



**Council Member Motion
For the Council Meeting of November 21, 2019**

Date: November 14, 2019

From: Councillor Jeremy Loveday and Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Improving Ecological Stewardship and Recreational Access on the Gorge Waterway

Background:

A community organization called the Collaborative to Improve Access to the Gorge Waterway undertook a public engagement process over the course of 2019, supported by a City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant, to examine options for improving ecological stewardship and recreational access on the Gorge Waterway.

This process and the resulting final report (attached) generated several recommendations for action within City of Victoria jurisdiction. This included proposed improvements for swimming and other low-impact recreational uses at Arm Street Park, Burleith Park, Banfield Park, and Arbutus Park, as well as options for improving ecological stewardship of shoreline areas along the Gorge Waterway and Selkirk Waterway in Burnside-Gorge and Victoria West.

It is recommended that Council refer this report to staff, to report back on implications of initiating a streamlined process in 2021 to update management plans for these parks, with a view toward improving ecological stewardship and low-impact recreation.

Recommendations:

That Council:

1. Refer the report of the Collaborative to Improve Access to the Gorge Waterway to staff.
2. Direct staff to report back at the Quarterly Update in the first quarter of 2020 on the implications of amending the City's Strategic Plan by adding this 2021 action: "Engage Burnside-Gorge and Victoria West residents on a streamlined process to update the management plans for the following parks and greenspaces, with a view toward improving ecological stewardship and low-impact recreation: Arm Street Park, Burleith Park, Banfield Park, Arbutus Park, and the public foreshore at the foot of Harriet Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Councillor Jeremy Loveday in black ink.

Councillor Loveday

Handwritten signature of Councillor Ben Isitt in blue ink.

Councillor Isitt

Attachment:

1. Final Report of the Collaborative to Improve Access to the Gorge Waterway (2019)