Tour the Fisherman’s Wharf Park Rain Garden

Date: Monday, September 10, 2012

VICTORIA, BC — There’s a new type of garden popping up in the “City of Gardens”. Rain gardens, such as the one under construction at Fisherman’s Wharf Park, look great and are an environmentally friendly way to manage storm water. Rain gardens filter and clean runoff from hard surfaces such as roofs and driveways before it reaches the ocean, and reduce the amount of runoff entering Victoria’s storm drain system.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:
Tuesday morning, media are invited to tour the rain garden at Fisherman’s Wharf Park. City Parks and Sustainability staff will be available for interviews about the rain garden’s design and the environmental benefits of rain gardens to Victoria.

What: Tour of Fisherman’s Wharf Park Rain Garden
When: Tuesday, September 11, 2012, from 10:30 a.m. – noon
Where: Fisherman’s Wharf Park in James Bay, corner of Erie and St. Lawrence Streets

Media are asked to meet at the Fisherman’s Wharf Park playground next to the ramp leading from the parking lot. Please wear steel-toe boots. Construction hard hats and safety vests will be provided.

The Fisherman’s Wharf Park rain garden is 352 square metres in size and features a picturesque retaining wall that outlines the Inner Harbour’s original shoreline, a viewing bridge and seated stairway to provide park visitors a close view of the garden. The plants used are drought resistant in the summer and can survive in standing water during the winter months.

Once complete, the new rain garden will be the largest in Victoria, intercepting two storm drains that currently collect runoff from 14,250 square meters of hard and paved surfaces in the James Bay neighbourhood. Other City rain gardens are located at Trent Street, Oswald Park, Cecelia Road, Tyee Road near Dockside Green, Yates Street near The Atrium, and Spirit Garden (next to Centennial Square.) Rain gardens can also be found at Victoria West Elementary School and at BMW Victoria.

In consultation with the community, City staff developed a management plan for Fisherman’s Wharf Park in 2009 to transform an underused sports field into a “natural” park with more amenities. The new rain garden represents a stream that once existed there. The public will have an opportunity to tour the rain garden and celebrate the park’s new beach area, community greenspace, play and seating areas and expanded pathway at a community celebration on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 from 11 a.m. – noon.

For More Information:

Doug Demarzo
Manager, Parks Planning and Design
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
Office: 250.361.0617 Cellular: 250.507.6765