

Interpretive Signs for Hillside Centre - 2015

The largest single impervious area within the Bowker Creek watershed is Hillside Centre in the City of Victoria. When the mall owners started renovating and expanding in 2012, they worked with the City of Victoria and the Bowker Creek Initiative to incorporate several low-impact development features (green infrastructure) into the re-development. These included rain gardens, permeable pavement and a ground water recharge system that removes 80% of the total suspended solids from the stormwater before it is discharged to Bowker Creek.

The project also included creation of two interpretive signs and an artwork feature to draw attention to Bowker Creek flowing underground beside the mall. The BCI was approached to undertake this project, and graphic artist Soren Henrich was hired to create a new template and artwork for the signs. The signs and flagstone artwork were installed adjacent to the mall in 2015.



“Bowker Creek is Under Your Feet” describes how urban creeks that have been piped underground receive runoff and contaminants from roads, sidewalks and roofs. Installing rain gardens and using native plants in landscaping can help reduce negative impacts of urbanization on the creeks and waterways around us.

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Local artist Carolyn Knight created a flagstone art piece to surround the storm drain grate where Bowker Creek flows underground along Doncaster Ave beside Hillside Centre.



The second interpretive sign is on Shelbourne St near the bus stop on the opposite side of Hillside Centre.

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“Realizing Rainwater Rewards” describes how green infrastructure such as the permeable pavement and rain gardens installed at Hillside Centre can help reduce contaminants entering Bowker Creek and slow the flow during storm events to reduce downstream flooding.