

NEWS RELEASE

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Improvements planned for Departure Bay beachfront

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is planning upgrades to the existing Departure Bay beachfront to improve accessibility and ensure safe and pleasant use of this recreational area. The overall project will include several improvements to enhance the area including flattening the grade along the seawall walkway; installing new pedestrian access ramps; installing new street lights and walkway lights; improvements to parking facilities; and replacement of an old storm drain on Loat Street.

Due to the cultural and heritage significance of the area, the City is working with the Snuneymuxw First Nation and an archaeological consultant to complete research and onsite investigation work for the project. The City has also met several times with representatives from the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association to implement some design features that support objectives identified in the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Plan.

Project information signage is now being installed at the beachfront. A project information page has also been created on the City of Nanaimo's website.

Strategic Link: This project supports the Waterfront Enhancement priority of the strategic plan.

Key Points

- Archaeological investigation along with detailed engineering design work is currently underway.
- Construction of the project is scheduled for fall 2015.

Quotes

"A few years ago, representatives from the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association presented ideas to the City for improving the beachfront. One of the priority improvements identified was flattening the grade along the seawall walkway. City Council has approved this project for 2015 and work is expected to begin this fall. Once the project is complete the Departure Bay beachfront will be an even better place to visit and enjoy."

Bill McKay
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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