

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #15

July 2026

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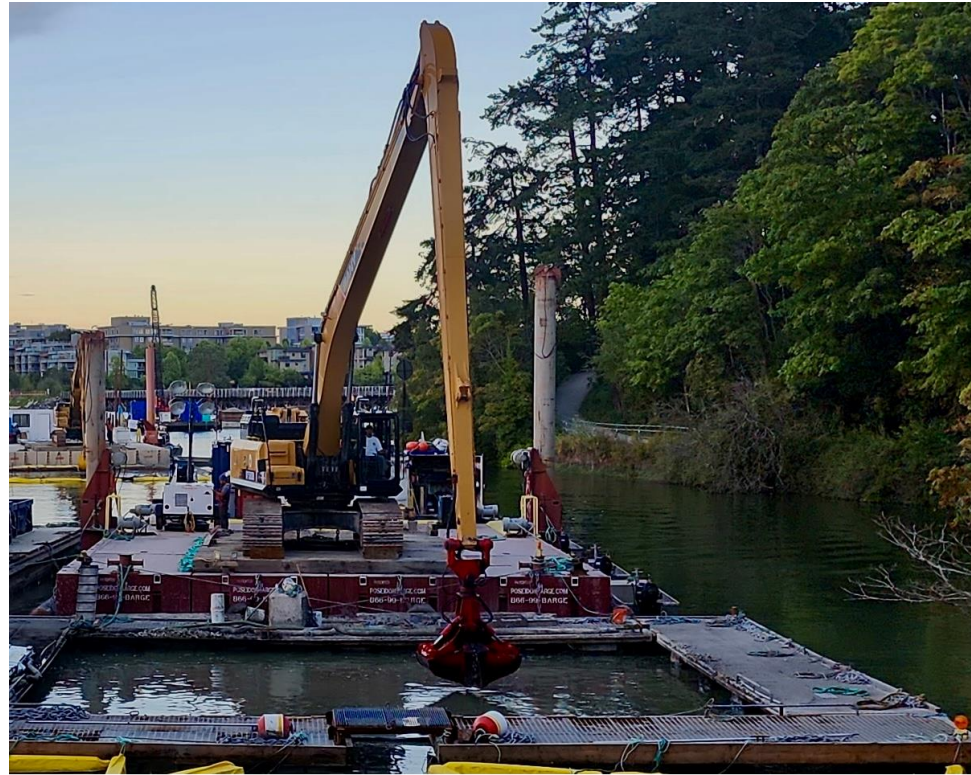
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Project status

- Esquimalt Substation: New safety fence placed along Hereward Green Park. Ongoing substation work.
- Banfield Park: Ongoing foreshore work for cable duct bank. Request for Proposal was issued July 10 on BC Bid for the saltmarsh construction (by barge) along the southern portion of the Banfield Park shoreline.
- Gorge Waterway marine work: Preparing the trench for the conduit placement. Updated start date of full marine closure to the west side of the Selkirk Trestle, for up to ten days, is August 17.
- Viaduct Park: Access road completed and ongoing excavation of the trench along the foreshore area.
- Project schedule and acknowledgement of community impacts of the work: We have a very tight schedule to get the work done within the summer fisheries work window and to get the project in-service before mid-November and the higher customer electricity demand. Every opportunity to take advantage of tidal conditions is needed to enable and succeed with the project schedule. We thank the community for your ongoing understanding and patience. Please see the work schedule, with days and times, on page 15.

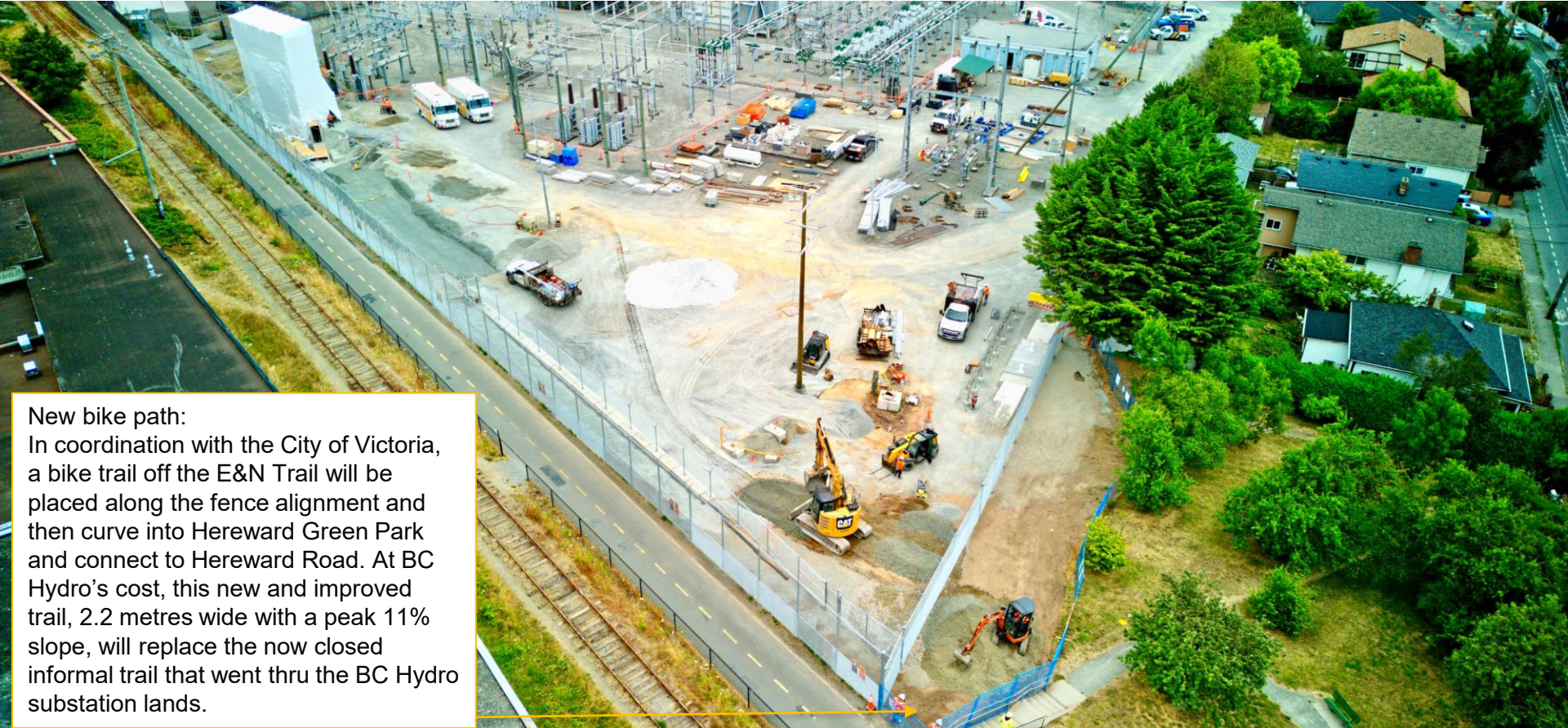


July 9: Excavator and barges removing sediment by Banfield Park for the marine trench to place the conduit for the new cables.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

July 16: Work on the fence along the edge of the substation facility and the E&N Trail. The white wrapped scaffolding area, at top left, is for the new potheads and connection of the new cable into the substation equipment.



New bike path:

In coordination with the City of Victoria, a bike trail off the E&N Trail will be placed along the fence alignment and then curve into Hereward Green Park and connect to Hereward Road. At BC Hydro's cost, this new and improved trail, 2.2 metres wide with a peak 11% slope, will replace the now closed informal trail that went thru the BC Hydro substation lands.

Construction photos: Banfield Park

July 7: Excavated marine trench with silt curtain, and the upland work area. Upland and foreshore material was carefully removed, scraped to the clay base as shown in this photo, to determine any archeological finds. Monitors were in place during the removals and some soils were screened (inset photo) over a period of days. There were low to moderate archeological findings.



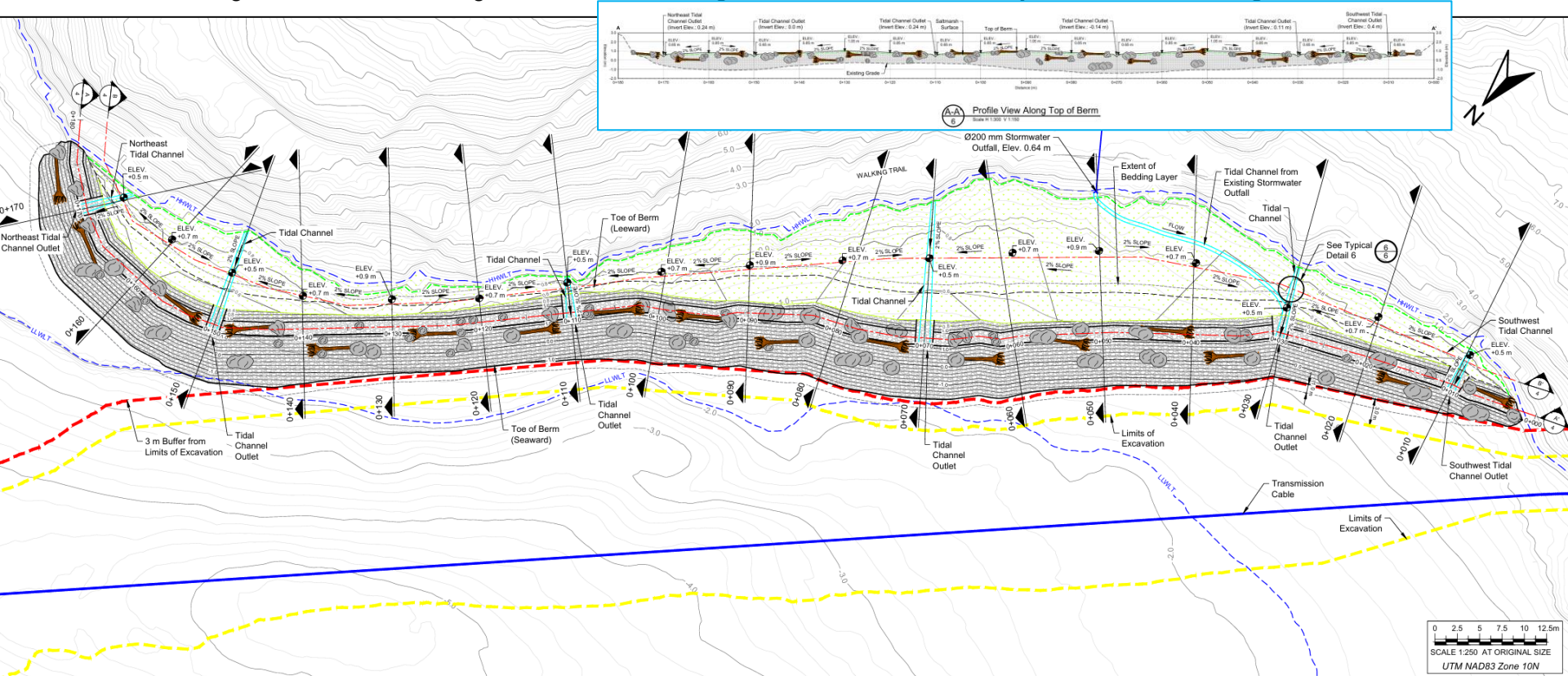
Construction photos: Banfield Park

July 16: Trench excavation within the foreshore area. Banfield Park Trail detoured until October 15, 2026.



Banfield Park saltmarsh construction

Diagram: Saltmarsh plan to create a 1,350 square metres saltmarsh (in green) with various plants. Construction, by barge, is planned in the December 1, 2026 to February 15, 2027, fisheries work window. Vegetation plantings are planned for spring 2027. The saltmarsh is to provide fish habitat off-setting for the 660-metre-long cable trench. The diagram below shows a bird's-eye view, with inset diagram a side view.



Salt Marsh Plan at Banfield Park
Scale 1:250

Construction photos: Conduit assembly

July 6: Completed fused conduits are 220 metres long. View looking in both directions. The assembly work is taking place off Harbour Road near the Johnson Street Bridge. Inset photo shows the machine that fused the conduits together. Next step is concrete anchor block attachments to ensure the cable remains in place through tides, storms, and possible seismic events.



Construction photos: Conduit assembly

July 7: Panoramic view of the conduit assembly near the Johnson Street bridge in the background.



Construction photos: Conduit assembly

July 16: Placement of concrete anchor blocks and spacers along the five-conduit configuration. Inset photo shows anchor block attachments. Three conduits are for the cables, and the two smaller conduits are for the fibre-optic cables that BC Hydro requires system communication and operations.



Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 7: Anchored non-working barges and equipment during lower ocean tides. Recreation water users are shown moving around the barges.



Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 7: Moving the barge into place for the sediment removals.



Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 7: Sediment removal for the trench near Banfield Park.



Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 7: Another angle of the sediment removal for the trench near Banfield Park.

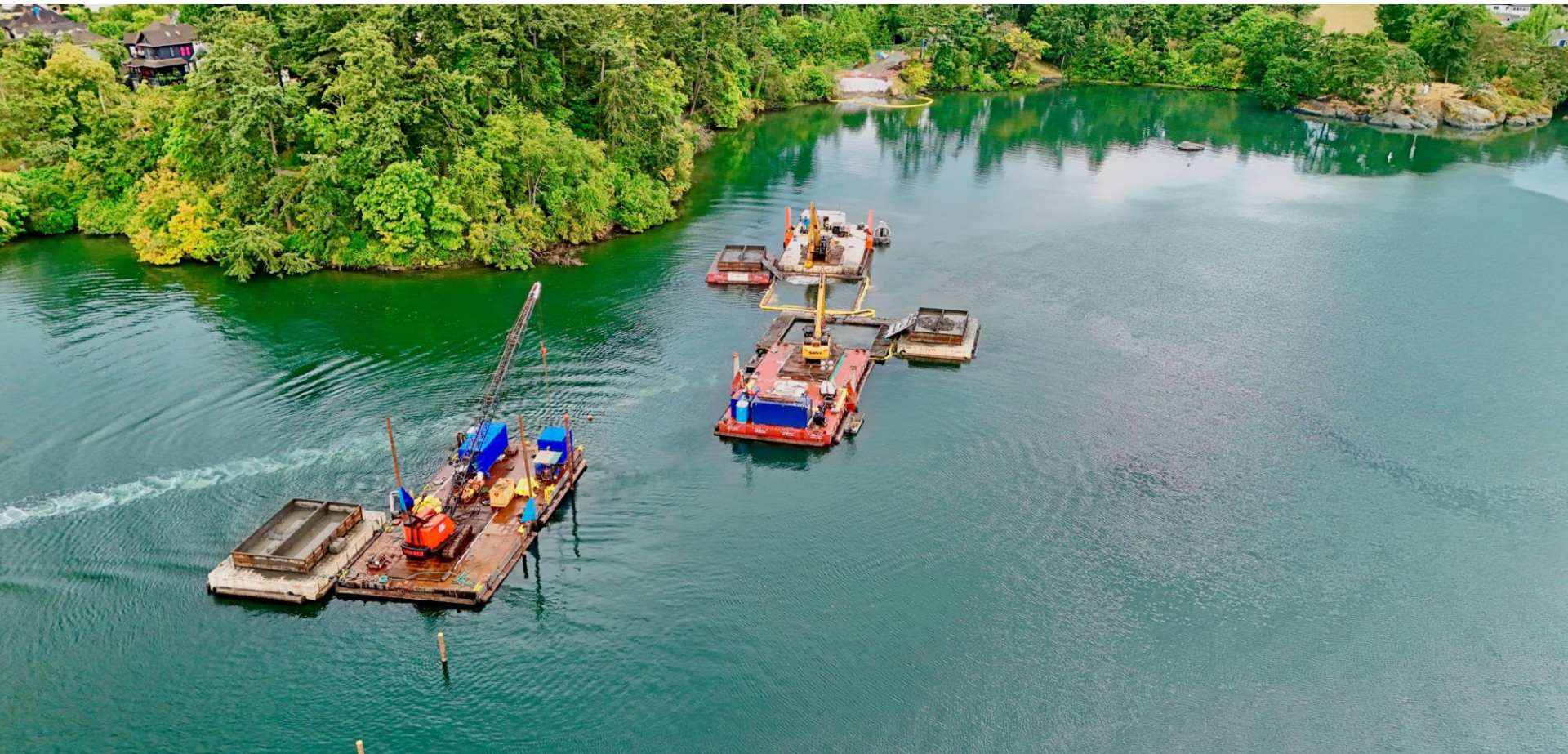


There is 50 metre no swim zone around the work area. The no swim zone was increased to 90 metres on the Banfield Park side given the work in the foreshore area. This was done in coordination with the City of Victoria. This no swim zone also requires the temporary closure of the small swimming raft (circled) near the work area. Weekly water quality testing continues to be in line with pre-construction testing.



Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 16: Sediment removal with the two barges operating.



Construction schedule: Gorge Waterway

Barges can only access most of the areas at high ocean tide. The weekly excavation continues Monday to Saturday with timing adjusted with the ocean tidal charts (please be aware the schedule is subject to adjustment):

- Week of July 27: start around 1:00-2:00 pm and finish/demobilize from the site by about 11:30-12:30 pm. No work July 31 thru August 3.
- Week of August 4: start around 10:00-11:00 am and finish/demobilize from the site by about 7:30 pm.
- Week of August 10: schedule under development.
- Week of August 17: conduit placement.

Construction schedule: Viaduct Park

Trench work along the foreshore area is also influenced by tides. Lower tides are needed for construction. The weekly excavation continues Monday to Saturday with timing adjusted with ocean tidal charts (please be aware the schedule is subject to adjustment):

- Week of July 27: start July 27 at about 6:45 am, and rest of week about 7:00 am, and finish/demobilize from the site by about 5:00 pm. No work on August 1.
- Week of August 3: no work on August 3. Start about 7:00 am, and on August 7-8, start work around 3:30 am, and finish/demobilize from the site by about 5:00 pm.
- Week of August 10: August 10, start ~5:15 am, August 11, ~6:00 am, August 12, ~6:45 am, rest of week around 7:00 am, and finish/demobilize from the site by about 5:00 pm.
- Week of August 17: August 17-20, start around 7:00 am, August 21-22 ~4:45 am, and finish/demobilize from the site by about 5:00 pm.
- Week of August 24: August 24, start ~6:00 am, August 25, ~6:30 am, and other days around 7:00 am and finish/demobilize from the site by about 5:00 pm.



July 16: Trench work within the Viaduct Park foreshore area.

Construction photos: Gorge Waterway

July 22: Two barges and excavators working, with the left excavator placing rock, and the right excavator removing sediment. An empty sediment containment barge, in the foreground, is being moved in. By the end of July, about 8,000 cubic metres of sediment will be removed. The marine trench excavation, accessible by barge only, along the 660-metre-long length will be complete by the end of July. Barge work will continue as crews place bedding material in the marine trench to prepare for the conduit placement starting August 17.

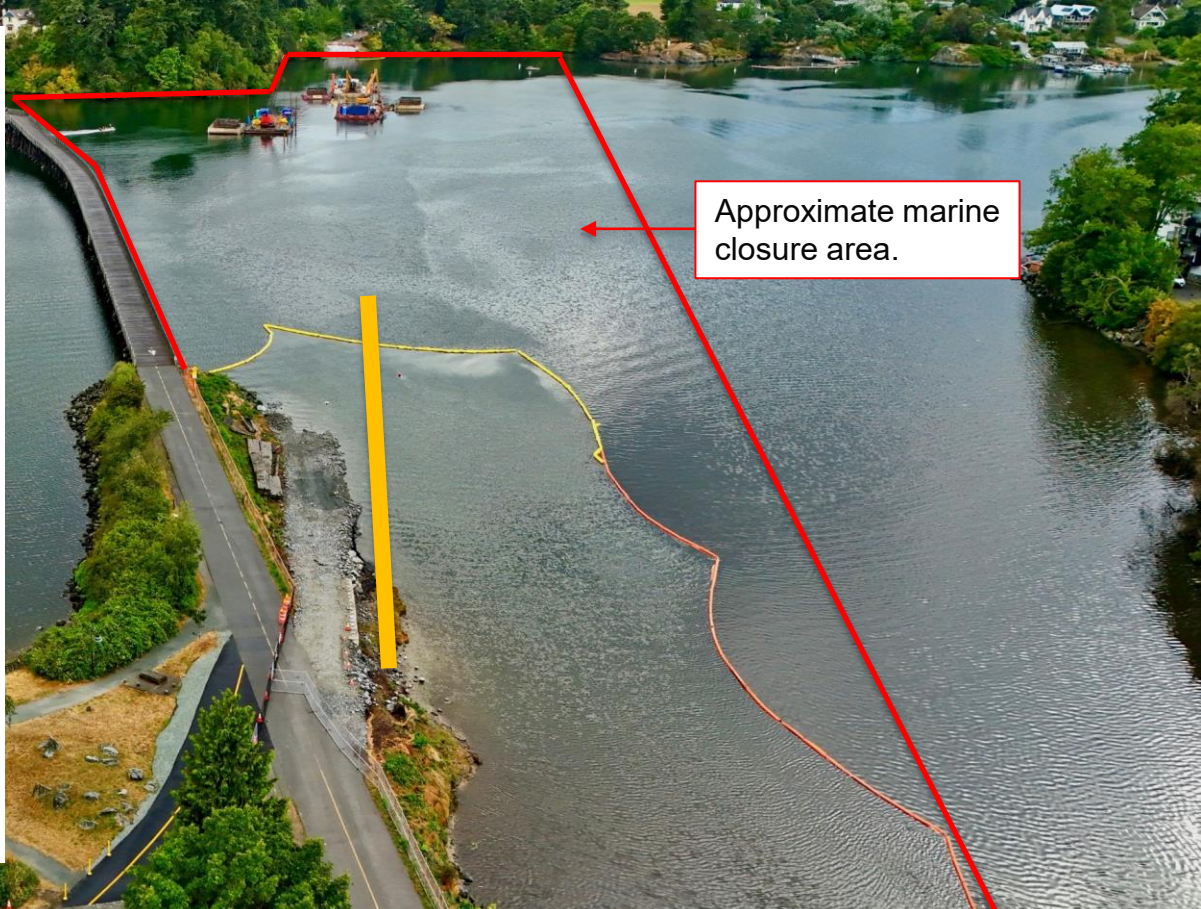


Marine closure: Gorge Waterway

July 16 photo. The red outlined area is the approximate full marine closure, 24/7, beginning August 17. Signage and pilot boats will be in place. A public notice will be issued around August 6 with more details. The closure may last up to ten days.

Conduit placement methodology:

- There are three 220-metre-long sections of five conduits that have been pre-assembled by the Johnson Street Bridge, with three conduits for the cables and two conduits for fibre-optics. The conduits are bundled together by using concrete anchors and spacers.
- One 220-metre-long conduit section will be moved into place prior to August 17 on the Viaduct Park side of the Gorge Waterway. This will limit the marine closure duration and reduce potential delay risk.
- Day 1: Float in the two 220-metre-long conduit sections and beginning fusing them together, stretching across the entire Gorge Waterway from foreshore to foreshore. Begin placement of final concrete weights and spacers.
- Day 2-10: Completion of concrete weights and spacer attachments, inspections of conduits and marine trench, sink and place the conduits into the marine trench, final inspection.
- Day 10: Reopen the Gorge Waterway to marine traffic.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 7: Access road work into the foreshore area to enable the excavation of the trench and duct bank placement.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 10-13: Building the construction access road down into the foreshore area and then the commencement of the sediment removal for the cable duct bank trench. Crews had short ocean tide work windows.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: Temporary access road along the foreshore area with equipment removing sediment for the cable trench. The containment boom contains turbidity. As the trench is excavated up the shoreline, and rock lining placed within the trench as they go, the access road will be removed. A sediment plug (red box) is between the work area and water to limit water mixing with the sediment removal.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: Removing sediment for the cable trench. The excavator sits on large wood planks placed on top of the marine sediment.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: Removal of sediment and trucking off-site.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: Wider view of the sediment removal work along the foreshore.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: There are limited times of the day, due to tides, to excavate the sediment and limit water interaction with the removal process. This reduces the need to mix removed sediment with sawdust, within a containment area, before trucking offsite.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

July 16: Bird's-eye view of the foreshore work area. The Galloping Goose Regional Trail detour, that branches off to the bottom right of the photo, will remain in place until spring 2027. The trail detour route will shift later this summer, in coordination with City of Victoria and Capital Regional District on their capital projects, so please follow the Capital Regional District website.

