

BECK CREEK



WHERE IS BECK CREEK?

Beck Creek is a five kilometer stream in south Nanaimo that flows out of Beck Lake, under the

Island Highway, and drains into the ocean at the Nanaimo River Estuary south of the Chase River. Coho spawn in the lower reaches of the creek near Cedar Road. The upper reaches of the creek travel through rural and agricultural lands in South Wellington.

SEE MAP ON OTHER SIDE ←



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It is vital fish habitat, with spawning grounds for Coho and Chum salmon and is in the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Historically the creek has been impacted by being moved to make way for the highway in 1995 and subsequently the channel was rebuilt. There have been stream restoration efforts over the years thanks to stewardship groups. The riparian ecosystem – the streamside forested area – provides many benefits as shown in the illustration below.

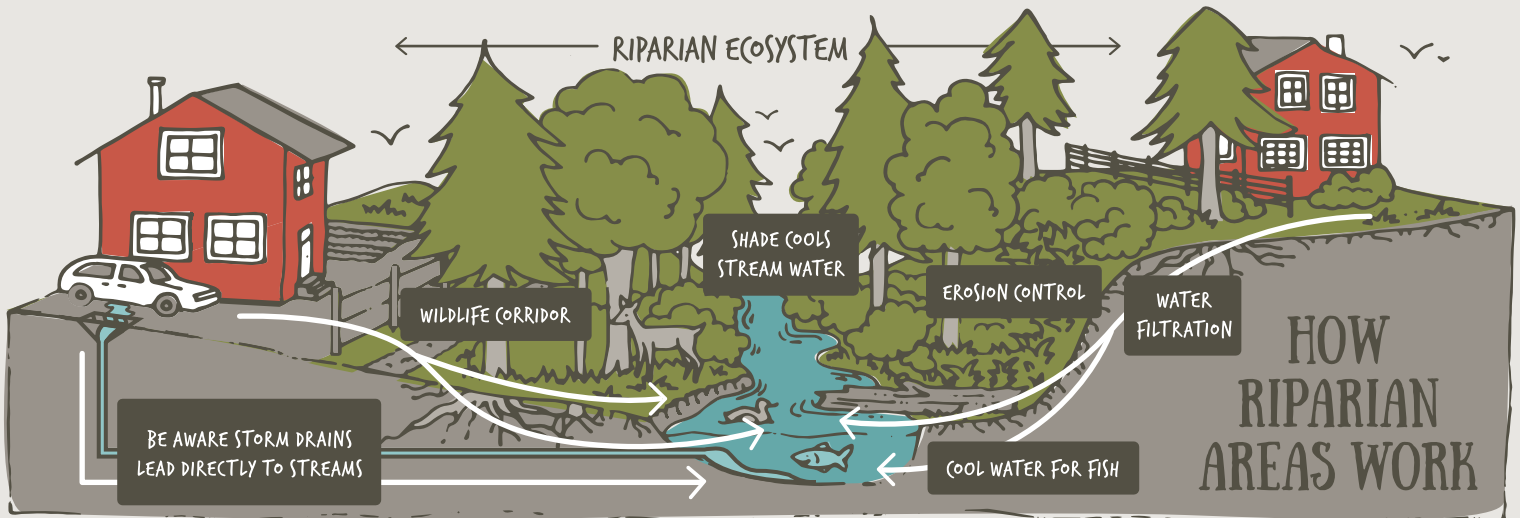
ONGOING PROJECTS

Water quality in Beck Creek has been monitored since 2012 via the RDN's Community Watershed Monitoring

Network with volunteer stewards from Vancouver Island University. Sampling takes place in the low flow period (Aug-Sept) and fall flush period (Oct-Nov) for a total of 10 sample days. Measurements are taken for temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and turbidity, as baseline indicators of stream health.

CHALLENGES IN THE CREEK

Culverts that allow road crossings over the creek act as fish barriers when improperly sized and maintained. Water quality in the creek is suffering, with low dissolved oxygen, high temperatures, sedimentation and high total phosphorus. Agricultural runoff contains substances which are decomposing and consuming oxygen. If this runoff reaches the creek it can deplete the available oxygen for fish.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE CREEK IF YOU LIVE NEAR THE CREEK:



FENCING THE STREAMSIDE

Protect the riparian vegetation from erosion caused by livestock or machinery.



PLANTING VEGETATION

Plant native species to regain shade, bank stabilization and water filtration.



MANURE & FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT

Application or storage of manure should be at least 15m from the creek, and not take place where or when rainfall could wash it into the creek.

EVERYWHERE IN THE WATERSHED:

Be careful of what runs-off your property and into the ditch or storm drain.



OVERUSE OF HERBICIDES



AUTO FLUIDS

There are financial assistance programs for farmers to assist with these improvements through the BC Environmental Farm Plan. See ardcorp.ca

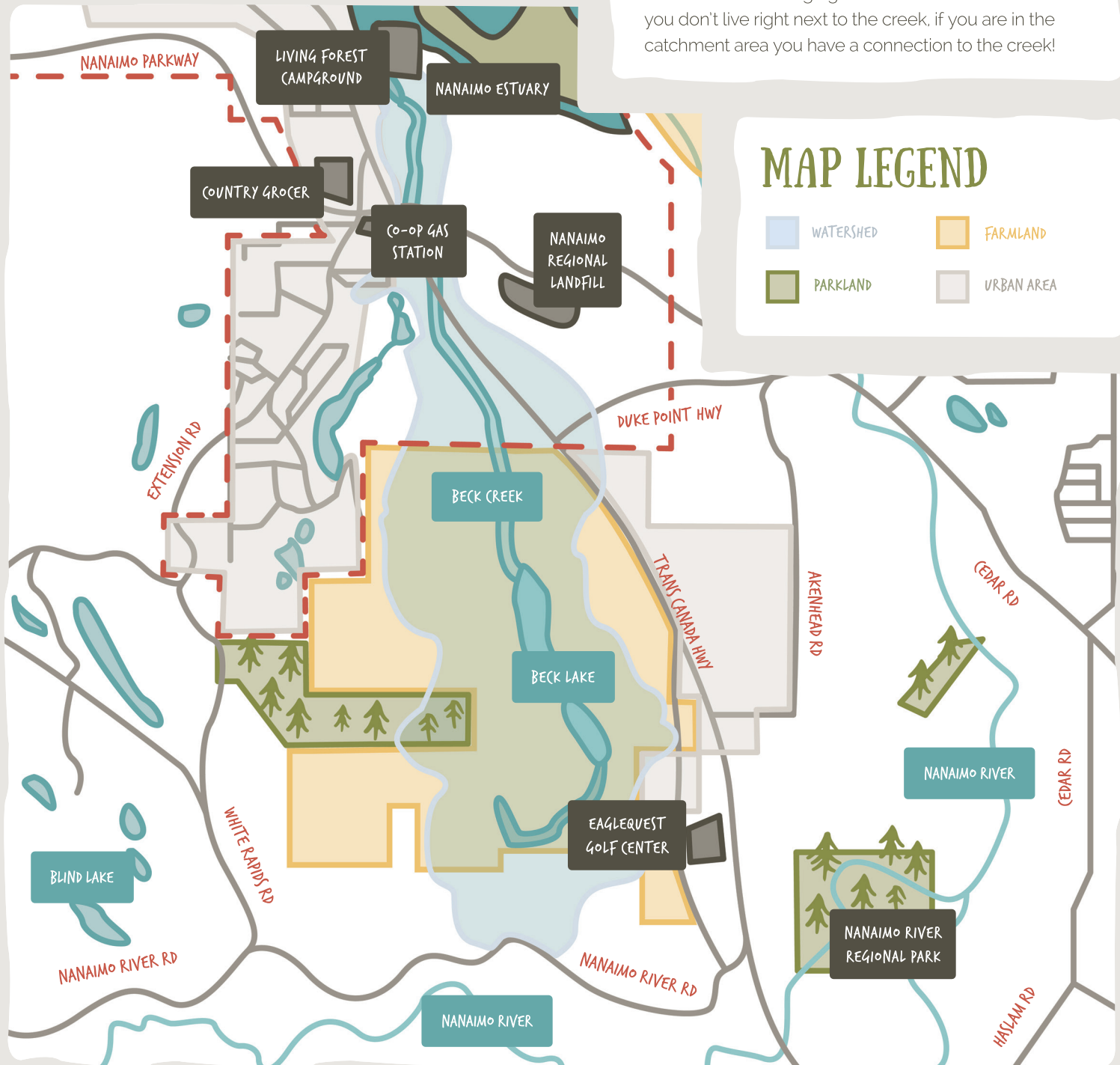
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DID YOU KNOW

The blue area on the map shows the catchment area of land that drains to Beck Creek. Water from the agricultural inland areas of South Wellington drains to Beck Creek through ground water filtration. Even if you don't live right next to the creek, if you are in the catchment area you have a connection to the creek!

MAP LEGEND

- WATERSHED
- FARMLAND
- PARKLAND
- URBAN AREA



UPCOMING EVENTS

RIVERS DAY highlights the many values of our waterways and strives to increase public awareness and encourage the stewardship of rivers in our community.

Bowen Park on Sunday Sept. 23rd from 11am - 2:30pm
 See nanaimo.ca/goto/discovernature for more information



We'd love to hear from you! Give us feedback at waterprotection@rdn.bc.ca