

# Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Discussion

for  
Resilient Saanich Technical Committee  
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# Background

- Personal Introduction
- Why ISMP? Why Saanich? Why now?
- Central Saanich Experience  
[https://www.centrialsaanich.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/integrated\\_stormwater\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://www.centrialsaanich.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/integrated_stormwater_management_plan.pdf)
- Lower Mainland Experience
- ISMP Components
- What, Why, Who, How, Where & When

# Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) Components

- Saanich Official Community Plan and Local Area Plans
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Hydrological Evaluation
- Biophysical Assessment
- Water Quality
- Consolidated Watershed Data
- Public Consultation

# What is an ISMP?

- Stormwater can be considered a resource that can be used to protect and enhance watershed health, as opposed to something that has to be disposed of as quickly as possible.
- An ISMP uses an holistic approach to balance land-use needs of society with the natural values and functions of the watershed.
- It considers ecological, social and cultural dimensions alongside hydraulics and engineering.
- It will provide a long-term vision for the watershed to manage growth responsibly.

# Why develop an ISMP?

- Change the way stormwater is managed to avoid degradation at the watershed scale.
- Leading jurisdictions are doing it:
  - Central Saanich: Healthy Watershed Committee (*Google search: District Central Saanich ISMP*)
  - Metro Vancouver: Part of Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) – all municipalities to complete ISMPs by 2016 (approved by MoE)
- Be proactive instead of reactive.
- Uncertain climate requires resilient watersheds.
- Urban salmon habitat and other ecological restoration activities are dependant on ISMP results/plans.
- Long-term cost savings to municipality by taking advantage of opportunities with integration into the overall plan.

# Who's involved?

- Communities (and CAs), businesses, farmers, developers, land owners, and elected officials
- General public and municipal staff
- Senior levels of government

# How? Process

- Collaborative public goal-setting process that establishes watershed priorities.
- Stakeholder consensus-building process key at project initiation.

# Where?

- Saanich is fortunate that its major watershed, Colquitz is primarily located within municipal boundaries – this was similar with DCS WRT Tetayut and Hagan-Graham Creeks;
- Colquitz Watershed could be broken into tributary units (Blenkinsop-Swan; Viaduct-Goward Springs; Rithets-Gabo; etc. or studied as a whole
- Bowker Creek is not a good example of an ISMP candidate of Saanich as it is multi-jurisdictional
- Principles and strategies developed for Colquitz Watershed or Units could be applied to smaller watersheds (Douglas Creek; Mystic Vale; etc.)

# Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

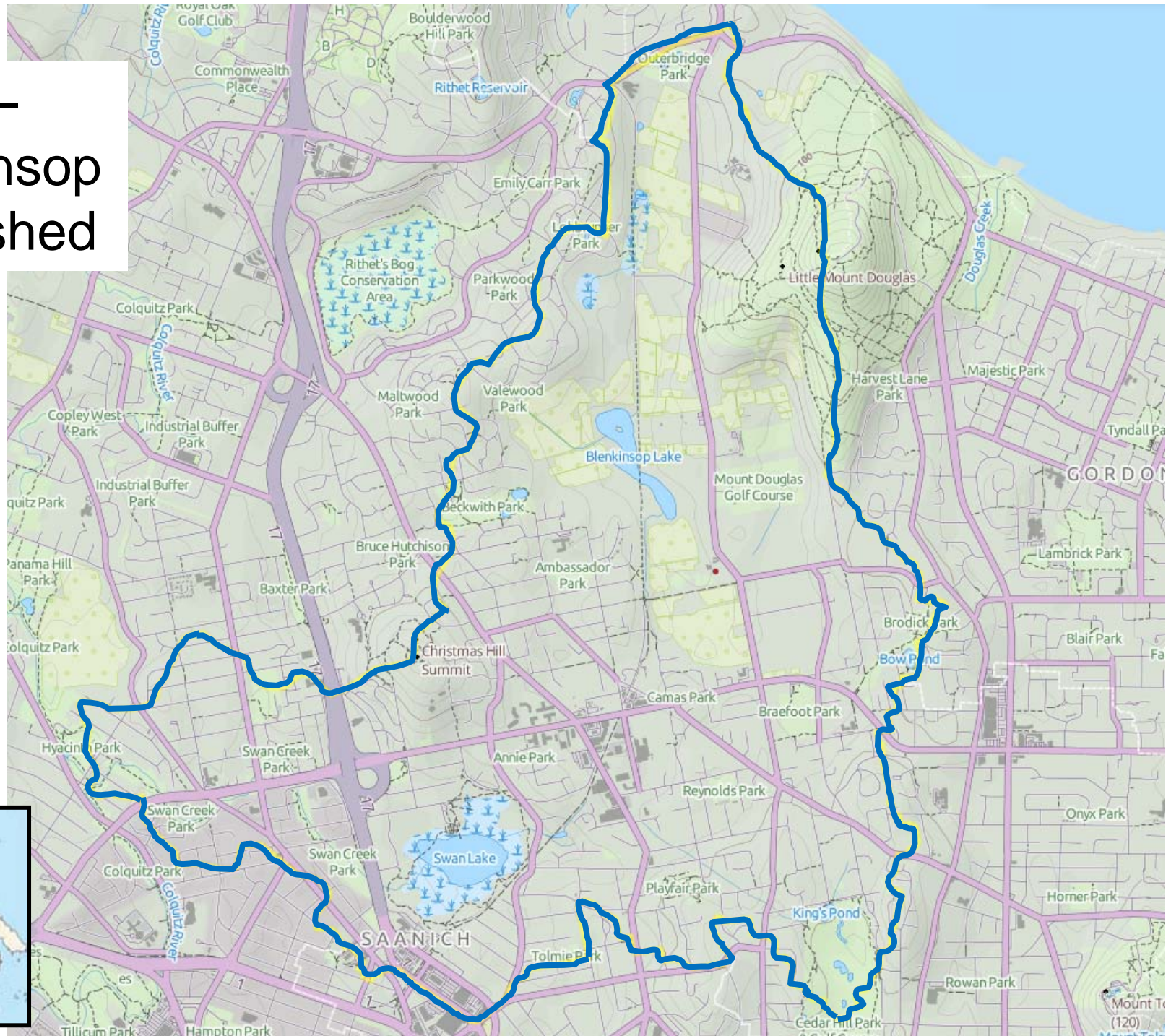
for  
Swan and Blenkinsop Watersheds

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# Swan – Blenkinsop Watershed



# Blenkinsop & Swan Creeks

- Blenkinsop Creek drains into Swan Lake; Swan Creek into Colquitz River which empties into Portage Inlet.
- Blenkinsop Creek is mainly agricultural.
- Swan Creek/Lake is a more urban watershed.
- Blenkinsop has flow control at Cumberland Dam.
- Swan Creek/Lake has no flow regulation.
- Both have variety of water quality and quantity issues, invasive species and restoration opportunities.

# What are the next steps?

- Set up meetings with Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee and the Peninsula Agriculture Commission.
- Work with Saanich staff to determine data gaps and begin to address them.
- Apply for partnership funding and begin selection process for a primary consultant.
- Further engage citizens with newspaper articles and public meetings.

# Swan-Blenkinsop ISMP Timeline

Stage 1 – Preliminary Planning 2014

Stage 2 – Study Preparation 2015

Stage 3 – ISMP Study 2016-17

Stage 4 – ISMP Implementation 2017+

# Summary

- Important to start process soon as plan(s) can take several years to develop/enact
- Water, watercourses, watersheds and components are critical to all species
- Examples from other municipalities can help guide RS and staff on process and implementation
- Funding opportunities are available

Thank you for opportunity to present!

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