



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

January 8, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: 2020 Budget Allocation for Clover Point Amenities

We write to urge Council to include improvements to the existing Clover Point amenities in the 2020 City budget and have included a series of recommended improvements for Council's consideration.

On December 16, 2019 the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) Neighbourhood Improvement Committee hosted a community meeting with over 40 residents to solicit feedback on the capital project and associated amenities at Clover Point. The recommendations in this letter reflect the input from this meeting, and are provided further to the FGCA's previous submission, "July 2017 Report to CRD on community feedback re Dallas Rd-Clover Point amenities," available at <https://fairfieldcommunity.ca/board-letters-and-reports/>.

Attendees of the community meeting provided strong feedback that the current amenities surrounding the redeveloped Clover Point Pump Station and Dallas Road cycling path have deteriorated to the extent that they do not adequately meet the needs of community members and visitors accessing this invaluable waterfront asset. Further, concern was expressed that new amenities being developed are inconsistent with the current infrastructure, which would have implications for both the aesthetic and character of the area. It was widely held that the elements of Clover Point ought to have a common feel and appear as part of a greater whole for optimal enjoyment of the area.

To ensure that the Dallas Road Waterfront Pathway remains a vital and vibrant part of the Victoria community, we urge Council to take the following immediate actions:

- 1. Improved walkway along the top of the bluffs** - we recommend that the existing walkway be widened to allow for better usage and flow given the multi-purpose nature of the pathway. We also recommend that the many areas that currently experience flooding be repaved for improved accessibility.



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2. **Extension of formal pathway to area that is currently a goat trail** - this section of the path is inaccessible to people who rely on mobility devices. We recommend that a formal pathway be developed around the outside of Clover Point and connect to the newly developed paths and plazas around the pumping station, and that this be done in a manner least disruptive to existing wildlife. We also recommend paint to move cars away from the western side of Clover Point as an immediate interim measure as noted in the previous FGCA submission to Council.
3. **Improvements to waste receptacles** – In line with Council's aims to protect the natural environment and combat climate change, we recommend that the current single-container garbage receptacles be replaced by receptacles that sort recyclables and food/natural waste from garbage.
4. **Further consultation on split-rail fence** - several concerns were raised about the proposed split-rail fence separating the cycling path from the rest of the area. We strongly encourage Council to undertake extensive engagement on this development to ensure it best meets the needs of users and fulfills its aims, and that animal behaviorists be consulted as part of this engagement.
5. **Consultation on traffic improvements at the Cook Street and Dallas Road Intersection** - this intersection is difficult to navigate for pedestrians and vehicular traffic alike. With the addition of an exit point for the cycling path, increased challenges are anticipated at this intersection. The FGCA does not have the technical capacity to propose a particular solution; we recommend that Council consult with Placemaking Victoria, who studied and prepared a report on this location.
6. **Preserving the natural state** - extensive consultation has shown that the community prefers this area to be left in its natural state, with native plantings and preservation of the water views. For example, there is concern over the new rows of trees along the newly asphalted bikeway; trees planted in groves or clumps reflect a more natural state, rather than formal rows that resemble French-style avenue plantings.

Meeting participants were dismayed to learn there that improvements to Clover Point Park and the Dallas Road waterfront pathway are not on the strategic budget priorities plan in the next three years, despite the opportunities to begin consultation and to design upgrades while construction is underway at the pumping station.

The above changes are practical, can be done with relative ease, and are essential to ensuring that Clover Point remains a vital and accessible part of our



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community. The current construction at Clover Point provides an opportune time to consult on the design and amenities in this area, and to align City improvements to Clover Point with the work being carried out by the CRD. We urge Council to include the Clover Point Park in the strategic budget priorities for the next three years and to make these improvements as soon as possible. The FGCA would be happy to assist with any public consultations needed to move this project forward in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Don Mounsour

President, FGCA Board of Directors

David Thompson

Chair, FGCA Neighbourhood Improvement Committee



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