

# Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #2

**May – June 2025**

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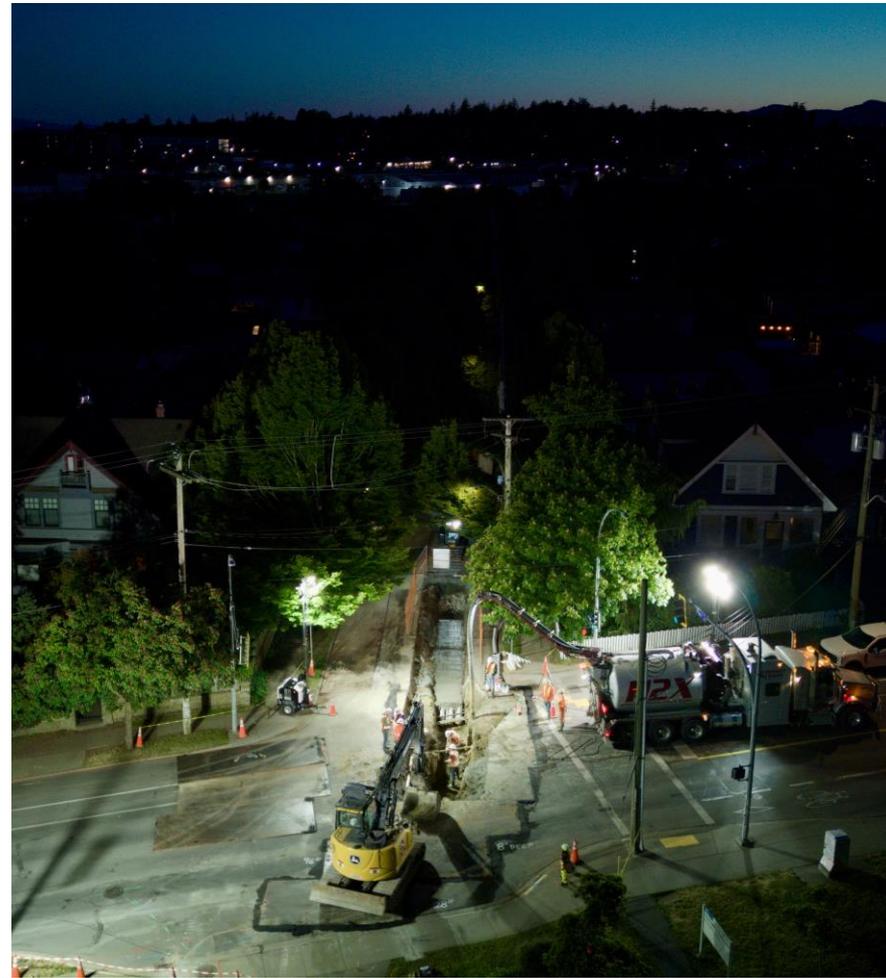
Project website: [www.bchydro.com/victoriatoesquimalt](http://www.bchydro.com/victoriatoesquimalt)



# Project status

- Construction crews have completed the underground cable duct bank installation at the Pine Street and Dominion Road intersection, along Pine Street, at the Pine Street and Craigflower Road intersection, and about 50% of Banfield Park.
- In early July, crews will be relocating to Gorge Road and begin the duct bank work moving southeast until Dunedin Street, where they will continue eastward across Douglas Street, and up Topaz Avenue to the Horsey Substation.
- In May, an application was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for approval to work within the Gorge Waterway during the December 1 to February 15 fisheries work window.
- A Request for Proposal will be issued in early July for the cable placement construction work within the Gorge Waterway and foreshore areas.
- We continue to engage the community through these construction update reports, letter drops, community events such as the recent Vic West Fest, and project presentations including to the City of Victoria Mayor and Council Committee of the Whole on June 26.

A drone photo on May 27 of the duct bank work moving out of Pine Street and crossing Craigflower Rd. The work was done at night to mitigate traffic impacts.



# Planning the cable route – construction timing

Esquimalt Substation (left) and Horsey Substation work February 2025 to July 2026.

Esquimalt Substation work completed February to March 2025

Pine St and a section of Banfield Park completed June 2025

Gorge Waterway shallow burial and adjacent parks: December 1, 2025 to February 15, 2026 (fisheries work window)

Streets include Gorge Rd, Dunedin St, Douglas St, and Topaz Ave: Crews will work eastward from Gorge Rd from early July to November 2025. Viaduct Park work in late fall 2025

Pine St and Dominion Rd intersection: Spring 2026.



# Construction photos: Pine Street construction

May 12: Carefully removing soils from the trench with a hydrovac truck to work around other utilities.



# Construction photos: Pine Street construction

May 16: Repaving a section of completed duct bank.



# Construction photos: Pine Street construction

May 21: Installing and gluing of conduit sections at the eastern side of Pine Street near Craigflower Road.



# Construction photos: Pine Street construction

May 21: Duct bank work with the rebar placement prior to pouring concrete.





# Construction photos: Pine Street construction

June 4: Work complete along Pine Street. The duct bank work along the 400-metre length of Pine Street took about four weeks.



# Construction photos: Craigflower Rd

May 27: Duct bank work at Pine Street and Craigflower Road intersection. Crews worked from 7:00 pm to 6:00 am on May 26 to 29 to mitigate impacts to vehicle traffic along Craigflower Road. We coordinated the road closure and other traffic management measures with City of Victoria staff.



# Construction photos: Craigflower Rd

May 27: Another view of the Craigflower Road crossing work. Pine Street is on the left side and Banfield Park and the Vic West Community Centre is on the right.



# Construction photos: Craigflower Rd

June 4: Duct bank work on Craigflower Road and at the edge of Banfield Park.



# Construction photos: Craigflower Rd

June 4: Duct bank work on the north side of Craigflower Road with Pine Street in the background. The work in this area was completed and filled in by June 6 in time for Vic West Fest. The project provided a \$1,500 sponsorship to the festival organizers and had a project booth at the festival, with 86 people visiting to learn more about the project in the afternoon of June 7.



# Environmental point of interest: Protection of tree roots

June 4: Crews preparing to mobilize into Banfield Park. Within the park area they will implement measures to limit the construction impacts to trees, mainly tree roots. The photo shows Banfield Park looking east. On the right are steel plates to prevent ground disturbance and a temporary fence to keep equipment away from the trees. These environmental protection measures were put in place before the duct bank work started on June 9.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 11: The duct bank comes down from Craigflower Road with some concrete placement work by the playground.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 11: Another view of the duct bank work and the concrete placement over the conduit.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 11: A close-up of the duct bank work and the concrete placement.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 11: A panoramic view of the work in Banfield Park area and surrounding area, including the Gorge Waterway.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 13: Crews completed the planned section of duct bank work within Banfield Park. Clean up work continued to the week of June 23. We will return to Banfield Park to complete the duct bank installation to the Gorge Waterway, and shallow burial under the Gorge Waterway to Viaduct Park, in late fall 2025.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 18: Trail improvement work near the Gorge Waterway.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 18: The repaved pathway. In the background is the trail improvement work.



# Construction photos: Banfield Park

June 26: Completed remediation work with grass sod placed beside the repaved pathway.



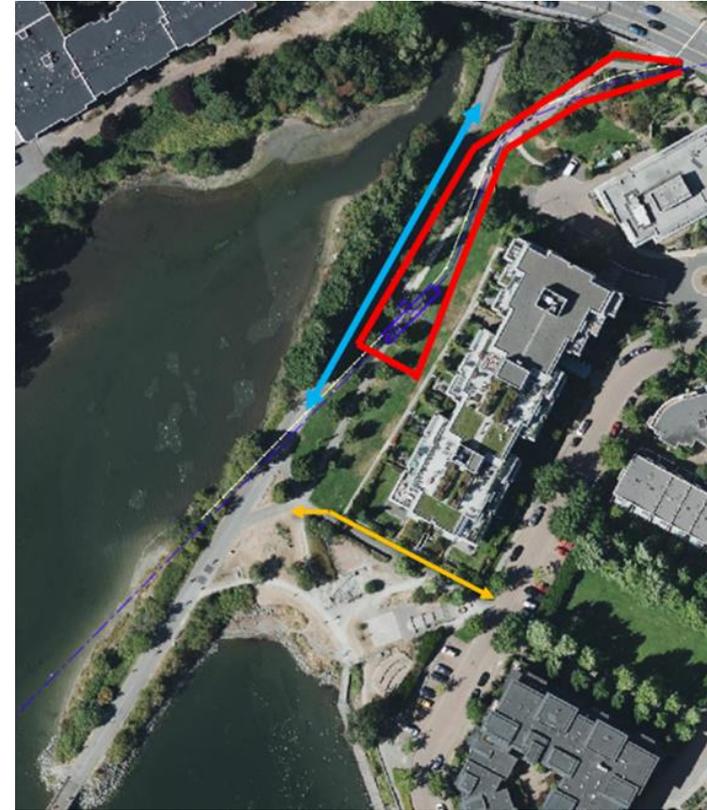
# Environmental point of interest: Fisheries Act Authorization and a saltmarsh

In May 2025, an application was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for a Fisheries Act Authorization (FAA) to enable construction work within the Gorge Waterway and foreshore areas between December 1, 2025, and February 15, 2026.

- Within the application we proposed to offset potential impacts to fish habitat in the Gorge Waterway during construction with the creation of an intertidal saltmarsh placed along a shoreline at Banfield Park.
  - The location and approximate area of the saltmarsh is shown in red.
  - The physically stable structure will create 500 m<sup>2</sup> of saltmarsh habitat.
  - Subject to FAA approval, the saltmarsh is expected to be built in 2026.
- We hope to hear back from Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the FAA by late September.



# Construction point of interest: Viaduct Park



We are collaborating with the City of Victoria, Capital Regional District, and Ministry of Transportation and Transit on the duct bank work within Viaduct Park. This includes the staging of various capital projects, limiting impacts to Galloping Goose Trail users, and an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) trail slope improvement up to Gorge Road from the Galloping Goose Trail.

- The red lines show the approximate closed off work zone with the work taking place in fall 2025.
  - The work includes trail slope improvements to Gorge Road.
  - The trail up to Gorge Road may be closed for about one month. Detour shown with orange arrow.
- The Galloping Goose Trail (blue arrow) remains unaffected for this section of work. Fencing will be placed near trail for public safety.
- Work zone along the duct bank route to the Gorge Waterway in December 2025 to February 15, 2026 is to be determined.
  - There will be a Galloping Goose Trail detour for this stage of work though still within Viaduct Park



