

James Bay Neighbourhood

Beacon Hill Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Hanging basket classes
- Dog walk x 3
- Pulling green
- Jogging routes
- Tourist walk
- Zoo
- Heron breeding
- Baseball
- Services, boulevards and etc. beyond Beacon Hill Park
- Walking
- Feed ducks
- Natural outdoor space
- Watching air/ water events
- Parking
- Petting farm
- Picnics
- Flowers, native plants
- Lawn bowling
- Tennis
- Private club house in public park
- Cricket III
- Maintenance yard, ugly inappropriate use
- Nursery
- Native planting
- Forest
- Gay stroll
- Off leash area
- Prostitution
- Bird watching
- Band practices
- Football
- Place for kids to play
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Home for wildlife
- Place for meditation
- Sports

a.) How could it be used better?

- Adding correct labels to all features in permanent signs
- In 25 years needs a refreshment at the checker's site hilltop and at Willows Kiwanis
- Think about change in population age and environment using public transit, bikes, walking

- Add an educational layer to all parks with correct titles of all features via permanent signs
- To each park access point in all the cities parks, a map that clearly shows all other parks, permanent signs
- Too many pathways have paths that start and stop with no connection to each other
- Dog run should be over seeded
- More interpretive signage for First Nations history and medicine
- Add tea house
- Smell of compost is bad

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

- Heron rookery II
- Garry Oak/ Camas fields
- Lookout
- Waterfront

a.) What makes it special?

- Historic components of Finlayson Park
- Good acre Lake
- Heron rookery
- Panoramic view
- Heronry
- Tree photos
- Walking spaces
- Picnic tables
- Potential for interpretive centre
- Camas fields, native meadow
- Waterways and fountains
- Cricket and lawn bowling
- Woodlands and swamp
- Family use
- Because the park is there (size, location, landscape, lakes, diverse, wildflowers, oaks)
- Value mix of natural and built environment
- No businesses
- Based on whatever guidelines are established
- Too many double use parks
- Gardens
- Native garden
- Sunny children’s play area along Cook St. Close to village and amenities that families need
- Beauty natural connection
- Petting zoo
- Chance for children to get close to animals
- Exposure to farming

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Under utilized

- Habitat restoration and support
- Carefree area
- Remove parks yard and open area to public
- A distinct cycling boardwalk
- Remove south part of road at Beacon street to regain mead
- Petting zoo—no expansion
- Remove road within BHP
- Make bike use within BHP for kids only
- Move parks yard so swamp can be rehabilitated
- Horse paddock to revert to public green space
- Underutilized
- Build boardwalk thru swamp at Southeast end x 3
- Restrict car use in park and promote biking and walking
- Open up Southeast corner of park to make it safer
- Make Southeast corner more accessible

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

- No sidewalk on north side of Dallas Rd.
- No trails at east side of park
- Pedestrian walkway is needed on North side of Dallas Rd.
- No sidewalk on East side, so kids on scooters are forced onto waterfront walkway
- On Heywood Way need curb cuts

5.) Other Information:

- No expansion of farm in Beacon Hill, relocate ?
- Consider relocating Luminary to Laurel Point
- Dallas Road no lights
- No cycling and etc. along paths

Centennial/ Laurel Point

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Walking x 3
- View scapes
- By tourists and residents
- Nice walking area
- Photos

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

- Yes, well maintained

a.) What makes it special?

- Showcase urban walkway
- Great for walking
- Wonderful boardwalk
- Fabulous ocean walks
- Nice for tourists. Near water—cool
- Pleasant green space
- Lovely to sit and enjoy a quiet moment on the way downtown
- Trees
- Walkway
- Great viewpoint

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Convert to city property

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

- Extend boardwalk downtown

5.) Other information:

Confederation Square

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Duck watching, resting, picture area

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Dallas Road Walkway

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Public defecation by lookout at San Juse Ave.
- Walkway by tourists and residents

a.) How could it be used better?

- Needs more crosswalks

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

- Driveway, walks, views
- Spectacular ocean seascape

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Fisherman’s Wharf Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Buy food
- Pick up harbour Ferries
- Picnics
- Tourists
- Dog walking
- Sports
- Football
- Frisbee
- House boats merge
- Soccer
- Gay pride celebrations
- Barb’s
- Baseball
- Minor transit use
- Sports night
- Dog friendly
- Lots of sports teams
- Sit and enjoy the ambience of water and greenways

a.) How could it be used better?

- Needs water
- Under utilized

- Prune trees and attend to area around picnic tables

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

- “Barb’s Place”
- Size
- Diverse (family/ sports)
- Bus stop
- Location for research

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Skate park
- Daylight nearby creek
- Consider public parking under the park

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Holland Point

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Walking x 4
- Kites x 2
- Dogs x 2
- Model boat
- Kite flying
- Dog walking
- Joggers
- Romantic interludes
- Viewing
- Rock, shell and wood collection
- Harrison yacht pond

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

- I always do this park with relatives and visitors. I walk to the breakwater
- Like to see dogs and their owners

- Beach access
- Camas
- Quiet

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

- Safe for public

Irving Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Playground
- Passive
- Bike stop
- Kids
- Labyrinth
- Drinks
- Eat, play, vast people watch
- Kids space used a lot
- Picnic tables
- Public washrooms

a.) How could it be used better?

- Scary at night
- Loss space for young adults—Football, Frisbee toss and birthday space, when meditating—circle and cherry trees planted (less activity space)
- Young adult recreation areas

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

- Should be special, but isn't

a. What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Walkway from Irving Park to South Park
- More drop-in equipment/ basketball courts
- Older kids activities
- Encourage other kids activities to discourage ongoing problems with vandals and alcoholics
- We would like a walkway around this park
- Labyrinth

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Legislature Grounds

1.) How is the park actually used?

- events

a.) How could it be used better?

- Underused, wasted back end
- Garden plots

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a. What makes it special?

- Rear South side heritage
- Remove hedge
- Nice green space

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- South end—open use for residents

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Lewis Street Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- playground

a.) How could it be used better?

- block off street to traffic (kids around)

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

- Nice little walkway

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- More playground equipment needed

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

JB Market Area/ Five Corners

1.) How is the park actually used?

a.) How could it be used better?

- Spruce up JB market grass area, now grass

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Create parkette new here
- Add benches

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

MacDonald Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Playground x 2
- Rugby x 2
- Soccer x 2
- Sports field x 3
- Beer drinking
- Used by the school
- Playground for kids and families
- Team sports
- School

- Baseball

a.) How could it be used better?

- Off leash houses for dogs needed
- Please clean sand in sandboxes
- Open the washrooms for the public

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

- Playground
- Yes

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- More drop-in style equipment
- Create more active use of this space
- Skate parks/ basketball courts
- Needs water

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Ogden Point/ Coast Guard

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Great underwater diving
- Sitting
- Flowers (Rotary Park)
- Parking lot
- Coast guard park use
- Historical information
- Tourists/ residents
- Walking x 2
- View space x 2
- Fishing
- Diving
- Walkway along Dallas Rd.

a.) How could it be used better?

- add green space, picnic tables, and flower beds
- green it up

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Tremendous potential
- Parkette to beautify entrance to Victoria
- Would like to see walkway area between Fisherman's Wharf and Ogden Point improved so passengers of cruise ships walk (less buses/ taxis)
- Need green space
- Make former Coast Guard parking lot, a park all along Dallas Road.
- Federal Marine Ecological Reserve: This area is supposed to be a park. The former environmental signage has been removed. It should be replaced (e.g. re sea plants (sensitive) and no scuba diving beyond a certain point).
- Roof top gardens, ensure (with signage) public access to open spaces that result from density exchange deals.

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

- We need an enhanced, enlarged, inviting walkway corridor between Ogden point and Fisherman's Wharf.
- Need neighbourhood traffic controls (buses and taxis) to Ogden Point for cruise ships

5.) Other information:

Public Open Space: Quadra Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Under utilized
- Passive access (signage)

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a "Most successful park?"

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Royal Museum

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Don't feel drawn in
- Thunderbird Park

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a "Most successful park?"

- Totem Pole Park

a.) What makes it special?

- Totems etc.
- History of totems

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

South Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Basketball court
- School playground x 2

a.) How could it be used better?

2.) Is it shown as a "Most successful park?"

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Designation as a park

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

Todd Park

1.) How is the park actually used?

- Tennis x 4

a.) How could it be used better?

- Community gardens on edges

2.) Is it shown as a “Most successful park?”

a.) What makes it special?

3.) Are there any ideas for enhancing/ improving this park?

- Community gardens around edge of tennis courts

4.) Are there any obstacles to accessing this park? If so what are they?

5.) Other information:

General Comments about what makes parks special:

- First Nation Sites – burial cairns
- Natural Eco-systems
- Wild life
- Waterway -hydrology of our communities
- Having access to natural beaches

Current unmet parks/open space needs in your community:

- Cycling paths in parks and connecting neighbourhoods
- First Nations interpretive walk
- Recognition of land / sea connection
- Off leash area for West side of James Bay
- Adventure style play ground for older kids
- More policing of parks with foot and bike patrols
- Daylighting Parks
- More wheel chair and accessible parks
- More trees and green spaces
- Public art
- Restoration of green space and creeks

- More dog poop bag holders
- More benches (e.g. memorial) – need places to sit
- Community gardens connected with playgrounds
- Clipping hedges that run into sidewalks. (shrubby needs to be setback more)
- Ensure adequate dog friendly places
- Biking paths that are kid friendly
- Connections from one park to another
- Bike routes designated in James Bay
- Meeting needs of those who use the park at night – homeless
- Better light for night use – enviro friendly lighting that shines down instead of up. But keep areas along Dallas Road dark at night.
- Accommodate increased scooter usage by seniors.
- Education on our native environment/ecosystems
- More dynamic playground for young children (places for sand water plan)
- Naturalized play spaces for children.
- Better maintenance
- Garbage cans left till Monday on waterfront
- Better signage to town
- Crosswalks near parks
- More native planting components.
- More tranquil setting
- More street native plantings
- More wheel access
- More native plantings in parks
- More crosswalk access to parks
- More tourist signage – create conduits of parks between Ogden Point and BHP.
- More space for young people 10 – 35 years of age
- More community garden plots (retain ones we have)
- Untended, wild, accessible to everyone park space
- All the roof tops of the high rises need to be safe, public view spaces and green spaces
- Clear roadways to cycle along
- More mowing of grass in public parks and street boulevards
- Snow and ice removal promptly from around park streets. (I.e. Irving Park at Michigan and Menzies not cleared for a week.
- More festival and celebration space
- Nicer entrance to cruise ships and clipper and Coho
- Water parks for children to stomp in
- A spot to put the Emily Carr statue
- A sculpture park so donated stuff can be looked after
- Using the land / water perimeter for public activities

Future Needs:

- Green space is more important due to increased density
- Define and protect green space
- Aging population therefore more benches, better pathways, more policing more washrooms.
- More benches
- Increase scooter traffic
- More biking opportunities
- Preservation of natural ecosystems
- Fall all generations – keep inter generational (e.g. place senior centres next to children’s parks or schools.)
- More “natural” playground i.e. climbing trees access to rocky areas.
- Replanting native species and removal of invasive species
- Conservation of natural areas (i.e. flowers / trees etc Birds, Animals)
- Keep commercialization out
- Interpretive sign
- More access to parks for seniors and disabled
- More tourist involvement in parks
- More community use / special events respectful of natural components
- More reflective of demographic of City of Victoria more eco-friendly parks
- Recognition of global warming
- Water stewardship and utilization
- Street block events (e.g. cherry blossom festival, garage sale, BBQs)
- Traffic calming
- More parks
- More recreational opportunities
- More walkways for pedestrians – aesthetically pleasing
- No vehicles in parks to reduce polluting exhausts
- Introduce goal of a certain quantity of open green spaces per population
- Far less commercial advertising on sidewalks
- No sharing of pedestrian walkways with bicycles
- More benches to rest on
- Carefully manage development to retain green space
- Clean water and park spaces
- Ensure mobility challenged access

Obstacles to accessing parks / public open spaces:

- Lack of sidewalks and curb cuts in parks to negotiate with wheelchairs and strollers.
- Too many cars on greenways.
- Not enough safe cross walks across Dallas Road
- Unsavory characters (drug and alcohol use)
- Better Bike access through the Downtown Core to get to the Galloping Goose.
- More cross walks are sorely needed along Dallas Road in James Bay, especially at the bottom of Government and South Turner.

- Dallas Walkway – alternate pathway to accommodate children and families on bikes and scooters.
- New development being built on areas that were perceived to be public spaces (e.g. Humboldt street, space in James Bay by the Wharf)
- Poorly planned trails and pathways (e.g. Beacon Hill – accessible to native plants without destroying them.)

Ideas for acquiring new parks or enhancing existing ones:

- Common gardens at the corner of Menzies and Michigan should not close
- Restoration of waterways
- Restoration of native flora & remove invasive species
- Interpretive, interactive displays
- Nature centre
- Educational opportunity for local schools and children – adults and visitors too.
- More pedestrian /bike friendly greenways
- Linear trails connecting neighbourhoods and public transport
- To raise money have a voluntary addition to our property taxes to be used for park maintenance and acquiring more park land. Voluntary tax: invite people to add \$20 / \$100 to the their property tax – make tax deductible
- Encourage wealthy people to leave \$ in their wills to be used to increase parks and maintain those parks already in existence.
- Support the preservation and enhancement of natural eco-systems within our green spaces
- Create interpretive and interactive opportunities for children and visitors
- Daylighting creeks and streams
- Poor Government parking affects James Bay. Instead of street level parking park/green space and parking underneath a park.
- More play lots closer to downtown – Harris green
- Public open spaces/parks close to new high-rise developments
- Naturalized play species for children – not just playground equipment
- Increase opportunities to grow food
- Underground parking with parks on top
- Green building design with rooftop gardens
- Need to create parks where everyone is included - including street people and homeless.
- Take on something and do it well.
- Tree lined boulevards with heritage homes, great sidewalks, views of home garden makes one feel the area is in a park like setting.
- Organize garbage pick-up during walks – e.g. senior groups
- Dallas better used by increasing cycling and pedestrian friendly areas
- Make pathways for exercise along perimeters of parks
- Keep beck more naturalized
- Get rid of the broom and other invasive non native species

- Children's playgrounds and community gardens should be designed together
- Create an outdoor classroom – cobs or green designed for public and kids to use.
- School space should always be kept as green space / Park.
- Encourage public use of rooftops
- Reduce roadways for greenways
- Protect parks in perpetuity
- Land swaps for park land by City of Victoria improved pedestrian signage and arteries to parks

Other:

- Look at Arthur Ericson's advice re: land use / parks and buildings

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