

Redfern Commons FAQs

September 14, 2022

1. Will the dog park be impacted or decreased in size?
 - a. No. The Commons will be in the area between the playground and the south fence of the dog park. Neither the playground nor the dog park will be affected.
2. Will the lawn area be significantly diminished?
 - a. No. The newly installed elements, pathway and garden beds will be along the perimeter, leaving a significant amount of green space available for lawn activities.
3. Is this area flood prone in winter?
 - a. Not excessively. Plantings and fixtures have taken this possibility into consideration. Drainage already exists 6' out and parallel to the east side fence.
4. Will plantings be affected by winter rains/flooding?
 - a. With the exception of the raised demonstration beds, which will have seasonal plantings, the rest of the garden will be planted with natives, which are adapted to our climate and weather conditions.
5. Will there be irrigation?
 - a. Yes. The City will provide water taps and will allow us to connect irrigation lines into the existing system.
6. Is there a plan to maintain the Commons and the necessary equipment?
 - a. Funding was received to purchase garden tools and a lockable shed will be erected to hold the equipment and to hire a volunteer coordinator. A significant number of residents have volunteered and shown enthusiasm for contributing to the maintenance of the new space.
7. How will security, especially after hours, be maintained?
 - a. There is existing lighting in the park which will illuminate most of the area. Once the garden is complete and in full use, we will review and monitor feedback and, if warranted, will request additional lighting or other remedies.
8. In the event more trash is generated, how will removal be addressed?
 - a. Trash accumulation will be monitored by the volunteer coordinator and in the event the existing receptacles are inadequate or fill to overflowing, they will liaise with the City of Victoria to resolve the issue.
9. What if homeless encampments move into the park?
 - a. This is an ongoing issue for all Victoria parks. The Greening Committee, SJNA Board and volunteers will be diligent and respectful and will coordinate a response with the City of Victoria in such event.
10. Will the park be fully fenced to keep out deer?
 - a. No. Only the demonstration beds and possibly some edibles will require localized fencing.
11. Will the dog park be fully fenced?
 - a. The dog park is not within the scope of this project. The City of Victoria is responsible for this area, however, the Greening Committee has informed our City liaison verbally that this has been requested by a number of residents.
12. Will pathways be wide enough and suited for wheelchairs and walkers?

- a. Yes. With the exception of one area in proximity to a tree's dripline, which will have a bark path, the paths will be gravel and will range from 3 to 4 feet wide.
13. When will the construction fence be removed?
 - a. The fencing will be installed until the City of Victoria authorizes its removal when safety concerns around the construction site are no longer present.
14. Will there be bicycle parking?
 - a. Yes. The City will provide a bicycle rack in an area of the park yet to be designated.
15. Will a washroom or porta-potty be installed?
 - a. At this time approval has not been granted, but the suggestion has been forwarded to our City liaison.
16. Will there be signage?
 - a. Yes. An indigenous artist has been selected who will provide an initial introductory sign and, when funding is available, additional signage in due course.
17. What plans are in place to address Indigenous cultural references and ongoing reconciliation concerns?
 - a. The signage designer is an indigenous artist and will incorporate First Nation references in the text. When funding allows for more signage, we hope to include indigenous descriptions of native plants to serve as an educational guide for all.
18. What will be planted in the demo beds?
 - a. Vegetables and other edibles that provide guidance to home owners who wish to plant their own edible gardens.
19. Will fruit/vegetables be available for picking?
 - a. The volunteer coordinator will plan on how produce and fruit will be used and distributed.
20. How will rodent control be managed?
 - a. If need be, the Greening Committee and the volunteer coordinator will liaise with the City of Victoria Parks Department to control any incursion of rodents and other like pests.
21. Who will keep the lawn mowed?
 - a. The City of Victoria Parks Department will maintain the lawns
22. Who will maintain the gardens and hardscape spaces?
 - a. Volunteers have been recruited by the volunteer coordinator. As the park develops, schedules will be provided to ensure the Commons area is well maintained.
23. What types of plants will be in the garden?
 - a. Plants native to Southern Vancouver Island, including edibles.
24. Will any of the plants be poisonous to children or dogs?
 - a. Care will be taken to ensure plants suited to a public park are selected.
25. When will the park be completed?
 - a. Completion is dependent on fund raising. At the latest, it is hoped the park will be complete in June, 2023.
26. When can we access the lawn?
 - a. When the construction fencing is removed, which is anticipated to be in late Autumn.
27. Will the trees be removed?

- a. No. Great care was taken in the design and in construction to ensure the health of the trees is not compromised.
28. Who do I contact to volunteer?
- a. Please refer to the contact information below.
29. Will there be other changes to Redfern Park in the future besides this area?
- a. None are planned at this time, but if a future phase is identified, public consultation and notifications will be ongoing and over an extended period of time.
30. Have the neighboring properties been contacted?
- a. Yes. In addition to distributing flyers to all adjacent houses on two occasions, they have had the opportunity to learn about the plans at the Get Growing events, last year's Parkfest, SJNA bimonthly meetings, the SJNA newsletters, website and social media.

Thank you for your interest in this exciting project. For all inquiries, comments, and questions about volunteering please email the SJNA Greening Committee at redfernparkcommons@gmail.com.