

# NEWS RELEASE

Distributed January 29, 2026

## City accepting environmental grant applications

### Summary

Local organizations, groups and individuals looking to take on environmental projects in Nanaimo may be eligible to access funding from the City. Applications for the Community Watershed Restoration and the Community Environmental Sustainability Project grants open on Jan. 30, 2026.

The Community Watershed Restoration grant provides up to \$20,000 in grant funds to community organizations, environmental non-profits and individual residents who aim to carry out watershed restoration projects that focus on urban stream and riparian restoration enhancement and natural environment protection.

The Community Environmental Sustainability Project grant supports small and creative environmental projects not already covered by existing City grants. A total of \$20,000 in grant funding is available annually with up to \$5,000 per application for eligible community organizations including environmental nonprofits, local stewardship groups, school groups, religious organizations and participants in the Acting for Climate Together program. Funding supports projects that improve the environmental health of natural systems, enhance residents' connections to nature, provide educational values, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or prepare the community for climate change impacts.

The City is hosting an online information session on Feb. 10, 2026 starting at 5 p.m. Those interested in attending must RSVP at [sustainability@nanaimo.ca](mailto:sustainability@nanaimo.ca) before Feb. 10. Applications and more details regarding both grant opportunities are provided on the Grants page on the City's website (<https://www.nanaimo.ca/your-government/grants>). The deadline for submitting applications is 4 p.m. on March 9, 2026.

*Strategic Link:* Successful applicants for each grant develop community environmental projects that support the goals of City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined and improve livability in our community.

### Key Points

- The City is inviting applications for two types of environmental action grants. The Community Watershed Restoration Grant is for restoration and habitat protection projects near a river, lake or wetland and the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant supports a wide variety of sustainability projects.
- Applications for both grants will be accepted between Jan. 30 and March 9, 2026.
- Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for the Community Watershed Restoration Grant or up to \$5,000 in funding per project for the Community Environmental Sustainability Grant.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture and Sustainability staff will be hosting an information session on Feb. 10, 2026 starting at 5 p.m. Contact [sustainability@nanaimo.ca](mailto:sustainability@nanaimo.ca) to reserve a spot.

### Quotes

"Protecting Nanaimo's environment is a team sport, and community volunteers are the stars of the team. Like any good team, the players need equipment and support to win. Through these grants, the City can help ensure community volunteers have the resources they need to succeed as we collectively act to protect and restore our shared environment."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

## Quick Facts

- The Community Watershed Restoration Grant was first launched in 2022. Recognizing the need to support environmental projects beyond watershed restoration, the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant was launched the following year in 2023.
- Past projects that have received funding from the Community Watershed Restoration grant include invasive species removal and restoration along the Cat Stream and Millstone River (East Wellington Park), water flow monitoring on Cottle Creek, turtle habitat protection and education at Diver Lake Park, and wetland restoration at both Smugglers Park and a housing co-operative.
- Past projects that have received funding from the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant include climate action workshops, outdoor classrooms, tool sharing, tree planting events, urban gardening and other climate-focused educational activities and events.

-30-

### Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact  
Communications  
City of Nanaimo  
Media.Requests@nanaimo.ca  
250-754-4251



View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR260129CityAcceptingEnvironmentalGrantApplications.html>