

NEWS RELEASE

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Partnership key for Buttertubs Marsh conservation

Updates made to management plan

Summary

A harmonized approach will be taken to manage the area in and around Buttertubs Marsh with Council approving an update to the management plan at its August 28, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Among the updates are to define the conservation area and a common management approach. In late 2015, a process began to update the 2004 management plan goals and actions and to include the West Marsh and other adjoining park properties. Madrone Environmental was hired to review the existing plan and input was sought from the Nature Trust of British Columbia, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Vancouver Island University faculty and members of the Friends of Buttertubs Marsh. From that, an integrated management plan for the conservation area was established with 5 year targets set for restoration, ecological enhancement, research, public education and public access and recreation.

The conservation area, which includes Buttertubs Marsh Park and West Marsh, is comprised of several parcels of land secured by The Nature Trust of British Columbia, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Nanaimo.

Strategic Link: Working with partners to conserve areas like Buttertubs Marsh supports Community Building Partnerships, Environmental Responsibility, Recreation, Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Key Points

- A management committee, made up of representatives from the City of Nanaimo, Nature Trust of British Columbia, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Vancouver Island University faculty and members of the Friends of Buttertubs Marsh will be responsible for implementing the plan and finding resources to accomplish the actions within it.
- Priority actions will focus on restoration, promoting the area as a research and educational space and improving public information about the unique qualities of wetland ecosystems.

Quotes

"The Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area is rich in biodiversity and important nesting habitat for a variety of birds and the Western Painted Turtle, a species at risk. Working with The Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Friends of Buttertubs on conserving important areas like Buttertubs make Nanaimo a special place to live for people and wildlife."

Rob Lawrance
Parks and Open Space Planner
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area (BMCA) is a 55ha reclaimed wetland and floodplain habitat adjacent to the Millstone River within the City of Nanaimo.
- Buttertubs is part of the Municipal Natural Capital Study, a research initiative to look at the values natural assets provide to communities.

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