

4.7

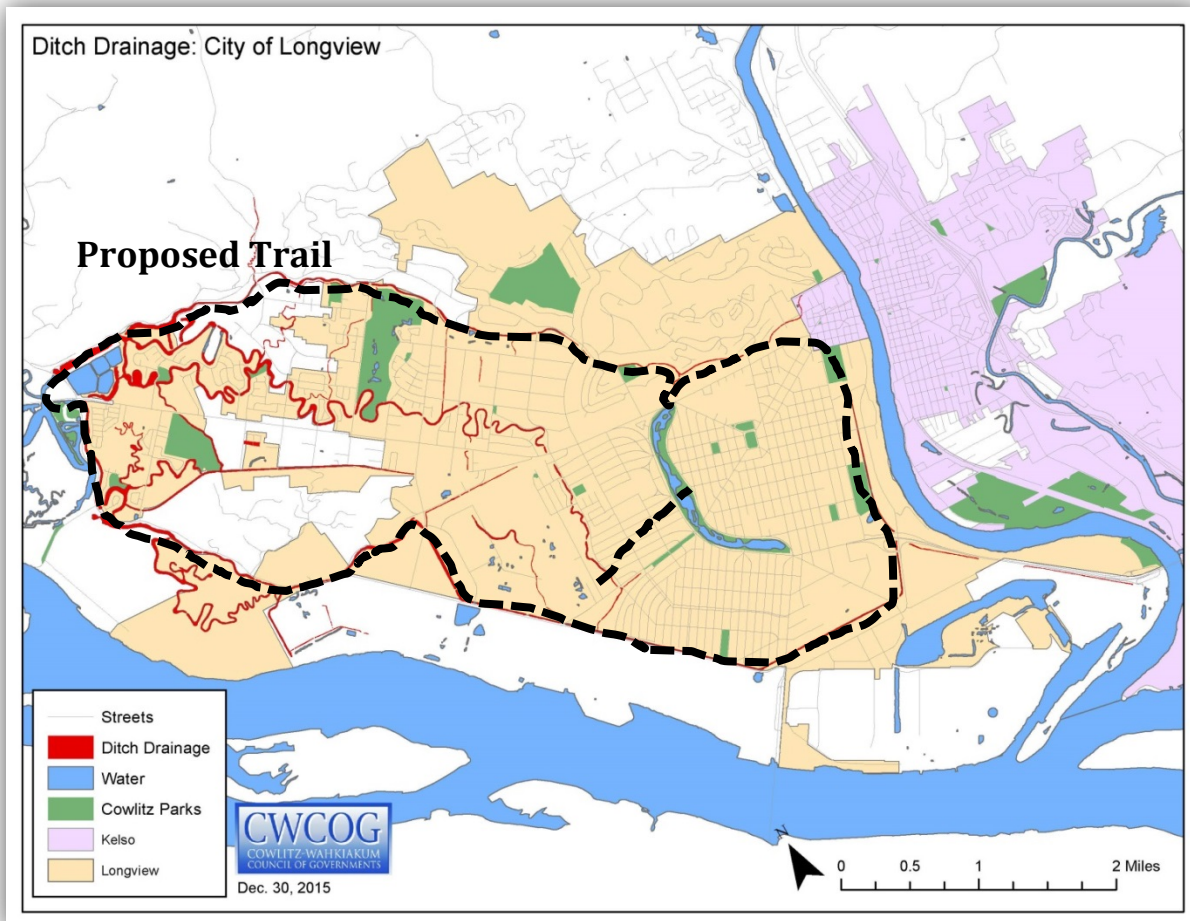
Proposed Trails

DIKING DISTRICT TRAILS

Exhibit X – Recommended Trail System to Pursue

DESCRIPTION

The City has a history of partnering with the diking district and other public utility groups to aid in the addition of publicly used trails (Appendix C). Below is a map of all the current ditches within the City of Longview. The Parks and Recreation Department already agrees to help maintain the Altrusa Trail and Pacific Way Trail which reside on top of dikes within the district. As the City continues to grow, less land is available for purchase or installation of trails. Because of the trail deficiency within the City, it would be most advantageous to partner with the diking district to provide access to the land owned by the district. A proposed trail that would encircle the City has been discussed as an option. There are approximately six major sections where linkage to the loop would have to be created; this includes the already constructed section adjacent to the Mint Valley Golf Course currently closed for public access. It is understood that the City and the Diking District are not the only two stakeholders; individual home owners, businesses, and other entities would have to be in agreement and involved to coordinate a project of this nature. The City could help provide maintenance to the trails and in turn the diking district could provide the land. With the lack of trail mileage, this partnership seems the most prosperous in supporting the health of our community, allowing for additional recreational tourism, and helping create a quality of place.



SOUTH COWLITZ RIVER TRAIL

Exhibit X – Recommended Trail System to Pursue

DESCRIPTION

The goal of the proposed South Cowlitz River Trail is to connect Longview and Kelso on both sides of the Cowlitz River, with the Castle Rock-to-Lexington Loop Trail to the north and continuing south to Gerhart Gardens Park. The trail will substantially be located on public lands where public access can easily be guaranteed, and on some sections access can be achieved through various agreements or easements, or through purchase from willing sellers. Where feasible, the trail is planned to run along the Cowlitz River, offering terrific views overlooking the water. Because some sections of the riverbank are privately owned or have insufficient shoreline, the plan shows alternate routes creating interesting diversity in scenery and topography.

