Regulation of the Water Lot in the Gorge Waterway NW of Selkirk Trestle

May 2014

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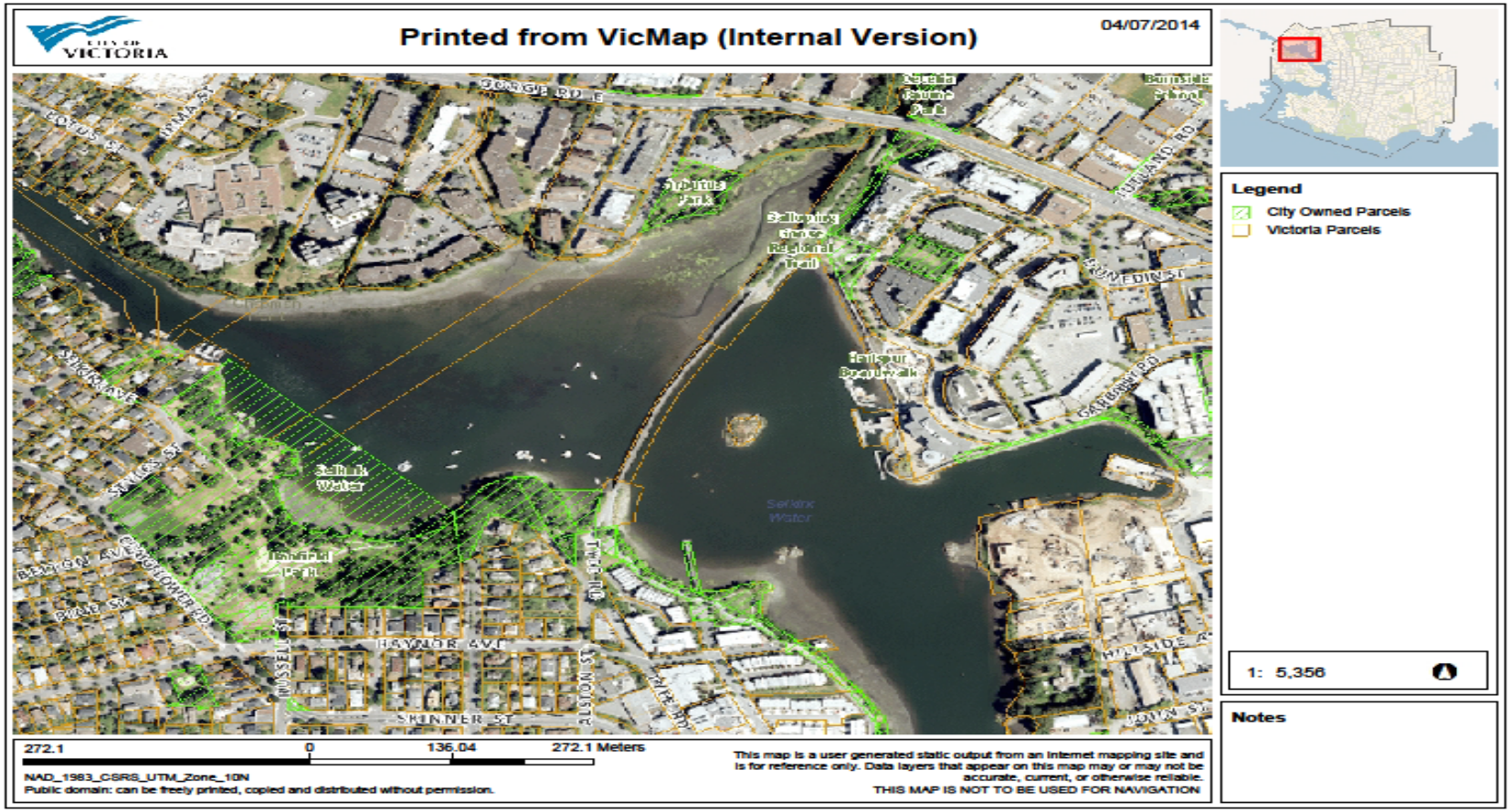
Gorge Waterway – Selkirk Water



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Community Issues

- Nuisance, sewage & garbage from live-aboards
- Pollution from unseaworthy vessels
- Vessel abandonment and derelicts
- Misuse of Parks facilities
- Interference with other recreational uses

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Vessels in Park Foreshore

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Vessels Moored to Trestle

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Derelict Vessel on Park Foreshore

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Multiple Vessels Off Banfield Park

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Live-aboard Moored in Park Area

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Rafted Vessels Congest Water Lot

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Recommended Approach

- Enact Zoning Regulations
  - Consistent with Official Community Plan objectives
  - Support recreational uses
  - Prohibit residential uses
  - Prohibit vessel storage uses

- Seek Licence of Occupation
  - To support Zoning Regulations
  - To enable compliance monitoring & enforcement

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Expected Outcomes

- Reduce nuisance, pollution, sewage discharge
- Improve health of the marine environment
- Improve recreational access over water lot
- Reduce wear and tear on adjacent parks

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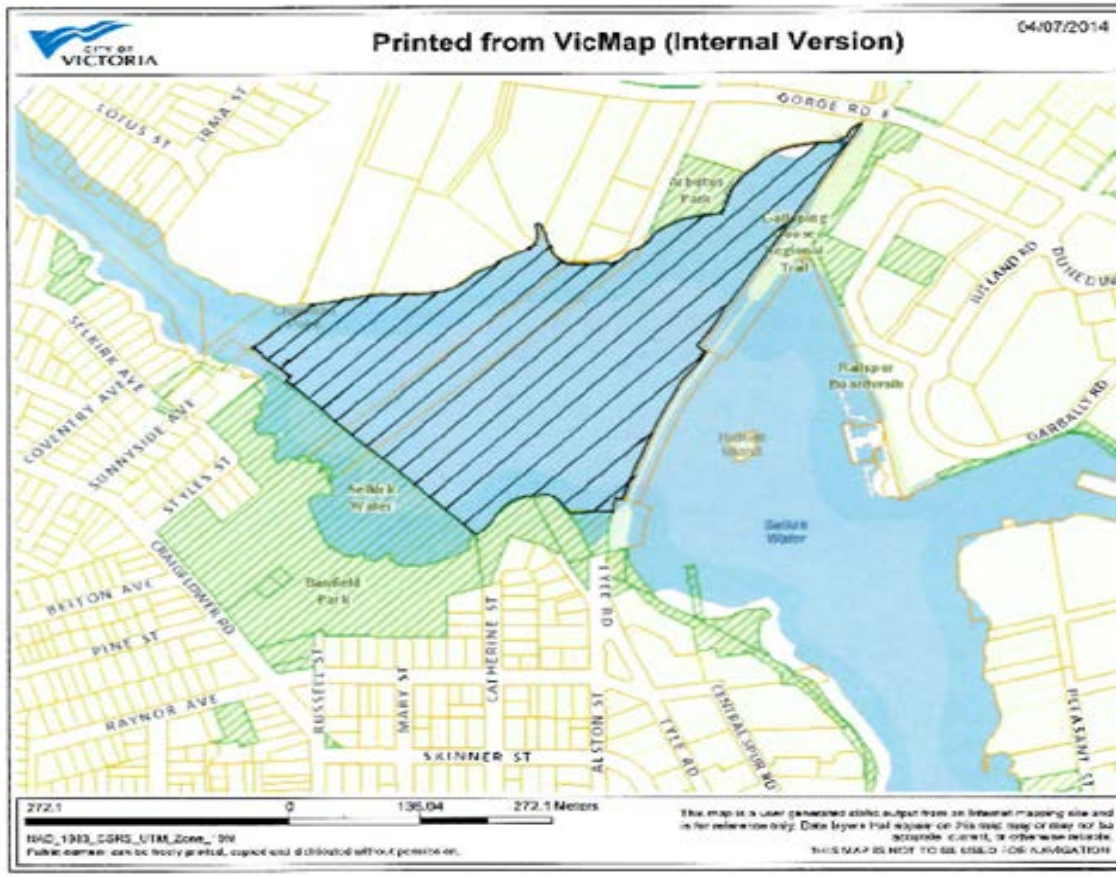
Proposed Licence Area



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Longer Term Objectives

- Portage Inlet a large tidal lagoon within an urban area
- Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet serves as:
  - Important plant and wildlife habitat
  - Park space for human inhabitants
- Need to protect the unique marine ecosystem and aesthetic quality of the waterway

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Council Role

- Approve recommended action plan
- Seek support of Esquimalt & Songhees First Nations
- Request Province to clean-up water lot
- Inquire with Province on ecosystem protection process
- Request CRD to consider long-term ecosystem protection strategies for Gorge Waterway & Portage Inlet

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