



Date: January 18, 1999

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Trans Canada Trail**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Board approve designating the proposed route of the Trans Canada Trail on existing paths in Vancouver parks as shown in Appendix A.**

## BACKGROUND

The Trans Canada Trail is a shared-use recreation trail of some 15,000 kilometers that is intended to link all Canadian provinces and territories, and connect the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans (see Appendix B). The project is coordinated by the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, an independent, registered charity acting as an umbrella organisation to trail and user-related groups across Canada. In British Columbia, the project is handled by Trails BC, a non-profit society, in collaboration with municipalities, private donors, volunteers, local organisations, provincial authorities and others.

The Trans Canada Trail has been recognised as an Official Millennium Project by both the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and been approved in principle by the City of Vancouver. The target date for completion of the main portion is June 21, 2000. During the last twelve months, City and Park Board staff have collaborated with Trails BC on determining the best route for the Trans Canada Trail through Vancouver. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Park Board for those sections of the route that lead through Vancouver parks.

## DISCUSSION

While snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding have been identified as core activities on the Trans Canada Trail, within Vancouver the trail is primarily intended for pedestrians and cyclists. The criteria for selecting the proposed route included:

- using existing paths where possible;
- avoiding vehicle traffic by choosing off-street paths or streets with low traffic volume;
- and
- taking advantage of the many scenic parts of the city.

The proposed route (see Appendix A) goes through several Vancouver parks, including New Brighton Park, Oxford Park, Sunset Beach Park, English Bay Beach Park, Stanley Park, Devonian Harbour Park, and Harbour Green Park. The route will take advantage of existing paths, no new path construction is needed in these parks for the implementation of the proposed route of the Trans Canada Trail.

The designation of existing paths as part of the Trans Canada Trail is a symbolic action, making Vancouver part of a nation-wide initiative that promotes Canadian unity. Staff do not expect a measurable increase in path users on account of this designation, and foresee no negative impact on the parks.

The Trans Canada Trail will be signed. Details of the signage have yet to be worked out, but the goal is to restrict signage in parks to applying stickers with the Trans Canada Trail logo onto existing signage. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation will pay for the signage.

## SUMMARY

Designating existing paths in Vancouver parks as part of the Trans Canada Trail is an expression of support for this Canada-wide millennium project, and expected to have no negative impact on these parks.

Prepared by:

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TCD