

## 5.0 ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE CREEK CORRIDOR—SUMMARY

### 5.1 CURRENT CREEK CORRIDOR

Each of 17 creek reaches are described in Appendix B, and options for creek restoration and greenway development are provided. Detailed recommendations to improve the Bowker Creek corridor for the specific reaches are found in Appendix B, and land managers and watershed stewards should refer to this appendix for the necessary details. Municipalities, community groups and land owners can use the actions in this appendix to incorporate into organizational plans and operating budgets.

The recommendations range from small restoration efforts such as invasive species removal that can begin immediately, to large changes such as creek daylighting or channel re-alignment that can be undertaken as land uses change, as funding comes available, or as infrastructure needs to be upgraded. These actions form a blueprint for change along the creek corridor, and are expected to be implemented over time as opportunities arise. Timeframes for completing this work could range from 50 to 100 years, with some opportunities arising in the short term.

In general, restoration of above-ground sections would require widening the creek corridor to create more gradually sloped banks and an expanded riparian area, as well as the removal of invasive plant species and planting of native trees and shrubs. A widened creek corridor with gradual banks will expand the floodplain and reduce flooding in surrounding areas. If space is available, the creek channel can be made more sinuous to approximate its former pattern. Detailed restoration designs would be based on the available land and the ongoing land uses. Greenways (public paths for walking and in some cases cycling) should be incorporated wherever possible (Map 5). Figure 7 shows one major demonstration restoration project undertaken to date.

If creek daylighting occurs it will displace established land uses. Therefore, daylighting is expected to happen only with re-development or with changing priorities for land use. In some locations, daylighting could occur with the purchase of key properties.

### 5.2 ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE CREEK CORRIDOR

A vital part of the Blueprint is illustrating the future possibilities to the public, municipal staff and municipal politicians. Figure 8 provides a vision of possible designs for key areas such as the Shelbourne Corridor and other potential urban creek streets and natural creeks in greenways or parks. Large open areas that have not been developed represent the most likely potential for major restoration efforts that would significantly improve the creek corridor and overall watershed health as well as providing significant community amenities and natural areas in an otherwise fully developed watershed. Figures 9 through 12 show potential future visions for specific creek sections in Fireman's Park (Figure 9), Oak Bay High School and Recreation Centre (Figure 10), various properties from Richmond Road to Trent Street (Figure 11), and the former Richmond Elementary School (Figure 12). In many cases, existing land uses mean that this type of restoration cannot occur in the short term. However as this Blueprint is made for the long term (50–100 years), these maps are included as a vision of one potential future.



**Figure 7. A demonstration restoration project at St. Patrick's Elementary School. Before, during and after photographs. The project was completed in 2005. Final pictures were taken in 2008.**

Figure 8. 100-Year Vision for the Creek Corridor

# BOWKER CREEK

# 100 YEAR STREAM CORRIDOR VISION



MULTI-MODAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
CORRIDOR



POSSIBLE VISION OF THE SHELBOURNE CORRIDOR  
(SUBJECT TO SHELBOURNE CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN)

PEDESTRIAN  
BRIDGE

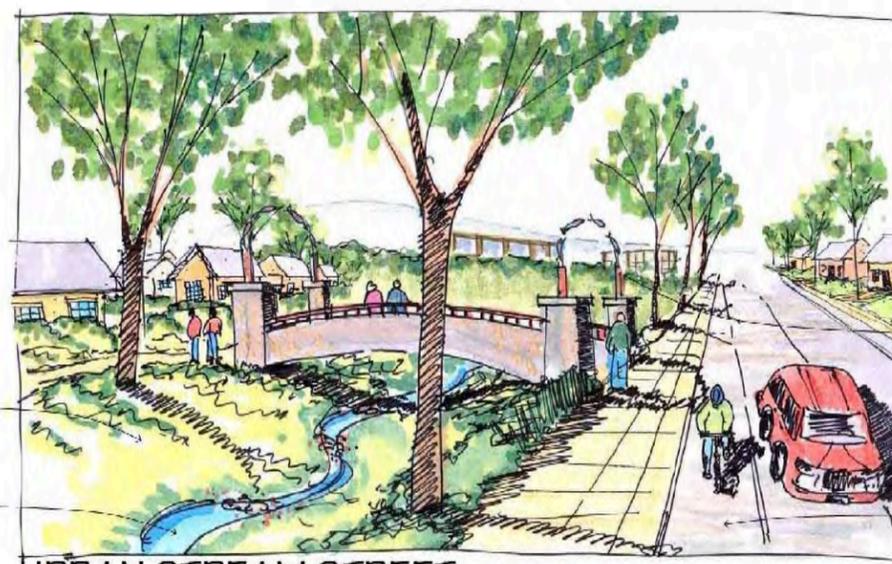
SAFE PATHS THAT  
CONNECT RESIDENTS  
TO THE OPEN SPACE  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEMS

RESTORED RIPARIAN  
HABITAT

DAYLIGHTED AND  
RESTORED STREAM

RESTORED  
RIPARIAN  
HABITAT

RESTORED  
STREAM  
HABITAT



URBAN STREAM STREET

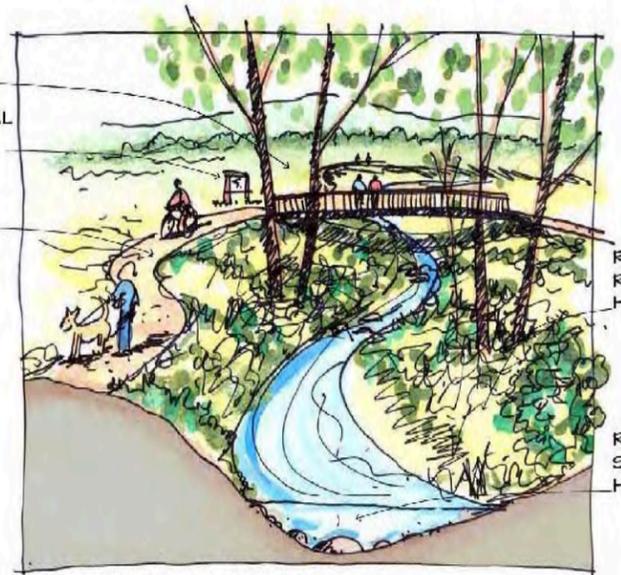
PEDESTRIAN  
BRIDGE

EDUCATIONAL  
SIGNAGE

MULTI-USE  
PATH

PEDESTRIAN  
BRIDGE WITH  
PUBLIC ART

BICYCLE  
LANE



NATURAL STREAM  
IN GREENWAY/PARK

RESTORED  
RIPARIAN  
HABITAT

RESTORED  
STREAM  
HABITAT



Figure 9. A Possible Long-Term Vision for Fireman's Park in Oak Bay (Reach 2)



Figure 10. A Possible Long-Term Vision for Oak Bay High and Oak Bay Recreation Centre (Reaches 3, 4 & 5)



**Figure 11. A Possible Long-Term Vision for Richmond Road to Trent Street (Reach 7)  
(Including properties by St. Patrick's Elementary School, Royal Jubilee Hospital, and BC Hydro)**

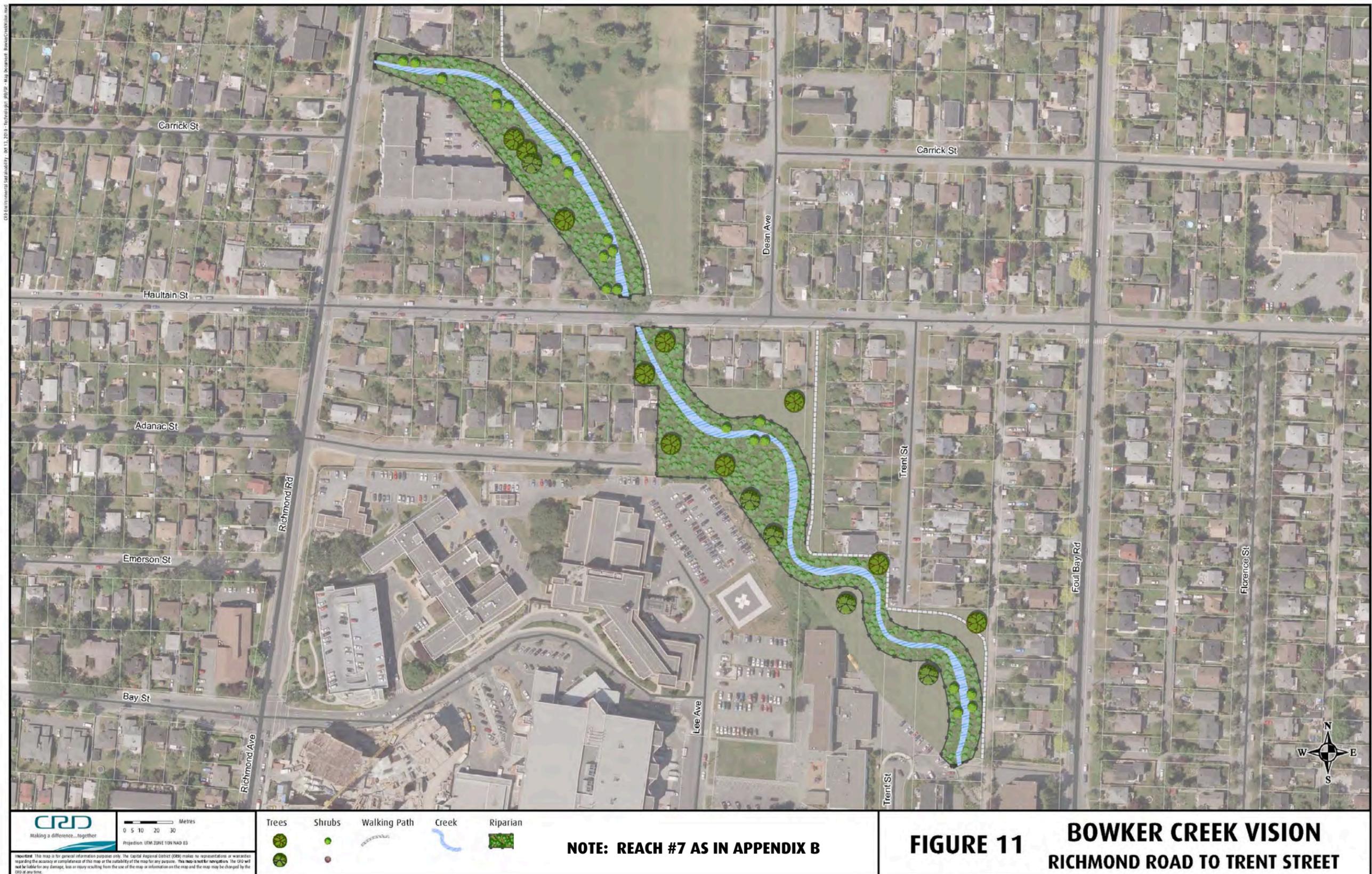


Figure 12. A possible long-term vision for the former Richmond Elementary School location (Reach 9)  
 (Note that the creek no longer bisects the property.)

