

## Nanaimo's Drinking Water System

The system begins with water that flows through mountain rivers, streams and creeks in the watershed of the South Fork of the Nanaimo River. Covering 230 square kilometres, an area three times the size of the City of Nanaimo, the watershed is located 20 kilometres south west of the City. Two large storage lakes, Jump Lake and South Fork Lake, collect water, rain and snowmelt flowing from the mountains. The watershed is protected and access is strictly limited to safeguard our water supply from human contamination and other pollutants. Since the watershed is privately owned, a partnership between the City and Mosaic Forest Management was formed to protect the source and quality of our water.



Jump Creek Reservoir – June 2019

## How Supply Works

Water is transported to the City of Nanaimo, the Snuneymuxw First Nation and the Community of Extension through a complex network of dams, supply pipelines, the South Fork Water Treatment Plant, balancing reservoirs, pumping stations and distribution mains. The City relies on the South Fork Reservoir intake for summer supply and it is during the summer when water levels are at their lowest and when supply is most challenged to meet peak consumer demands and fisheries requirements.

## Fisheries and Fire Flow

The Nanaimo River provides habitat for five species of salmon and several species of trout. Protecting and enhancing this fish habitat is important to the City of Nanaimo. The majority of flow released from Jump Creek and South Fork Reservoirs is for fisheries purposes, to supplement low summer flows in the Nanaimo River. Along with the water released for consumption and domestic use, this additional water creates better spawning and migration conditions for the fish in the river.

Additional storage is also required for potential firefighting within the City. Nanaimo currently has eight active above ground reservoirs that serve as both storage for peak residential demands and fire fighting. About 70 per cent of the volume stored in the reservoirs is for firefighting purposes.



South Fork Reservoir

## Conservation is Crucial

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions (every other day watering) have been in effect since May 1, 2019 and will remain in place. Residents are urged to take voluntary action to markedly reduce water use in an effort to avoid and/or defer the need for further restrictions.

We partner with other water suppliers in the region, namely Team WaterSmart, for community-wide education and outreach programs. Team WaterSmart also hosts several well-attended workshops for homeowners during the year to inform the public about water-saving initiatives.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Water conservation updates and information, please refer to:  
<https://www.nanaimo.ca/city-services/water-sewage/watering-restrictions>
- Information about the Team WaterSmart Program:  
<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/team-watersmart>

## CONTACT:

**Mike Squire**, ASCT  
Manager, Water Resources  
City of Nanaimo  
250-758-5222  
mike.squire@nanaimo.ca