

# Report on CRD's response to community feedback re: Dallas Rd. and Clover Point - January 2018

In June-July 2017 the FGCA consulted with several hundred residents as to what should happen with the Dallas Walkway after the Pumping Station and Forcemain are installed as part of the CRD Wastewater Project.

These suggestions were forwarded to the CRD and the City of Victoria in August 2017. The CRD wastewater project committed to meeting with the community at the "50% design stage" of the project. That meeting took place January 11, 2018.

## Key Points

1. Keep the plan simple and natural. It is the open, unfettered space and the feeling of a bit of nature in the City that attracts so many to Dallas Road.
2. Safety of pedestrians must be paramount with the addition of bikes lanes along Dallas Road.
3. Split rail fence needs more discussion.

The following is our report as to how our suggestions fared in their designs and what future action we will be suggesting. Most people that were surveyed, answered emails or participated in meetings wanted the area kept as natural as possible. That being said, the city wants items added and we have compiled the following list to explain what is desired by residents for the area.

## A. Top Suggestions

1. Maintain off-leash dog areas from Clover Point to Douglas Street.
  - a) Out of scope for CRD work
  - b) The off-leash dog area will be maintained by the city and will not be directly affected.
    - i. Access to the space may have some challenges as a result of the cycle track and parking. See suggestion #11
  - c) **ACTION:** Community requests a 2-person working group of residents participate to best position entrance to park across cycle track.
2. Preserve and enhance existing native plants (e.g., native Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima* that is growing in large patches around the Clover Point pump station) and reintroduce other native species.
  - a) Out of scope for CRD work but are aware of city request.
  - b) City of Victoria crews have had two salvage sessions and are considering a third (as of January 18, 2018).
    - i. The majority of potentially impacted areas have been salvaged and areas of sea thrift that aren't in the construction footprint will be fenced off. The plant material is being stored by the City.
    - ii. The plan is to retain the plant material until it's time to reclaim the area following construction.
  - c) The CRD has directed the Clover Point contractor to prepare a Reclamation Plan and that it should include replanting sea thrift and other native plants as appropriate.
    - i. Additionally, if it makes sense from a plant ecology perspective and there's sea thrift material remaining after the Clover Point site is reclaimed, the CRD will

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direct the Clover Forcemain contractor to incorporate that into their Reclamation Plan.

- d) **ACTION:** Community requests a 2-person working group of residents participate to in the planning of the plant relocation and new plantings with the city and CRD team.
3. Erect signage to include images and descriptions of area ecology, geography and history. Strong support for recognizing Indigenous sites and heritage and previous occupation sites.
    - a) As part of the CRD's Licence Agreement with the City of Victoria, they have directed that public space improvements associated with both the Clover Point pump station and Clover Forcemain consider the Lekwungen Songhees and Esquimalt Nations' heritage and culture.
      - i. To that end, the CRD is working with the two Nations, the City and their design consultants to determine the most appropriate ways of meeting that objective.
      - ii. There are several options on the table at this point, including art, signage and incorporating Lekwungen themes into the infrastructure itself (e.g. imprints in the cycle path).
    - b) The CRD anticipates having a clearer picture of how they will proceed in the next few weeks, as the various parties work on this matter.
    - c) **ACTION:** For better cross-cultural understanding and awareness it is recommended that one or two Fairfield residents be part of this heritage signage planning group, working alongside the CRD and the two First Nations. Request signage is kept to a minimum so as not to restrict views or passage.
  4. Install public washrooms at Clover Point, to be maintained by the city with fixed hours similar to those in Beacon Hill Park and Ross Bay Cemetery. The major issue here is location. Suggestions include by entrance to pump station, beside the boat house or built into the hill and not visible from Dallas Road.
    - a) As part of the CRD's Licence Agreement with the City of Victoria public washrooms will be installed in a location close to the entrance to the pumping station and further shielded by a slightly raised knoll so as not to be visible from Dallas Road. This is in the CRD design.
      - i. The community requests that the washrooms have the same opening and closing hours of the main washrooms in Beacon Hill Park. There must be a needle disposal unit and cleaned at least daily.
    - b) **ACTION:** Community requests to meet with city parks planning staff to make a formal request to ensure washrooms do not become a problem.
  5. Maintain the existing green space, with no fencing, benches or artwork, in order to accommodate a range of activities and user groups and create two grass open-spaces areas west and east of the plaza.
    - a) Out of scope for CRD work
    - b) This still needs further assessment with the City. There will likely be a fence south of the cycle path
    - c) **ACTION:** Community requests to meet with city parks planning staff to ensure residents' concerns have been heard and acknowledged.

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6. Install more recycling and garbage bins at strategic locations.
  - a) Out of scope for CRD work
  - b) **ACTION:** Community to make a formal request to the City for proper recycling stations to be included: plastic, food waste, cans, etc.
  
7. Bury utility wires underground along Dallas Road, while road construction is underway, to enhance the scenic drive and/or reduce any undesirable electric and magnetic fields.
  - a) Out of scope for CRD work
  - b) Although this has merit, it is out of the scope of the CRD project.
  - c) **NOTE:** There was a request by one of the residents to BC Hydro to have wires buried near her house, but this work will not proceed due to costs.

### **B. Suggestions needing more consultation or development**

8. Install a two-way cycle track from Clover Point to Ogden Point. (see also 9 and 11)
  - a. Under the license granted to the CRD to construct the Forcemain from Clover Point to McLaughlin Point, a cycle path is required. The cycle path will follow closely the path of the Forcemain, which will for the most part between Clover Point and Douglas be in the boulevard area just south of Dallas Road.
    - i. There is some concern about how and where this is built. This is a concept where more design work would be useful in a further public consultation. It is closely related to the Items 9 and 11.
    - ii. The cycle track will conceivably block access from the road, especially if a fence is placed on the south side of the cycle track. Who has right of way along the path? Will there be designated spots for pedestrians to cross the cycle track?
    - iii. There is a major detour off the road and into a copse of trees near Douglas Street and we will be exploring the reasons for this more closely. We should also point out that the James Bay Neighbourhood Association is also concerned about this detour and we will be working closely with them.
    - iv. Concerns raised over curbing versus sloping from the cycle track to the grass. Also, water run off towards current asphalt path from all the new asphalt from the cycle track and pipeline installation (see note on widen path with gravel).
    - v. Who will have right of way on the cycle track – pedestrians should have it but how will this be enforced to encourage safe cycling? Training must be part of this cycle track as more interactions will occur with pedestrians than in other bike lane areas in the city.
  - b. **ACTION:** Community requests a 2-person working group of residents participate to ensure cycle track benefits all park users and does not create a hazard for pedestrians.

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9. Create cyclist and pedestrian viewing plaza, bike maintenance facility, water fountain.
  - a. The CRD plans show a plaza water fountain and a bicycle repair station above the new pumping station.
    - i. Recommend using the same style of bike maintenance facility that is at Victoria Airport.
    - ii. Dog water fountain to be included as below by parking area.
    - iii. Concerns over the venting below for the viewing platform above were raised.
  - b. **ACTION:** Final plans to be presented to community prior to construction. Request better filters for vents, again. Obtain CRD and city contacts for community members to be involved.
  
10. Install picnic benches along the Dallas walkway to create gathering places and/or install seating-only benches to encourage conversations.
  - a. Out of scope for CRD work
  - b. **ACTION:** Place request before the City for further discussion. Community to meet with parks staff to discuss. Concerns were raised over late-night partying at the point.
  
11. Install split-rail fencing along the roadway, with pedestrian and pet access points, to prevent accidents between dogs and vehicles and/or bicycles. The fence will likely be placed just south of the Cycle path.
  - a. This idea needs more consultation or design. Questions abound. Where is it located? Next to the cycle path? Next to off-leash areas? What is the purpose -- to keep dogs in/out or cyclists safe or walkers safe? More design and consultation will lead to a consensus.
  - b. Where will the fence be installed – south of cycle track? What type of fence? Where will the access points be?
    - i. Many concerns were raised at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting as to HOW people and dogs will access the Dallas Walkway and off leash area.
    - ii. People who park along Dallas Road will be required to cross the cycle path and then get over the fence or walk to access points in the fence.
    - iii. How the fence will precisely impair access is a concern and there needs to be more discussion with the CRD and the City as to how motorists parking along Dallas Road will be able to access the park and dog off-leash area
  - c. Will all the garbage cans be moved that were installed a few years ago to make room for the cycle track? Will they be replaced, they are very well used all year round?
  - d. **ACTION:** Community requests to meet with city parks planning staff to ensure residents' concerns have been heard and acknowledged. Community to discuss: Ensure designs work in the real world and not just on paper. Pedestrian safety should be paramount. Pinch points should be considered for bikes, pedestrians and people with dogs in same area.

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12. Block off vehicular traffic around the circular portion of Clover Point, limit parking to the upper entranceway, and reserve the area for pedestrians and recreational users.
  - a. Out of scope for the CRD project.
  - b. Although this would increase more natural areas, some people were concerned about blocking access to people in cars with elderly or handicapped visitors. The notion is to put the parking higher on the slope. This would also allow a proper pathway extension around the point.
  - c. Pedestrians need proper access and a walkway to Clover Point. Vehicular traffic is dangerous, young people use it as a raceway, pedestrians have no safe place to walk.
  - d. A proper pedestrian pathway needs to be installed that allows for pedestrians only and not vehicles or bicycles.
  - e. Keep a smaller area for vehicles at the point with a buffer zone for pedestrians.
  - f. **ACTION:** This suggestion has been and will be raised again with the City
  
13. Paint a mural on the tower at the beach access near Cook Street to deter graffiti and reduce city staff clean-up time.
  - a. This was done in the summer/fall of 2017
  
14. Increase enforcement of city bylaws banning roller-blading, smoking, idling vehicles, cycling on the pedestrian path, out-of-control dogs and late-night disturbances.
  - a. **ACTION:** This is clearly a matter for the City and will be raised with them. Community to meet with bylaw and parks staff at a joint meeting.
    - i. What about bylaw officers on foot and on bikes?
    - ii. What about emergency/paramedics on bikes on the weekends particularly in the summer and at all events?

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## C. The following items should be referred to other city departments for comment

1. Traffic along Dallas Road was also a major topic of discussion at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  1. Lower speed limit along Dallas Road.
    - a. People drive anywhere from 20km to 90km along this stretch. Posting signage would help.
    - b. Installation of painted zebra crossings at all streets along the stretch from Clover Point to Beacon Hill or installation of speed bumps to slow traffic.
  2. Three-way stop-sign at Cook and Dallas or install a roundabout at Cook and Dallas.
    - a. This has been brought to city engineers by many residents over the years. With the addition of the cycle path, it will only get worse for pedestrians in this area.
      - i. Drivers get frustrated having to wait for pedestrians and traffic to clear along Dallas while waiting to turn left onto Dallas. There have been many close calls with pedestrians trying to cross Cook Street to enter Beacon Hill Park. Drivers do not look for pedestrians at this location.
  3. Douglas and Dallas Road there is major concern by the James Bay Neighbourhood Association as to alignment of Douglas and Dallas.
    - a. We will be working jointly with JBNA on this as well.

**ACTION:** Community requests a joint meeting with engineering, parks and transportation departments with the city. Dallas and Cook intersection - at a minimum there should be a 3-way stop, a new painted crosswalk with flashing lights that are pedestrian activated.

2. Widen current asphalt pathway with gravel to allow passing of walkers and joggers with strollers, scooters and wheelchairs with other pedestrians.
  - a) Similar to the gravel sidings for drainage along the path across from the totem pole and near to the beach access.  
**ACTION:** Community requests a meeting with parks to determine costs, etc.

3. Better wheelchair access to the beach  
**ACTION:** Send recommendation to the parks department.

At this point some comments about which of the above actions would be preferred would be very useful.

This summary will go to the CRD and to the City. We will be meeting with the City on some of the specifics and timelines for actions

Summary prepared by Jane Mertz with assistance from David Biltek.  
The FGCA would like to thank Jane Mertz for her ongoing support and effort on this project.