

**AGENDA**  
**NATURAL AREAS, PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
To be held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams  
Wednesday March 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM

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*The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.*

*We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.*

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. February 19, 2025

**B. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. CHAIRS REMARKS**

**2. FRIENDS OF CECILIA CREEK FALLS PARK SOCIETY**

- Ken Whitcroft, Chair

**3. ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

- Paul DeGreef, Manager, Park Plan and Development
- Jeff Patten, Asset Management Coordinator

**4. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

- Review of committee feedback on learning interests for the year.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: May 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Colton Whittaker at 250-475-5494 ext. 3642 or [colton.whittaker@saanich.ca](mailto:colton.whittaker@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.

**NATURAL AREAS, PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams  
770 Vernon Avenue  
February 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM

**ROLL CALL**

**In Attendance:** Julian Anderson, Kathleen Woodruff, David Little, Nathalie Chambers, Hollis Hodson, Kathy Humphrey  
**Regrets:** Kim McIvor  
**Staff:** Paul de Greeff, Manager, Park Plan and Development; Alix Link, Manager, Urban Forestry, Natural Areas and Community Stewardship; Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by K. Woodruff and Seconded by D. Little: "That the Minutes of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held November 14, 2024, be adopted as circulated."**

**RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0**

**IN FAVOUR:** Anderson, Woodruff, Little, Chambers, Hodson, Humphrey

**OPPOSED:** None

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS**

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed committee members and the following was noted:

- Across the country, regulatory changes are underway in response to the potential threat of tariffs from the United States.
- The adoption of sustainable energy practices will be increasingly important in the future.

**OVERVIEW OF PARKS DIVISION**

The Manager of Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship gave a presentation on an overview of the Parks Division and an overview of Parks' Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship sections (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Garry Oak trees are challenging to source from nurseries. To address this, a small program has been initiated to collect acorns and grow Garry Oaks locally.
- The Horticulture section of Parks primarily focuses on ornamental plants, which are often non-native, though some native species are included.
- The Municipal Hall has a heritage designation, which also extends to its surrounding grounds, including certain plantings.
- In some cases, non-native plants may be a more suitable option for boulevards or medians.
- The Urban Forest Strategy, approved by Council in 2024, emphasizes the need to increase canopy cover. The District utilizes Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) technology to estimate tree canopy coverage in the region.
- In 2024, 180 meters of the Colquitz River underwent restoration.
- The plan for the trembling aspen grove at Cuthbert Homes has been in development for several years. Funding for this project was secured through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI).

- Parks projects are directed by Council. Parks staff also bring community concerns to Council for consideration.
- The committee may explore the possibility of submitting a letter to Council in the future in support of biodiversity-related initiatives.
- In 2024, the Parks division hosted numerous community engagement events in partnership with the Habitat Acquisition Trust. Through the Saanich Biodiversity Partners pilot program, the division provided resources to help residents promote and enhance biodiversity on their properties.
- The Parks volunteer team currently collaborates with a variety of volunteer groups across the district including Scouts.

The Manager, Park Planning and Development gave a presentation on the overview of the Parks Division (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The Saanich Parks division prioritizes accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Last year, Parks staff provided an update on accessibility initiatives. The committee has expressed interest in receiving another update on this topic.
- Council recently passed a motion directing staff to report back on Saanich's procurement processes and the potential impact of prioritizing Canadian-made products and services during the ongoing trade dispute. Parks staff have been encouraged to collaborate with Canadian consultants.
- A Council report outlined three conceptual options for programming intensity at Lambrick Park. The park is a significant hub for baseball and other sport activities.
- Discussions regarding repairing the degradation in Colquitz Creek would align well with the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) and ongoing engineering work.
- The Habitat Acquisition Trust has taken a leading role in coordinating responses from environmental groups related to the Panama Flats Park Concept Plan refresh. Panama Flats serves as a critical migration stop, supporting a diverse range of bird species and other wildlife.
- Mowing and land management at Panama Flats improves the habitat for Vancouver Island Beggarstick plants and helps to control invasive species. Additionally, tilling in the area is being used to help manage methane gas release.
- Agriculture encompasses a broad range of activities beyond traditional farming.
- Replacement of the Viewmont Tennis Court is set to begin. The Saanich Tennis Club, which has operated at this location for many years, is working with the District to establish a new funding agreement for the project.
- Saanich is currently undertaking an Alternate Approval Process, which includes a bylaw related to borrowing for the Parks capital program.
- Parks has received grants through the Asset Management Program and is actively cataloging its assets. The department has an Asset Management Coordinator dedicated to this initiative.

**MOVED by H. Hodson and Seconded by K. Woodruff: "That members provide their comments on item B.4 to the Committee Clerk in writing, and that item be revisited at the next scheduled meeting."**

**RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0**

**IN FAVOUR:** Anderson, Woodruff, Little, Chambers, Hodson, Humphrey

**OPPOSED:** None

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**UPDATE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND URBAN FOREST STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTATION**

The Manager of Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship gave a presentation on the Biodiversity Conservation and Urban Forest Strategies (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Funding for implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is allocated over multiple years.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Urban Forest Strategy share a combined vision.
- Community stewardship is important, along with the early consideration and planning of trees.
- Aligning staff departments and fostering collaboration toward shared goals is essential.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by K. Woodruff and **Seconded** by H. Hodson: “That the meeting be adjourned at 6:01 p.m.”

**RESULT:** Carried 6 TO 0

**IN FAVOUR:** Anderson, Woodruff, Little, Chambers, Hodson, Humphrey

**OPPOSED:** None

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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COMMITTEE CLERK

# Memo

**To:** Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Committee

**From:** Paul de Greeff, Manager of Parks Planning & Development

**CC:** Suzanne Samborski, Director of PRCS; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**Subject:** Cecelia Creek Falls Park - Backgrounder

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The Friends of Cecelia Creek Falls Park (FCCFP) have requested an opportunity to present to the NAPT Committee meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. FCCFP have been advocating for a stream daylighting project in Cecelia Creek Falls Park for many years. Saanich Parks staff have advanced two conceptual plans for the park to Council in 2009 and again in 2022. In both cases, the NAPT Committee (formerly PTR Committee) supported the project concept plans in principle and endorsed them by forwarding them to Council. Also in both cases, Council supported the project in principle but in subsequent budget processes, failed to provide necessary funding for detailed design and construction.

To help facilitate a fruitful conversation with the FCCFP, Staff are providing the committee with the following background information for consideration prior to the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. The attached slides presented to Council in July of 2022 provide an overview of the 2009 and 2022 concepts presented to Council. In essence, the 2009 concept was for a partial stream daylighting project, while the 2022 concept was for a scaled-down stormwater demonstration project that attempted to reduce project complexity, costs and risks.
2. Since 2022, all Saanich departments have encountered dramatic escalation of project construction costs. Staff anticipate that the construction cost estimate provided to Council in the 2022 staff report for the stormwater demonstration concept (\$160,000) is likely more than double that today, depending on the condition of the soil material found on site during excavation.
3. The BC provincial government has implemented a revised Contaminated Sites Regulation as of March 2023. The risk related to excavation projects in Parks has increased since this regulation has come into effect, as any soil leaving a construction site now requires testing. If soil is found to contain contaminants, special disposal is required at significantly higher cost than regular soil disposal. Given that Cecelia Creek Falls Park is a known fill site, it is possible that contaminated soils may be encountered, though no testing has been conducted to date.

4. The 2022 staff reports to Council is available through the Saanich Council Meeting Schedule, Agendas and Minutes web page at [MetaViewer.php](#) while the 2009 report is available upon request to staff (i.e.: retrievable from archives).

Attachments: July 2022 Parks staff presentation slides to Council.



# Cecelia Creek Falls Park

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Revised Concept 2022

Council

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Paul de Greeff, M.L.A., R.L.A.





- Res...
- may...
- Cyclists...
- control...
- others...
- At night, wear...
- and carry a light...
- Respect wildlife...
- Do your part to keep...
- and trails clean. Put litter...
- waste containers.

#### CYCLING IN SAANICH

Please cycle on designated trails...

Cycling is prohibited (except on paved roads) according to Saanich bylaw in the following parks:

- Mount Douglas Park
- Mount Tolmie Park
- Knockan Hill Park
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
- Rithet's Bog Conservation Area
- Glencoe Cove Kwatsech Park

# Site Location:

## Quadra/Cedar Hill Neighbourhood



# General Site Information:

- Park (approx. 9,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or 800 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Inverness Road right of way green space (16,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) or 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>)







## Background:

**1992**



**2009**



**2020**

- Start of process to establish this park, originally known as 'Inverness Park'.
- A 2007 engineering feasibility study was the foundation for a 2009 concept plan to daylight a small section of the creek.
- High costs, technical challenges, and lack of funding prevented the plan from being realized.
- In February 2020 Council asked for options to achieve the 2009 Vision with a funding partnership with the QCHCA.



## Background:

The [PTR] Committee recommend that Council direct staff to:

- Consider an interpretive installation and minor park improvements using the Community Amenity Funds; and
- Explore the opportunities and costs of the creation of a dry creek bed to commemorate the historical creek.”

↓  
**2021**

↓  
**2022**

Revised Concept Plan –  
Stormwater Management Demonstration



# Three Pillars of Watershed Restoration:



1. Flood Mitigation & Water Volume Management
2. Water Quality Enhancement
3. Stream Daylighting





## **Stormwater Management Example:**

Yarrow Park (Esquimalt)

- Similarly Scaled Project
- Water Quality Polishing
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

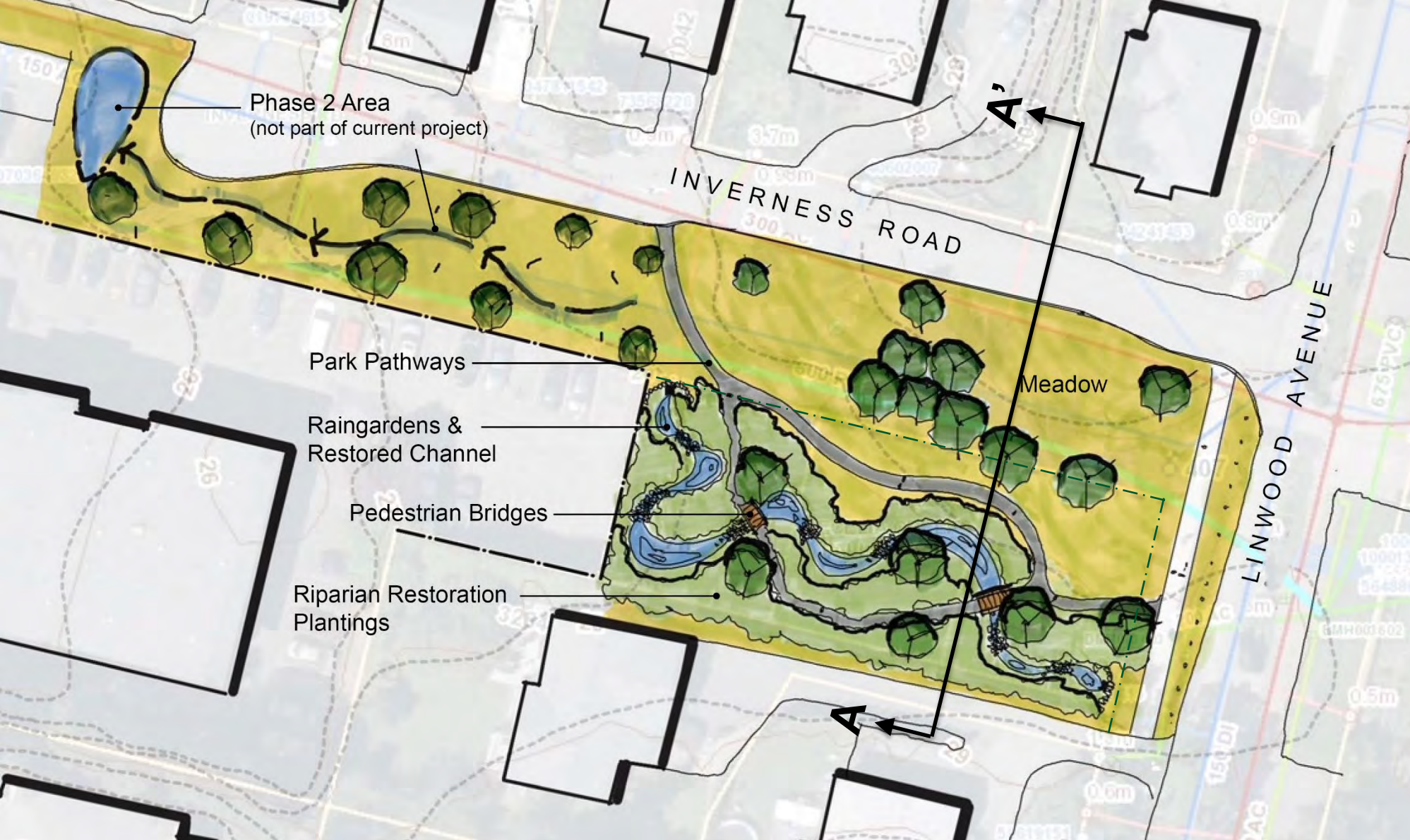




## Revised Concept – Stormwater Demonstration

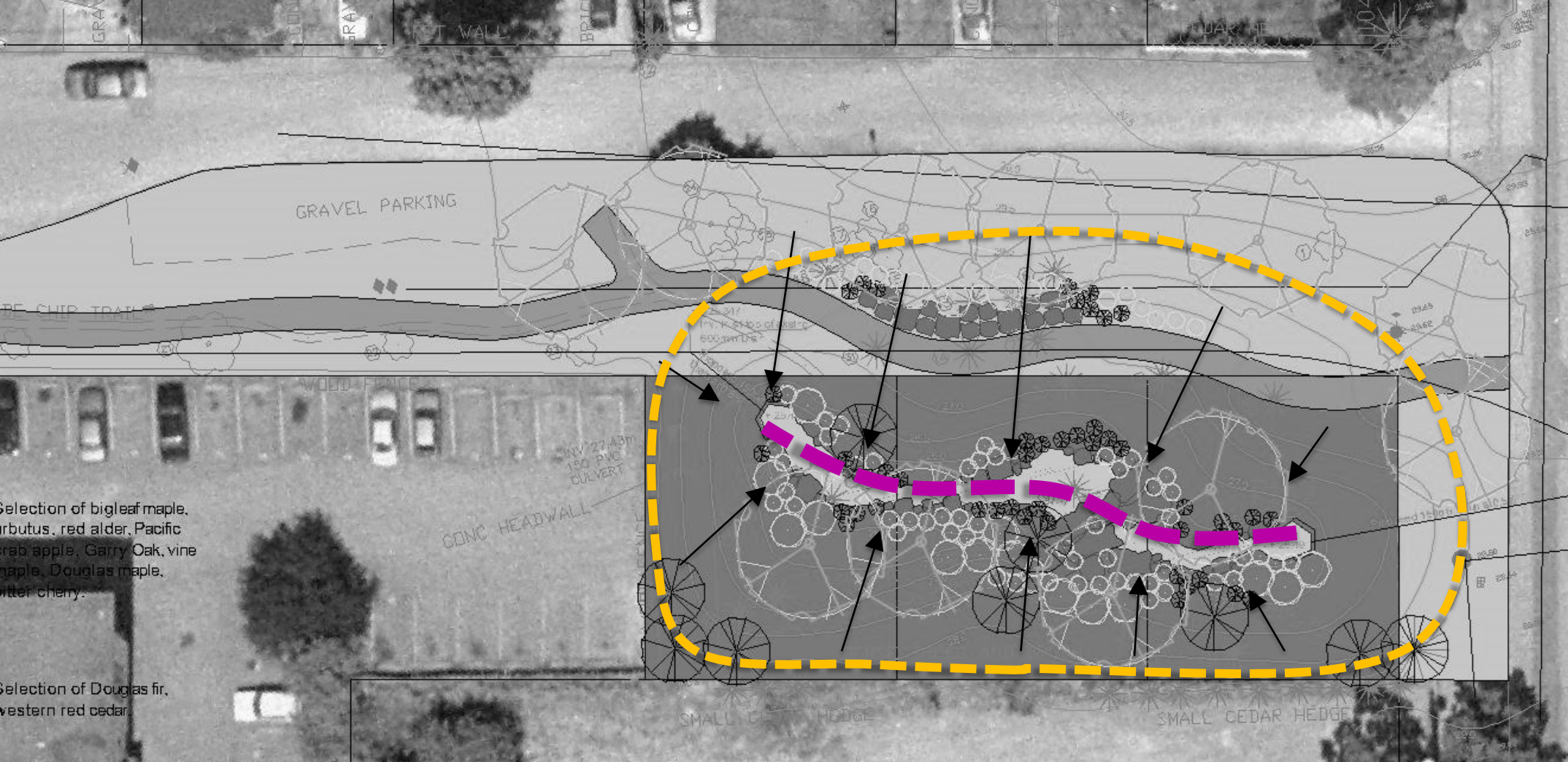
- Proposed Project Area & Phase 2 Option



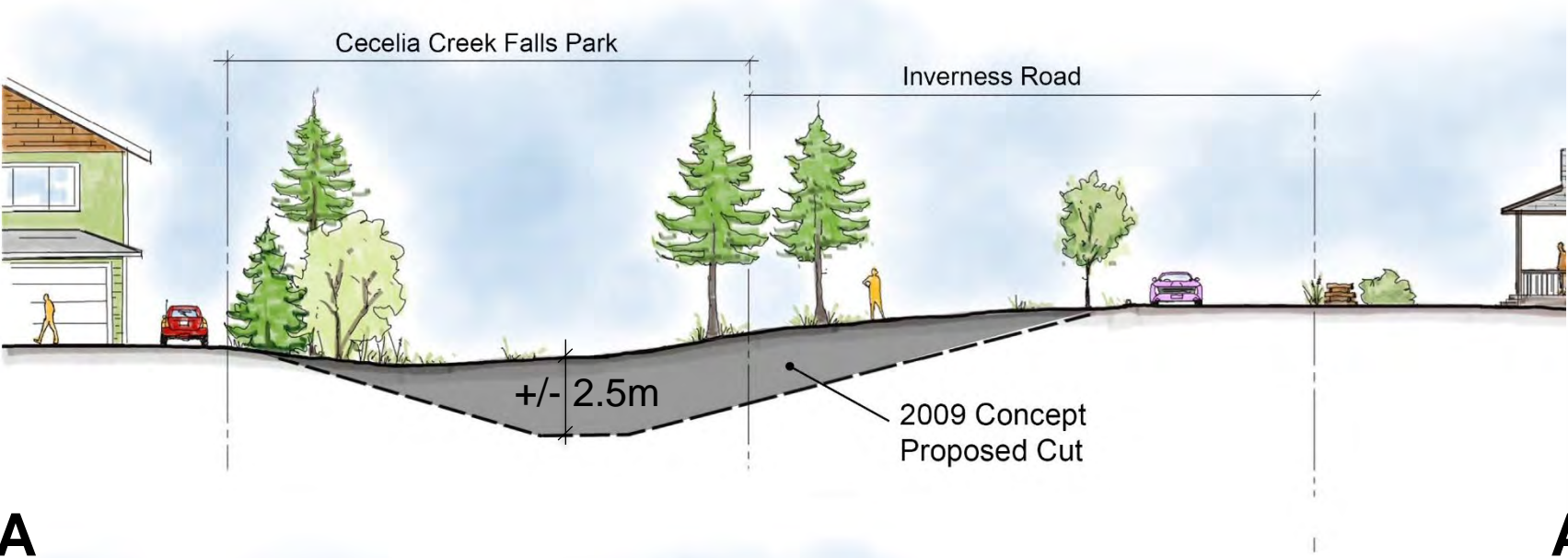


## Revised Concept – Stormwater Demonstration

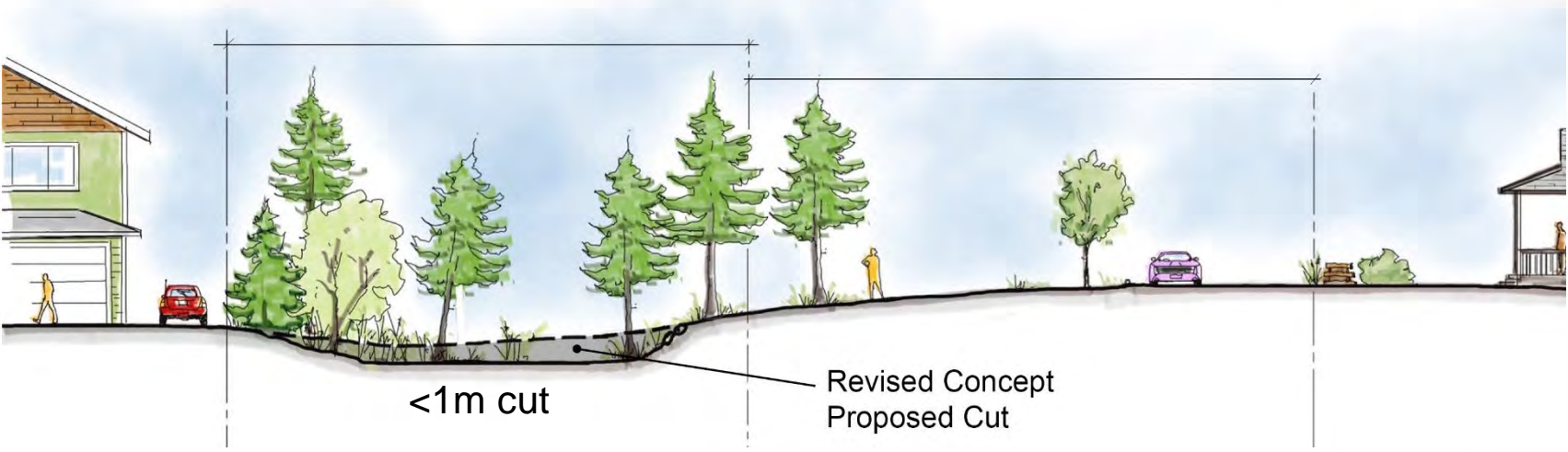




**2009 Concept :** Channel Length & Sloped Area



**2009 Concept  
Section A-A'**



**Revised Concept  
Section A-A'**

- Reduced Excavation, Reduced Tree Loss, Accommodates Future Greenway Improvements, More Usable Park Space.



# Revised Concept Benefits

- Reduced Excavation & Retaining Walls
- Reduced Tree Loss
- Reduced Cost
- Reduced Project Risk
- Accommodates Future Inverness Road/Greenway Improvements
- Stormwater Pollution Treatment
- Habitat Enhancement
- Public Access Improvements

