportation route in the City, creating multiple connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods, introducing nature, and respecting its strong linear character and view corridors.

Location

Railway Avenue and McCallan Road from the Middle Arm of the Fraser River (west of No.2 Road Bridge) to Dyke Road in Steveston.

Important Links and Destinations

This Greenway should be viewed as an integral part of the larger system. Links include the Steveston Waterfront Greenways, Steveston Park, Steveston Village, Britannia Heritage Shipyard and other historic sites; T. Homma School Park site; McCallan Park; Thompson Community Centre and Park, Burnett High School and Blair Elementary School; Railway Avenue and Granville Avenue designated cycling lanes leading to Garden City Greenway, the City Centre, and Bridgeport (Oak Street Bridge); Middle Arm Dyke Trail; No.2 Road and Dinsmore Bridges; and a large residential population in the bordering neighbourhoods.

Other City and External Plans

The City presently has no plan to widen either Railway Avenue or the McCallan Road right-of-way. The largest unknown factor is the future use of the 20 meter rail corridor owned by Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) sandwiched between the two road right-of-ways (Railway Avenue and McCallan Road). The City purchased the rail corridor north of Granville Avenue in 1994 and integrated it with the McCallan Road right-of-way trail. In 1995, CPR removed the rails and provides minimal maintenance from south of Granville Avenue to just north of the Steveston Wye. In 1990, CPR Rail provided the City with a Study that showed a number of options for developing their lands together with City owned lands. These options focussed on residential development similar to the Steveston Wye. The proposal was not pursued further by CPR and they have not approached the City in recent years.



North end access onto the Middle Arm Trail



McCallan Road (Westminster Hwy to River Road)



Thompson Community Centre



McCallan Road r.o.w. trail (Granville Avenue to Westminster Hwy.)



Entrance off Railway Avenue to the Steveston Wye Trail

Recommendations:

Short Term

1. Connect Westminster Hwy. to River Road and the Middle Arm Trail by constructing an asphalt trail along the east side of McCallan Road.
2. Improve the safety of the access onto the Middle Arm Trail with a crosswalk and improved ramps.
3. Construct an asphalt trail along the south side of River Road to connect McCallan Road to Skateboard Park.
4. Introduce nature and plant trees along the existing trail between Westminster Highway and Granville Avenue.
5. Work with the local schools to plant the trees and adopt the corridor through the Partners for Beautification Program.
6. Connect into McCallan Park and the adjacent neighbourhood by constructing a pathway along the north edge of the park.
7. Provide a safe pedestrian trail to complement the cycling lanes by constructing a 3.0 meter off-road pathway from Granville Avenue to Garry Street within the McCallan Road right-of-way. This is a simple temporary solution that will provide the residents of the area with an important link until the future use of the CPR rail corridor is determined.
8. Negotiate with CPR to formalize through a Memorandum of Understanding, the existing crossings (from the neighbourhoods on the west side) to the Railway Avenue cycling lanes and transit stops.
9. Install directional signage and orientation maps throughout the system.
10. Formalize and improve the trail south of Moncton Street through to T. Homma School Park site and Britannia Heritage Shipyard.
11. Develop and install a consistent and recognizable directional signage system for the trails and the heritage sites at the corner of Moncton Street and Railway Avenue.

Medium Term

12. Develop a park plan for the City owned triangle of land south of Moncton Street that acts as a gateway to Britannia Heritage Shipyard and the Steveston Waterfront Greenways.
13. Involve the adjacent neighbours in the planning process and encourage their adoption of the site through Partners for Beautification Program.
14. Determine a use for the City owned at Granville Avenue and Railway Avenue..
15. Improve the rail crossings to ensure safety, accessibility and their visibility.
16. Consider adding public art at each crossing building upon a theme of transportation.
17. Improve pedestrian safety at major arterial intersections (e.g. Williams Road) by building sidewalks with curb and gutter at the south-west and north-west corners.

Ongoing / Long Term

18. Negotiate with CPR on the future use of the land. Options may include acquisition of part or all of the CPR lands; partnerships in developing portions or all of the City owned and CPR lands while ensuring the appropriate setbacks, development standards and design to maintain the Railway Avenue corridor as a strong recreational greenway with public open space at appropriate locations, and possibly future tramway.
19. Encourage local residents to become involved with Partners for Beautification and adopt the corridor.



Railway Avenue Greenway

EXISTING TRAILS / GREENWAYS
 PROPOSED TRAILS / GREENWAYS
 PROPOSED STAGING AREAS
 EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES
 PROPOSED CYCLE ROUTES
 PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN LINKS
 N. T. S. North