

AGENDA
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held electronically via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing, this meeting is closed to the public and can be viewed/heard via MS Teams. Please note that MS Teams callers are identified by their phone number which can be viewed on screen by all attendees at the meeting.

***** Territorial Acknowledgement & Inclusivity Statement *****

- 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - March 16, 2022
- 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
- 3. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING TOD CREEK** (attachments)
 - Ian Douglas Bruce, Executive Coordinator, Peninsula Streams Society
- 4. CLIMATE ACTION REPORT CARD FOR 2021**
 - Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability
 - Follow the link below for access to the 2021 Climate Report Card:
 - [2021 Climate Report Card](#)
- 5. BIODIVERSITY IN OUR PARKS** (attachment)
 - Brian Wilkes
- 6. NATURESCAPE PRESENTATION FOLLOW UP** (attachment)
 - Carolyn Richman, Environmental Education Officer

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: May 3, 2022 at 4:30 pm

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Austin Winters at 250-475-5494 ext. 3508 or
Austin.winters@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

Updated version: February 2021

Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement

It is appropriate that we begin by acknowledging that the District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən (lay-kwung-gen) peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ (weh-saanich) peoples represented by the Tsartlip (Sart-Lip), Pauquachin (Paw-Qua-Chin), Tsawout (Say-Out), Tseycum (Sigh-Come) and Malahat (Mal-a-hat) Nations.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held electronically via MS Teams

March 16, 2022 at 6:02 pm

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Braedan Drouillard, Kaden Calleberg (Youth Member), Kurban Ali Keshvani, Jennifer Grant, Sarah Anderson, Spencer Gillis (Youth Member).

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Stacy McGhee, Program Manager of Strategic Facilities Planning; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Ryan Senechal

MINUTES

MOVED by K. Ali Keshvani and Seconded by S. Anderson “That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 19, 2022 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The following was noted during the Chair’s remarks:

- Council has decided to engage in further consultation with respect to the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan on the issue of greater density in the Cadboro Bay Village specifically.
- At the April 20th ENAC meeting, a member of the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee has been invited to do a presentation for the Committee on biodiversity in Saanich parks.
- There is going to be a special ENAC meeting on May 3rd at 4:30 p.m. to deal with the ENAC award nominees.

BOWKER CREEK DAYLIGHTING FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Manager of Environmental Services delivered a presentation on the Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study. The following was noted:

- In September 2020, this daylighting feasibility study was first brought to ENAC.
- At that meeting the Committee recommended that Council adopt the Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study.
- The Study has not been brought to Council yet for their consideration due to the scope of the Study expanding.
- Much of Bowker Creek is underground with only 2.5km of the 8km above ground.
- The Bowker Creek Initiative is a partnership between the Capital Region District, UVic, the community associations in the watershed and the three municipalities the Creek runs through.
- The Initiative was established in 2004 and the three municipalities fund the Bowker Creek Coordinator position which is housed in the CRD.

- The Plan that was made was a Watershed Management Plan in 2003 which established the four goals and objectives.
- Much of the Plan had to do with water quantity and the state of the riparian areas.
- There was an Implementation Plan established in 2005 which laid out which individuals will complete specific roles.
- In 2007, there was a Master Drainage Study to address goal 2 of the Plan which is to manage flows effectively.
- In 2011, the Bowker Creek Blueprint was created and it established an action plan of what should be done and where it should be done.
- The 2020 Feasibility Study lays out how everything from the previously established plans and studies will be completed.
- The 2020 Study goes into so much detail that the Bowker Creek Blueprint is now out of date due to the newly obtained information.
- The areas of Bowker Creek that have had the least and most amount of progress have also been identified within the Feasibility Study.
- The Bowker Creek Blueprint 10 Year Achievement Report has also been recently created to outline what has been accomplished since the initial implementation of the Blueprint.
- There is also an updated Terms of Reference for the Bowker Creek Initiative which includes a new quarterly meeting schedule, new media guidelines and new membership opportunities.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members and staff:

- There was questioning over what amount of Bowker Creek should be day lighted.
- Staff clarified that the daylighting feasibility study outlines the various areas that could be day lighted and it does give more information about how achievable the implementation of more daylighting in various areas throughout Bowker Creek is.
- An inquiry was made over whether there would be criteria outlining what constitutes more probable areas for daylighting.
- Staff clarified that once the Blueprint is updated, priorities will then be established for daylighting.
- An inquiry was made over the potential to obtain funding from the federal government to complete some of these daylighting projects throughout Bowker Creek.
- Staff noted that while federal grant funding is desirable it has not been investigated at this stage of the project.
- There will a public engagement process with respect to updating the Blueprint which in turn will help establish priorities.
- The Bowker Creek Blueprint has a 100 year timeline and 10 years have already passed.

MOVED by S. Anderson and Seconded by K. Ali Keshvani “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee recommend that Council endorse Planning, Engineering, and Parks staff resources be allocated to partnering on the updating of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and that allocation of \$15,000 for cost sharing of consulting services be forwarded to the one time resource request process during 2022 budget deliberations.”

CARRIED

SAANICH OPERATIONS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

The Director of Engineering and the Program Manager for Strategic Facilities Planning delivered a presentation on the proposed Saanich Operations Centre redevelopment. The following was noted:

- Over 300 staff work from the current Saanich Operation Centre.
- Most of the buildings within the current site date back to the 1950's and late 1970's.
- The site organization will be greatly improved through planning that addresses vehicle circulation, storage, and work locations.
- Most staff work areas are at their end of life and substandard which limit growth.
- The current buildings contain a concerning number of issues including:
 - Not complying with life safety requirements of the Building Code;
 - Large unsprinklered wooden buildings;
 - Structures that cannot withstand an earthquake of even modest magnitude;
 - Facility inaccessibility for disabled staff or guests; and
 - A vermin outbreak.
- Delivery of services must meet minimum levels and delivered sustainably long into the future.
- The District has committed to significant environmental targets which include a focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a target to reach net-zero.
- The work place design objectives would incorporate Building Code and Work Safe BC guidelines and practices.
- The site context includes neighbourhoods; residential centers; immediate adjacencies to the Quadra and McKenzie corridors; and a proximity to the Lochside Trail.
- Given the number of fleet vehicles frequenting the site the current layout poses numerous traffic and circulation issues.
- Multi storey buildings must be considered for operations and parking due to the site constraints.
- The planning process has identified that accommodating additional uses on the site is possible.
- The estimated project budget range would be between \$183 million to \$212 million and this estimate class could have a plus or minus 20% variance.
- The projects current implementation schedule would see tendering in the second quarter of 2026, thus the budget number includes price escalation to that time.
- The estimated cost includes constructions costs, site development, consultant fees, associated development costs, and contingency.
- The numbers do not include potential revenues generated from the proposed site.
- Should the business case be approved further detailed planning is needed to refine the design.
- Within the next two years the project objective is to determine the project budget to much greater certainty through a Class B estimate.
- Through increased certainty in the budget, the District will then go through several months of educating the public in order to have an alternative approval process completed.
- That public process will be seeking permission for the District to borrow money to fund the realization of this project.
- This project represents a shared opportunity that builds operational resiliency and seeks to maintain and secure Saanich residents' high quality of life.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- There was questioning over how the changes would be implemented without impacting those working at the site currently.
- Staff clarified that the site is large enough to support a phasing strategy with respect to staff on the site during construction.
- An inquiry was made over whether there has been any discussion over the appropriate recycling or disposal of the buildings when they are being demolished or deconstructed.
- A minimum of LEED gold is being set as the standard design target.
- LEED is a credit-based system that gives points based on a building's level of compliance with various aspects of sustainability with Gold being the second highest certification level.
- An inquiry was made as to whether the parking requirements would be adjusted for this project.
- A majority of the parking demands for this site are fleet related, but with regards to the staff parking the parking requirements may be adjusted as it is unrealistic to have a 1:1 parking ratio within the site.
- There was questioning into the ability of staff to work from home until the conditions improve at the current site.
- The site is very operationally based, thus requiring the staff to come in person to complete their work.

ENAC AWARDS UPDATE

The Manager of Environmental Services delivered an update on the Saanich Environmental Awards process. The following was noted:

- The nomination period for the ENAC awards is officially open.
- Committee members and the public are able to submit nominations online through this link:
 - <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/natural-environment/saanich-environmental-awards/nominate-someone-for-an-environmental-award.html>
- Those not eligible for the Awards include the current mayor & Council; Saanich staff, and ENAC members.
- Nominees do not have to be a Saanich resident to win an award, but the impacts the nominee have undertaken have to be felt in Saanich.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday April 20, 2022.

Councillor Karen Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Austin Winters, Committee Secretary

Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Steering Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Submitted Nov. 23, 2021

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Steering Committee is to coordinate the efforts and interests of the primary landowners and land managers within this watershed: WSANEC Nations, District of Saanich, District of Central Saanich, Butchart Gardens, Capital Regional District Parks, BC Parks and FLNROD, as well as stewardship groups and individuals in developing and implementing a Tod Creek Watershed Management Plan. The working group will assist in public consultation, developing goals and objectives, prioritizing actions, applying for grants, reviewing technical documents, increasing public awareness, promoting partnerships, and monitoring environmental indicators and project progress.

2.0 Membership

The steering committee may consist of between eight and 12 primary members, ideally comprised of:

- First Nations representatives appointed by WSANEC Leadership Council;
- minimum one municipal representative, ensuring that engineering, planning, parks and environmental disciplines are represented from Saanich and Central Saanich
- minimum one provincial representative, ensuring that engineering, planning, parks and environmental disciplines are represented from Saanich and Central Saanich
- minimum one member from Butchart Gardens;
- representatives (one primary and one alternate) from stewardship groups active in the area (e.g., Friends of Tod Creek Watershed, Peninsula Streams Society)
- up to three seats will be provided for members of the public, potentially including but not limited to community associations, business leaders, schools, and watershed residents (including youth).

The steering committee will endorse all proposed steering committee members prior to appointment. Selection criteria for the members of the steering committee will include:

- willingness and ability to commit to the necessary time to support the committee, over a minimum term of two years;
- interest and knowledge of the Tod Creek Watershed;
- ability to work toward consensus with people who hold different interests and opinions about the future of Tod Creek Watershed;
- skills and experience related to watershed topics are helpful, but not required;
- skills and experience related to the roles and responsibilities associated with a steering committee are helpful, but not required; and
- members will identify alternates to attend meetings in their absence whenever possible.

Every effort will be made to create an appropriate balance of members, including a mix of people who represent the diverse backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and neighbourhoods in the watershed.

3.0 Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the steering committee should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- consulting with the public for the development of a Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan;
- develop SMART goals and objectives for the Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan;
- identify opportunities and facilitate the development of partnerships between government and stewardship groups;
- advance First Nations input and collaboration wherever possible;
- promote coordination, clarify priorities, and help set implementation timelines using an adaptive approach to achieving the goals of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan;
- identify funding sources and participate in the preparation of grant applications;
- review engineering, planning, and consulting documents as appropriate;
- participate in the creation of public outreach events and public consultation;
- monitor and evaluate conditions and trends overtime to ensure the goals and objectives are being met.

Appointment to the steering committee includes a commitment to developing the Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan and advancing the implementation of this plan, including to:

- help foster plan realization through the local governments, landowners/managers and other stakeholders who may be involved;
- attend committee meetings;
- attend public information/community events and public consultation;
- remain informed and inform others;
- share resources, creativity, experience, and expertise;
- work toward mutually acceptable recommendations; and
- build trust among participants through open, respectful, and productive communication.

4.0 Decision-Making

Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Steering Committee members will jointly seek outcomes that accommodate the interests and values of all members and their constituents, if possible, and will make decisions by consensus.

Consensus means an agreement that all participants can live with. The participants may not agree with every aspect but taken as a whole, a decision based on consensus reflects common major interests and satisfies individual concerns of participants to the extent that they can support it.

If participants reach a consensus on a set of recommendations that resolves most, but not all of the issues that are being addressed, they will seek to document areas of disagreement. The reasons for disagreement and opportunities to resolve a disagreement will be included in the steering committee meeting records with the agreed-upon recommendation or action.

A quorum will consist of not less than four people of which two must be government representatives and two must be community representatives.

5.0 Meeting Procedures

The Tod Creek Integrated Management Steering Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year. Additional meetings may be held as needed to meet timelines or achieve project milestones. Participants will make every effort to attend working group meetings.

The Steering Committee may nominate a Chair as needed for 1-year renewable terms. The responsibility for organizing the meetings and taking meeting minutes may fall to all the members of the working group on a rotating basis.

Meeting agendas, minutes, working files will be stored in a Dropbox or Google folder that all members of the working group will have access to. Some draft documents may be confidential and should not be shared widely unless approved for sharing by the working group.

6.0 Public Relations

Persons who are not working group members may attend working group meetings to provide specialized information/expertise or support (e.g., taking meeting notes). Persons attending a meeting will be asked to respect the process guidelines. Presentations by the public may be accepted at the discretion of the working group.

Working group members should work collectively on external messaging and should keep all members informed of any media interactions.

7.0 Resources

The stewardship and facilitation of future funding will be decided by the working group and may likely be dependent on the source of the funding.

8.0 Development of Watershed Plan

One of the key outcomes of the working group is the development and implementation of a Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The working group will work cooperatively with partners in the development of the plan with the guidance of public participation for the initial concepts and framework as well as public review and comment on the final draft plan. Public information will also be provided throughout the process via website and email updates. The process for the final watershed management plan includes consideration by the District of Saanich and WSANEC Leadership for endorsement.

9.0 References

Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula [by the Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition]

Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan Terms of Reference

Integrated Watershed Management Approaches Across Canada [by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment]

Tod Creek Flats Integrated Management Plan [by The Friends of Tod Creek Watershed and Peninsula Streams Society in collaboration with the District of Saanich]

DRAFT



Ian Bruce

Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management (Planning and Steering)

3 messages

Kyle Armstrong

Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 12:56 PM

To:

Cc: Ian Bruce <[REDACTED]> Ian Douglas Bruce <[REDACTED]>

Hello Will Morris,Â

My name is Kyle Armstrong, I am the Restoration Coordinator for Peninsula Streams Society. Please see attached Draft proposals for Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management including a Terms of Reference for a Steering Committee/Working Group; Backgrounder; and Table of Contents for a Management Plan. Ian Bruce will follow up with you on these preliminaryÂ working documents.Â

Warmest regards,Â

Kyle Armstrong

--

Kyle Armstrong, M.Sc., CERPIT.

Peninsula Streams Society

Restoration Coordinator

Cell: 250.508.8456

www.PeninsulaStreams.ca

Living and working within Coast and Straits Salish territory, the territories of the Lekwungen peoples, known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and the Wì±SĀNEĀ peoples, known today as Wì±JOÈ½EÈ½P (Tsartlip), BOá,°EĀEN (Pauquachin), SÈ¾ĀUTWì± (Tsayout), Wì±Slá´EM (Tseycum) and MĀLEXEÈ½ (Malahat) Nations.Â

3 attachments



Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management.docx

23K



TOC - Tod IWMP-Draft.docx

23K



TOR-TodCreek-IWMP-WG.docx

26K

Ian Bruce

Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 1:06 PM

To:

Cc: Kyle Armstrong <[REDACTED]>

Ian Bruce <[REDACTED]>

Nikki Wright <[REDACTED]>

Hi Will... pleaseÂ findÂ draft Tod Creek Watershed Planning docs... can you please look over and comment, revise, etc. as you feel appropriate...can you comment whether theÂ point of contact moving forward for this would be WLC or TsartlipÂ FN or both? Â

I need to get this into the District of Saanich ASAP (like end of day today) .Â If you can't respond or endorse on thatÂ time frame that's OK, I'll just say I've reached out to Tsartlip ...if you can you can reply to this email and say that you (Tsartlip Stewardship) support the concept of a Tod Creek (SNICDEL) Watershed Planning Process that would be enough for now without committing you to deeply....

HISKWE

Ian

--

Ian Douglas Bruce, B.Sc. (Mar.Bio), R.P.Bio, QEP
Dip. Restoration of Natural Systems
Executive Coordinator, Peninsula Streams Society
www.PeninsulaStreams.ca




work: 250-363-6596
cell: 250-888-2191

This email was sent from Lekwungen and WSNE Unceded Territories

cell: 250-888-2191

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

-  **Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management.docx**
23K
-  **TOC - Tod IWMP-Draft.docx**
23K
-  **TOR-TodCreek-IWMP-WG.docx**
26K

William Morris [REDACTED] Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 3:07 PM
 To: Ian Bruce [REDACTED]
 Cc: Kyle Armstrong [REDACTED] Ian Bruce [REDACTED] Nikki Wright

Good Afternoon,

Â

Thank you for including me in this important discussion.Â This area is important to members of my family and community we have seen it change in a negative way over the years.Â I apologize for being unable to thoroughly review all documents from a Tsartlip Marine Stewardship perspective but I would commit to a Tsartlip First Nation Stewardship support of a Todd Creek/SNIDCEL Watershed Planning Process with Tsartlip as a partner not as an interested party.

I look forward to further discussion later.

Â

Sincerely,

Â

Will Morris

Tsartlip Stewardship Director

#1 Boat Ramp Rd.

250-419-2945

[Quoted text hidden]

Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management

Background

Over the last century, the Tod Creek watershed has undergone significant impacts and modifications that have greatly reduced and continue to limit its health. Historic and present-day land-use changes including agriculture, industry, and housing developments, and associated activities have greatly altered drainage and flow patterns and impaired fundamental functions of the watershed. They have also greatly undermined the system's natural resiliency against the current and predicted effects of climate change. The increasing frequency and severity of seasonal flooding and droughts are further exasperated by growing demands on natural flood infrastructure and local water supplies. These factors introduce new challenges and risk to local people and nature, including industry, residents, and vulnerable plant and wildlife populations. With water scarcity and conflicts between user groups (both human and non-human) imminent, there is a strong need for comprehensive and holistic management of the watershed and its resources. A formal system of stewardship, conservation, and fair allocation of resources, that includes, respects, and provides benefits to a broad range of interest groups and values, must be developed. With continued watershed development and a large restructuring of provincial water policy and licensing, now is the time to instill appropriate systems and structures for effective watershed-level management.

Scope

The area included would be the entirety of Tod Creek Watershed from its headwaters of Prospect Lake and associated tributaries to its outflow including the marine coastal areas of Tod Inlet (SNIDCEL). These lands and waters are the traditional territories of WSANEC People including the Tsartlip Nation, Tseycum Nation, and Tsawout Nation, and within the municipalities of Saanich and Central Saanich.

Approach

Tod Creek Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) will follow the framework structure and principles used successfully by other coastal communities analogous in size and scope such as the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan and outlined in REgional and Nationa . Representatives of First Nations, local governments, senior governments, and various agricultural, business, environmental, and residential sectors, will meet to develop a common vision and set of management goals within this IWM framework. Within the framework, management objectives and strategies to allocate scarce resources to identified needs will be documented within an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) that lays out actions, responsibilities and desired outcomes. The IWMP and process will be guided and reviewed by a diverse and dedicated Steering Committee established through the IWM framework process to

ensure targets, commitments, and timelines are being met and that public and private stakeholder engagement is effective.

Partnerships

Leadership in this initiative will be undertaken by First Nations, local community stewardship groups such as the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed and Peninsula Streams Society, and supported by different levels of government and policy groups including the District of Saanich Engineering, Saanich's Natural Areas Committee, resilient Saanich and others such as FLNROD, DFO, CRD, MoE, BC Parks and FLNROD, and POLIS. Partners organizations would also include local businesses and industries such as Butchart Gardens, UVic, Camosun, Royal Roads University, and others. IWM needs to be initiated immediately to guarantee access to funding for the planning and implementation phases.

Public Engagement and Plan Development

See Terms of Reference

Vision - Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

[Pending establishment of Steering committee and the input from partner and public engagement]

To ensure water quality and quantity in the Tod Creek Watershed is managed in a manner that ensures fair allocation to its users and inhabitants both human and non-human and its social-ecological systems are resilient to the changes and challenges the future may bring.

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Summary

Acknowledgements

1. INTRODUCTION

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2. Tod Creek and Watershed

- a. Land Use
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- b. Watershed Structure and Function – Wetland function, invasive species, habitat connectivity
- c. Recreational, Educational, Natural/Green Spaces
- d. Government Coordination and Planning
- e. Other

4. Integrated Watershed Management

- a. Planning Process - Strategies and Requirements
- b. Prioritization – Actions and Critical Areas
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References

Appendices

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For Peninsula Streams power point presentation outlining the past works of Friends of Tod Creek Watershed, including the work done cooperatively with Saanich on the Tod Creek Management Plan.

The watershed is located in the north west portion of the district of Saanich within the Rural Saanich Local Area. While it is situated primarily in Saanich, its boundaries include portions of the Districts of Highlands and Central Saanich. The watershed in Saanich covers an area of 23 km and drains into the Saanich Inlet via its main outflow, Tod Creek. There are approximately 21 km of watercourses, 29 known wetlands, numerous ponds and five lakes. Parts of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park and Mt. Work Regional Park fall within the watershed.

CRD - Parks & Environmental Services - Environmental Engineering - Oct 31, 2014 - Technical - PRJ/KJ/SE - Map Document: NATWaterShedSeriesofRivers

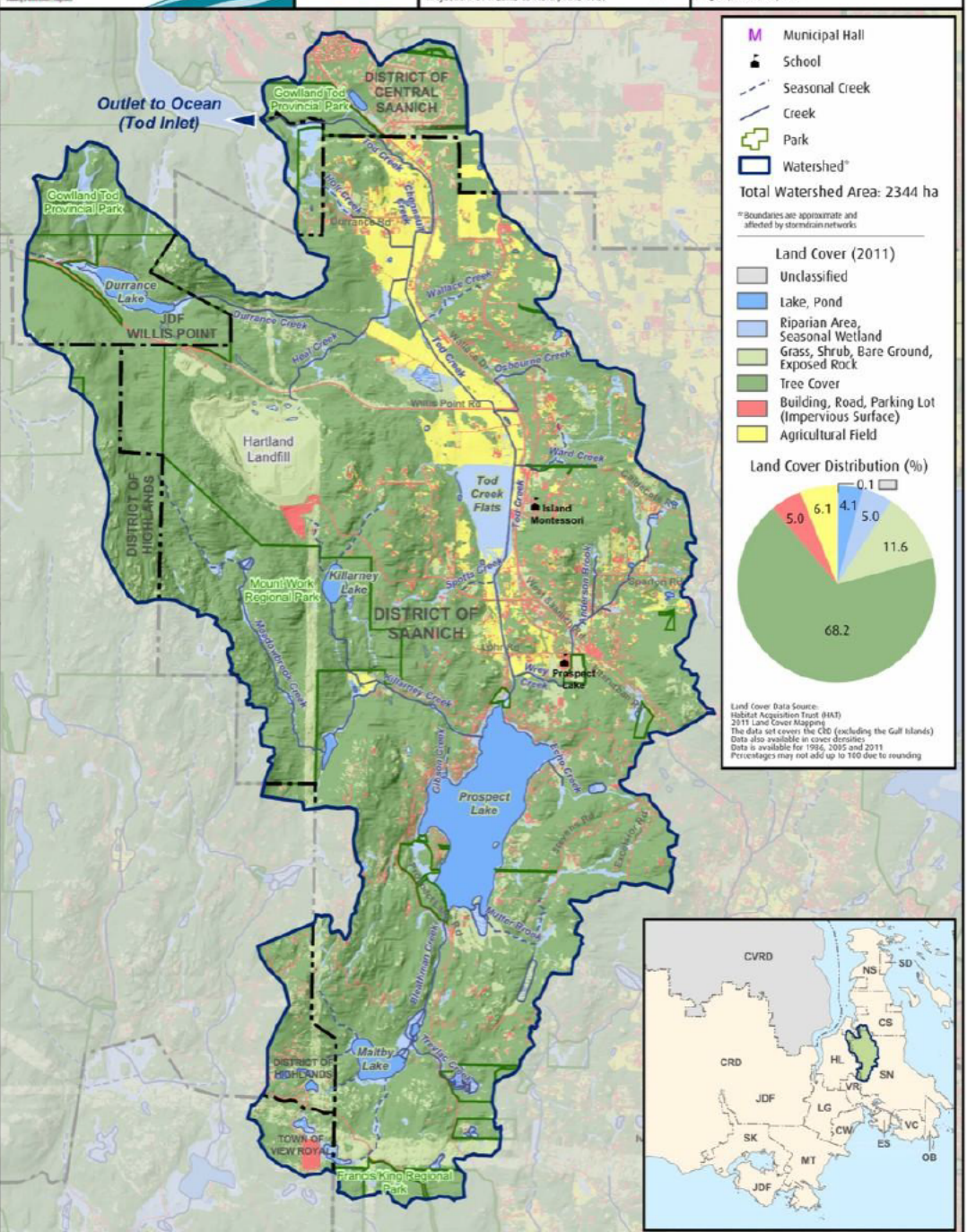
Tod Creek Watershed (2011)

0 250 500 750 1,000

Metres

Projection: UTM Zone 10 North, NAD 1983

DISCLAIMER
 Important: This map is for general information purposes only. The Capital Regional District (CRD) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map or the suitability of the map for any purpose. This map is not for navigation. The CRD will not be liable for any damage, loss or injury resulting from the use of the map or information on the map and the map may be changed by the CRD at any time.



- M Municipal Hall
- School
- Seasonal Creek
- Creek
- Park
- Watershed*

Total Watershed Area: 2344 ha

*Boundaries are approximate and affected by streamain networks

Land Cover (2011)

- Unclassified
- Lake, Pond
- Riparian Area, Seasonal Wetland
- Grass, Shrub, Bare Ground, Exposed Rock
- Tree Cover
- Building, Road, Parking Lot (Impervious Surface)
- Agricultural Field

Land Cover Distribution (%)

Land Cover Data Source: Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) 2011 Land Cover Mapping. The data set covers the CRD (excluding the Gulf Islands). Data is available for 1996, 2005 and 2011. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Tod Creek Watershed flow diagram, credit: Natalie Bandringa.

Created for Saanich "Our Backyard Magazine" Summer Issue: vol 14/ issue 2

CRD "flow diagram" for the Tod Creek Watershed

Here is a sneak-peek at a "flow diagram", part of a project that the CRD's Integrated Watershed Management Program is currently developing as an online community resource (crd.bc.ca/watersheds). The project will create a series of "flow diagrams" for over 40 local watersheds, along with maps featuring land use and basic facts about each watershed.

Flow Diagram Details:

- Top Level:** Maltby Lake Tributary flows into Maltby Lake.
- Second Level:** Maltby Lake flows into Bleathman Creek. Trewlac Pond flows into Trewlac Creek, which flows into Bleathman Creek.
- Third Level:** Bleathman Creek flows into Proposed Lake. Muttar Brook flows into Proposed Lake. Trewlac Creek flows into Muttar Brook.
- Fourth Level:** Proposed Lake flows into Travers Creek. Echo Creek flows into Proposed Lake. Anderson Brook flows into Wray Creek.
- Fifth Level:** Travers Creek flows into Meadow Brook Springs. Meadow Brook Springs flows into Spotts Creek. Wray Creek flows into Wray/Spartan Creek.
- Sixth Level:** Spotts Creek flows into Tod Creek Falls. Wray/Spartan Creek flows into Wray Creek. Wray Creek flows into Ward Creek. Ward Creek flows into Tod Creek.
- Seventh Level:** Tod Creek Falls flows into Durrance Lake. Durrance Lake flows into Durrance Creek. Durrance Creek flows into Tod Creek. Osbourne Creek flows into Tod Creek. Bonnell Springs flows into Wray Creek.
- Eighth Level:** Durrance Creek flows into Heat Creek. Heat Creek flows into Tod Creek. Wallace Creek flows into Tod Creek.
- Ninth Level:** Heat Creek flows into Hot Creek. Hot Creek flows into Tod Creek.
- Tenth Level:** Hot Creek flows into Chennault Creek. Chennault Creek flows into Tod Creek.
- Final Level:** Chennault Creek flows into Tod Inlet.

Background Image: A group of people, including Bayside Middle School students, are gathered outdoors for an ecological restoration event. A man in a dark jacket is speaking to the group. The background shows a forested area with a lake.

Event Information:

Bayside Middle School students at Tod Inlet for Creatures of Habitat Day, an ecological restoration event held on April 15th. This annual event was co-hosted by SeaChange Marine Conservation Society and Peninsula Streams Society.

Join the Our Backyard mailing list!

Be kept up to date on local community stewardship projects and environmental issues. Subscriptions to this quarterly newsletter are free and available in electronic or paper version. To subscribe, please send your contact information to the editor or visit the following website: www.ourbackyard.saanich.ca

Editor: Darren Copley | Phone: 250-475-5579 | Email: Darren.Copley@saanich.ca

By 1994 the impact of development on Prospect Lake and the loss of natural habitat throughout the area was brought to the attention of Saanich Council by the residents and a project was implemented to identify environmentally significant areas and ecological issues in the watershed.

A process of public involvement, questionnaires, discussion groups and the creation of educational materials was completed over the next two years. Within that time, founding members of the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed created, published and distributed the classic pamphlet *Returning The Loon to Prospect Lake* which continues to provide relevant information today.

In 1999, as a part of the Saanich Official Community Plan, and as a culmination of the previous four years of research, the Saanich Planning Department created the Prospect Lake/ Tod Creek Watershed Action Plan. Embedded within the plan was the recommendation for a management strategy that would support the work of residents and ensure best practices to protect and restore the diversity and natural beauty of the area. This plan would form the basis of the provincially designated Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area Regulations and Riparian Areas Regulations.

The report also established the need for a local Environmental Stewardship group that would take on the challenges identified in the report and work with Saanich in achieving the community objectives. With Mary Haig-Brown as the chair and fourteen individuals in attendance, the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed established their name and identified the key focus areas including the water quality of lakes, streams and ground water, riparian zones, education and trails at their first meeting .

FTCW: Advocacy and Consultation for Environmental Protection

Advocating for Environmental Protection

Well Water and Aquifer Mapping
Hartland Quarry Issue
Power Watercraft Regulations
FAMA and Gowlland Tod Provincial Park
Protection of Estelline Wetlands
Goward Road Weir
Maltby Lake

Consultation for Sustainable Community Development

Tod Creek Watershed Network
Prospect Lake Water Quality
Tod Creek/ Prospect Lake Action Plan
Environmentally Significant Areas Atlas
Killarney Lake Park
B.C. Hydro
Canada Goose Survey

Goward Road Weir

After 100 years, The Butchart Gardens gave up historical control of the weir near Goward Road.

Saanich chose not to take over control of the water license. With respect to the weir, the water levels of Tod Creek and Prospect Lake are currently in the hands of a small group of water license holders.



Bridge over Tod Creek, Goward Road

Tod Creek Watershed Network

One of the first projects of the newly formed group was to develop an organizational outline of conservation activities in the Tod Creek watershed. The meeting held January 17, 2001, created an inventory of education, conservation and restoration programs and identified specific project goals and objectives of the activities. Participating stakeholders were: Habitat Acquisition Trust [HAT], BC Parks, Canadian Forest Service, Department of National Defense, Friends of Tod Creek Watershed, Saanich Planning and Environmental Services, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Sea Change Marine Conservation Society, Coastal Enterprise and Resource Cooperative Association, South Island Aquatic Stewardship Society, Aquatex Scientific Consulting, Ministry of Environment, Restoration of Natural Systems Program - UVic, Saanich Inlet Protection Society, Durrance Elementary School, Veins of Life Watershed Society and stewards of Maltby Lake.

From this meeting and with the expertise of participating environmental, government and professional organizations, a management plan for the Tod Creek watershed was finalized. This was one of the first operational plans to consider the entire watershed over individual water bodies and the group worked closely with Saanich and Central Saanich to develop the Prospect Lake /Tod Creek Action Plan. The plan was adopted by Saanich Council in August, 2001 as an amendment to the Official Community Plan and has since formed the basis of provincial, regional and municipal regulations for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

On February 6, 2007 the Tod Creek Watershed Network met again to update information, compare data and review the best management practices for the watershed. New members to the group were The Butchart Gardens, Peninsula Streams, Saanich and Central Saanich Councillors, Capital Regional District, Peninsula Agricultural Commission and landowners from the Tod Flats.

Environmental Education and Training

- Events:

- Rivers Day Community Celebration
- Stream Keepers Course
- Lake Keepers Course
- Watershed Bus Tours: Adults; School Children [*following pages]
- Turtle ID Paddle
- Salmon fry release, in partnership with local schools Tree Appreciation Day

- Printed Materials:

- Returning The Loon To Prospect Lake
- Watershed Connections
- Tod Flats Interpretive Signs [**following pages]
- CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY
signs in partnership with Invasive Species Council of BC
- PROSPECT LAKE: Reflections
book in partnership with Prospect Lake Heritage Society
- Prospect Lake Heritage Walking Tour Brochure
in partnership with Prospect Lake Heritage Society
- PROSPECT LAKE: Connections
book, providing background material for this presentation

- Online Presence:

- Friends of Tod Creek Watershed website



*** School Children's Bus Tours**



** Interpretive Signs

Tod Flats

As a component of the restoration grant received from Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] Salmon Enhancement Program, along with the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program [RFCPP], two interpretive signs were created to be placed on the Centennial Trail at the intersection of Wallace Drive and West Saanich Roads.

The signs were designed by Carmel Thomson and provide information about the history and the natural features of the Tod Flats.

With financial support from the Unitarian Church and Saanich, the colourful signs have been permanently installed in concrete, with bike racks at a popular viewing location for birds and wildlife.



SOOTY GROUSE (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*)

Tod Creek Flats

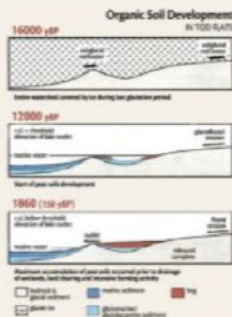


TRILLIUM (*Trillium*)

16,000 YEARS AGO – ICE 850 METRES THICK COVERS TOD FLATS.

Glaciers carve the landscape compacting sediments. As glaciers retreat and ice melts, the sea level rises reaching levels 80 metres higher than today.

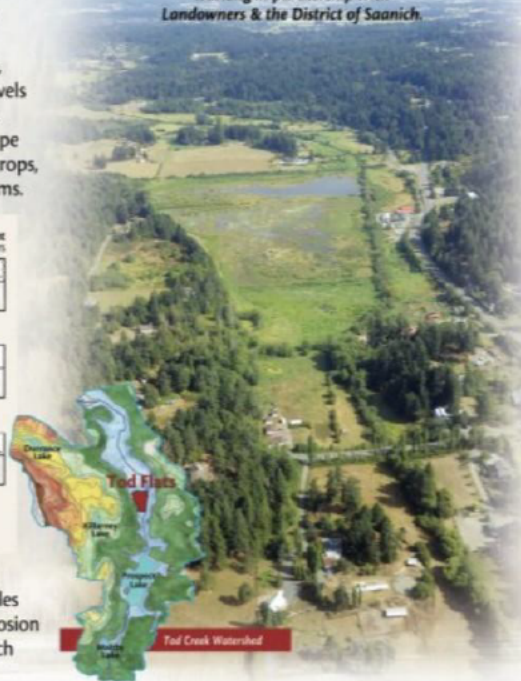
For 3,000 years the landscape evolves and as the sea level drops, a shallow freshwater lake forms.



Over the next 12,000 years decaying organic matter settles on the lake floor. Minimal erosion and lack of oxygen creates rich peat deposits and a thriving wetland.

BALANCING AGRICULTURE & BIODIVERSITY

Restoration of Tod Creek Flats is an initiative of the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed & Peninsula Streams Society working in partnership with Landowners & the District of Saanich.



African Americans arrive on the invitation of James Douglas, governor of Vancouver Island. The son of an African Creole mother and European father, Douglas is sensitive to the concerns of African Americans – 800 migrate from California to Vancouver Island. Early settlers were the Spotts family. Alfred "Bossi" Spotts farms 50 acres at the south end of Tod Flats into mid-1950s.

Fielding Spotts, pioneer farmer and grandfather of Alfred "Bossi" Spotts.



1860 – TOD CREEK IS CHANNELIZED

Tod Creek is moved to the east edge of the Flats. The wetland is cleared and drained for various land uses including a rifle range and agriculture. The Flats loses its ecological integrity and diminishes its ability to support salmonid. New roads and railroads enable easy transport of produce but increase pollution, and pressures on the creek and land.

FOR 4,000 YEARS THE LAND SUSTAINS FIRST NATIONS.

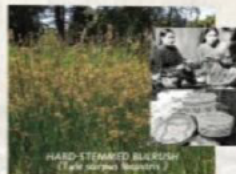
WSÁNEĆ people travel from their village located at Tod Inlet to hunt waterfowl, gather berries and harvest the plants that feed, house, clothe, and heal.

Stems of the bulrush are dried and woven into baskets, mats and wall coverings, those of Red-Osier Dogwood are used for building materials and medicinal tonics.



1850 – SETTLERS ALTER THE LAND.

John (Jack) Durrance is the first European in the area, establishing a 400 acre farm at Tod Valley's north end.



The strong woody branches of Oceanspray are used for digging and halibut hooks, while Willow inner-bark is used for making reef nets.

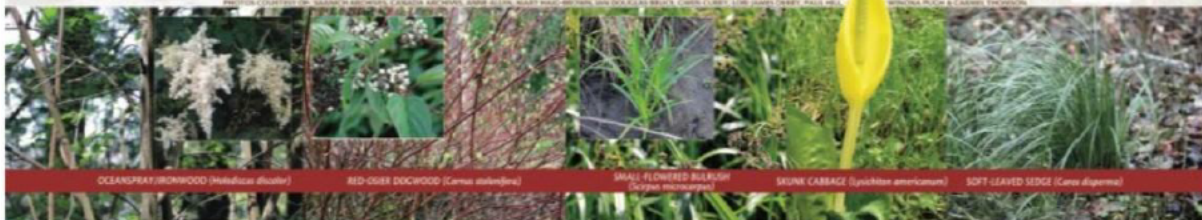


1912 – SISTERS OF ST. ANN ESTABLISH A HOSPITAL FARM.

The Sisters purchase the northern portion of Tod Flats to operate a mixed farm supplying St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Ann's Academy. Quon Mon Chee purchases the farm in 1957.



THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FRIENDS OF TOD CREEK WATERSHED, PENINSULA STREAMS SOCIETY AND THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH. saanich.ca | peninsulastreams.ca | todcreekwatershed.ca



OCEANSPRAY/IRONWOOD (*Halestium aliciae*)

RED-OSIER DOGWOOD (*Cornus canadensis*)

SMALL-FLOWERED BULRUSH (*Typha latifolia*)

SKUNK CABBAGE (*Ptychocheilus americanus*)

SOFT-LEAVED SEDGE (*Carex diandra*)



GREEN TREE FROG (*Hyla cinerea*)

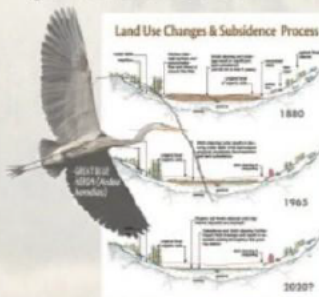
Tod Creek Flats



AN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.

In 2008, FRIENDS OF TOD CREEK WATERSHED and PENINSULA STREAMS SOCIETY in collaboration with the DISTRICT OF SAANICH identify how the Tod Flats area functions compared to historical observations.

The assessment is part of an action plan to restore the ecological integrity and hydrological function of Tod Flats.



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Populations of waterfowl including Great Blue Heron, Canvasback, Wood Ducks, Mallard, Redhead Ducks, Trumpeter Swans, resident songbirds and raptors use the flooded fields.

The creek has historically been a spawning site for Cutthroat trout and salmon.



CUTTHROAT TROUT (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

"A holistic approach has been taken in rehabilitation of Tod Flats where agriculture, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, social values, and flood control all carry equal weight."

— FRIENDS OF TOD CREEK WATERSHED

2015 Stream Channel deepened; banks reshaped & planted.

New Berm & Culverts

The INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN increases the amount, quality and permanency of stream, riparian, and mudflat habitat.

Future Channel Improvements

Seasonal Flooding provides a microhabitat for 2 endangered plant species (*Callitriche marginata* & *Bidens amplicoma*).

THE GOAL – OPTIMIZE NATURAL VALUES & LAND USES.

The INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN integrates and optimizes:

- land uses for agriculture
- flood plain management
- wildlife & fish habitat
- economic viability
- pollution abatement

2015 – IMPROVEMENTS

A new channel is dug and edged with a new berm to improve hydrological function.

In the winter, the storm water will overtop the berm flooding the Flats. Two large culverts positioned under the berm draw the falling water and guide fish trapped on the Flats back into Tod Creek.

LAND IS MANAGED TO FIT NATURAL CONDITIONS.

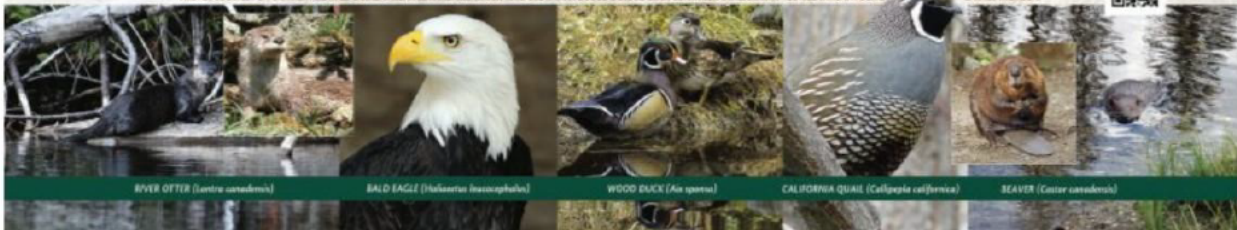


A stable land base above high water creates opportunities for small organic farms that use natural techniques which prevent soil depletion. The farms need less energy to operate, they avoid the use of harmful pesticides, and produce chemical-free nutritious food.



THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FRIENDS OF TOD CREEK WATERSHED, PENINSULA STREAMS SOCIETY AND THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH.
saanich.ca/peninsulastreams.ca | todcreekwatershed.ca

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: SAANICH ARCHIVES, CANADA ARCHIVES, WENDY ALLEN, SHAFY HANG, BRONNAN DOUGLAS, BRUCE GIBSON, CURRY, GLEN JAMES DORR, PAUL HILL, WINONA PUGH & CAROL THOMPSON



RIVER OTTER (*Lontra canadensis*)

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*)

BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*)

Stream Keepers Courses

Designed and delivered by the Pacific Stream Keepers Federation, the course helps volunteers to protect and preserve freshwater habitats through productive, hands-on involvement. FTCW has organized three Stream Keepers courses in the area, the first held in 2001 with Susan Low, and a second held on October, 2016 with Dave Clough at Swan Creek and the most recent March 2017 on Killarney Creek with Dave Clough and Brian Koval as instructors.

The objectives of the three day certification program are:

- to provide volunteers with the training and support required to protect and restore local aquatic habitat;
- to educate the public about the importance of watershed resources;
- to encourage communication and cooperation in watershed management.



LakeKeepers Course

Together with the British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society [BCLSS] the FTCW offered the two day LakeKeepers workshop for residents to learn how to care for, monitor, and manage our lakes.

Facilitated by Dr. Rick Nordin of BCLSS, the workshop topics include lake ecology and aquatic plants, lake monitoring, care and management of lakes, riparian areas and watersheds and invasive species identification and control.

The Lake Keepers course was held at the Horticultural Center of the Pacific and on Prospect Lake, August 17th and 18th, 2014 with eighteen participants.

Members have also completed LakeKeepers programs at Long Lake, Somenos Lake, Elk and Beaver Lakes giving valuable comparative knowledge about our lake systems.



Restoration Projects

- Trails and Lake Access
- Prospect Lake Elementary School Rain Garden
- Whitehead Park
- Lohr Road
- Killarney Creek Fan
- South Prospect Lake Park
- Tod Creek Flats

Same site: Whitehead Park, west-side [8 years apart]



Whitehead Park, west side

Left photo: the beginning of our journey, the pile of Himalayan blackberries we removed by August 2010

Right photo: taken after willows were removed but before the big planting event. October 2010

Note: the tree on the right side of these photos served as our placemaker for these three timeline photos



Celebration after Audrey Barnes won her 2018 Saanich Award for Individual Environmental Achievement

Same site: Whitehead Park, east-side



Tree on the left [with the slight curved trunk] is placemaker for comparing this top photo and the one below



Lasagna gardening above, and below is more mulch to be spread



Whitehead Park, east side: after

Tod Flats

At the heart of the watershed, Tod Creek widens into a 75 acre wetland with less than a one meter change in elevation between Durrance Road and Hartland Ave. This natural floodplain was a haven for wildlife especially for waterfowl and historically provided fish habitat.

The area was a source of food and material resources for the First Nations until the early 1900s, when the land was cleared and ditches dug for farming.

Initially a farm garden for St. Josephs Hospital, then pasture land and finally potato fields, the rich peat base was gradually eroded and the watercourse degraded to the point that the land was no longer usable for crops.

By the end of the 20th Century the land lay fallow and the future of the wetland became a concern to the property owners and the community.

Under the leadership of Mary Haig Brown, the FTCW brought together the stakeholders, including property owners, environmental groups and government representatives, to create a vision for the area.

The outcomes of the Tod Creek Watershed Network discussions focused on making the land economically viable for agriculture, preserving and improving flood plain function and creating a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.

Initial steps involved understanding the natural and current condition of the land. The group toured the flats with soil experts, restorationists, and conducted a charette held with international wetlands specialist Tom Biebighauser. Conservation groups, including the Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Land Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited, were consulted to gain a better understanding of the influences and importance of this unique section of the watershed.



Panoramic view of Tod Flats

Vision Statement for Tod Creek Flats

Vision Statement for Tod Creek Flats:

"In winter, the area is a properly functioning flood plain that provides an area for water to spread out and slow down as well as a habitat for ducks, geese, swans and associated wildlife.

In summer, it is the scene of a thriving sustainable agriculture with irrigation ponds, raised planting areas, and ready markets for produce.

A flowing healthy creek with fish ladders and adequate water storage supports salmon and other fish.

The local community views this area as a treasured asset so it supports the landowners in their stewarding of the land for future generations."



Created berms and channels are for salmon protection on the flats.

With the information collected from this research, the FTCW received an Infrastructure Planning Grant through Saanich to develop a framework to integrate the various outcomes identified in the restoration vision. An information meeting was held at the Unitarian Church in June 2011 to share the proposed vision with the community.

Although a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan was completed in 2009, funding for the next phase which required the hydrology study was not available. The Tod Creek Flats Working Group continued the search for funding options and in 2015 two Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program [RFCPP] grants were approved for Peninsula Streams Society to create the Butchart's Fishway at the lower end of Tod Creek and for stream restoration on the Tod Flats.

The work involved creating a system of channels and berms that would manage water flow and allow fish trapped on the flats by receding water to escape predators.

Volunteers from groups including Habitat Acquisition Trust, the Victoria Green Team, Peninsula Streams and the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed participated in planting work parties to stabilize and minimize erosion during the project. A second RFCPP grant in 2016 was used to extend the berms northward, adjust the culverts and install fish counting fences.

Repairs and adjustments to the design have continued and in March of 2019 Passive Integrated Transponder [PIT] tagged coho from the Goldstream Hatchery were released at Lohr Road and at the DND Heals Rifle Range land to re-establish the run of coho salmon in Tod Creek. Work on the Tod Flats will continue with the original goals in place and the return of salmon to spawning grounds as the ultimate indicator of the success of the project.

Working the flats



Channel, berm and headwall: same view as photo to the right, with varying conditions



Digging and setting the channels



Channel, berm and headwall

Protection Initiatives

- Tod Creek Fishladder to Fishway
- Water Quality Testing
- Aquatic Plant Survey
- Secci Disc Monitoring
- Maltby Lake

Partnerships

Non-governmental Organizations:

- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- Friends of Malty Lake Watershed
- Green Teams of Canada
- Peninsula Streams Society
- SeaChange Marine Conservation Society
- Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary
- Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- BC Lake Stewardship Society

Government:

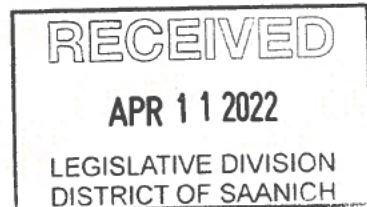
- Capital Regional District
 - Water Quality and Watershed Management Divisions
- Department of Fisheries, Government of Canada
- District of Saanich, Environment, Parks, Planning and Storm and Wastewater Management Departments
- Saanich South, Government of Canada

Submitted by Lori James Derry and Winona Pugh



Memo

To: Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee
From: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services
Carolyn Richman, Environmental Education Officer
Date: April 11, 2022
Subject: Proposed expansion of the Saanich Naturescape Program
File: 1420-20 • Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee



On November 25, 2021 Carolyn Richman of Environmental Services presented an overview of the current Saanich Naturescape Program and proposed program enhancements to the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee (ENAC). ENAC members asked staff to bring back further details of the proposal for program expansion that members could evaluate and potentially make a motion to support.

Proposal

Environmental Services proposes to enhance and expand the existing Saanich Naturescape Program to provide a complete program with greater support and learning opportunities for Saanich residents. The proposed enhancements include a graduated membership program. There is currently no specific budget for Naturescape initiatives in Saanich and resources would be needed to expand the program.

Background

Naturescape is a program and concept: to conserve, maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and native biodiversity. Naturescaping encourages creating diversity, plant layers, and edges using native plants and designing landscapes to provide shelter, food, and water for wildlife. The principles of Naturescape call for a commitment to stewardship through habitat creation, conservation of biodiversity, and water conservation.

Naturescape BC was developed by the Provincial Government and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. An initial provincial program provided a website, resources, workshops and other support for BC residents interested in naturescaping. Unfortunately due to lack of funding, the program is no longer operating, but the key resources or guides are still available to the public through the website of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF).

Saanich Council endorsed the principles of Naturescape and a plan for implementation in 2000. Naturescape is encouraged in various Saanich policy documents and bylaws including:

- Sustainable Saanich OCP policy 4.1.2.8: Encourage the use of native species and climate change resistant plants for landscaping on both public and private lands and continue to promote the principles of Naturescape;

- Climate Plan action E1.2: Increase stewardship tools for private land owners to adapt to and mitigate climate change by expanding on existing programs, such as Naturescaping, recommended plant lists, and invasive species management;
- Resilient Saanich: actions for enhanced stewardship opportunities;
- Royal Oak Local Area Plan policy 8.4: Seek opportunities to preserve and restore indigenous trees, shrubs, plants and rock outcrops within public open space, parks, boulevards and unconstructed road right-of ways and on private lands through the Naturescape Program; and
- Streamside DPA Guidelines: proposed revision to guidelines to add Naturescaping as an exemption.

Elements of Current Saanich Program:

- Saanich Naturescape Program webpage
- Original artwork for branding and promotion
- Brochure & related outreach handouts
- Working with landowners to achieve compliance under the Noxious Weeds Bylaw upon request from Bylaw Enforcement
- A lawn sign to loan to property owners starting new Naturescape gardens to explain the intent to neighbours
- Public outreach display including interactive children's activity
- Past promotions (Canada 150, community competition)
- Inventory of parks naturescape areas
- Public presentations

New Elements Currently under Development using Existing Funds:

- 20 page Saanich Naturescape Program booklet (near completion)
- Increased program visual identity
- Regular social media posts
- Upgrading of youth hands-on activity (naturescape model)
- Collaboration with other Saanich programs
- Update current brochure

Elements Proposed with Increased Funding:

Program Content

- First Nations content and potential partnerships
- Incorporate stormwater management/green infrastructure concepts (Climate Plan)
- Youth engagement (as noted by ENAC member)

Membership Program

- Establish program structure and criteria
- Create a free Membership Kit, providing residents with: welcome letter, program brochure, Naturescape booklet, yard checklist, and a package of native seeds
- Yard signs for those meeting the criteria and "Naturescape in Progress" signs for those just getting started
- A membership database
- Create at least one additional webpage for the program

- Promote the new membership program
- Ongoing maintenance, reporting, and coordination of the membership program

Outreach

- Create a Saanich Naturescape Program subscription-based e-news enabling staff to update and engage interested residents on an ongoing basis
- Additional staff support for residents such as site visits to address concerns and to provide naturescape recommendations
- Webinars or workshops to promote techniques such as iNaturalist and the new plant propagation database
- Additional resources/ information needed for future enhancements

Budget

The program currently does not have a specific budget, but is supported by Environmental Services staff time and within the Environmental Services core budget. Proposed program development above, including a membership program, is not currently possible without increased resources for the program.

The first year would require more resources as materials are developed and produced. Ongoing maintenance would ensure the program stays current and members are supported.

The necessary budget is estimated as:

Program Element	First Year			Subsequent Years		
	Staff Time	Material	Total	Staff Time	Material	Total
First Nation content	\$5200	\$3000	\$8250	\$1248	\$200	\$1448
Stormwater mgmt	\$4420	\$3000	\$7320	\$1248	\$200	\$1448
Youth engagement	\$3640	\$1500	\$5140	\$520	\$1000	\$1520
Establish program	\$1456	-	\$1456	-	-	-
Membership Kit	\$2782	\$2052	\$4834	-	\$1168	\$1168
Yard signs	\$832	\$2342	\$3175	-	\$604	\$604
Membership database	\$2756	-	\$2756	\$624	-	\$624
Web content	\$520	-	\$520	-	-	-
Promotion	\$520	\$1750	\$2270	-	\$1750	\$1750
e-Newsletter	\$2236	-	\$2236	-	-	-
Site visits	\$9880	\$70	\$9950	\$4460	-	\$4460
Webinars, workshops	\$2340	\$3500	\$5840	\$1976	\$3500	\$5476
Ongoing coordination	\$1248	-	\$1248	\$18928	-	\$18928
Future enhancements	-	-	-	\$3000	\$3000	\$6000
TOTALS	\$39,348	\$40,047	\$79,395	\$31,876	\$11,422	\$37,856

Recommendation

That the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee receive this Memo for information.



Carolyn Richman



Adriane Pollard
Manager of Environmental Services

AP/jsp

cc: Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning
Tory Stevens - Chair, Resilient Saanich Technical Committee

Saanich Parks Ecological Condition Assessment

Brian Wilkes

- 18 parks visited over the spring/summer/fall of 2021
- Preliminary assessment only – needs follow-up
- Ecological condition assessment followed provincial standard:*
- Excellent: no invasives
- Good: up to 5% invasives
- Fair: 5% to 20% invasives
- Poor: over 20% invasives

*https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/standard_for_mapping_ecosystems_at_risk.pdf

Mt Tolmie, 2016



Mt Tolmie 2021



Playfair Pk 2019



Playfair Pk 2021



Suppress grass in the early spring, Camas and other native plants have a chance to grow



Knockan Hill Apr 17, 2016



Knockan Hill Apr 30
2020



Still some areas with Camas and other typical spring flowers but are gradually declining



Camas lilies are gradually disappearing under Garry oaks due to vigorous growth of invasive grasses



Small areas of moist slopes retain native vegetation, such as licorice fern and native mosses



Foot traffic on moss-covered bedrock outcrops cause long-term damage



Rock outcrops without heavy foot traffic maintain moss populations



English hawthorn dominates at Panama Hill



Wildflowers on Panama Flats Park trails are mostly invasive Queen Anne's lace, thistle, sheep sorrel, alsike clover



Extremely good job of ridding lower Mt Douglas Park of invasives along Glendenning Trail by Pulling Together



South facing slopes on Mt Doug park with lots of broom and invasive grasses



Trails on Mt Doug Park through invasive grasses that surround the Garry oaks



A few plants of red-listed purple sanicle grow along one of the trails in the Garry oak meadow, Mt. Doug



Much of the broom on this slope in Mt. Doug Park was removed years ago, but is creeping back in



Glencoe Cove park is small but quite important for biodiversity

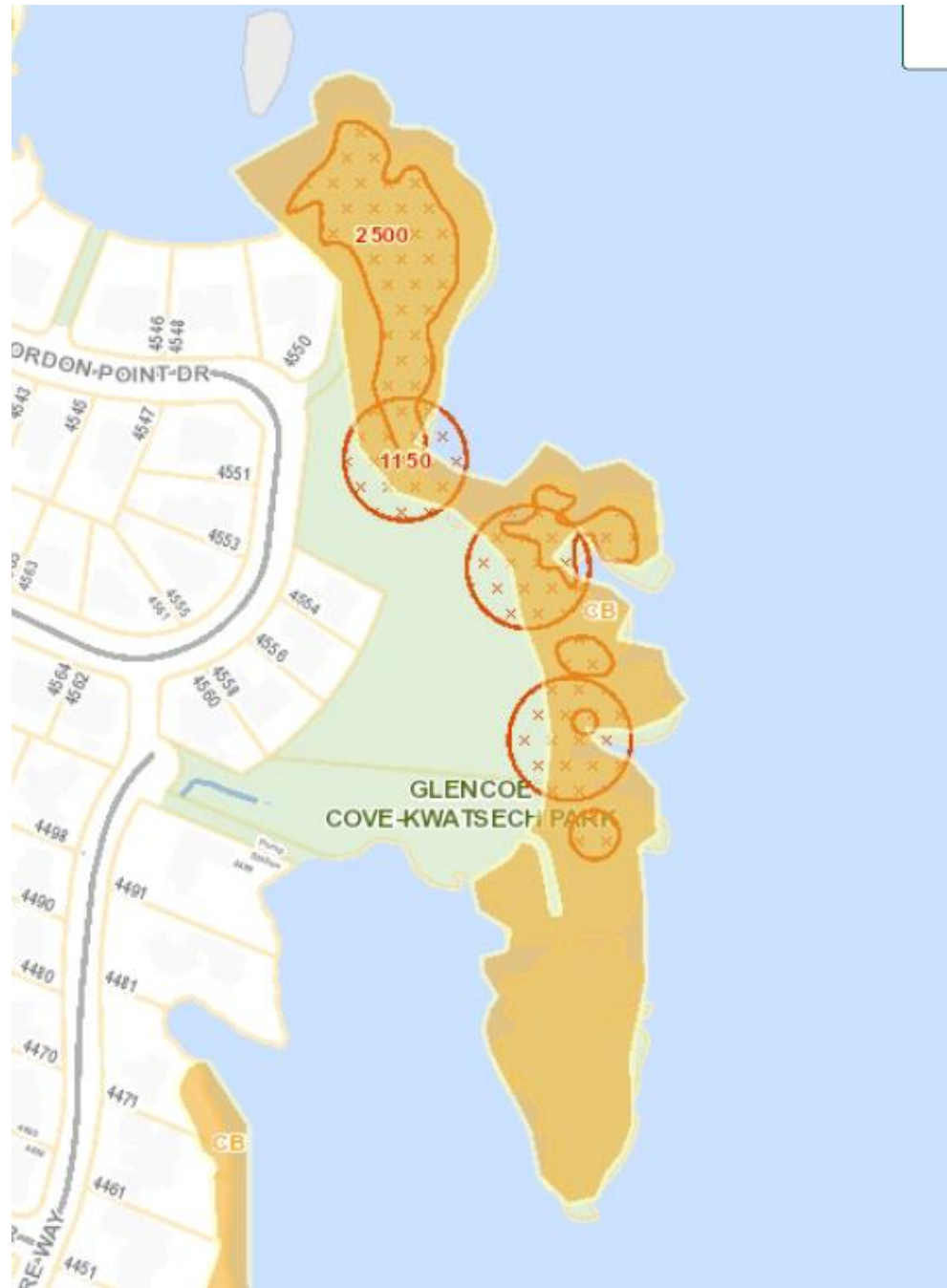


Three scarce and red listed plants grow at Glencoe:

Purple sanicle

Macoun's meadowfoam

Bearded owl-clover



No fencing or other signage, so the rare plants just get walked on by people and dogs



Typical scene in forested areas in Saanich Parks.



Along the Colquitz near Copley Park. Only 20% cover by invasives puts this in Poor condition



Typical scene in parks with tree canopy and ground shade. Ivy and Daphne predominate



Summary of Preliminary Assessment of Ecological Condition by Sensitive Ecosystem*

Sensitive Ecosystem Type	Condition Rank			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Garry oak woodland	0	<5%	<5%	>95%
Terr-Herbaceous	0	<5%	<5%	>95%
Coastal Bluff	0	<5%	<5%	>95%
Wetlands	0	<5%	<5%	>95%
Riparian	0	<5%	<5%	>95%
Douglas-fir forest OF-SG	0	Approx. 50%	Approx. 5%	Approx. 45%
Sparsely vegetated	0	10%	25%	65%

*Based on parts of each park that was observed

Key Points to Consider

- Parks are changing rapidly
- Protected from development, but not from ecosystem condition decline or trampling
- Parks should be reservoirs of native biodiversity
- A “hubs and corridors” approach may be taken for biodiversity strategy
- Parks in poor ecological condition cannot effectively serve as hubs

Key Points to Consider

- The challenge is much bigger than more volunteers pulling weeds
- Parks Dept. now does a remarkable job with a limited budget
- Saanich Council committed to the decade of ecosystem restoration*
- There needs to be a plan to get there. Where is the plan?

*See February 3, 2021 press release from Saanich, <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/news-archives/2021/saanich-supports-un-s-decade-on-ecosystem-restoration.html>