

# Key Considerations

*The Colwood WIP will seek to balance recreational, cultural, and environmental interests in the area. There are numerous key considerations – such as significant Indigenous and archaeological values, ecological sensitivity of the lagoon and foreshore environments, and recreational needs and growth.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL

- A federally protected migratory bird sanctuary.
- Climate change and sea level rise considerations, especially for the low-lying peninsula with limited land area.
- The areas of old growth forest around the Esquimalt Lagoon provide a critical connection between the terrestrial and aquatic realms of the lagoon.
- Sediment shorelines are critical in supporting forage fish habitat (Surf Smelt and Sand Lance).
- Maintaining or enhancing riparian vegetation supports ecological values on the shoreline.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Due to future sea level rise and climate change, any new infrastructure will require adaptive design.
- The pump station is vulnerable to flooding due to storm waves, which will become more severe in the future.
- The bridge is in adequate condition but has limited capacity and is more exposed to wave energy due to changes to sediment distribution at the tail end of the spit
- Storm waves, when combined with high tide and storm surge, can cause overtopping of Ocean Blvd, carrying sand, driftwood, and debris onto and across the road. This is expected to become more frequent and severe over time.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

- For thousands of years, this shoreline is known to have been a gathering place for fishing, trading, feasting and celebration for the Xwsepsum, Lekwungen, and Sc'ianew people whose ancestors first lived here.
- The City works closely with the Archaeology Branch to preserve connections to the activities that have taken place here and the rich cultural history it offers the community.
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships and education such as the Songhees Nation's marine tourism venture.

## OTHER

- High demand for access to the area, predominantly by personal vehicles, in conjunction with the limited land area
- Requires multi-jurisdictional coordination between local First Nations, the City of Colwood, the Federal Government of Canada, and Royal Roads University, among others
- Recent trial closures of Ocean Boulevard to vehicle traffic as part of municipal response to COVID-19 to allow greater access for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Transportation Master Plan - Development of a multi-use trail along Ocean Boulevard from Belmont to Lagoon identified as an active transportation priority.