

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Targeted park space closure aims to balance safe working conditions with continued park use

(Nanaimo BC, June 20, 2013) – At its May 13, 2013 meeting, City Council passed a motion that staff proceed with the immediate removal of the Lower and Middle Colliery Dams and take the necessary steps to build replacements for both dams while also preparing the lower dam for future hydro generation. In preparation for that work to commence in July, the City has identified those areas of Colliery Dam Park that will remain open during the planned construction, along with those sections of the park that will be designated closed.

“The removal of the Lower and Middle Colliery Dams will involve the use of heavy equipment and machinery, so keeping people out of harm’s way during the removal and replacement process is important”, said Nanaimo City Mayor, John Ruttan. “With the exception of those areas where construction is occurring or hazardous conditions are present, at this time our intention is to keep as much of the park open as possible”.

Designated areas of the park will be marked closed with signage and fencing while other areas will remain available for continued use. Two viewing areas are planned for park users interested in observing construction associated with the dam’s removal and replacement. In addition, the park’s parking lot on the corner of Sixth Street and Wakesiah Ave will be made available as a space for public gatherings.

“While the dams are being removed and replaced on account of the identified threat they currently present to public safety, the City respects our residents’ rights to lawful assembly and freedom of speech. Our construction plan therefore contains designated areas that enable gatherings to occur. Two marked locations allowing direct lines of sight to the construction areas are also planned.”

See attached map.

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