

Proposal for the New West Bay INTERPRETIVE PLATFORM & POLLINATOR PARK (IPPP)

Presentation to:
Esquimalt Committee of the
Whole Meeting
June 15 2026





IPPP Proposal:

- Matson Conservation Area is a special area located in West Bay, Esquimalt.
- Background/Roles HAT/WBRA
- Joint proposal strives to protect this unique urban conservation area while providing community green space for learning and enjoying nature



Photo by Eva Wainwright



IPPP Proposal:

- 2.4-acre protected urban conservation site situated along West Bay's shoreline.
- Last remaining intact Garry Oak woodland/meadow on the inner harbour.
- Home to an abundance of wildlife
- Current day restoration and management by HAT and a small but mighty group of dedicated volunteers.
- MCA has a fragile ecosystem.
- Foot traffic throughout the MCA is strongly discouraged.



Esquimalt/West Bay experiencing, growth & increasing density



- Much of *the* increased growth is apartment and condo living.
- Growing need for new parks and green space.
- Imagine if we could meet this need with no additional land purchase cost.
- This proposal helps the Township add green space while protecting the MCA and ensuring it is there for future generations.



IPPP Proposal:

HAT/WBRA

Township of Esquimalt establish
an

INTERPRETIVE PLATFORM AND POLLINATOR PARK (IPPP)

at the south end of Garret Place,
off Dunsmuir Road, overlooking
the MCA.

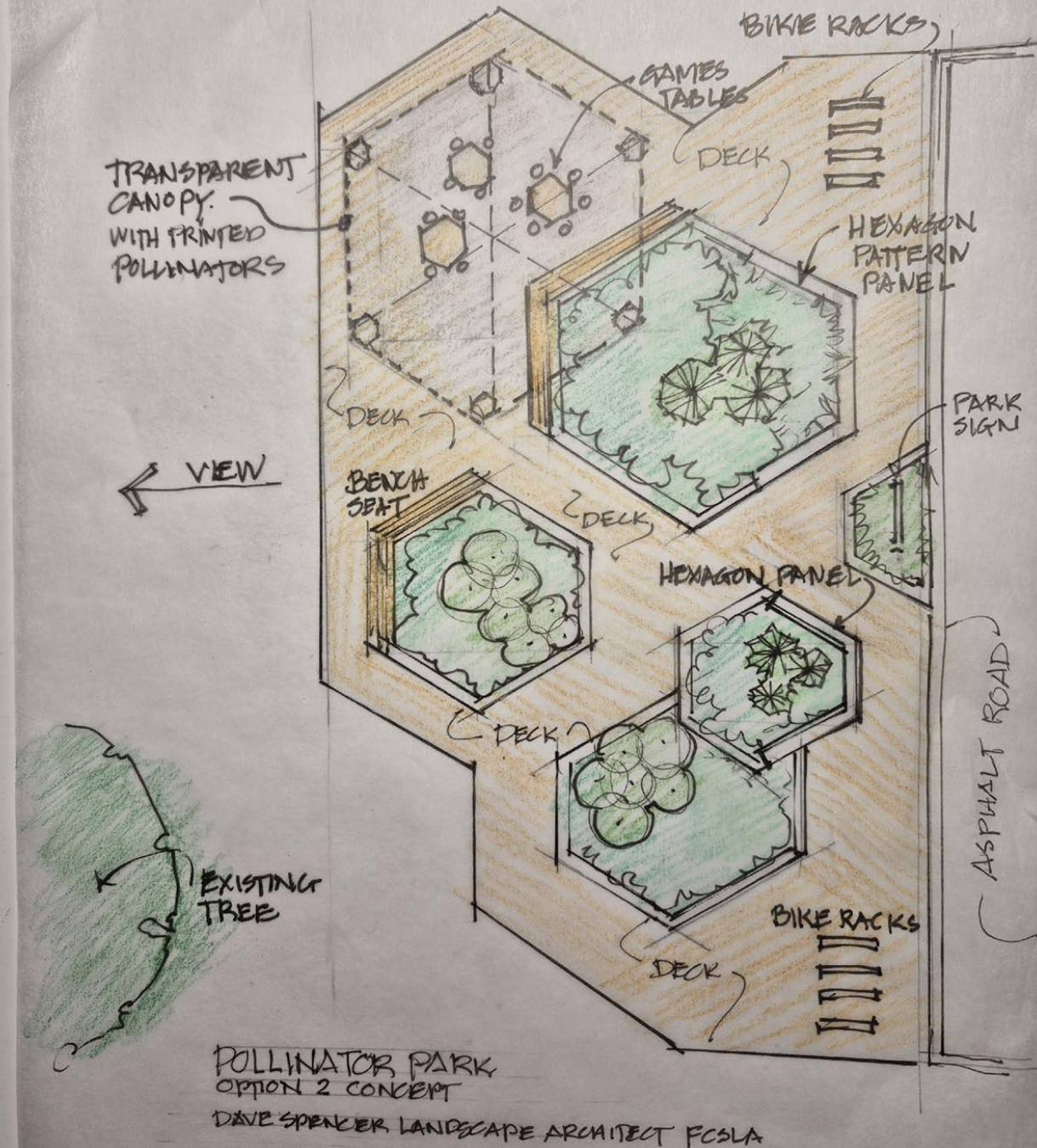
IPPP Proposal Concept Drawing

- Reclaim 12 ft of lower roadway to add to park space (60x35)
- Interpretive signage – Indigenous roots, community conservation and land donation, ecological teachings

Seating areas and raised garden beds

Sorting and storage area for MCA management work

- Small gate to MCA forest area
- Pollinator plantings that are indigenous to the area
- Wheelchair accessible



IPPP Proposal Consultations



- Esquimalt Staff
 - Parks, Engineering, Development Services, Others
- MCA Management Advisory Group
- Community
 - Adjacent condo/rental towers, residents
 - WB Community at large
 - Esquimalt residents
- Council members

IPPP Proposal

Feedback



- Engineering dept - emergency turnaround & apartment garbage bin considerations
- A few parking concerns from adjacent building
- Huge majority fully supportive of IPPP concept

IPPP Proposal:



- Provides green space for community as it continues to grow
- Protects fragile MCA lands and ecosystems
- Provides an area to learn, rest and enjoy nature
- The land is owned by the municipality

Ask

- Council approve in principle the IPPP
- Request Parks staff report back with a feasibility/impact assessment based on:
 - a) shorter term clean up and more immediate use, and
 - b) longer term platform development with options for construction
- Include in new Council's 2027 annual priority project review







Thank you!