



New Rain Gardens Will Help Protect Bowker Creek

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — A pilot project that will help reduce and treat stormwater runoff before it enters Bowker Creek is now underway on Trent Street. Once complete, rain water that would have entered Bowker Creek through the City's storm drain system, will be directed into two new rain gardens planted with native trees and shrubs.

On the surface, a rain garden looks like any other landscaped garden. It is how this garden gets its water and what happens to the water once it arrives, that makes it a rain garden.

A rain garden is designed to reduce the flow of rain water and naturally filter out pollutants such as oils and grease, before the water flows into the City's storm drain system. Limiting the amount of water entering pipes during heavy rainfalls can help minimize potential flooding to nearby properties and roadways.

Located only metres away from an underground section of Bowker Creek in the North Jubilee neighbourhood, the project complements the focused community efforts of the Bowker Creek Initiative to protect and restore this local waterway. The rain gardens will also provide environmental learning opportunities for students attending St. Patrick's Elementary School near Trent Street.

The City of Victoria received a \$10,000 planning grant to pay for the design of the new gardens from the Ministry of Community and Rural Development with remaining funds coming from the City of Victoria's capital budget. Upon successful completion, the City will consider installing rain gardens in other neighbourhoods during road restoration and construction.

The project is expected to be completed before school in early September, with construction occurring Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Crews will make every effort to maintain access to driveways and minimize disruption to pedestrians, vehicular traffic, residents and businesses.

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For More Information:

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