

## **Panama Flats Details**

### **Purchase**

Panama Flats has been transformed from its natural state by a variety of agricultural activities over many decades. The District of Saanich purchased the Flats in 2011 in order to:

- Establish the site as public open space to provide flood plain management,
- Optimize environmental values,
- Create new park and trails,
- Enhance food security.

### **2014 Concept Plan**

Following its purchase, the District developed a Concept Plan to reflect the uses, concerns, and interests of the time. Endorsed in 2014, the plan reflected Council's agricultural priority; storm water management, recreational opportunities, enhancing the Colquitz River, fish and bird habitat, and rare plant communities were also important considerations.

The plan earmarked much of the flats for future farming, and after it was endorsed the District applied unsuccessfully to the Agricultural Land Commission to add more land to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Upon further investigation, it was revealed that costly drainage infrastructure work would be needed to make large-scale farming feasible. For these reasons the agricultural aspect of the 2014 plan has not been pursued.

View the 2014 Concept Plan, FAQs and map below:

- [Panama Flats 2014 Concept Plan \[PDF - 7 MB\]](#)
- [Panama Flats FAQ \[PDF - 69 KB\]](#)
- [2014 Context Map \[PDF - 727 KB\]](#)