

Bowker Creek Initiative Update



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FEBRUARY 11, 2021



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Purpose

To present for information:

- The *Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study*
- The *Bowker Creek Blueprint: Framework for Collaborative Inter-municipal Watershed*
- The *Bowker Creek Blueprint 10 Year Achievements*



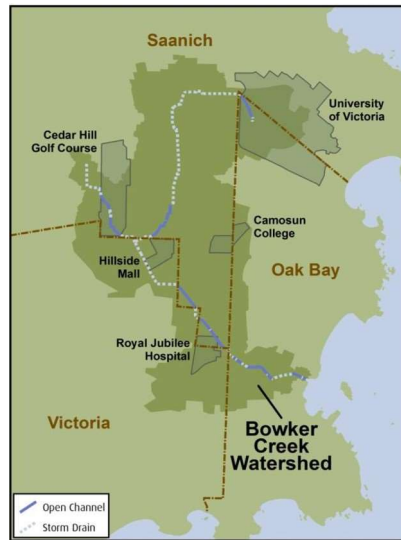
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Background

The Bowker Creek Initiative:

- Formed in 2004
- A coalition of community, government and institutions
- Purpose is to protect and enhance the ecological, social, and economic health of the watershed
- Implement the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan



BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED



Background

The Bowker Creek Blueprint:

- Completed in 2011
- Provides guidance and recommendations to restore the creek over 50-100 years
- Includes watershed-wide and reach-specific actions
- Endorsed by municipal councils and SD61
- Unique, collaborative approach to watershed management, widely recognized.



BOWKER CREEK



Daylighting Feasibility Study

Overview:

- Study was initiated to support the BCI's goal of naturalizing Bowker Creek
- The study integrates Planning, Engineering and Parks staff input, City policies, plans, and watershed data
- Recommends a preferred and alternate daylighting route



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Daylighting Feasibility Study

Current Conditions:

- All reaches in Victoria are underground in storm drains
- The creek runs through mostly residential areas
- Adjacent to Hillside Centre
- Through two park/greenways



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Daylighting Feasibility Study

Opportunities

- Topography (depth to pipe)
- Municipally-owned land
- Proximity to planned greenways
- Underdeveloped land

Constraints

- Land acquisition and costs
- Depth of pipe
- Utilities
- Construction costs
- Staging timelines and coordination



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Daylighting Feasibility Study

Excerpt from study:

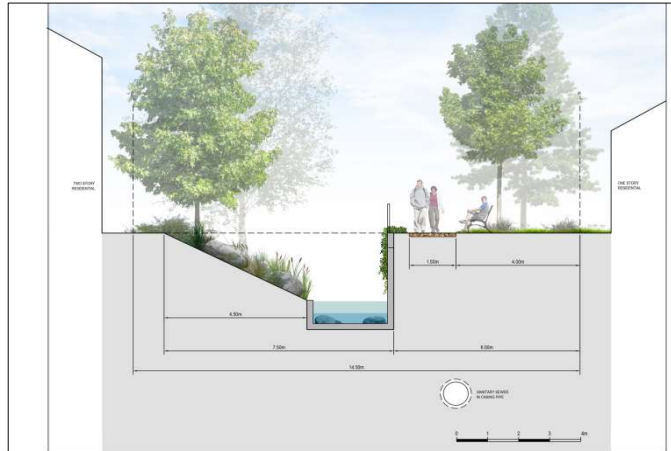
**Reach 8 concept -
Newton Street to
Richmond Road and
Sprit Garden**



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Daylighting Feasibility Study: Excerpt: Reach 8 concept - Spirit Garden



ISL BOWKER CREEK DAYLIGHTING FEASIBILITY STUDY
ILLUSTRATED CROSS-SECTIONS
SPIRIT GARDEN

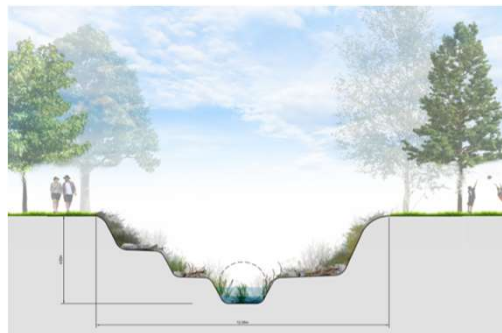
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Daylighting Feasibility Study

Next Steps:

- Incorporate findings into update to Stormwater Management Master Plan update (2021)
- Review opportunities to implement daylighting into planned infrastructure renewal projects, transportation and parks upgrades
- Incorporate findings into update to the Bowker Creek Blueprint



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Bowker Creek Blueprint: Framework for Collaborative Inter-Municipal Watershed Implementation

Objectives:

- **Consistent implementation** of the Bowker Creek Blueprint
- **Private land** focus
- **Stormwater management** improvements
- **Different conditions** of the creek reflected
- **Entrench the Blueprint** into municipal policies and development review processes
- **Accomplish the vision** of the Bowker Creek Blueprint over time

Recommendations

- Formation of an inter-municipal greenways subcommittee



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Bowker Creek Blueprint: 10 Year Achievements for Victoria

Revise and update municipal plans to include Bowker Creek Initiative Goals and Actions

- ✓ Goals Incorporated into the OCP and Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

Adopt new requirements to reduce effective impervious area for new developments

- ✓ Adoption of the Stormwater Utility Funding Model
- ✓ Creation of the Rainwater Rewards program

Build a demonstration Rain Garden in the Watershed

- ✓ Trent St. and Hillside Ave. rain gardens
- ✓ Working with developers to incorporate green stormwater infrastructure into the redevelopment of Hillside Centre



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Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive the *Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study* for information.
2. Receive the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: Framework for Collaborative Inter-municipal Watershed Implementation* for information.
3. Receive *Ten Year Achievements: Bowker Creek Initiative* for information.
4. Direct staff to report back on scope and resources required to update the Bowker Creek Blueprint.

