

**COLLABORATIVE
TO
IMPROVE ACCESS
TO THE
GORGE WATERWAY**

Gorge Waterway Initiative

November 20, 2019

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Collaborative's Purpose & Goals

Purpose:

- To protect the health of the Gorge Waterway
 - Through citizen stewardship
 - Enabled by improved recreational access

Goals:

- To establish environmental concerns, criteria & targets.
- To identify recreational users & needs
- To identify, categorize & prioritize access improvements
- To report to municipalities to include in parks planning

Collaborative Process

Inclusion (tried to include all stakeholders):

- Community Association members VWCA, BGCA, GTCA
- Environmental Groups
 - GWI, GWAS, Peninsula Streams, Salmon in the City, World Fisheries Trust, Migratory Bird Sanctuary, etc.
- Dragon Boaters, Rowers, paddlers, kayakers
- Gorge Swim A Month Club members
- Gorge Swim Fest Society
- Community members
- Subject matter experts
- Authorities having jurisdiction (municipal, CRD, provincial & federal)
- First Nations *

SCOPE: Admiral's Bridge to Selkirk Trestle

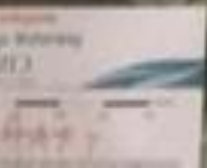
- 21 potential municipal sites

GORGE WATERWAY ACCESS LEGEND:

- YELLOW: DEVELOPED WATER ACCESS
- ORANGE: POTENTIAL WATER ACCESS (PROBABILITIES)
- RED: DEVELOPED FOOTPATH AND WATER ACCESS
- BLUE: UNDEVELOPED ACCESS
- GREEN: COMMODITY ACCESS
- PURPLE: PARK
- RED LINE: PUBLIC LAND BOUNDARY

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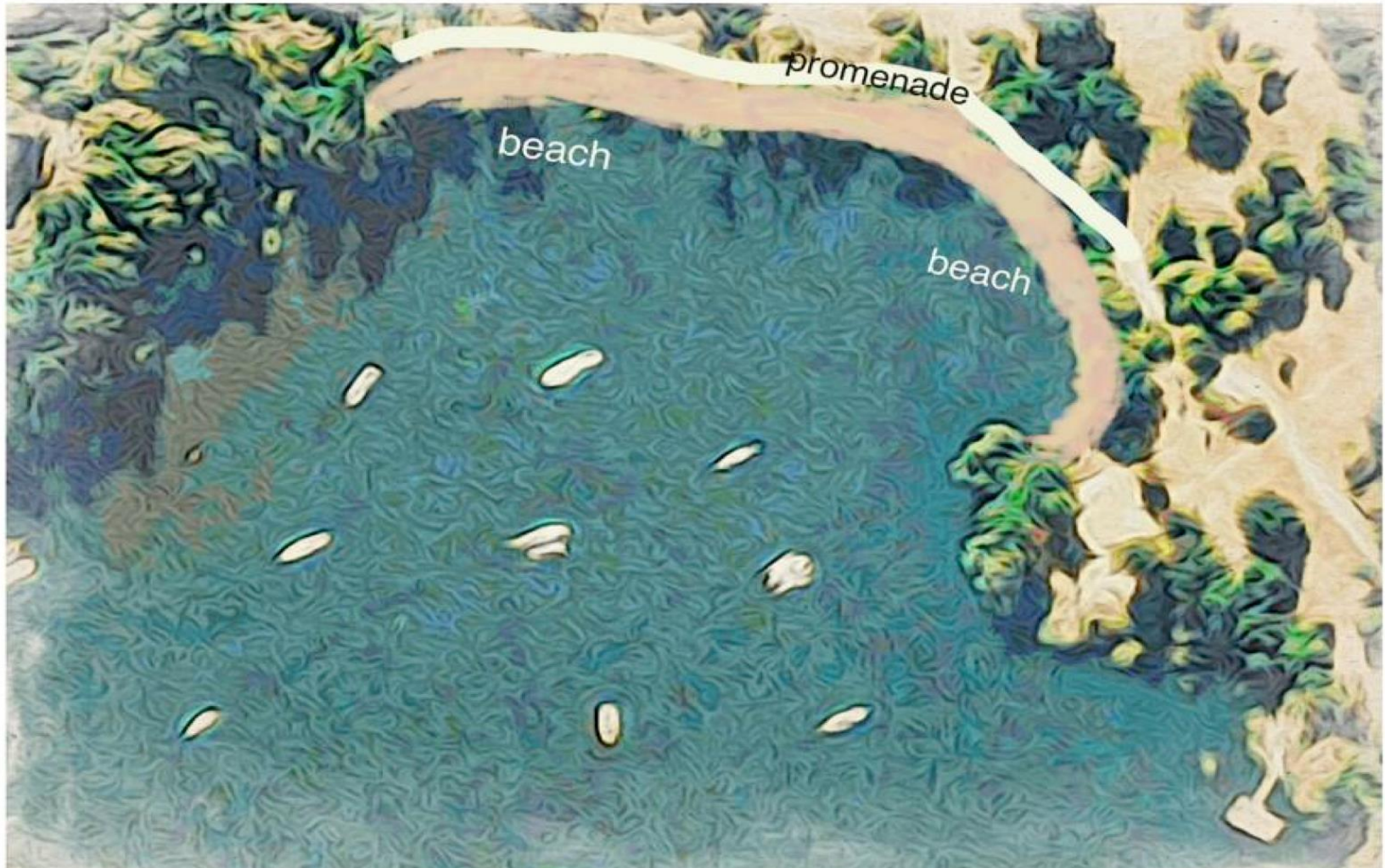


Collaborative Process

- January – August 2019
- 3 fact finding & brainstorming meetings
- Many working-committee meetings
- 21 potential sites resulted in:
 - 5 + 2 recommended sites for improved access
 - 4 in Victoria
 - 2 in Esquimalt
 - 1 in Saanich

1. Banfield Park (Forage Fish Beach)

Vision: A beach with all ages and abilities access that also provides habitat for forage fish.



1. Banfield Park (Forage Fish Beach)

Example: Recently completed Forage Fish beach at Todd Creek



- Create forage fish beach
- Remove debris
- Improve access to water
- Install bike racks
- Install park benches

1. Banfield Park (Forage Fish Beach)



- Create forage fish beach
- Remove debris
- Improve access to water
- Install bike racks
- Install park benches
- Stewardship signage

2. Banfield Park Dock (expansion)

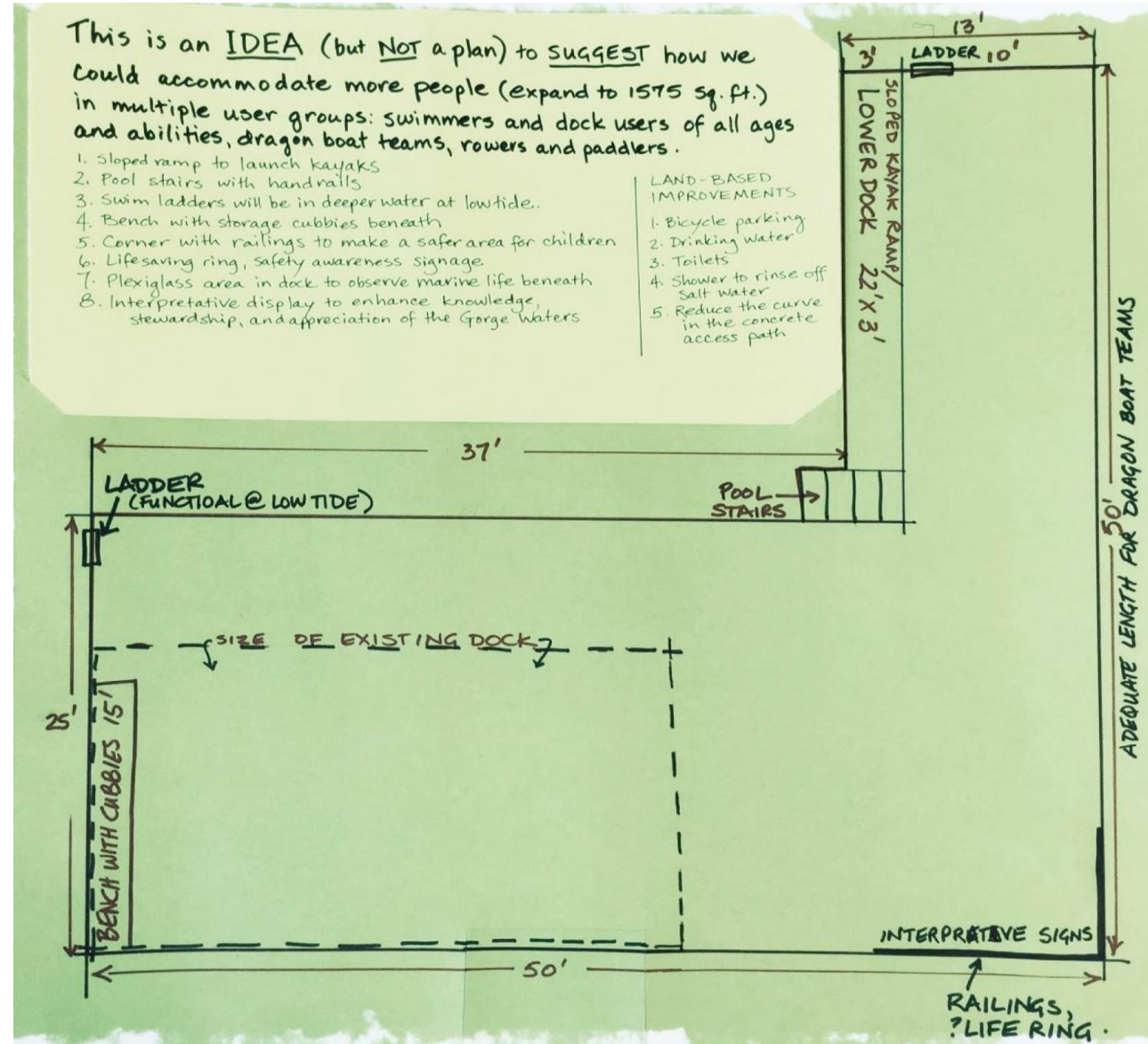
Vision: Larger dock to deal with overcrowding.



2. Banfield Park Dock (expansion)

- LARGER (X3)

- Stairs with railing
- Ramp into water
- Bike lock up
- Kayak friendly
- Safety signage
- Interpretive signage
- Stewardship signage



3. Burleith Park

Vision: naturalized setting that provides an access point for viewing flora and fauna.

- General clean up
- Naturalized bird watching area
- Provide access to shoreline
- Stewardship signage



4. Esquimalt Gorge Park

Vision: Enhancement of the excellent naturalized stream and beach areas.



- Additional planting in riparian area of creek
- Reconstruct beach to support forage fish
- Stewardship signage
- Ramp & dock for kayakers

5. Saanich Gorge Park (Curtis Point)

Vision: Minimal changes; easier water access; preserve the existing natural ecosystems.



- Minimal change to this natural setting
- Find solution to soil erosion around Gary Oak meadow
- Install set of stairs or ramp to provide more accessible entry into water
- Install bike racks
- Stewardship signage

6. Arbutus Park

Vision: Create a forage fish / paddle beach at the foot of Washington Street.

- Create forage fish beach
- Remove debris
- Improve access to water
- Install bike racks
- Install park benches
- Stewardship signage



7. Arm Street Park

Vision: enhance the experience at Arm Street Park by adding a ramp and dock



- Install new ramp & dock
- All abilities access
- Install bike racks
- Stewardship signage

Next Steps

1. Meet with various municipalities
 - Staff - planning
 - Politicians (CoV – Nov. 21st) - budgeting
2. Help to integrate these ideas into Parks' plans
3. Participate in public review as they move forward
4. Enjoy the improved access to the Gorge Waterway