



## Improvements to Cridge Park Begin This Week

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Construction begins this week to improve Cridge Park, a half hectare of rare green space in downtown Victoria. In consultation with the community earlier this year, City staff developed an improvement plan to make the park safer and more visually appealing, and encourage greater use and enjoyment by the entire community.

Located at the corner of Belleville and Blanshard Streets, improvements to Cridge Park will include:

- New lighting and a paved path through the park connecting Blanshard and Belleville Streets
- A new plaza area with bench seating, native/shade plantings and new signage
- New turf and irrigation, preserving the existing large trees, and
- Replacement of the existing chain-link fence with a new, four-foot, wrought iron picket fence around the perimeter of the park.

City staff will also work with the community to develop a commemorative piece that acknowledges the park's history. The park is named after philanthropist Bishop Edward Cridge for his work in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.

During construction, Cridge Park will be closed to the public. Sidewalks around the park will remain open except for brief periods to allow construction vehicles access to the site. Adjacent roads will remain open with intermittent lane closures. Improvements to the park are expected to be completed by the end of August.

Cridge Park is one of three City parks being upgraded in 2010. Blackwood and Highview Parks, located in the Hillside-Quadra neighbourhood, will also be improved this year. For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca) and click on *What's New?*

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