

Horner Park Renewal Project Questions & Answers:

In late March 2020 we were in the process of organizing a second open house but we canceled those plans due to provincial restrictions to public gatherings.

In lieu of an Open House, we thought it was important to answer some of the key questions people asked and to help explain the revised concept plan. We will continue to update this sheet and post on the [project webpage](#) to keep you informed. Please check for updates.

1. Will there still be yoga programs in the park?

Yes, there will still be room for Yoga so long as the provider obtains a park permit for this activity.

2. How are volleyball courts maintained for play?

We are no longer proposing courts for the park so this is no longer a concern, but typically municipalities leave a rake at the court for users to rake the court before play and ensure that there are no hazards.

3. Can the streets be signed for 'residential only' parking?

On-street parking does not fall under the jurisdiction of Parks but are the responsibility of the Engineering Department. We have been in contact with Engineering regarding the issues expressed by residents along Iona and they have placed time restrictions near the park (south of Cedar Hill) but the idea of 'residential parking only' signage would need to be taken up with the Engineering Department directly. They have a formal process to assess whether this is warranted or not.

4. Can the playground be off limits to all dogs, not just on-leash?

Currently [Saanich's Animal Control Bylaw](#) does not restrict dogs from being within 10 meters of a playground – it only states that they must be on-leash within 10 metres of playgrounds in Saanich (not just Horner Park). To change this would require a change to the bylaw, which is over and above the scope of this park renewal project.

5. Can there be a spray/water park installed in Horner Park?

Although a spray park would be nice to have, the cost is beyond the budget for this renewal project.

6. Can the washroom be located near the playground?

It would be nice to have a washroom close to where young children play, but at Horner we're lucky to have an existing washroom building. The cost to demolish and build a new washroom is beyond the budget. However, the intent is to upgrade the existing washroom in the park (including making it accessible) for all visitors.

7. Does the washroom need to be open until 11p.m.?

Typically, we close washroom facilities in Saanich Parks at 11p.m., however, this can be adjusted for individual parks if circumstances warrant.



8. Can the blackberries beside the parking lot be retained?

Our plans are to erect a fence along the South edge of the parking lot so we'll remove some of the blackberries to build this fence. Overtime the blackberries will rejuvenate in this location.

9. What will be done about the wet areas in the south side of the park?

With the new path people will be able to walk in this area of the park year round and not have to walk on soggy ground. However, when the trail is constructed we will re-grade the surrounding grass surfaces to direct water towards existing drains.

10. Can we have a covered area in this park (for shade and rain)?

Saanich has yet to install a covered structure due to the concern over vandalism and having the structure used during the nighttime hours. Along with the existing larger trees in the park and the newly planted trees there will be more shade for hot sunny days.

11. Tell me more about the proposed lighting along the main path.

Lights will be solar operated, night-sky compliant and have the ability to be dimmed or turned off after 11p.m.

Contact us at parks@saanich.ca or 250-475-5522 with any other questions on this project.