

Staff Report for Decision

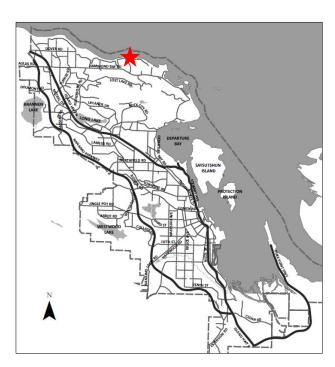
File Number: DVP00487

DATE OF MEETING December 15, 2025

AUTHORED BY VIDHI KYADA, PLANNING TECHNICIAN, CURRENT PLANNING

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DVP487 –

5100 FILLINGER CRESCENT



Proposal:

Variance to allow an overheight combined retaining wall and fence



Zoning:

R5 - Three and Four Unit Residential

City Plan Land Use Designation:

Suburban Neighbourhood

Lot Area:

1,768m²





OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present for Council's consideration a development variance permit application for a proposed overheight combined retaining wall and fence at 5100 Fillinger Crescent.

Recommendation

That Council issue Development Variance Permit No. DVP487 for an overheight combined retaining wall and fence at 5100 Fillinger Crescent with a variance as outlined in the "Proposed Variance" section of the Staff Report dated 2025-DEC-15.

BACKGROUND

A development variance permit application, DVP487, was received from Loretta Irish to vary the provisions of "City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw 2011 No. 4500" (the "Zoning Bylaw"), to increase the maximum allowable fence height to allow the construction of an overheight fence on the existing retaining wall within the flanking side yard setback at 5100 Fillinger Crescent.

Subject Property and Site Context

The subject property is a waterfront lot located west of Fillinger Waterfront Park 1 which is a road allowance that provides public parking and access to the waterfront, within the Rocky Point neighbourhood.

The surrounding neighbourhood includes low-density residential development, as well as the Frank J Ney Elementary School, and City parklands.

Statutory notification has taken place prior to Council's consideration of the variance.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Development

The applicant is proposing to construct an overheight fence on the existing retaining wall along the east side of the existing dwelling and is located within the flanking side yard setback. The existing textured concrete retaining wall varies in height from 0.34m to 1.29m, which would only allow for a very low fence of 0.51m in height.

The adjacent road allowance and a public parking area is at a lower elevation than the subject property's side yard grading; however, the side yard remains visible from the public parking area. The requested variance is intended to increase privacy for the side yard.



Proposed Variance

Maximum Fence Height

The maximum permitted height of a retaining wall or fence (or combined retaining wall and fence) in the R5 zone within a flanking side yard setback is 1.8m. The proposed combined height of a retaining wall and fence varies from 2.17m to 3.15m, a requested maximum variance of 1.35m.

The City of Nanaimo's "Consideration of Variances Policy" outlines considerations for evaluating Development Variance Permit applications, such as land use justification, and potential aesthetic, functional or environmental impacts. The applicant has provided the following rationale demonstrating how they can address these considerations:

- The structure does not negatively impact neighbouring properties in terms of access to light, privacy, or enjoyment of their space.
- The proposed variance and design were posted in the property's front yard for two weeks, allowing beach access users to review and share support or concerns.
- A total of 57 letters of support were received, including one from the immediate neighboring property at 5040 Fillinger Crescent.

Staff support the proposed variance as no negative impact on the adjacent properties or to the beach access users are anticipated and letters of support from the neighbouring property to the east and by the beach access users were submitted in support of the application. Additionally, the proposal is not expected to impact existing trees. The fence design reflects a residential character and complements the neighbourhood, which further supports the proposal.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Development Variance Permit Application No. DVP487 is for an overheight combined retaining wall and fence within the flanking side yard setback at 5100 Fillinger Crescent.
- No negative impacts to the adjacent property are anticipated and letters of support from the neighbouring properties as well as from the beach access users were submitted in support of the application.
- Staff support the proposed variance.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Permit Terms and Conditions

ATTACHMENT B: Subject Property Map

ATTACHMENT C: Site Survey
ATTACHMENT D: Fence Elevation
ATTACHMENT E: Site Photo

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

Lainya Rowett Manager, Current Planning Jeremy Holm
Director, Planning & Development

ATTACHMENT A PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF PERMIT

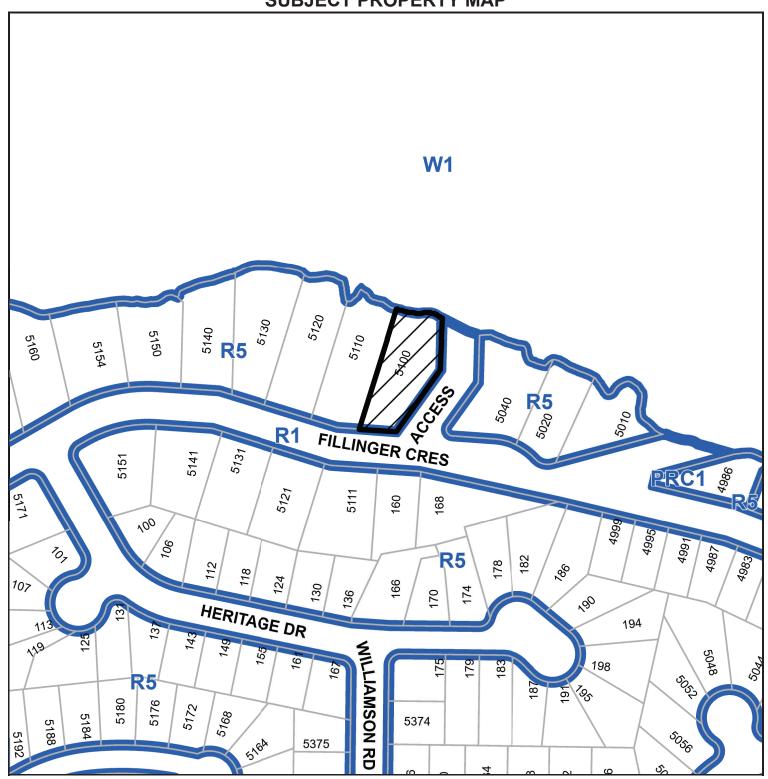
The "City of Nanaimo Bylaw Zoning 2011 No. 4500" is varied as follows:

1. Section 6.10.2 Fence Height – to increase the maximum allowable combined height for a retaining wall and fence within the flanking side yard setback from 1.8m to 3.15m, as proposed.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

- 1. The subject property shall be developed in accordance with the Site Survey, prepared by McElhanney, dated 2024-NOV-19, as shown in Attachment C.
- 2. The subject property shall be developed in accordance with the Proposed Fence Elevation, prepared by McElhanney, dated 2025-FEB-27, as shown in Attachment D.

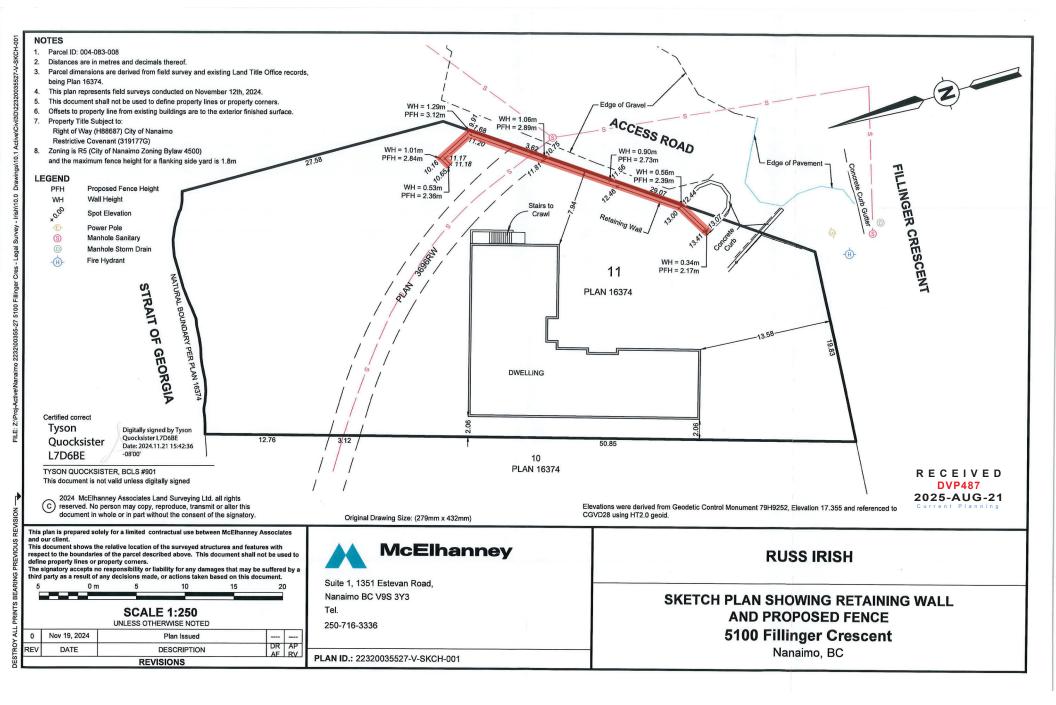
ATTACHMENT B SUBJECT PROPERTY MAP



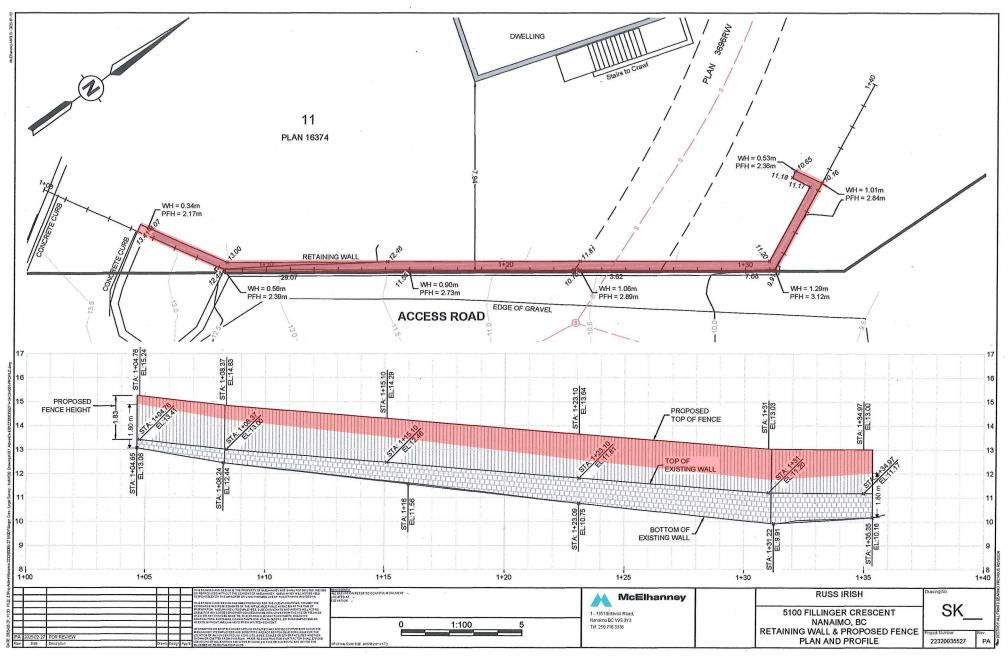


5100 FILLINGER CRESCENT

ATTACHMENT C SITE SURVEY



ATTACHMENT D FENCE ELEVATION



RECEIVED
DVP487
2025-AUG-21
Current Planning

