

Restoration of Protection Island Roads

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During the past few years, there has been a minor building boom on Protection Island. One of the results is that many large trucks have severely damaged our fragile dirt roads. Potholes have become small craters that drivers have attempted to avoid by swinging wider and wider on the road bed. The result has been constant road widening which has been exacerbated by past road maintenance practices. To remedy these problems the City has agreed to a series of revised road maintenance protocols. These include paying more attention to the perennial problem areas, making the roads narrower, suspension of boulevard mowing, continuation of dust control, preliminary and then complete resurfacing of the circle, new parking regulations at the circle, new restrictions on house-building contractors.

(1) The City will continue to do comprehensive road maintenance in the spring (late May) and in the late fall. During those maintenance sessions they will focus on the perennial problem sections (about 20 % of the road area). They will use their road grader to pull the edges of the road into the center creating a domed contour designed to run water off the road. In some areas, extra fill will be used to accentuate the convex profile. The goal will be to narrow roads to a width of about 14 feet and to run water to the sides. A secondary goal will be to spend a great deal of time and effort on the problem areas in the hope that this will pay off by reducing problems in these areas.

(2) For the remaining 80% of the road surface, the City has decided to use their plow to demarcate the new edges of future narrower roads. This demarcation process leaves little ditches at the edges of the roads. The idea is that this will gather a bit of water and encourage grass and other vegetation to grow out from the boulevards. The goal is to make the roads narrower. Hopefully traffic will move more slowly and drivers will be more courteous when passing.

(3) Boulevards will no longer be mowed by the large machine that we have seen in past years. Spot control of invasive species such as blackberries will become the task of a City-hired contractor using a hand-held brush cutter. Let the wild flowers grow. Plant decorative trees in front of your house. Mow if you wish.

(4) The parking circle will be completely resurfaced using a product called Ecogrid <http://www.terrafirmenterprises.com/>. It is made from recycled plastic and comprises a grid structure that is filled with relatively fine gravel. See an example here in Nanaimo at Oliver Woods Community Center. **This is expensive and may take a bit of time.** Depending on budgetary considerations the Ecogrid will be installed this fall or during 2011. If installation is delayed until next year, the circle will be gravelled to get us up out of the mud over the winter.

(5) Development Services has agreed to meet with new house-building contractors to inform them that (i) damage to roads caused by their trucks must be repaired within 3 days (this will be monitored) and failure to comply will result in repairs by the PI roads contractor paid from the curb hold-back held by the City, (ii) all contractor vehicles, equipment and dumpsters must be moved off the road onto the subject property of the boulevard in front of that property, (iii) boulevards must be restored and reseeded after work is complete.

(6) Parking at the circle will be altered slightly with the handicapped spot being moved over 4 metres/12 ft (in the direction of the Firehall) in order to accommodate longer vehicles. Please remember that the inner circle is designated for golf carts or very small vehicles only (as per small car signage). Cars & trucks are to park around the perimeter. Congestion in the Circle would be reduced if users observed the 24 hour parking limit, especially during the work week.

Work on the Circle will take place Monday 21 June. During that time NO vehicles may be parked there. Please make alternative arrangements for that day.

