

Important Public Safety Notice



Attention Harewood Property Owner or Building Occupant:

The following package contains important public safety information concerning the location of your residence or business. Please review carefully.

The need to remove the Lower and Middle Colliery Dams

On Monday, October 29, Nanaimo City Council informed the community of their approval of an administrative recommendation to undertake the removal of the Lower and Middle Colliery Dams located in Colliery Dam Park along with the naturalization of the Chase River through the park. This decision was based on engineering assessments which concluded the dams have reached the end of their service life.

The public is advised that each dam is currently stable; however, should the region experience a significant earthquake or extreme rainfall event, the dams may fail resulting in a short notice evacuation of Harewood. The Province's Dam Safety Branch regulations accordingly require the City of Nanaimo to remedy this risk. Having considered all options, including reinforcing or rebuilding the dams, removing each structure and renaturalizing the Chase River Valley were deemed the safest long-term solutions.

Getting more information

You have received this package because your residence or business is located in the identified Harewood evacuation area. The enclosed information and maps were prepared to advise you of the current risk and answer your initial questions. Additional information can be found at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/dams or will be made available during scheduled public information sessions from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Nov 5 at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, located at 741 Third Street and Nov 8 at the Harewood Activity Centre, located at 195 Fourth Street.

To speak to a City representative about the dams, call **250-756-5353** or send an email to collierydams@nanaimo.ca. To speak to a City representative about emergency planning and preparedness, call **250-753-7311**. Note: If you are a parent with children who attend John Barsby Community School and you seek information regarding the school's emergency plan; please call the school at **250-753-8211**.

Removing the dams

The City of Nanaimo's Engineering and Public Works Department has initiated steps to remove the Lower and Middle Colliery Dams. The current target date to commence deconstruction is summer 2013. Draining the water stored behind the dam will be the first priority followed by the removal of the dam structures. Should the dams be exposed to a significant earthquake or extreme rainfall event prior to their removal, the City has established an evacuation procedure specific to Harewood. For more information regarding this process, please see the attached maps and supporting questions and answers.

Background on the dam structures

The Lower and Middle Colliery Dams were built by the mining industry in 1911 for the sole purpose of providing a supply of water to wash coal. When coal mining ceased operation in Nanaimo, the body of water stored behind the dams was adopted for recreational use only. Please note, this water is NOT held for the following uses: general consumption, irrigation, power generation or flood mitigation.

It is important to acknowledge that the dams are now over 100 years old. Despite their long service history, the dams' composition and design is no longer permissible by today's standards; hence the dams must be removed.

Important Public Safety Notice

COLLIERY DAMS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where are the Middle and Lower Colliery Dams located?

The Lower and Middle Colliery Dams, also known as the Chase River Dams, are located in Colliery Dam Park, adjacent to Nanaimo Lakes Road, south of Sixth Street and north of Seventh Street. The Park is best accessed from the parking lot at Sixth and Wakesiah.

Why do we need to remove the dams?

The dams are at the end of their service life - they are one hundred years old. Recent studies have shown that they pose an unacceptable risk to the community living downstream during a significant earthquake or extreme rainfall event.

What are the future uses of Colliery Dam Park once the dams are removed?

Colliery Dam Park is currently used as a natural recreational area. This use is not anticipated to change in any way. The park is a well loved area and a jewel of south Nanaimo. With input from residents, the City will return the Chase River within the park to its natural state.

What is the current condition of the dams?

The dams are stable in their current state; however a disturbance due to a significant earthquake or extreme rainfall event could negatively affect them. As noted, the dams have reached the end of their service life; hence it's prudent to remove them before they degrade.

What measures are in place to alert the community should the dams show signs of breaching?

The City has implemented an Emergency Action Plan that would see the Emergency Command Centre activated in the event of a possible breach. The City will order an evacuation of the downstream area should the dams appear to be in imminent danger of failure. Also, public education using letters, maps, website, social media, question and answers, open houses and school liaison are currently being carried out.

Is it still safe to use Colliery Dam Park?

Colliery Dam Park is still safe to use. As noted, the dams are stable in their current condition; in the event of a significant earthquake or extreme rainfall event, it would be prudent to stay clear of the Park.

In addition to the Lower and Middle Colliery dams, are there other dam structures in or near Colliery Dam Park? If so, what is the status of these structures?

A third dam – the Upper Colliery Dam – is in a secure state and poses no risk to the public. This structure will remain in place. Also, Water Reservoir #1 has been seismically upgraded to current standards and poses no risk to the public. Only the Lower and Middle Colliery dams must be removed.

Where do I get more information?

The City has prepared additional questions and answers on its website. Topics include: dam safety, emergency preparedness, the environment, legal and administrative matters, community concerns, costs, public involvement and decision making. To review these questions and answer, as well as other information, please visit - www.nanaimo.ca/goto/dams

To Bowen Park Reception Centre

Harewood

Evacuation Routes

Points of Interest

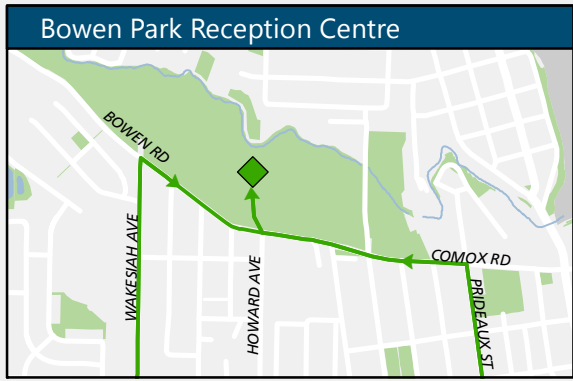
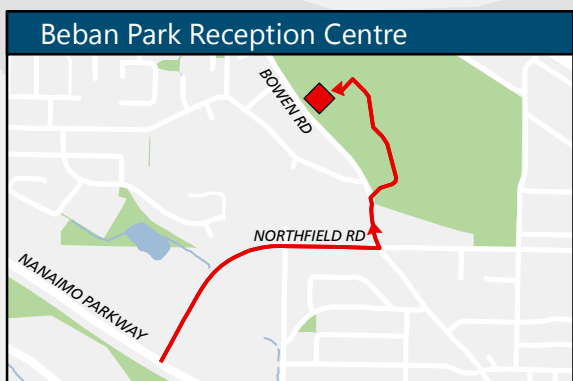
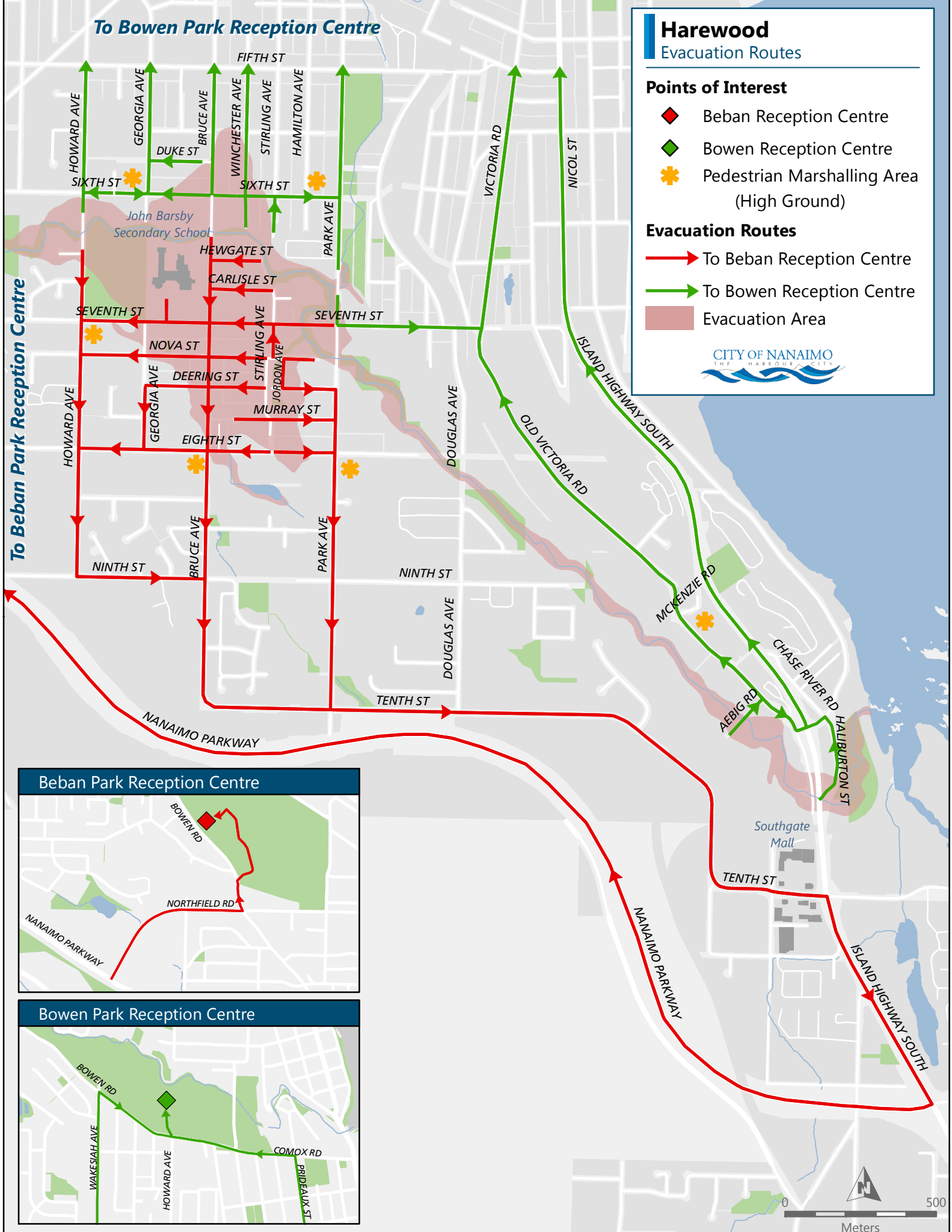
- ◆ Beban Reception Centre
- ◆ Bowen Reception Centre
- ✿ Pedestrian Marshalling Area (High Ground)

Evacuation Routes

- To Beban Reception Centre
- To Bowen Reception Centre
- █ Evacuation Area





To Beban Park Reception Centre



Harewood

Key Markings

-  Dam Location
-  Evacuation Area

