

THE BRUNETTE - FRASER RIVER GREENWAY PLAN

GVRD INTEGRATED GREENWAY UTILITY PILOT PROJECT SUMMARY

**Approved by
City of Burnaby
City of New Westminster
GVRD Board**

**September 1999
Revised March 2001**

Introduction

A key element of the Green Zone strategy, adopted as part of the Livable Region Strategic Plan in 1996, is the development of a regional greenway system. The Greater Vancouver Regional Greenways Vision was approved by the GVRD Board in June 1999 and municipalities are working with GVRD to refine the Vision through sub-regional greenway sector plans.

Sector plans have been completed for Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge and the Northeast Sector and plans for the Burrard Peninsula (including Burnaby, New Westminster, Vancouver and Richmond) and the North Shore. Upon completion all sector plans in 2002, they will be combined into an overall region-wide Recreation Greenways Plan.

The GVRD Board directed a staff Greenways Task Group to develop a pilot recreation plan utilizing a GVRD right-of-way. The Brunette-Fraser River Greenway (BFG) running from Burnaby Mountain to the New Westminster Quay was selected because of its feasibility, community support, social and recreation benefits. The BFG forms an essential greenway in the Burrard Peninsula sector plan, and plays a major role in connecting existing and proposed greenways.

Overview of Pilot Greenway

The greenway commences at Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and uses existing pedestrian trails to connect the Trans Canada Trail and Burnaby's urban trail along Broadway-Underhill and Eastlake Drive. From here it follows the urban trail from Eastlake Drive to Government Street, then to Cariboo Avenue and Burnaby Lake Regional Park and the Brunette River corridor. The GVS&DD access road along the Brunette River forms the greenway to Hume Park in New Westminster. A new section will follow the top of the Brunette River ravine to the Brunette interchange, where it passes through the industrial area along Braid and Canfor Avenue sidewalks in Sapperton. It rejoins the Brunette River at Capilano Way and meanders along the south bank taking advantage of existing public easements to its outflow into the Fraser River at Cumberland Street.

The greenway is being expanded along New Westminster's Fraserview area to include a new foreshore park adjacent to the SkyTrain corridor from Cumberland Street to the intersection of Front Street and Columbia Street. The greenway then connects to New Westminster's planned eastern extension of the Esplanade being constructed through their waterfront redevelopment program. A boardwalk extension beyond the river foreshore will be necessary under the CPR, Pattullo and SkyTrain bridges.

The attached greenway map (Map 1) illustrates the corridor and segments are described in more detail in Appendix 1.

Pilot Greenway Advantages

The BFG links key Green Zone sites including Still Creek, Burnaby Lake Regional Park, Byrne Creek Ravine Park, Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, Stoney Creek, and Harold Winch Conservation Areas, Hume Park, Coquitlam Urban Trail Corridor, Glenbrook Ravine, New Westminister Quay Esplanade and the John Molson Way and 7/11 Bikeway. It extends along tree lined streets, ravines and stream corridors, the Fraser foreshore, and through an active industrial area. Over 50% of the greenway is in place, with informal segments requiring upgrading or formal development in cooperation with Burnaby and New Westminister.

The pilot greenway project integrates:

- utility maintenance and greenway management along the Brunette River corridor, where the existing GVS&DD service road will also function as a new greenway connection;
- design and construction of new sewer lines and complementary greenways associated with the Lake City Interceptor from Lougheed Highway to the Brunette River Corridor;
- development of a new Fraser River foreshore park and greenway connection to be built by SkyTrain (TransLink);
- regional strategies to expand recreation opportunities and commuting alternatives in the growth concentration areas of New Westminister and Burnaby;
- conservation and education objectives of the Livable Region Strategic Plan;
- habitat restoration and enhancement initiatives of community groups, provincial and federal agencies; and
- actions with the Brunette Basin Stormwater Management Program.

Significance of the Brunette-Fraser River Greenway

The BFG is regionally significant crossing three municipalities, connecting several Green Zone areas and a number of regional features. It currently receives and attracts region-wide recreation users using this informal trail corridor linking Burnaby Mountain, Stoney Creek, Burnaby Lake Regional Park, Hume Park, and the Westminister Quay. It provides dramatic vistas of the Fraser River, Golden Ears and Mount Baker. In addition, the BFG is key in linking existing or planned trails in Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Delta, Vancouver and Surrey. The greenway corridor is also included in the Official Community Plans of Burnaby and New Westminister. Both cities have active programs underway to develop local trail connections to the BFG and are committed to partnering with GVRD to implement the pilot greenway.

Greenway Facility Development

The BFG will see construction of 6.5 kilometres of new combined walking and cycling trails primarily through New Westminster. Minor upgrading and signage along with habitat restoration and enhancement will be undertaken along the Brunette River corridor in Burnaby. A new greenway section has been built between Eastlake Drive and Government Road in Burnaby.

A variety of recreation facilities will be installed at key staging areas and access points along the corridor. Proposed amenities include:

- 5400 metres of multi-use trail varying between 2.5 and 3.0 metres in width;
- 1100 metres of foreshore boardwalk under the Patullo to SkyTrain bridges;
- 2 staging\rest areas at Canfor Avenue and Capilano Way in New Westminster;
- 20 picnic tables, garbage receptacles and resting benches;
- 12 information kiosks and a new pedestrian plaza at key access points;
- 6 education panels to explain GVRD programs along the greenway;
- a viewpoint to feature the diversity of the Brunette River riparian zone;
- rail and street pedestrian crossing devices at key locations; and
- bank stabilization, revegetation and fisheries enhancement.

Once completed the greenway will provide a continuous recreation and commuting corridor from north Burnaby to the Fraser River and into down-town New Westminster. Improved access with information kiosks and education signs will provide users with an appreciation of the role the Brunette and Fraser Rivers play in the environmental and recreation greenway system. Several pedestrian overpasses to better access the greenway have also been proposed in Burnaby and New Westminster.

SkyTrain Foreshore Park Development to Support Greenway

The Rapid Transit Office and Translink will develop a new 22 hectare waterfront park in the Fraserview area of New Westminster to compensate for foreshore lands lost to SkyTrain expansion. An agreement has been reached with New Westminster which will see the park completed in 2001. The park development is a significant addition to the original greenway proposal. It provides substantially more public recreation amenities including:

- public washrooms, information and concession services;
- several observation areas with viewing platforms;
- combined fishing and observation pier extending into the Fraser River;
- pedestrian bridge feature over an intertidal marsh;
- vehicular drop-off area with modest parking;
- extensive boardwalks with seating and picnic tables;

- restoration of the historic Coal House;
- creation of several inter-tidal marshes and benches providing fish habitat;
- separate cycling and walking pathways connecting to the Brunette and Quay segments of the greenway;
- floating boardwalks connecting to the south side of the Brunette River; and
- docking facilities for small water craft and possible pedestrian ferry to other greenway connections on the south shore.

The land base for the park will be created by extending the Fraser River foreshore between thirty and fifty metres, using a combination of dredged river sand and fill removed from the McBride Boulevard tunnel excavation. The foreshore expansion will facilitate construction of both the SkyTrain and Sapperton Forcemain. It will provide the space needs for a quality greenway corridor and park. Site landscaping with native trees and shrubs and park facilities will be completed by the end of 2001.

The park development will provide a regional attraction given its strategic Fraser River location in the centre of GVRD and scale of facility development. It also provides additional recreation and open space benefits to the New Westminster growth area.

Public and Council Reviews

Open houses were held in New Westminster and Burnaby with the public expressing solid support of the integrated utility-greenway proposal. Presentations were also made to several community organizations including the Stoney Creek Environmental Work Group, Sapperton Fish and Game Association, plus the Fraserview and Sapperton Residents Associations.

All groups provided their support for the greenway concept and mitigation to promote enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Public amenities, safe pedestrian crossings and proper management of public use were key issues raised by the groups and the public and addressed in the final greenway plan.

New Westminster and Burnaby Councils endorsed the foreshore park and greenway plan in 1999.

Greenway Development and Operating Costs

Land acquisition and facility development costs including funding and in-kind contributions from all partners. Development and land acquisition are estimated at \$3,964,500 with 60% for facilities and 40% for land acquisition. GVRD Parks contribution is \$3,433,000 with \$1,995,000 dedicated for facility development and \$1,438,000 needed for easement acquisition.

SkyTrain and TransLink is funding most of the \$9,240,000 development of the Fraserview foreshore park, with 70% being targeted for extension of the land base. Approximately \$2,840,000 of this total is being spent on providing recreation facilities.

New Westminster Council endorsed working with GVRD to establish the Fraserview foreshore park and greenway as a GVRD Regional Park site once SkyTrain has completed the park facilities in 2001. Burnaby and New Westminster are contributing \$122,500 for installation of pedestrian crossings and expansion of selected sections of municipal sidewalks to accommodate the greenway. Municipal land easements are being made available for the greenway corridor at a value of \$1,195,000. They involve granting easements for the greenway corridor on the existing GVS&DD service road along the Brunette River in Burnaby.

GVRD will operate sections of the greenway with site maintenance and ongoing operating costs for the recreation trail portion is expected to be \$50,000 annually and the foreshore park estimated at \$100,000 per year once the facilities are completed. GVS&DD will contribute to the maintenance of service road portions of the greenway to provide access for vehicles and equipment needed to manage sewer installations.

APPENDIX 1

Highlights of Greenway Segments

Segment 1: Burnaby Mountain to the Brunette River (5.7 km) (preferred route option)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Burnaby Urban Trail to Burnaby Lake Regional Park and Brunette River Corridor
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, dog walking, roller blading, cycling and jogging
Links & Staging Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still Creek, Burnaby Lake Regional Park, Byrne Creek Ravine Park, Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, Stoney Creek, and Harold Winch Conservation Area
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% in place with a 3.6 meter wide paved bicycle and pedestrian pathway along public roads.
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .75 km to be built as part of Lake City Interceptor Twinning from the end of East Lake Drive, to Government Road. • .50 km widening of urban trail construction along Government Road and Cariboo Drive to Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks and GVS&DD cost sharing on Eastlake to Government Road • GVRD Parks and Burnaby cost sharing on Government Road to Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks manage recreation use along new GVS&DD service road from Eastlake to Government Road. • Burnaby to manage Urban Trail expansion along Government Rd and Cariboo Drive
Cost/Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$62,125 for Greenway improvements: signage, and trail construction • \$157,400 for acquisition of greenway easement over private lands • \$365,000 as part of proposed Lake City Interceptor Twinning • \$52,000 contribution requested to extend urban trail along Government Rd and Cariboo Dr. • Municipal land for greenway corridor valued at \$100,000 + from Eastlake Dr. to Lougheed.
GVRD Parks	
GVS&DD	
Burnaby	

Segment 2: Burnaby Lake Regional Park to Hume Park (2.6 km)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Burnaby Lake to Hume Park choices and protect Brunette River Corridor
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, dog walking, cycling, fishing, and jogging
Links & Staging Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnaby Lake Regional Park and Hume Park • Coquitlam Urban Trail Corridor
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% in place along using GVS&DD Brunette River Service Road
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .15 km of urban trail construction along Cariboo Place
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks and GVS&DD share costs of minor upgrade of Brunette River Service Road • GVRD and Burnaby cost share Cariboo Place upgrading and signage • New Westminster and Burnaby cost share pedestrian crosswalk on North Road.
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks manage staging area in Burnaby Lake Park and recreation use along new GVS&DD Brunette service road • Burnaby to manage Urban Trail expansion along Cariboo Place
Cost/Contribution	

<p>§ GVRD Parks Burnaby New Westminster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$115,000 Erosion and bank stabilization, education kiosks and signage, rest area furnishings • \$45,000 contribution requested for urban trail expansion and North Rd pedestrian crossing • Municipal lands used by GVS&DD along Brunette River will now incorporate greenway • \$25,000 contribution requested for North Rd pedestrian crossing
---	---

Highlights of Greenway Segments (Continued)

Segment 3: Hume Park to the Braid Street and Canfor Avenue Intersection (2.5 km)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Hume Park trail connection to future staging area on GVS&DD at Canfor to connect to future Coquitlam greenway connections
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, limited cycling, nature study, and fishing
Links & Staging Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colony Farm through GVS&DD landfill corridor and staging area at Canfor Ave
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% in place through Hume Park and along Brunette River ravine
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 km of walking trail, revegetation, stairs, fencing, observation platform, rest areas, bank stabilization, acquisition of easement etc. • Staging area at the Coquitlam landfill site including upgrade of existing GVS&DD access road, and pedestrian bridge over Brunette River.
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks and New Westminister cost sharing trail upgrade through Hume Park with municipal dedication right of way for trail corridor to Braid Street.
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks manage greenway corridor from Hume Park to Braid and Canfor staging area • New Westminister manage expanded sidewalk greenway along Braid Street to Canfor Ave
Cost/Contributions GVRD Parks New Westminister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$288,000 for new greenway construction, signage, and staging area • \$236,500 for acquisition for greenway easements • Municipal land for greenway corridor valued at \$95,000 +.

Segment 4: Canfor Avenue Intersection to Mouth of Brunette River (1.9 km)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop off-road greenway through industrial area to connect to Fraser River foreshore • Provide pedestrian and cycling connection to proposed rapid train.
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest area and picnic area for business employees, cycling, walking
Links & Staging Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection with Keary Street Skytrain station, rest area along Capilano Way using GVRD right-of-way.
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No greenway elements in place
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .40 km expanded and new side sidewalk along Canfor Ave • Rest area using GVS&DD foreshore on Brunette at junction of Capilano Way and Canfor . • 1.1 km foreshore walking and cycling trail along east side of Brunette River • Acquire key foreshore greenway easement along Brunette • .40 km greenway along south shore of Brunette River from Capilano Way to at Cumberland.
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks utilizing GVS&DD lands along Brunette for rest area and greenway
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD Parks manage Capilano Way Rest Area and greenway corridor to Cumberland along Brunette River • New Westminister manage expanded sidewalk greenway along Canfor Ave
Cost/Contributions	

<p><u>s</u> GVRD Parks New Westminster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$349,000 for greenway connection, rest areas, at grade rail crossing, • \$478,500 for acquisition of greenway easements • Municipal land for expanded sidewalk greenway addition
---	---

Highlights of Greenway Segments (Continued)

Segment 5: Mouth of Brunette to Front Street

(1.2 km)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 2 hectare destination waterfront park along Fraserview foreshore with boardwalks, observation piers, small vessel docking and conduct shoreline restoration and fisheries' enhancement.
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular destination picnic area with walking, cycling and fishing along greenway.
Links & Staging Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Westminster Quay Esplanade, • Glenbrook Ravine to Queens Park
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No greenway elements in place
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 km paved cycling pathway using GVS&DD service road • .60 km of walking-strolling gravel paths and walkways on Fraser foreshore • Tidal channel and tidal marshes for fisheries habitat enhancement • Public washrooms and restoration of Coal House with possible concession services. • Limited parking for disabled and drop-off • Urban reforestation and naturalization of landscape
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Transit Project and TransLink jointly funding to develop destination park and SkyTrain • GVRD contributing development and land acquisition funds • New Westminster contributing municipal land • GVS&DD construction of access road for of Sapperton Forcemain development project.
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Westminster proposing to transfer park and municipal greenway corridor to GVRD as regional park • GVS&DD service road would function as cycling greenway element and be managed by GVRD Parks
Cost/Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$400,000 contribution to recreation facilities • \$400,000 contribution towards land acquisition • \$9,240,000 contribution from TransLink/Rapid Transit Project Office • \$44,000 (GVS&DD access road, and signage • Municipal land for greenway corridor valued at \$1.0 Million + • Future East Columbia pedestrian overpass to Fraser River Foreshore Park
GVRD Parks	
TransLink/RPTO	
GVS&DD	
New Westminster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future East Columbia pedestrian overpass to Fraser River Foreshore Park

Highlights of Greenway Segments (Continued)

Segment 6: Front Street to Westminster Quay Esplanade (2.7 km)

Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide boardwalk between Fraser River Foreshore Park and New Westminster Quay Esplanade
Recreation Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking, jogging, cycling, roller blading
Links & Staging Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annacis Island, water crossing to Surrey - Brownsville Bar, the John Molson Way and 7/11 Bikeway. • Water crossing connection to Surrey's Brownsville Bar foreshore park
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No greenway elements in place
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 km of combination wooden/lockblock boardwalk over river between Front Street and Pattullo Bridge • .3 km of on shore convention greenway trail adjacent to river
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVRD coordinate with BNR, CPR, MOTB to construct walkway under rail and vehicle bridges • New Westminster to provide municipal lands for easement
Proposed Greenway Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Westminster would assume responsibility for extension of municipal esplanade to SkyTrain Bridge. • GVRD Parks manage greenway corridor as extension of Fraser River Foreshore Park
Cost/Contribution	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$780,000 for boardwalk construction • \$166,000 for acquisition of greenway easement • 18 waterlots for greenway easement valued at \$500,000 + • \$38,000 for acquisition of private waterlot parcels easements west of SkyTrain Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • GVRD Parks • New Westminster