

Spring 2018

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

WATER TO EARTH MONTH

The City of Nanaimo along with the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart and other local organizations is host to a variety of activities and events to celebrate **Water to Earth Month 2018** will have something for everyone with workshops, stream walks, river rafting, swimming events, educational tours, stream keepers courses, movie nights, our Annual Invasive Plant Drop Zone and a big Earth Day celebration!



Nanaimo River Watershed and Water Treatment Plant Guided Tour on

Thursday March 22, was another sold out bus trip. Participants Enjoy an exclusive guided bus tour of the Nanaimo River Watershed, followed by a tour of Nanaimo's innovative new Water Treatment Plant. Forestry representatives and City water staff were on hand to discuss forestry practices, water quality, future plans and answer questions. Thank you to our sponsors, TimberWest, Island Timberlands and Koers & Associates Engineering Ltd. If you missed this tour, we will be offering it again in September for our Rivers Day Event. Watch for this event in our Fall/Winter activity guide.



VIU Water Film Night

Thursday April 5 7-9:00 pm

VIU invites you to, what's sure to be an amazing evening, of whales and water with special guest Mark Leiren-Young, who will be reading from [*The Killer Whale Who Changed the World*](#). We'll also be screening *The 100 Year Old Whale*. Seating is limited for this free event, so please [pre-register](#).



For more details on these events and more visit:

Getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart

#water2earth

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Earth Day Nanaimo

On April 21st come celebrate **Earth Day** with a free festival-style community event at John Barsby High School. There will be something for everyone with workshops, demos, interactive community displays, and local sustainable food vendors all honouring our precious resources and environment.

Tree Vouchers will also be available to purchase for \$20 (with up to \$75 value) for Nanaimo residents.

Join us on site for an invasive plant and litter clean up around the Chase River. The inspiration for this

year's event is based on **Earth Service**. For more information contact Chris at therefarm@gmail.com



SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST - 11:00AM - 3:00PM
JOHN BARSBEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL - 550, 7TH STREET, NANAIMO

Invasive Plant Removal & BBQ at Piper's Lagoon hosted by [Bill's Place](#)
Wed, Apr 18, 10-2:00 pm (162451)

Broombuster at Tourism Info Centre on Northfield

Sat, Apr 21, 10-12 pm (162445)

Sun, Apr 29, 2-4 pm (162448)

Broombuster at Beban Park

Sun, May 6, 10-12:00 pm (162449)

Sat, May 26, 2-4 pm (162450)

Broombuster at Linley Point Park

Sat, May 12, 10-12 pm (163168)

For more info on how to get involved with the Broombusters visit broombusters.org

Environmental Restoration

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives

Let's Pull Together! Maintaining our natural areas and restoring the integrity of our native ecology depends on



you. Join one of our invasive species work parties or coordinate your own. Call Parks & Recreation at 250-756-5200 to pre-register. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them.

Got ivy, broom, blackberry or daphne?

BRING IT TO THE DROP ZONE!

Available for homeowners to drop off invasive plants for disposal. Bring your bagged or tarped invasives to our drop zone on Sunday, April 22 & Saturday, May 26 (11 am- 3 pm) at Bowen Park (off Wall Street).

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STEWARDSHIP IN OUR STREAMS?

VIU students have been hard at work in the Millstone River, involved in a training exercise to get familiar with river safety, field sampling techniques, and how different streams may alter the rate and population diversity of periphyton (things that grow on surfaces in lakes and rivers). The depth, width, speed, temperature and dissolved oxygen (D.O.) levels of the river are measured and water samples are taken to measure the pH, chlorophyll, phosphate, and nitrates. The goal of the project is to study the different species of algae within the Millstone during different times of the year.



The **Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3)** has also been piloting a new stream health program on the Millstone River in Bowen Park with Grade 7 students exploring the concept of stream health and its importance for a watershed. Groups discovered the riparian zone and how plants, stream invertebrates, animals and humans impact it. Learning about stream health in a watershed helps promote stewardship and build a sense of connection to our environment.



NDSS Eco Club students have also been busy participating in a Willow Stake project, along the banks of the Millstone River. Willow stakes were collected from one location and re-planted in another to help stabilize the river bank and eventually shade out the invasive reed canary grass in this location.

If your group has been hard at work in our parks or would like to get involved, we'd like to hear from you. Drop us a note at parksandrecreation@nanaimo.ca

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STEWARDSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NALT Streamkeepers Workshop – April 21 & 22, 2018 (Pacific Gardens Co-housing complex, 9-4pm)

This workshop will be presented by well-known local fish biologist and friend of NALT, **Dave Clough**. This two-day workshop teaches some of the easy-to-understand indicators that determine stream health—with both in-class and in-stream lessons (literally in-stream – bring your rubber boots!). You'll come away with a better understanding and appreciation of our local waterways, both big and small, and an increased interest in community stewardship. To register or if you have any questions, please call **250-714-1990** or email admin@nalt.bc.ca.

Nanaimo Wetlandkeepers Workshop - May 4-6, 2018

Presented by BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program and held at the Rotary Field House (850 Third St) - Cost FREE (\$100 value). Wetlands can filter water, mitigate flooding and provide critical habitat to hundreds of species. Unfortunately, wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate and need our protection. Please join us for this 2.5 day workshop to learn about wetland conservation in this hands on fieldwork and in class presentations. For more info or to register please visit <https://WKNanaimo2018.eventbrite.ca>

Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) facilitates a "**Trash to Treasure**" program with local grade six students during the month of April each year. The students do a clean-up of a local beaches/parks, quantify and classify the trash and finally create art from their trash collection. This program helps raise awareness of littering and the impact of pollution on the local environment, empowers students by promoting environmental stewardship, allows students to use their creativity to reflect on their experience, and gives students a forum to educate the public on what they've learned.



Interested in Watershed Monitoring? Visit www.rdn.bc.ca/cwmn

RDN Rebates Now Open! From Rainwater Harvesting to Soil Improvements, there are incentive programs you could be eligible for, www.rdnrebates.ca

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS IN YOUR PARKS

The City of Nanaimo works with over 17 community groups to help manage and restore many of our natural spaces in our parks. By supporting these groups with tools, safety orientations, and on site supervision; we continue to build a stronger sense of community stewardship in our natural spaces.

LINLEY POINT GYRO PARK

Lower Wetland - Invasive Plant Management focusing on Broom removal around the edge of the Wetlands. Environmental Management Plan being developed for this park.

BOWEN PARK

Millstone riparian restoration underway involving infill plantings of willow and red osier dog-wood to shade out canary reed grass sites along the river.

PIPER'S LAGOON PARK

Parking Lot / Trail edge – Invasive Plant Management focusing on Himalayan Blackberry & Daphne Laurel removal. Monitoring of sword fern planting, part of the Native Plant Salvage Program.

THIRD STREET PARK

Reintroducing Vancouver Island Beggarticks to two restoration sites within the Park. As part of this work, several techniques to control canary reed grass is being explored.

HAWTHORNE PARK

Continue to manage a site recently impacted by a brush fire. Continue to plant Alder and other native vegetation to out compete and shade out broom over time.

NECK POINT PARK

Keels Cove Trail – Ongoing restoration to remove Himalayan Blackberry and plant Alder at this site in order to re-establish forest cover.

Boat House Site - Garry oak Restoration through invasive species management and Garry oak ecosystem infill plantings to help restore an existing Garry oak meadow site that had been degraded.



Keel Cove Trail - before



Keel Cove Trail - after

"A huge thank you to all our volunteers involved in work parties in our parks. We appreciate all your hard work and time. Thank you"