



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
the place to connect

April 3, 2023

To: Thomas Soulliere
Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities
City of Victoria

RE: Park washroom improvement program – Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood priorities

We are writing to provide input into prioritization of washroom improvements in the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood, under the park washroom improvement program. Committee of the Whole approved a 7 year park washroom improvement program on January 19, 2023, when staff reported results of the City's Park Washrooms Accessibility Assessment.

Eight of the 18 park washrooms are in Fairfield Gonzales. These include washrooms in waterfront public areas and Beacon Hill Park which are frequented by residents across the city and beyond. Six of the eight in Fairfield Gonzales are rated category 1, the lowest level of accessibility.

Appendix B, Washroom Improvement Program Development, outlined the recommended approach to addressing the barriers identified, and did not include consulting with neighbourhood associations. Factors for prioritization included: accessibility rating, project costs, usage by able bodied individuals and operational considerations.

We recommend an approach that prioritizes meeting the needs of people with disabilities and coincidentally may also represent lower cost projects by choosing those that already have accessible parking and other accessible amenities. Prioritizing sites with existing accessible parking means narrower project scope and possibly lower project cost.

Our Neighbourhood Improvement Committee has discussed the matter and we informally polled the community using our social media channels, and have made recommendations for prioritization.

There is sound rationale and community support for prioritizing the washrooms at 121 Memorial Crescent and 156 Nursery Row, as indicated in an informal poll regarding NIC recommendations.

1. Memorial Crescent in the Small category, Accessibility Rating 1

Regarding 121 Memorial Crescent at Ross Bay Cemetery – It has nearby accessible parking, accessible beach access and plaza with accessible picnic table, yet it is difficult to gain access to the washroom, even for the purpose of washing hands. It also serves an objective of accessible washroom dispersal, since it is near the end of the contiguous waterfront parks and serves areas not served by the existing Beacon Hill Park central block.



1330 FAIRFIELD RD. VICTORIA, BC V8S 5J1

Tel. 250.382.4604 Fax 250.382.4613

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca

place@fairfieldcommunity.ca

121 Memorial Crescent	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No accessible stalls with toilet transfer space • Inadequate clear space at entrances, doors too narrow • Inadequate clear space in shared areas • Most fixtures and accessories do not meet accessibility requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's washroom entrance partially obscured
-----------------------	---	--	--

2. Nursery Row, in the Medium size category, Accessibility Rating 1.

Regarding 156 Nursery Road in Beacon Hill Park SE. It has accessible parking and good access to the playground. It is also close to other amenities in that quadrant of the park and serves Cook St. Village. It was one of the park washrooms that Council directed staff to address in 2022, but has not yet been started.

156 Nursery Way	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washroom has no accessible stalls with toilet transfer space • Inadequate clear space at the entrance and in shared areas of the washrooms • Most fixtures and accessories do not meet accessibility requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path of travel is not accessible (width) • Obstructing objects along path of travel • Men's washroom entrance not visible
-----------------	---	---	---

While the audit found that the path of travel is not accessible due to its width, it is flat with no steps and useful for some people with mobility impairments.

We also heard from the community that Hollywood Park washroom upgrades may be important for unhoused people with disabilities. As it is central in the neighbourhood and a fairly level park, this may also be a candidate for prioritization.

If staff or Council members would like to discuss this further, please contact the Chair of the Neighbourhood Improvement Committee, Carrie Fuzi at nic@fairfieldcommunity.ca.

We look forward to your response and our engagement.

Sincerely,

Anna Phelan, President
 On behalf of the Board of Directors and Neighbourhood Improvement Committee
president@fairfieldcommunity.ca



1330 FAIRFIELD RD. VICTORIA, BC V8S 5J1

Tel. 250.382.4604 Fax 250.382.4613

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca

place@fairfieldcommunity.ca