

DATE OF MEETING | OCTOBER 28, 2019 |

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SUBJECT | **EAST WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT AND ACTION PLAN
UPDATE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with an update on the East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan and to obtain direction regarding next steps. |

Recommendation

That Council direct Staff to:

1. hold an open house at the park and post the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan to the City of Nanaimo's website to gather public input;
2. submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Reserve for park development; and,
3. report back to Council with the final draft plan.

BACKGROUND

Plan Instigation

Planning for East Wellington Park began in the summer of 2018 when the former Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee recommended that Staff undertake a park planning process for East Wellington Park, including assessment of the site's suitability for remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) flying.

Since that time, Staff have developed a draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan ("the Draft Plan"), which is included as Attachment A. The planning process included public consultation and environmental analyses of the site, as detailed in Section 2 of the Draft Plan.

In May 2019, it was determined that East Wellington Park is not a suitable location for RPAS flying. A one-year pilot project has been launched to allow qualified groups and individuals to fly RPAS under certain conditions at Serauxmen Sports Field and Elaine Hamilton Park.

The Site

Location	2191 East Wellington Road
Size	12.7 hectares (29.7 acres)
Zoning	PRC-1 (Nature Park)
Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	In the Agricultural Land Reserve
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)	Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Field; Millstone River Riparian

East Wellington Park is located between the Millstone River to the southwest and a rocky escarpment to the southeast. The park is primarily a seasonally flooded field with riparian area along the river. It is also bordered by an escarpment to the north.

While the property has long been used for outdoor recreation purposes, it formally became a park in 2014 when the City of Nanaimo entered into a land exchange agreement to expand the Millstone Greenway (a planned network of green space and trails along the Millstone River that includes Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area, and Bowen, Barsby, and Maffeo Sutton Parks).

DISCUSSION

Plan Content

The Draft Plan (Attachment A) has been developed based on community and stakeholder input to date, and the results of environmental studies of the site. The plan identifies six overarching park goals, including objectives for each and an implementation schedule to achieve the plan goals over approximately four years. A concept site plan to guide park development has also been drafted (see page 20 of the Draft Plan).

Park goal summary:

Goal 1: Environmental Conservation and Restoration

Environmental studies of the site (Appendix B of the Draft Plan) reveal that East Wellington Park has substantial environmental value, and there are opportunities to improve environmental functions within the park. The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Enhance the Millstone River and its riparian area by increasing the riparian buffer and improving river flows as appropriate
- Create new habitat areas, including a potential new backchannel to support fish rearing and provide other environmental functions

Goal 2: Agricultural Production

The park is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), which presents a special opportunity to support local agricultural production on City parkland. It also means the property is subject to the regulations of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). A successful non-farm use application to the ALC will be required to authorize some of the proposed park improvements.

Nanaimo Food Share and Vancouver Island University's (VIU) Faculty of Trades and Applied Technology have both expressed an interest in partnering to use the park for agriculture, horticulture, experiential learning, and/or research.

The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Support ecologically sensitive agriculture and horticulture in the park
- Enter into user agreements with other agencies and community groups

Goal 3: Support Astronomy Activities

The park is a popular astronomy destination due to its open views to the south and minimal light pollution. The Nanaimo Astronomy Society (NAS) has indicated their interest in partnering with the City to facilitate astronomical activities at East Wellington Park (see Attachment C).

The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Collaborate with NAS on the development of a night sky viewing area
- Pursue an "Urban Star Park" designation for East Wellington Park through the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada in collaboration with NAS

Goal 4: Support Education and Research

Given the nearby location of the VIU Horticulture Program's G.R. Paine Centre, interest from Nanaimo Food Share and NAS's interests in the site, there are opportunities for this park to support a variety of formal and informal education and research opportunities.

The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Enter into user/partnership agreements with community groups focused on agriculture/horticulture education and research
- Install interpretive signage related to park uses
- Support small group educational events

Goal 5: Accommodate Dog Walking

The site has long been used as a site for dog walking, including off-leash dog walking, despite the park currently being designated for on-leash only. Community consultation revealed an almost perfect split between those in favour of off-leash dogs at this location and those opposed. Both the environmental report and the ALC note concerns with any dog off-leash use not secured by appropriate fencing, due to potential conflicts with sensitive wildlife and adjacent agricultural livestock.

The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Support dog walking that does not interfere with agriculture or the environment (by only allowing dogs off leash within a fully fenced area)
- Mitigate potential conflicts between dogs, other park users, and the environment (through education and enforcement)

Goal 6: Improve Park Access and Amenities

To date, the City has made no formal improvements to East Wellington Park. Park access is limited by seasonal flooding and the informal nature of park trails.

The Draft Plan includes objectives to:

- Facilitate year-round park access (by developing raised trails)
- Improve accessibility and provide amenities (by using appropriate trail surfacing in target areas, improving access from the parking area, and installing rest/nature viewing areas)

Next Steps

Staff recommend the following next steps:

- Submit a Non-Farm Use Application to the ALC
- Gather public input on the Draft Plan by hosting an open house at the park and posting the Draft Plan to the City of Nanaimo's website
- Report back to Council with the final draft plan

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to:

1. hold an open house at the park and post the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan to the City of Nanaimo's website to gather public input;
2. submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Reserve for park development; and,
3. report back to Council with the final draft plan.

- The advantages of this option: Gathering input on the Draft Plan would clarify the degree to which the plan addresses stakeholder and community interests. Securing ALC approval will ensure the park plan is consistent with applicable regulations, and that it supports the agricultural capability of the land. The plan supports Council's strategic directions related to environmental responsibility, stakeholder relationship enhancement, and livability. It is also consistent with other overarching policy documents and community needs.
- The disadvantages of this option: Additional engagement and application to the ALC would delay endorsement of the plan. Once endorsed, implementation of the Draft Plan would require moderate park maintenance resources, adding to operations demands.
- Financial Implications: This option would involve the cost of hosting an open house event and application fees for the non-farm use application. Once endorsed, plan implementation would involve both capital costs over approximately four years and ongoing maintenance costs.

2. That Council endorse the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan.

- The advantages of this option: Forgoing additional community and stakeholder input would save the cost of hosting an open house and would bring the plan into effect immediately. The plan supports Council's strategic directions related to environmental responsibility, stakeholder relationship enhancement and livability. It is also consistent with other overarching policy documents.

- The disadvantages of this option: The community and stakeholders would not have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan. Implementation of the Draft Plan would require moderate park maintenance resources, adding to operations demands.
- Financial Implications: Once endorsed, implementation of the plan would involve both capital costs over approximately four years, and ongoing costs.

3. That Council reject the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan.

- The advantages of this option: No additional financial resources would be required.
- The disadvantages of this option: East Wellington Park would remain unmanaged, community input would not be addressed, and guidance for future partnership opportunities would be lacking.

SUMMARY POINTS

- A draft management and action plan for East Wellington Park has been drafted, based on community and stakeholder input and the results of environmental studies of the site.
- The Draft Plan includes six overarching goals for the site: Environmental Conservation and Restoration; Agricultural Production; Support Astronomy Activities; Support Education and Research; Accommodate Dog Walking; and Improve Park Access and Amenities.
- Staff recommend collection of community and stakeholder input on the Draft Plan and completion of a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Commission prior to Council endorsing the plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan
Attachment B: Letter of Support from the Nanaimo Astronomy Society
Attachment C: Letter of Support from Vancouver Island University Horticulture
Attachment D: Email Letter of Support from Nanaimo Food Share

Submitted by:

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DRAFT MANAGEMENT AND ACTION PLAN FOR EAST WELLINGTON PARK



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Image source:

Cover (6) | Food basket - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Food_basket.jpg | Field - Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd. | Sparrow - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savannah_sparrow#/media/File:Passerculus_sandwichensis_crop | Field large - CON | Astrology - Chris Boar, Nanaimo Astronomy Society | Frog - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adult_northern_red_legged_frog_on_bright_green_leaf_rana_aurora.jpg | Dog - www.pexels.com/photo/brown-and-black-beagle-walking-on-green-grass-2613329/ | p4 | CON Air photo | p5 | CON Field View, May 2018 | p7 | CON (2) Open House, June 2018 | p11 | Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd. | commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adult_northern_red_legged_frog_on_bright_green_leaf_rana_aurora.jpg | Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd. | p13 | MANLY MEDIA/ FIVE ACRES IMAGE A video still from the documentary film Five Acres <https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/city-buys-five-acre-farms-in-harewood-for-1-38-million/> | p14 (2) | Chris Boar, Nanaimo Astronomy Society | p16 | <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/154569> | p25 (3) | www.richmond.ca/parks/parks/about/amenities/park.aspx?ID=80 | www.vancouvertrails.com/trails/colony-farm-regional-park/ | www.richmond.ca/parks/about/design-construction/gardencitylands.htm



Size: 12.7 hectares (29.7 acres)

Zoning: PRC-1 (Nature Park)/ in the Agricultural Land Reserve

Official Community Plan Designation: Resource Protection

Address: 2191 East Wellington Road

Legal Description: Lot 1, Section 14 and 15, Range 7,
Mountain District, Plan 14201, Except Part in Plan 45345

1. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The East Wellington Park property was acquired by the City of Nanaimo in 2014 under a land exchange agreement to facilitate expansion of the Millstone Greenway, a continuous city-owned nature corridor leading from Maffeo Sutton Park to East Wellington Road.

While the East Wellington Park property has long been enjoyed as a place for nature appreciation, night sky viewing, dog walking, and other outdoor recreation, all park use to date has been informal. This is the first management and development plan for East Wellington Park, initiated in the summer of 2018 after the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee passed a motion directing staff to begin a planning process for the park.

Unique environmental features, Agricultural Land Reserve designation, and the desires of a diverse group of park users are significant considerations for East Wellington Park's development. This plan was developed through a planning process involving environmental studies and substantial community and stakeholder consultation.

SITE

East Wellington Park is 12.7 hectares (29.7 acres) in size, and located at 2191 East Wellington Road. The property is characterized as an agricultural field and has been used to grow hay for a number of years. The park has an irregular shape averaging approximately 250m wide by 580m in length, oriented northwest to southeast. The Millstone River forms the southwest border of the property and a rocky escarpment runs along the southeast property boundary.

The park is surrounded by rural residential properties to the east and west, and land in the Agricultural Land Reserve to the south. Land to the northwest across East Wellington Road falls within the Regional District of Nanaimo.

During the rainy season, the park floods, which limits park access but provides important ecological function. As identified by the City of Nanaimo's Habitat Atlas, the property lies within the floodplain of the Millstone River. The property is also identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) – Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Field. While the majority of the parcel is a grass field, the park contains stands of deciduous and coniferous trees with a dense shrub understory along the park borders.

There are existing sanitary sewer lines running parallel with the north east property line which are scheduled to be upgraded in 2023 as part of the Millstone Sewer Trunk upgrade project. In addition, rights of way exist to allow for a trail between Westwood Road and East Wellington Road through this sewer upgrade project.



View of East Wellington Park

While there are no known archaeological sites on the property, the property is identified as having high archaeological potential, as it has similar characteristics to areas in which archaeological artifacts have previously been recorded.

PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of the East Wellington Park Master Plan is to establish goals, objectives, and an implementation framework for park development and management, based on environmental studies, community input, and stakeholder interests.

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2. PLANNING PROCESS & CONSULTATION

THE PROCESS

The East Wellington Park management plan was informed by environmental assessments of the park, and input from park users. Following is a summary of the park planning process that has been followed:

Stage 1 (Complete)

Review Existing Conditions (May 2018)

- Developed base maps and surveys of the site
- Reviewed Biophysical Assessment from 2011
- Posted information signs at the park about the planning process

Stage 2 (Complete)

Assess Priorities for Park Use and Improvements (June – July 2018)

- Met with park users and stakeholder groups to discuss park issues and park development ideas
- Hired a qualified environmental professional to review the 2011 biophysical inventory and identify potential impacts to the site by various park users (see Appendix B).
- Held public input session #1 on site - June 22nd 2018
- Administered public survey regarding park uses and desired visions and strategies (open online June-July, 2018)
- Ongoing communication to the public about the planning process.

Stage 3 (We Are Here) ✖

Analysist Plan Preparation (2018 - 2019)

- Assessed survey results, stakeholder input, and expert reports
- Drafted park goals, objectives, and improvement actions based on input, site opportunities, and site constraints
- Present draft plan to Council for review and approval to proceed with next steps

Stage 4 (Next Steps)

Plan Review and Adoption (Winter 2019/20)

- Present draft park plan to the public and stakeholders for review and input
- Make a Non-Farm Use application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)
- Council consideration of adoption



The open house held on June 22, 2018 had over 200 attendees.

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INPUT

During the East Wellington Park Planning Process, community members and stakeholders provided substantial input regarding their vision for the future of East Wellington Park. This input is reflected in the Goals and Objectives in Section 3 below, and detailed survey results are attached as Appendix C.

Input was gathered from the community, park users, and stakeholder groups through:

- An on-site public engagement event – June 2018
- A public survey – June/ July 2018
- A second public engagement event (next step)
- Consultation with stakeholders and potential community partners
– Through out process

Groups involved in the development of this plan include:

- Park Neighbours
- Nanaimo Astronomy Society
- Vancouver Island University
- Dog Walkers
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Nanaimo Model Airs Club
- Nanaimo Food Share
- Current Park Users
- Nanaimo Fly Fishers Association
- Agricultural Land Commission



A WORD ON REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFTS

The East Wellington Park master planning process was initiated in the summer of 2018 after the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee passed a motion to:

- (a) Direct Staff to work with the Nanaimo Model Airs Club to explore suitable locations for use of Model Aircraft; and,*
- (b) Undertake a park planning process for East Wellington Park to determine appropriate land use strategies for the site including the exploration of a pilot site for Model Airs.*

Public feedback and the results of the environmental impact assessment showed that remotely piloted aircraft flying is not suitable at East Wellington Park, and in conjunction with further consultation with the Nanaimo Model Airs Club, alternative locations were determined to be more appropriate. In July 2019, the City launched a pilot project to allow permitted individuals and groups to fly remotely piloted aircrafts at designated sites at designated times, with the first two pilot sites being Serauxmen Sports Field (850 Third Street) and Elaine Hamilton Park (1631 Naylor Crescent).

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3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Based on input from the public and stakeholders, and the findings from environmental studies of the site, the key goals of this park management plan are:

- Environmental Conservation and Restoration
- Agricultural Production
- Support Education and Research
- Accommodate Dog Walking
- Support Astronomy Activities
- Improve Park Access and Amenities

An implementation schedule to guide achievement of these goals and objectives is included in Section 4 of this plan.

GOAL 1: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

East Wellington Park's environmental features are strongly valued by park users. With the Millstone River forming the west property line, seasonal wetland tendencies, nesting habitat in the cliffs to the east of the property, and hunting opportunities for raptor species in the field, East Wellington Park has substantial environmental value. The park supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, including some species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act.

The Millstone River provides an important regional habitat corridor for both fish and wildlife. While a healthy riparian area should ideally include a 30m undisturbed buffer, the Millstone River's existing riparian area fluctuates from 5 to 15m in width. This presents opportunities for habitat restoration projects within East Wellington Park. There are also opportunities to create new habitat areas, including a back channel and detention pond system for fish spawning and rearing.

As part of the background research for this plan, environmental assessments of the park's biophysical characteristics, and possible environmental impacts from various park user groups were carried out. The 2018 Biophysical Assessment and User Group Land Review report prepared by Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd. is attached as Appendix B.



Woody debris supports fish habitat in the Millstone River



Northern Red Legged Frog, a Species At Risk found at East Wellington Park



Southern edge of mature mixed riparian forest along the Millstone River

Environmental Conservation and Restoration Objectives

a. Enhance the Millstone River and its Riparian Area

- i. Increase the Millstone River Riparian buffer to 30m, and delineate with fencing
- ii. Remove and manage invasive plants within the 30m riparian buffer and other locations identified for control by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP)
- iii. Restore the riparian buffer with appropriate plantings
- iv. Explore opportunities to partner with volunteers, community groups, and Vancouver Island University to complete invasive species removal and restoration works
- v. Consult with a QEP to determine any in stream works that may improve the health and habitat value of the Millstone River.
- vi. Restoration works to be guided by the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B) and QEP, where applicable.

b. Create new habitat areas for fish, amphibians, birds, and other wildlife

- i. Explore opportunities to develop fish spawning and rearing habitat in the Park and within the adjacent Millstone River bed
- ii. If feasible, design and construct a new back channel and detention pond system in accordance with the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B) and in consult with a QEP.
- iii. Obtain an archaeology assessment prior to any excavation works
- iv. In areas not being used for agricultural production, promote/ plant native trees and shrubs with the goal of outcompeting the farm grass and naturalizing some areas
- v. Explore opportunities to partner with volunteers, community groups, and Vancouver Island University to complete the habitat enhancement works

GOAL 2: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

East Wellington Park is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use designation intended to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming in British Columbia. Farm uses are prioritized in the Agricultural Land Reserve, but certain “non-farm uses” are also permitted, including “biodiversity conservation, passive recreation, heritage, wildlife and scenery viewing”. Other non-farm uses require applications to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), as do certain activities involving soil disturbance. A successful Non-Farm Use application to the ALC will be required before this plan is endorsed by Council. While being in the ALR limits certain potential park uses, it also presents a special opportunity to support local agricultural production.

Vancouver Island University’s G.R. Paine Centre (the Horticulture Program’s campus) is located within walking distance of East Wellington Park, which presents partnership opportunities for agricultural production. Nanaimo Food Share, a non-profit organization focused on local food security, is now farming an adjacent property, which presents potential opportunities for future expansion into East Wellington Park.

Agricultural Production Objectives

a. Facilitate ecologically sensitive agriculture and horticulture opportunities within the park

- i. Focus on agriculture and horticulture practices that respect the ecological values of the park.
- ii. Research into feasible agriculture and horticulture uses for the site is supported.

b. Collaborate with other agencies and community groups

- i. Use and research agreements with Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Food Share, and/or other community groups focused on agriculture and horticulture, is encouraged.
- ii. Maintain ongoing communication with the Agricultural Land Commission regarding park uses in relation to their mandate to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.



View of 933 Park Ave and the farming activities that Food Share currently carries out there.



Milky Way Rising over East Wellington Park. Photos by Chris Boar of the Nanaimo Astronomy Society

GOAL 3: SUPPORT ASTRONOMY ACTIVITIES

East Wellington Park is a popular astronomy location due to its open views to the south and minimal light pollution in the area. There are opportunities to collaborate with community groups to make park improvements to support astronomy activities.

Astronomy Objectives

a. Encourage use of the park for astronomy

- i. Collaborate with the Nanaimo Astronomy Society on development of the park for astronomy purposes
- ii. Development of a small viewing area is supported, in the location generally shown on the conceptual park site plan, with potential features including:
 - a. a decorative structure to block light intrusion from street lights
 - b. a concrete pad to support telescopes
 - c. seating
 - d. interpretive signage
 - e. artistic and landscape features
- iii. Astronomy education and research is supported in accordance with Goal 3 of this plan ("Support Education and Research")
- iv. Astronomy uses must respect ALC regulations

b. Preserve dark skies in the area

- i. Collaborate with the Nanaimo Astronomy Society to apply for an "Urban Star Park" designation for East Wellington Park through the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- v. Maintain ongoing communication with BC Hydro, the City of Nanaimo's Engineering Section, and the Regional District of Nanaimo regarding street lights and dark sky goals

GOAL 4: SUPPORT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

There are a number of opportunities for East Wellington Park to support both formal and informal educational opportunities, and academic research projects. With some of the most exposed southern views of the night sky in the region, there are opportunities to support educational activities related to astronomy. Located within walking distance of the Vancouver Island University (VIU) Horticulture Program's G.R. Paine Centre, the park is particularly well suited to offer research opportunities and practical experience to students in the VIU trades programs. There are also opportunities to share interpretive information throughout the site, as educational tools for all park users.

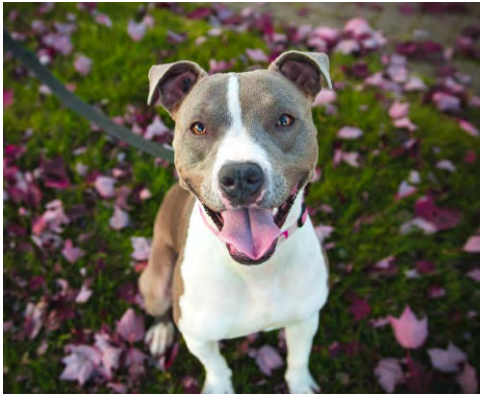
Education and Research Objectives

a. Celebrate agriculture, horticulture, astronomy, and the environment through appropriately scaled educational activities

- i. Use agreements with VIU, Nanaimo Food Share, and other community groups focused on agriculture/ horticulture education are supported
- ii. Interpretive signage related to environmental enhancement, astronomy, agriculture, horticulture, and other park uses at key locations throughout the park is supported
- iii. Small group educational activities are supported
- iv. Special events open to the general public are not supported except where approved by the City of Nanaimo and Agricultural Land Commission, if applicable.

b. Facilitate research opportunities related to park uses

- i. Innovative research into combining / integrating agricultural practice with environmental restoration techniques
- ii. Environmentally sensitive research activities are supported in East Wellington Park
- iii. Research activities must respect ALC regulations



The East Wellington Park property has long been enjoyed as a place for dog walking.

GOAL 5: ACCOMMODATE DOG WALKING

More than 40% of survey respondents indicated they use East Wellington Park for dog walking. While the park is currently designated for on-leash dog walking only, it is commonly used for unauthorized off-leash dog walking. Public input yielded an almost perfect split between those in favour of off-leash dog walking at East Wellington Park and those opposed to it.

Two other factors play into the potential for off-leash dog walking at East Wellington Park: environmental considerations and the Agricultural Land Reserve. The environmental report for East Wellington Park emphasizes the need to protect sensitive environmental features from off-leash dogs, while the Agricultural Land Commission has concerns over off-leash dog parks in the ALR, given the potential for roaming dogs to interfere with nearby farming activities.

Dog Walking Objectives

- a. Support dog walking which does not interfere with the environmental integrity or agricultural potential of the park and surrounding properties**
 - i. On-leash dog walking is supported on all trails within the park
 - ii. Off-leash dog use is supported within signed, fully fenced/ gated areas; outside of environmentally sensitive areas and areas with high agricultural potential; and as flood conditions grow
 - iii. A fully fenced shared space to accommodate off-leash dog walking may be considered, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B)
 - iv. Off-leash dog walking must be approved by the Agricultural Land Commission before the park is designated for off-leash use by the City of Nanaimo
- b. Mitigate potential conflicts between dogs, other park users, and the environment**
 - i. Clear signage should be used to indicate on- and off-leash dog areas, dog owner responsibilities, and how to prevent conflicts between dogs and wildlife
 - ii. Off-leash dogs must be under control at all times and are subject to the animal control regulations of the City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw and Licensing and Control of Animals Bylaw
 - iii. Increase education and enforcement as needed to manage dog off-leash use
 - iv. Provide pet waste disposal bags and garbage cans at key locations throughout the park

GOAL 6: IMPROVE PARK ACCESS AND AMENITIES

Since East Wellington Park was acquired in 2014, it has not had a management plan and minimal park improvements have been made. Currently, park access is limited by seasonal flooding conditions and by the informal nature of trails and park entry points. There are opportunities to improve access for park users with mobility limitations, to facilitate year-round park access, and to introduce new park amenities.

Park Access and Amenity Objectives

a. Facilitate year-round park access

- i. Develop a raised multi-use trail over the existing sanitary sewer line as part of the Millstone Sewer Trunk upgrade project in 2023
- ii. Complete trail/ sewer line excavation outside of early autumn and spring, and take measures to reduce impacts on amphibians in accordance with the 2018 Aquaparian Report (Appendix B)
- iii. Develop a loop trail/boardwalk on the edge of the grass field outside the riparian buffer
- iv. Install swallow boxes to help control mosquito populations during the summer
- v. Soil removal, fill placement and trail development, must be approved by the Agricultural Land Commission.
- vi. Obtain an archaeology assessment prior to any excavation works.

b. Improve accessibility

- i. Create a wheelchair accessible access point from the parking lot to the trail
- ii. Consider wheelchair accessibility when selecting trail materials
- iii. Install benches at regular intervals along the trail
- iv. Consider improvements and minor expansion to the parking area
- v. Install wayfinding signage

c. Facilitate nature appreciation

- i. Install interpretive signage
- ii. Create river and field viewing areas, in accordance with the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B)
- iii. Park amenities and signage must be approved by the ALC

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4. IMPLEMENTATION

MANAGEMENT ZONES

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IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following table includes a timeframe to guide implementation actions to support the goals of this plan. The implementation actions are broken down into short-term, medium-term, long-term, and ongoing actions.

While this implementation schedule includes specific timeframes and action items, it is intended to act as a flexible guide for achievement of the plan objectives rather than a rigid timetable/ task list to be strictly adhered to.

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Short Term Actions						
1	Contract a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to identify areas for invasive plant control, and to supervise invasive plant removal	Goal 1(a)(ii, vi)	ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment	QEP fees	–
2	Within the Millstone River's 30m riparian area: remove invasive plants; Restore the area with appropriate plantings; construct a fence along the outer edge of the riparian area	Goal 1 (a)(i-iii)	ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment; Volunteers/ Community Partners; DFO; MOE	Equipment, riparian plantings, and fencing material purchase; fence installation	Minor
3	Assemble volunteers to carry out riparian area restoration works	Goal 1 (a)(iv)	2020 - ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment	Liability insurance	–
4	Develop and install interpretive signage regarding restoration works	Goal 4 (a)(ii)	2019 - ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment	Sign materials; graphic design services	Minor
5	Form partnership/ use/ research agreement(s) with Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Food Share, and/ or other community groups involved in local agricultural production	Goal 1 (a)(iv), (b)(v) Goal 2 (b)(i) Goal 4 (a)(i); (b)(i-iii)	2019 - ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; Vancouver Island University	legal fees	–
6	Provide pet waste disposal bags and garbage cans at key locations	Goal 5 (b)(iv)	2019 - 2020	CoN Parks and Recreation	Garbage can installation; bags;	Significant
7	Install swallow boxes	Goal 6 (a)(iv)	2019 - 2020	Volunteers	Bird boxes	-

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Medium Term Actions						
8	Contract a QEP to provide recommendations on stream enhancements	Goal 1 (a)(v-vi)	2020 - 2021	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment	QEP fees;	–
9	Contract a QEP to conduct a feasibility study on the potential for the site to support new habitat areas via a side channel/ detention pond; If feasible, construct a side channel and detention pond in accordance with the recommendations of the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B) + QEP recommendations	Goal 1 (b)(ii)	2021-2022	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment	QEP fees; excavation contract; restoration plantings	–
10	Contract an archaeological assessment of the area to be excavated for side channel/ pond construction	Goal 1 (b)(iii)	2020-2021 (prior to any excavation works/ final design)		Archaeology assessment fees	–
11	Research feasible agricultural and horticultural uses for the site	Goal 2 (a)(ii)	2020-2021	Vancouver Island University	As identified by VIU	–
12	Create a fully fenced area for dog off-leash use	Goal 5 (a)(ii-iii)	2021-2022	CoN Parks and Recreation	Fencing materials	Moderate
13	Install signage regarding: on- and off-leash dog areas, dog owner responsibilities, and how to manage conflicts between dogs and wildlife	Goal 5 (a)(ii) and (b) (i, iii)	Following creation of fenced off-leash dog area (item 12)	CoN Parks and Recreation	Sign materials; graphic design services	Minor
14	Contract an engineer to assess options for improving and expanding the parking area	Goal 6 (b)(i) and (iv)	2021-2022	CoN Parks and Recreation	Engineering fees	Minor

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Long Term Actions						
15	Develop the site for agricultural production	Goal 2	2020- ongoing	Vancouver Island University; Nanaimo Food Share; other community groups; CoN Parks and Recreation	Site works and servicing, to be determined	Moderate
16	Install interpretive signage related to the agricultural uses	Goal 4 (a)(ii)	Following development of agricultural use	CoN Parks and Recreation; agricultural users	Sign materials; graphic design	Minor
17	Develop astronomy area(s)	Goal 3 (a)(i-ii)	2023	Nanaimo Astronomy Society; CoN Parks and Recreation	Paving materials; arbour construction and materials	Moderate
18	Install astronomy-related interpretive signage	Goal 3 (a)(iii); Goal 4 (a)(ii)	Following development of viewing area (item 17)	Nanaimo Astronomy Society; CoN Parks and Recreation	Sign materials; graphic design services	Minor
19	File notice of intent to place fill and remove soil with Agricultural Land Commission; make application	Goal 6 (a)(v)	Min. 60 days prior to trail / sewer line construction (item 21)	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Infrastructure Section	Application fee	–
20	Contract an archaeological assessment of the area to be excavated for sewer expansion/ trail development	Goal 6 (a)(vi)	Prior to trail/ sewer development	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Infrastructure Section	Archaeology assessment fees	–
21	Develop a raised multi-use trail over the existing sanitary sewer line; consider wheelchair accessibility; create river and field viewing areas; develop in accordance with the 2018 Aquaparian Environmental Report (Appendix B)	Goal 6 (a)(i-iii), (b) (ii), and (c)(ii)	2023 (in tandem with Millstone Sewer Trunk upgrade)	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment; CoN Infrastructure Section	Trail surfacing materials; contractors; (Cost sharing to be negotiated with CoN Infrastructure Section)	Moderate
22	Create wheelchair accessible access from parking lot to trail	Goal 6 (b)(i)	2023	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering	Engineer contracting	Moderate
23	Install benches at regular intervals along the trail	Goal 6 (b)(iii)	Following completion of the trail (item 21)	CoN Parks and Recreation	Benches	Moderate
24	Install wayfinding signage	Goal 6 (b)(v)	Following completion of the trail (item 21)	CoN Parks and Recreation	Sign materials; graphic design services	Minor

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Ongoing Actions						
25	Maintain communication with the Agricultural Land Commission regarding park uses	Goal 2 (b)(ii)	Ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation	Possible application fees	–
26	Reaffirm use & research agreements	Goal 2 (b)(i)	Annually	CoN Parks and Recreation; VIU; Nanaimo Food Share; other partners	Possible legal fees	–
27	Provide documentation and information as needed to Support Nanaimo Astronomy Society's efforts to have the park designated as an "Urban Star Park" through the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada	Goal 3 (b)(v)	Ongoing	Nanaimo Astronomy Society; CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Engineering and Environment; BC Hydro; Regional District of Nanaimo	Unknown	–
28	Education and enforcement as needed to manage off-leash dog use	Goal 5 (b)(iii)	Ongoing	CoN Parks and Recreation; CoN Bylaw Enforcement; Nanaimo Animal Control Services	Possible educator contracts	–

5. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PARKS IN AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE: PRECEDENT RESEARCH

There are precedents in other municipalities to have park land and park uses within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

Terra Nova Rural Park

Terra Nova Rural Park in Richmond is a 63 acre, city-wide nature park with historic buildings, a community garden and a picnic area. This park provides excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife. Boardwalks, slough and viewing platforms are available for enhanced park visibility and access. Various agricultural activities take place at the park, including a Waterwise demonstration garden, and a community garden, and is used by a number of community groups. Terra Nova Rural Park does not allow dogs in the park.



Terra Nova Rural Park

Colony Farm Regional Park

Colony Farm Regional Park is located along the Coquitlam River in the Tri-Cities area of Metro Vancouver. It is 260 hectares in size, and was once one of the most modern and productive working farms in Canada. Today, it provides important habitat for many animal species, including over 200 bird species. The park consists of open fields, hedgerows, and wetlands, and features many trails for both walkers and cyclists that showcase great views of river, fields and mountains. Picnic tables, washrooms, community gardens, and dog on-leash facilities are all available at the site.



Colony Farm Regional Park

Garden City Lands

The City of Richmond's Garden City Lands are comprised of 55 hectares of open space located in the ALR, including an environmentally sensitive bog adjacent to a significant nature corridor. The park is currently under development, with the plan for these lands including a strong environmental protection focus, along with an agricultural production component in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Sustainable Agriculture Farm Program. The site contains a 2.9km perimeter path that allows dogs on leash.



Garden City Lands

DRAFT



AQUAPARIAN
Environmental Consulting Ltd.



BIOPHYSICAL ASSESSMENT & USER GROUP LAND REVIEW FOR 2191 EAST WELLINGTON ROAD, NANAIMO



203 – 321 Wallace Street Road Nanaimo,
Cell SARAH BONAR 250-714-8446 CHR

**CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
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SEPTEMBER 2018**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd (Aquaparian) was retained by the City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to complete a Biophysical Assessment and a user group land review for CON property located at 2191 East Wellington Road, Nanaimo, BC. The subject parcel was obtained by City of Nanaimo under its Parks division in 2010. The subject parcel is known locally as Millstone Flats, is legally identified as follows:

1. Lot 1, Section 14 and 15, Range 7, Mountain District, Plan 14201, Except Part in Plan 45345.

This study was requested by City of Nanaimo staff to provide additional natural resource information for the property as an addendum to the initial April 2011 report completed by Chatwin Engineering (Chatwin) and explore park management issues arising from interests expressed by various potential and existing user groups.

The 2011 Chatwin report involved a background information review and early spring site visit, along with an additional site walk in mid-April with representatives from the City of Nanaimo and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to explore opportunities with creating a new connecting fish channel and wetland complex to the Millstone River. The 2018 study gathered additional information about breeding season use of the site by birds and other wildlife, along with a summary plant list. A site location aerial image of the property is included as Figure 1, and a selection of photographs taken during the summer 2018 site visit has been included as Appendix A.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Tasks included in the initial 2011 Biophysical Inventory for this site by Chatwin included:

- Review of background information available from the City of Nanaimo, provincial Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC) and federal government database of fish presence for the Millstone River.
- Aerial photograph interpretation to identify variants in vegetation communities and the presence of environmentally sensitive features including creeks, wetlands, steep slopes, and rock outcrops. Variants in plant communities were pre-typed prior to field investigation.



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- Field surveys of the site to confirm and document the site's ecological composition and the presence of aquatic and wildlife habitat values (including birds and their nests, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles), rare plants and animals as well as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's) identified during pre-typing of aerial photographs.
- The production of a baseline biophysical map, including the location of ESA's, vegetation communities and water features.
- Completion of an environmental assessment report that identifies and summarizes the presence of vegetation communities, wildlife, and fisheries resources, and potential opportunities for habitat enhancement on the site. Recommendations to minimize impacts on site ESA's and the surrounding environment was included.

Additional tasks of the current (2018) study by Aquaparian included:

1. Field investigation of breeding bird use in and near the site, including early morning surveys and opportunistic observations.
2. Compilation of a plant species list for the site and enhanced description /refinement of plant communities occurring on the site.
3. Identification of park management issues associated with user groups identified during a June 20, 2018 meeting hosted by the City of Nanaimo.
4. Providing recommendations for mitigating the impacts associated with activities proposed by the identified user groups.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property is approximately 12 ha (29.7 acres) in size and has been used as an agricultural field to grow hay for a number of years. It is understood that the City of Nanaimo still has an agreement in place to continue haying operations through a private operator. The property has an irregular shape averaging approximately 250m wide by 580 m in length, oriented northwest to southeast. The property is confined between the Millstone River forming the southwest border of the property and a rocky escarpment along the southeast boundary.

As identified by the City of Nanaimo's Habitat Atlas, the property lies within the floodplain of the Millstone River. The property is also identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) – Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Field. The majority of the parcel is a grass field bordered by



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stands of deciduous and coniferous trees with a dense shrub understory. The Millstone River provides important regional habitat for both fish and wildlife use and forms the main influencing resource feature within the property and its socio-economic use whether by for it's agricultural value or in attracting a variety of recreational park users.

4.0 PHYSICAL AND HISTORICAL SITE INFORMATION

The following section provide a physical and historical assessment of the property, including information previously provided in the 2011 Chatwin report gathered from provincial sources and seasonal spring observations within the site. Information is as follows:

4.1 Physical Resources

The physical resources of the region are interrelated and are influenced by the surficial geology, topography, climate and drainage of the surrounding environment. These physical attributes are described as follows:

4.1.1 Climate

The property lies within the Moist Maritime Douglas Fir Subzone (CDFmm). The CDFmm is restricted to low elevations along southeast Vancouver Island from Bowser to Victoria, the Gulf Islands south of Cortes Island, and a narrow strip along the Sunshine Coast near Halfmoon Bay. Elevational limits range from sea level to approximately 150m.

The CDFmm lies in the rainshadow of the Vancouver Island Olympic Mountains resulting in warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. Growing seasons are very long and feature pronounced water deficits on zonal and drier sites. The CDF represents the mildest climate in Canada (Green, R.N. and K Klinka, 1994).

4.1.2 Land/Soils

The Soils of Southern Vancouver Island MOE Technical Report 17 identified the soil association within the subject property as the Chemainus Soil Association (CH). Chemainus soils are common throughout the Coastal Douglas Fir Subzone. They occur mainly in the Nanaimo Lowland physiographic subdivisions and on the floors of low elevation valleys in the Vancouver Island ranges. They have developed in deep, silty fluvial deposits and are subject to varying degrees of flooding. Slopes are usually less than 5% with elevational ranges from seal level to approximately 700 m.



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Chemainus soils are moderately well-drained to imperfectly drained. The upper horizons are usually comprised of loam or silt, and subsoils consist of fine sandy loam. Chemainus soils are normally free of coarse fragments, although minor gravelly areas may occur. Surface and sub-surface horizons are usually less than 100 cm thick, dark yellowish brown to olive brown in colour, and medium to strongly acidic. Relatively unweathered parent material is encountered at depths of between 100 and 250 cm. A modar or mull layer between 1 and 15 cm thick is present on the soil surface. The usual taxonomic classification is Ortho Dystric Brunisol (Jungen 1985).

4.1.3 Surface Water

The City of Nanaimo Habitat Atlas identifies the property as located within the floodplain of the Millstone River. The Millstone River forms the southwestern boundary of the property. A drainage ditch is located along the northeastern edge of the field which flows southeast, forming ponded areas in the field during the rainy season. The drainage ditch located along the northeastern edge of the field is likely influenced by groundwater seepage existing near the toe of the escarpment. A ponded area in the centre of the field appears to be wetted during seasonal periods of high precipitation. Ponded water on site is directly related to seasonal water levels in the Millstone River and from underlying groundwater levels.

4.1.4 Ground Water

Groundwater levels within the site are expected to be high throughout the year due to the topography of the area and the proximity of the Millstone River. Seasonal perched groundwater during wet winter months form a series of shallow wetlands within the northern half of the field. At the time of the June & July 2018 site visit, these shallow wetlands were dry but supported an abundance of tall grasses and sedges.



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5.0 FIELD OBSERVATIONS (2011 & 2018)

Finding in the 2011 Chatwin Biophysical Assessment report included a general inventory of the vegetation communities (April 2011) within the property, as well as, a review of rare and endangered plants and animal species known to occur regionally or in similar ecological settings with the BC Conservation Data Centre and identified fish and wildlife presence. Fieldwork by Aquaparian in 2018 involved additional surveys and reconnaissance of bird and plant occurrence emergent within the spring and summer growing season. The following sections present an ecological overview of the site, and a discussion of vegetation, fish, bird, and terrestrial wildlife habitat.

5.1 Ecological Overview

The following section includes a review of vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic resources within the study site. A biophysical map using 2010 orthophoto imagery of the property was generated to show ecological attributes documented during the site visits. A map of the wetted areas within the site has been included as Figure 2 within this report. A map showing the distribution of habitat types and the dominant vegetation within the property has been included as Figure 3. The site plant list compiled in June of 2018 is included as Appendix B in this report.

5.2.1 Flora (Vegetation)

As indicated in the plant list for the site (Appendix C) a total of 57 plant species were identified during the June 2018 field study. Of these six were types of trees, 17 were shrubs species, and 34 were non-woody plant species. None of the plants identified on the site appear on regional lists of rare or endangered plants.

The majority of the property is a grass field used to grow hay for many years. The northeast side of the property between the field and the base of the rock bluffs is vegetated with a mixed canopy of deciduous and coniferous trees and dense shrub cover. A drainage ditch is located within the vegetated buffer and runs parallel to a City sanitary sewer line. Canopy species include mature Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*).



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Tall shrub species dominate the canopy along the wetted drainage and include willows and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*). Low shrub cover in wetted areas are dominated by hardhack (*Spirea douglasii*) while drier soil areas are dominated by snowberry (*Symphocarpus albus*) and Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*). Invasive species found in this area include Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and spurge laurel (*Daphne loreola*). Other species include sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), dull Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*) and oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*). The ditch and adjacent ponded areas are vegetated with Pacific water parsley (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), and common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*).

Mossy bluff areas of the rocky escarpment are dominated by veteran Douglas fir, mature Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) and big leaf maple. Understory species include licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*), white fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*), lanky moss (*Rhytidelphus loreus*), step moss (*Hylocomium splendens*) and Oregon beaked moss (*Kindbergia oregana*). Other flowering plants typically found in Garry oak meadows are likely to be found in this area later in the spring season.

The riparian vegetation buffer for the Millstone River located on the southwest side (Agricultural Field side) of the property varies in width with portions of the setback as wide as 10-15m and as narrow as 5m. Riparian vegetated consists of a mixed stand of coniferous and deciduous trees with a dense shrub understory. Sections of the riparian area toward the southeast are dominated by shrubs with little canopy cover. Canopy species include Douglas fir, red alder, and black hawthorn. Shrub species include hardhack, snowberry, Nootka rose, thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), and Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*). Herb stratum species include palmate coltsfoot (*Petasites palmatus*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*). Invasives include Himalayan blackberry, spurge laurel and common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).



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Short sections of shrub-dominated hedgerow plant communities occur in the central and southern parts of the property. These linear bands of vegetation separating areas of grass field are comprised predominantly of non-native common hawthorn, interspersed with patches of invasive Himalayan blackberry, cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*) and Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*). At time of 2018 survey, the open dry field had not been cultivated and was observed to support a variety grasses including bentgrass, ryegrass, velvet grass, clover, oxeye daisy and tansy. Wet soils were dominated by reed canary grass, buttercup, horsetail and rush. These stand of grass located next to forest edges were observed to supported important foraging habitat for several bird species.

5.2.2 Fauna (Wildlife)

The Millstone River watershed supports a diversity of wildlife including large and small mammals, bats, songbirds, and amphibians. Black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) sign was noted across the site, while large carnivores such as the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and Cougar (*Puma concolor*) are reported in the area from time to time. Smaller mammals observed in the area include the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and Eastern cottontail (*Sylvagus floridanus*). Native mustelids such as American mink (*Mustela vison*) and river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) are also expected to occur on the site, primarily within riparian areas, along with varieties of shrews and mice. Of the latter, Townsend's Voles (*Microtus townsendii*) in particular are associated with moist old field habitats like those present across much of the study area. This field mouse is an important source of prey for a variety of raptors and, in winter, Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*). The white-footed deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), a common and widespread rodent, is expected to occur at the site as well, although detailed surveys for small mammals was not conducted as part of this assessment.

Seasonally inundated wetlands may support breeding by several native amphibians, primary those which breed early and develop rapidly such as the Pacific Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), Long-toed Salamander (*Ambystoma gracilis*), and Rough-skinned Newt (*Taricha granulosa*). Two species of garter snakes are common and widespread on Vancouver Island. The Northwestern garter snake (*Thamnophis ordinoides*) is considered more terrestrial than the Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), and is seldom seen near water (Matsuda *et al.* 2006).

5.2.3 Avian Species



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The interspersed of open field, seasonal wetland, mixed riparian, and hedgerow habitats has resulted in a relatively diverse bird assemblage for this site. As indicated in Table 1, 33 species of birds were recorded during three site visits of the property during the 2018 breeding season. Several others, mostly waterfowl and water birds, are very probable during the autumn and winter were noted during the 2011 study. Raptors recorded at or near the site include the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). No nests of these raptors were detected at the site, although apparently suitable nesting stands occur nearby. A single Great Blue Heron was noted in a snag over the Millstone River, but no evidence of recent or active nesting was observed. Although no surveys specific to owls were conducted, it is anticipated that forest fringes would attract use by several owl species such as the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and Western Screech-owls (*Megascops kennicottii*).

Songbirds are well-represented in the bird assemblage, with several species of sparrows, finches, and warblers frequenting shrub-dominated habitats, along with the Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) and American Bushtit (*Psaltirparus minimus*). Several thrush species, bark-gleaning species, and hummingbirds occur primarily along the fringing forests of the site. Open field habitats provide important foraging habitat for the Blue-listed Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycyneta thalassina*) as well as nesting habitat for the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Large congregations of swallows were observed foraging within the tall grasses as the authors of this report traversed through the fields.

5.2.4 Fish and other Aquatic Life

The Millstone River forms the southwestern property line. A search of the provincial Fisheries Inventory – FISS Fish Distributions Report identified the following species are found in the Millstone River: cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), sculpin, chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), steelhead salmon (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). A copy of the FISS database search results has been included as Appendix C.

5.2.5 Species-at-Risk

The Species-at-Risk Act (SARA) is designed to create species awareness and prevent or reduce the likelihood of wildlife species from becoming extinct or extirpated due to habitat disturbance or destruction. SARA also provides for the recovery and management of



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endangered species as a result of harm by human activity. Provisions of SARA include prohibiting the taking or possession of listed species and the damage or destruction of their resident and critical habitat.

A search of the BC CDC database for species occurrence records for the subject property was completed. No known rare element occurrences were identified within the property. A search of the BC CDC database Red-listed or Blue-listed taxa in the Nanaimo region produces a list of 31 Red-listed species and 54 Blue-listed species of potential occurrence. Red-listed species are deemed extirpated, endangered or threatened, while Blue-listed species are deemed to be of special concern. A copy of the CDC database search results has been included as Appendix D.

The following is a description of the sensitive species that have been documented on the site, or have some probability of occurring there based on observed habitat conditions:

American Water Shrew (*Sorex palustris brooksi*): Red-Listed

A relatively rare shrew dependent on suitable aquatic/riparian habitat, the American Water Shrew is widely but thinly distributed across Vancouver Island. Water shrews are habitat specialists, living at the water's edge. They are dependent on the presence of high quality intact riparian systems. They live in a diverse range of stream habitats, from narrow to wide streams, and from slow-moving to moderately fast-flowing waters. The substrate of the streambed is usually cobble or gravel, and the stream typically has a complex environment with in-stream coarse woody debris and dense riparian vegetation (shrubs and herbs). They are found at low elevations, in a variety of forest types and age classes, as long as the riparian corridor is intact. American water shrew feed on a diet predominately of aquatic insects but will eat small fish, tadpoles, snails and vegetation. Down wood supports main source of cover for this species. The Millstone River may provide suitable habitat for this species (BC Conservation Centre).

Northern Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*): Blue-listed

Range extends from southwestern British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, south along the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States. Red-legged frogs have been recorded in a variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. They breed in shallow, littoral zones of lakes, temporary and permanent pools and wetlands, and bogs and fens. Breeding habitats, regardless of size, occur in close proximity to forests. Tadpoles gather in shallowest parts of the breeding area. Lotic habitats with little or no flow may be utilized



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by red-legged frogs. Riparian areas are important for recently metamorphosed froglets, and for adults during dry spells. Outside of the breeding season, red-legged frogs use all forest and woodland types as “core” habitat, but individuals are occasionally found in more open and rural areas such as shrubland, cropland/hedgerow, old field and suburban orchard areas (*BC Conservation Centre*). A single adult male red-legged frog was observed during the June 2018 fieldwork, along the Millstone River floodplain. Ditches and seasonal wetlands on the site may also provide moist refuges for this species, but are likely too unstable to permit egg masses to fully develop.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*): Blue-listed

Resides along the Pacific coast from southeastern Alaska (Yakutat Bay) south to Washington. Non-breeders range north to Cook Inlet, Alaska and east to the interior central and southern British Columbia. They nest colonially in tall Sitka spruce, western redcedar, western hemlock, pine, red alder, and black cottonwood trees. Isolation from disturbance appears to be an important factor in nest site selection. Foraging habitat includes aquatic areas generally less than 0.5 m deep, such as: marine intertidal areas, estuaries, riparian areas, wetlands, freshwater lakes, and muskegs. These areas are generally within 5 km of the nest site, although some areas have been identified up to 33 km away (*BC Conservation Centre*). The nearest known historical heron colony was located about 2.2 km to the west (GBHE-105-010), dating back to 1999. At the site, a single great blue heron was observed on a low branch overhanging the Millstone River during the June 2018 fieldwork.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Blue-listed

This aerial insectivore breeds from southern Alaska across Canada to southern Newfoundland and south to Mexico. It is a neotropical migrant species that usually returns to the same North American site to breed every year. It forages for insects over open areas, particularly water and, as its name suggests, is known for nesting in buildings, under bridges and on other human structures. The swallows aggregate into large flocks of up to 2000 birds during migration. Populations of this common and widespread bird have declined steadily in the BC over the past 30 or 40 years, and particularly rapidly over the past decade (*BC Conservation Centre*). The causes remain unclear but breeding success may be impacted by roadways between nesting and foraging sites, pesticide use, and possible light pollution. Although no nests of this species were found on the site, apparently suitable structures occur on the opposite side of the Millstone River, to the



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west. A large flock of 35-40 barn swallows were observed feeding on insects over the central and south field areas in late June of 2018.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): Blue-listed

This species breeds in small numbers in every province and territory in Canada. During the non-breeding season, this owl occurs mostly in the southern parts of most Canadian provinces. Local abundance varies with vole abundance. In the winter, short-eared owls congregate at sites that provide good foraging. Breeding habitat includes broad expanses of open land with low vegetation for nesting and foraging such as fresh an saltwater marshes, bogs, dunes, prairies, grassy plains, old fields, tundra, moorlands, river valleys, meadows, savannah, open woodland, and heathland. In general, any area that is large enough, has low vegetation with some dry upland for nesting, and that supports suitable prey may be considered potential breeding habitat for short-eared owls. They nest on the ground, generally in a slight depression, often beside or beneath a bush or clump of grass. Many nests are near water but generally are on dry sites. Open fields and adjacent forest edges within the subject property may provide suitable habitat for this species (*BC Conservation Centre*).

Slimleaf Onion (*Allium amplexans*): Blue-listed

This member of the onion family grows on vernal moist rocky bluffs and meadows in the lowland zone. It is infrequent on Southeast Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the adjacent mainland (Powell River). Mossy bluffs on the northeast side of the property provide suitable habita for this rare vascular plant (*BC Conservation Centre*).

Geyer's Onion (*Allium geyeri* var. *tenerum*): Blue-listed

This member of the onion family grows on moist meadows, banks, and rock outcrops in the lowland, steppe, and montane zones. It is of infrequent occurrence on Vancouver Island and in the Fraser and Thompson River valleys. Mossy bluffs on the northeast side of the property may provide suitable habitat for this rare vascular plant (*BC Conservation Centre*).



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5.3 Land Use

The following section outlines a broad assessment of the land use immediately surrounding the study area.

5.3.1 Present Land Use

The property fronts onto East Wellington Road and rural residential properties abut the subject property on the other three sides. The majority of the property is an agricultural field. Remnants of an old building and a small shed that may have been a pump house are located on the northwest corner near the road.

5.3.2 Municipal Protection Measures

The property lies within the floodplain of the Millstone River and is classified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) – Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Field on the City of Nanaimo's Habitat Atlas.

Land use activities in leave strips are regulated under the Zoning Bylaw (Bylaw 4000) and Plan Nanaimo (Bylaw 6000), and the City's Official Community Plan (OCP). All watercourses and their leave strips within the City's boundaries are designated as Watercourse Development Permit Areas (DPA1) as follows:

- 30 metres from the top of bank on the Nanaimo and Millstone Rivers.
- 15 metres from the top of bank on most other creeks and streams.
- 15 metres from the natural boundary (or high water mark) for lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

The Millstone River and other watercourses (including wetlands and lakes) in Nanaimo Municipal district are also regulated by the provincial government under the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR).

5.3.3 Special Places

A request for information from the Archaeological Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) was completed. No known archaeological sites were identified within the property. However, while there are none mapped on the subject property, some portions of the property have a high potential for



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previously unrecorded archaeological sites. While all archaeological sites, recorded or not, are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, the open field within the property has been altered for many years by agricultural use (including ploughing). A copy of the archaeological database search results has been included as Appendix E.

5.3.4 Identified User Groups and Potential Issues

During a City of Nanaimo's open parks planning session for Millstone Flats (June 2018), a number of community groups were identified as wanting to make use of the park at 2191 East Wellington Road. These user groups include the following:

- 1) Radio-controlled Fliers
 - 2) Dog Owners
 - 3) Vancouver Island University (VIU) Agricultural Group
 - 4) Astronomy Enthusiasts
 - 5) Fly Fishers
 - 6) The City of Nanaimo
1. The desire of the radio-controlled (RC) fliers group, who fly both gas and battery powered RC planes and drones, has interests in establishing a permeant flying area at the north end of the property, complete with a small gravel air strip. However, studies into the impact of flying RC models on birds have shown that, even when noise impacts are reduced through the use of electric motors, birds become and remain alarmed by the presence of airborne RC models (Kempf and Huppopp 1998). This planes maybe associated with avian predators and may result in songbirds reducing/altering feeding behaviour, or indirectly by stressing birds or driving them off their nests, which in turn leads to increased nesting failures. As bird use of the site extends across the breeding and overwintering seasons, and may affect provincially Blue-listed species, the operation of RC planes and drones appears incompatible with protecting the natural values of this site.
 2. A number of local dog owners have approached the City for designation of part of the East Wellington park for off-leash use. The ability to walk their dog off-leash presumably provides a more vigorous and enjoyable outing for their pets than under the existing regulations. Their proposal generates some issues surrounding wildlife disturbance, particularly around the Millstone River riparian area, which acts as a year-round movement corridor for larger wildlife, and for ground-nesting birds (e.g. Savannah Sparrows, Spotted Towhees) and wintering waterfowl (e.g. ducks and geese). These potential impacts could be mitigated by constructing an off-leash trail



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that is aligned along the base of the rock bluffs (NE side of the field), that would then turn southwest along the first hedge row and then circle back north along the riparian edge of the Millstone River. The trail could be 5 to 10m in width and contained by installing page wire fencing at a height of 4ft. The fence would separate dogs from the open field and could be adjusted along a width of 15m as a defined riparian setback from the Millstone River allowing for the natural expansion and reinstatement of riparian vegetation and separating impacts from the cultivation of the field. A narrow trail network through the existing forest sections would also allow for developing 3-4 view corridors along the rivers edge.

3. Vancouver Island University has indicated an interest in using part of the park to establish a modest research farm at the site. Apart from the footprint impact of the proposed facility itself, the main environmental concern would appear to be the potential for the unintended spread of trial plants to remnant natural areas within and immediately adjacent to the park boundaries. The main mitigation measure would be siting the research farm in an area which is already heavily disturbed (the area near the parking lot would be a good candidate) and somewhat distant from intact riparian habitats.
4. A group of astronomy enthusiasts have expressed their desire to the City to set up a viewing area near the existing parking lot. The site is considered attractive for stargazing due to the low residential density in the surrounding area and the low levels of light pollution. To further reduce background lighting, they have indicated their need for a small (1.5 to 2 m ht.) blind. As the required space is small and presumably located close to the parking lot, the potential for disturbance of nocturnal wildlife (e.g. bats and owls) is considered small. There may be a location behind existing vegetation along East Wellington Road that would effectively screen streetlights and vehicle lights or an elevated wood platform could also be constructed further along the area proposed for a walking trail. The area would be moved further away from street lights located near the corners of Maxey Road and East Wellington Road.
5. A fly fishers group that was previously involved in restoration work on reaches of the Millstone River forming the western park boundary have raised a concern that flows have recently been reduced on the Millstone through bank sloughing and the accumulation of in-stream coarse woody debris. Aquaparian conducted a site inspection of the northwest corner of the site on June 29th, 2018 and did find cause for concern. A significant amount of bank sloughing was noted on the east bank of the river and some evidence of diverted flow was seen just downstream of the sloughing



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area. It is beyond the scope of the current study to provide detailed recommendations for this issue, but consideration should be given to removing the sloughed material during the fisheries window, in consultation with a qualified biologist and hydrogeologist.

6. In addition to managing the site as a nature park, The City of Nanaimo is interested in creating opportunities for new fish habitat by excavating a side channel and pond system that would allow for seasonal use by fish. Provided the excavation work is completed during the dry season, the potential for migration of sediment into the Millstone River would be considered low. The potential impacts of pond construction could affect some ground-nesting Savannah Sparrows, unless the work was timed outside of their breeding period, which typically extends from mid-April to the end of July.

The City of Nanaimo has indicated that it has plans to upgrade the sanitary sewer line that runs along the northeast edge of the field area. In concert with the pipeline replacement, the City would like to place a raised crushed gravel path on the alignment for people to use as a public green-way. As this location is in close proximity to ditching which may support native amphibian breeding, there is some potential for the pipeline trench to accidentally trap migrating amphibians. However, this would primarily be of concern if the trench was open after the first autumn rains or the early-to-mid spring period. This impact could be mitigated by backfilling trenches at the earliest opportunities, and by using plywood sheeting to cover them during the above-mentioned timings. The raised gravel path would be a welcome feature for existing park walkers of the area. The area tend flood when both creek and drainage level are high during the winter and early spring period.

A summary of potential issues associated with each of the above user groups and suggested level of impact is summarized in Table 2.

6.0 SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Aquaparian completed a biophysical assessment of review of environmental issues related to park use by recreational user groups for the Millstone Flats site at 2191 East Wellington Road, in July of 2018. The purpose of the assignment was to expand on the site's resource information collected during a 2011 biophysical assessment by Chatwin Engineering. Additional information regarding wildlife use and plant occurrence was collected during site visits in mid-June of 2018.



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This information was used to assess the potential impacts of various user groups on the environmental resources present, and to suggest practical means of mitigating those impacts and means of enhancing natural resource values.

Flora & Fauna:

A total of 57 plant species were identified during the 2018 field study. None of the plants identified on the site appear on regional lists of rare or endangered plants. Ecological site conditions show the property to be a seasonally flooded agricultural field within the floodplain of the Millstone River. A ditch with seasonally inundated area is located along the northeast side of the property. The southwest and northeast sides of the property are comprised of mixed stands of mature trees with several veteran Douglas firs and a thick shrub understory providing important edge habitat for several species of birds including raptors, owls and neotropical migrant songbirds. The grass field provides habitat for several species of small mammals, most notably Townsend's voles, which are an important prey species for raptors and the Blue-listed Great Blue heron. The fields are well-used during the breeding season by foraging Blue-listed Barn Swallows and Violet-green swallows, and also provide nesting habitat for a number of Savannah Sparrows. The Millstone River is a locally known watercourse supporting populations of chum and coho salmon and cutthroat and rainbow trout. The seasonally flooded areas of the property provide wintering habitat for ducks and geese, and winter foraging sites for great blue herons. In total, 33 species of birds were identified as using the site during the breeding season, representing a diverse assemblage of raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, sparrows, and insect-eating aerialists.

Interested Park Users:

Six parks user groups were identified during a public Parks planning session organised by the City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture as having an interest in activities within the park. Of these, only the radio-controlled fliers group have plans that are not considered consistent with protecting the natural values of this park. Proposals to allow off-leash dog walking could proceed with minimal impact provided the walking area is confined along 30 m width riparian buffer area is protected using page wire fencing, and other parts of the trail are routed away from sensitive riparian areas. The VIU agriculture group's desire to establish an experimental farm at the site could be accommodated providing the facility is sited in an area already heavily disturbed, and follow-up monitoring/maintenance is carried out within intact ecosystems to discourage the spread of non-native plants. No significant environmental issues were identified with use of the site by astronomy enthusiasts.



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Both the City of Nanaimo and the fly fishers group are concerned with improving fisheries habitats on the site. The former would like to create new juvenile rearing habitat by excavating ponds and channels, while the latter would like to see remedial work done in reaches of the Millstone River impacted by bank sloughing and the accumulation of large woody debris in-stream. At the time of the 2018 fieldwork, the water level in the Millstone River was approximately 2m below the elevation of the field. A short side channel was identified that appeared to provide some drainage from the centre wetted area of the field. Evidence of recent flooding was observed up the side channel and across portions of the field from the Millstone River in the spring of 2011. Due to the topography of the property and the proximity of the Millstone River as well as wetted areas on the other side of the property, there is potential for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement on the site. Enhancement could include the excavation of a large, moderately deep central pond with a series of smaller shallow ponds (Seasonally flooded) all connected by an excavated side channel to the Millstone River. The stream and wetland system could allow for seasonal rearing of fish and new foraging, nesting and rearing habitat for various forms of wildlife. Impacts to other natural values in the park during this work could be mitigated by scheduling excavation for the dry season and avoiding work during the nesting season extending from mid-April through to the end of July.

While the property offers good opportunities for the development of side channels and wetland ponds, Aquaparian recommends the following environmental protection measures be considered during construction:

1. Restrict trail construction and ponds/side channel excavations to outside the period of January 30 to June 30 in a given year, if possible in consideration of the incubation and fledging of forest songbirds and raptors that may nest near the property; or have a biologist examine the further to identify whether nest (S) have been constructed and are in use and that active nests are protected during construction operations.
2. Pond/side channel excavations should be restricted to the dry season months due to the proximity of the Millstone River. An appropriate sediment and erosion control plan should be in place before any stripping of the site is allowed to commence.
3. Following construction of side channels and wetland ponds for fish habitat, riparian areas and ponds should be planted with native trees, shrubs and wetland species in the rainy season following construction.
4. The routing of trails be located on the edge of the grass field outside the treed buffer to protect bird habitat and root systems of mature trees. The use of page wire fencing at a



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height of 4ft would help to delineate a walking and off-leash walking corridor within the park while still providing public viewing of the open meadow and movement of larger wildlife (i.e. deer) through the site. The use of page wire fencing along a 15m to 30m setback from the Millstone River would also allow for the separation of cultivation practices (Mowing) in the field and the natural regeneration of the forest riparian community trest to the river to become re-established.

5. The City of Nanaimo's desire to replace the existing sanitary sewer line with a new one has some potential to trap migrating amphibians, especially if the work is completed in early autumn or spring. However, impacts can be largely mitigated by altering construction timing to avoid these periods or, alternately, by ensuring all trenching is covered / backfilled at the end of each working day.

6.1 Further Enhancement Opportunities

The following is a list of other habitat enhancement opportunities that could potentially be implemented on the site over time:

- Removal of invasive species in the treed portions of the property;
- Native tree and shrub plantings throughout the parcel with pedestrian/mixed use areas to outcompete the grass and eventually eliminate the need for mowing; and
- Installation of swallow boxes to control mosquito populations.

Aquaparian will be available to further discuss habitat design features that could be created for the site or other recreational plans to increase public use.

7.0 CLOSURE

Aquaparian Environmental Consulting Ltd (Aquaparian) was retained by the City of Nanaimo to complete a Biophysical Assessment and Environmental Issues Identification to guide in management of the subject parcel.

This report has been completed in accordance with generally accepted biological practices. No other warranty is made, either expressed or implied. Aquaparian trusts that the information provided in this report meets your requirements.



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Any questions regarding information provided in this document, please contact the undersigned at (250) 591-2258.

Respectfully submitted,

AQUAPARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LTD.

Chris Zamora, B.Sc., R.P.Bio
Senior Biologist/ Principal

Joe Materi,
Biological Technician

Attachments:

Figure 1: Site Location Map
Figure 2: Site Plan
Figure 3: Biophysical Site Map (2018 Revision)

Table 1. Summary of Bird Observations in and near 2191 East Wellington Road
June 2018 and April 2011

Table 2. Summary of Identified User Groups and Potential Impacts of Park Use

Appendix A: Site Photographs
Appendix B: Site Plant List Compiled in June of 2018
Appendix C: FISS Database Search Results
Appendix D: BC Conservation Data Centre Rare Element Search Results
Appendix E: Archaeological Database Search Results



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8.0 REFERENCES

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**FIGURE 1:
SITE LOCATION MAP**

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East Wellington (Millstone Flats) – Site Location Map



Figure 1

**FIGURE 2:
SITE LOCATION PLAN**

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East Wellington (Millstone Flats) – Site Plan Study Area



Figure 2

FIGURE 3:
BIOPHYSICAL SITE MAP (2018 REVISION)

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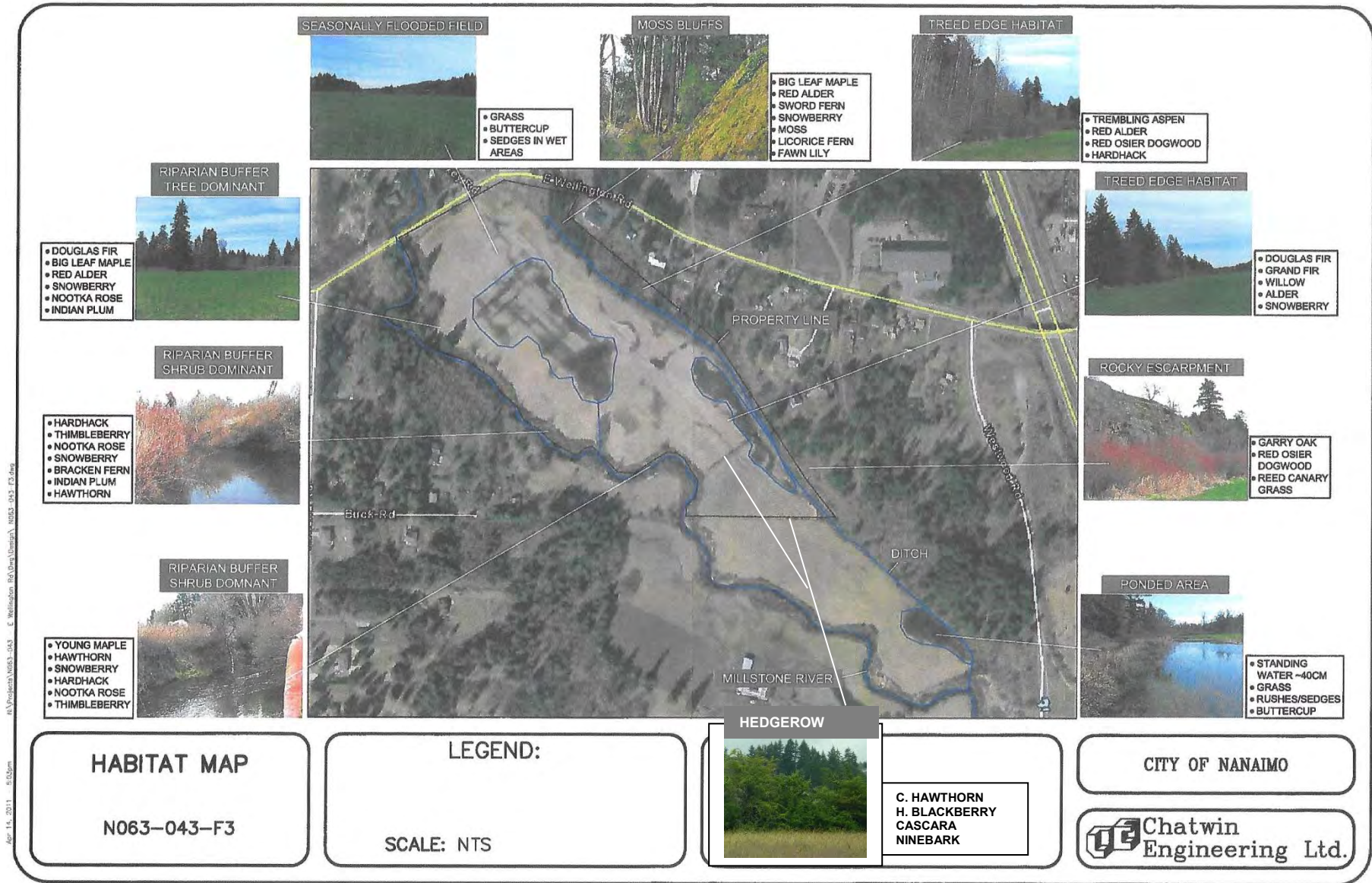


TABLE 1:
SUMMARY OF BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN AND NEAR 2191 EAST
WELLINGTON ROAD JUNE 2018 AND APRIL 2011



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Table 1. Summary of Aquaparian's bird observations in and near 2191 East Wellington Road to the 26th of June, 2018.

SPECIES	TYPE OF OBSERVATION	COMMENTS
American Bushtit	Visual, Auditory	Frequenting hedgerow habitats.
American Goldfinch	Auditory, Visual	Observed in hedgerow habitat.
American Robin	Auditory, Visual	Common and abundant.
Bald Eagle	Visual	Recorded in spring of 2011.
Barn Swallow	Visual, Auditory	Lg. numbers (35+) feeding over central & southern fields.
Black-headed Grosbeak	Visual, Auditory	Heard in taller riparian and mixed tree/shrub cover
Brown Creeper	Auditory	Heard in mature forest fringes.
Dark-eyed Junco	Visual	One male seen on forest floor.
Canada Goose	Visual	Recorded in Spring of 2011.
Cedar Waxwing	Visual, Auditory	Seen in forest and riparian fringes.
Chipping Sparrow	Auditory	In shrubs near East Wellington Rd
Common Yellowthroat	Auditory, Visual	Heard in hedgerows and in riparian shrub cover.
Cooper's Hawk	Visual	Flying over field from east to west.
European Starling	Visual, Auditory	Seen in various locations west side.
Great Blue Heron	Visual	1 perched in snag over Millstone R, probable winter use of fields
Hermit Thrush	Auditory	Heard in fringing mixed forest.
Killdeer	Visual	Recorded in spring of 2011.
Mallard	Visual	Recorded in spring of 2011.
Northwestern Crow	Auditory, Visual	Overflight.
Orange-crowned Warbler	Auditory	Heard in adjacent mixed forest and riparian shrub cover.
Purple Finch	Visual, Auditory	3 seen in riparian shrub cover.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Auditory	Heard in riparian forest in NW corner.
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Visual, Feeding Sign	3 seen on snag near Millstone Feeding sign on mature willows.
Red-tailed Hawk	Auditory, Visual	2 adults seen perched in trees along east side 100 m apart.
Rufous Hummingbird	Visual	Seen in hedgerows
Savannah Sparrow	Visual, Auditory	Several seen in grassy meadows; which are used for nesting.
Song Sparrow	Auditory, Visual	Observed in riparian shrub cover
Spotted Towhee	Auditory, Visual	Nests low in shrubs
Turkey Vulture	Visual	2 perched in lg. snag north of site.
Yellow Warbler	Auditory	Heard in riparian forest and hedgerows.
Violet-green Swallow	Visual	Seen foraging over fields and riparian habitats.
Wilson's Warbler	Auditory	Heard in hedgerow habitat.
Willow Flycatcher	Auditory	Several heard in fields and hedgerows.

TABLE 2:
SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED USER GROUPS
AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PARK USE

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Table 2. Summary of User Groups and Potential Impacts of Their Activities on Park Resources

User Group	Proposed Activity / Facility	Potential Impacts from Users	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Radio-controlled Fliers	Operation of RC model aircraft & drones. Construction of a gravel landing strip.	Disturbance of bird nesting, foraging behaviours in breeding season. Disturbance of wintering waterfowl. Suggested Impact Rating: Moderate - High	Few times when birds would not be impacted. Considered incompatible with protection of natural values esp. for Blue-listed bird species.
Dog Owners	Off-leash dog walking.	Wildlife disturbance, particularly of riparian-associated mammals using Millstone R. as a movement corridor. Potential disturbance of ground-nesting birds in spring. Suggested Impact Rating: Low to Moderate	Installation of page wire fencing offset by 5 to 10m from pathway on NE side near drainage allowing dogs to run along confined corridor but outside of open field. Also including fencing 15m to 30m away from TOP along Millstone River to separate users and cultivation of grasses.
Vancouver Island University Ag. Group	Establish a modest research farm.	Footprint impact. Potential for accidental spread of plants to intact forest / riparian areas. Suggested Impact Rating: Low	Locate planting areas in areas already heavily disturbed. Monitor & maintain adjacent intact ecosystems.
Astronomy Enthusiasts	Establish a viewing platform for stargazing.	Minor potential for disturbance of nocturnal wildlife such as bats & owls. Suggested Impact Rating: Low	None required.
Fly Fishers	Concerns regarding bank sloughing / coarse woody debris affecting flows and erosion.	Reduced flows and back-watering upstream during high flow periods. Suggested Impact Rating: Low	Mitigation measures to improve stream bank stabilization and improvements to fish habitat. Instream works to follow Least Risk Work Window and in consultation with hydrogeologist.
City of Nanaimo	Creation of new fish habitat By excavating pond & channel.	Potential for migration of silt into Millstone R. Possible disturbance of nesting Savannah Sparrows. Suggested Impact Rating: Low	Schedule excavation for dry season. Avoid sparrow nesting season of mid-April to end of July. Installation of small culverts to allow amphibian passage.
City of Nanaimo	Replacement of sanitary sewer line.	Accidental trapping of migrating amphibians breeding in adjacent ditch. Suggested Impact Rating: Low to Moderate	Avoid construction in early fall and early-to mid spring. Otherwise, cover open trenching at end of work day.

APPENDIX A: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo Sheet 1



Photo 1. View from southeastern part of field looking north towards rock bluffs.



Photo 2. Ditching along the northeastern part of site floods seasonally and supports dense stands of aquatic emergent vegetation.

Photo Sheet 2



Photo 3. View of extensive woody debris possibly affecting flows in the Millstone River in the northwest part of the site.



Photo 4. Adult Northern Red-legged Frog making use of the Millstone River in June of 2018.

Photo Sheet 3



Photo 5. A large piece of sloughed riverbank found in the northwest corner of the study area.



Photo 6. Southern edge of mature mixed riparian forest along the Millstone River.

Photo Sheet 4



Photo 7. Areas of dense common hawthorn form hedgerows along the central and southern parts of the property that provide cover for songbirds.



Photo 8. View to southeast from parking area. Note shrub-dominated riparian area (distant right) and recent disturbance in foreground.

APPENDIX B:
FISS DATABASE SEARCH RESULTS



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[Back](#) [Main Queries Page](#)**Fisheries Inventory - FISS Fish Distributions Report**

50 record(s) matched your query.

Report created on : Mon Apr 11 14:32:44 PDT 2011

Your report was based on the following criteria:

Gazetted Name/Alias : Millstone River

Watershed Code : 920-395400

Ordered By : Gazetted Name

Gazetted Name	Region Code	Species Name	Stock Type	Stock Char	Stock Name	Management Class	Activity	Map 1	Point 1	Type 1	Map 2	Point 2	Type 2	Refs And Dates	DFO District	DFO Sub-District	DFO Habitat	Watershed Code
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1046	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1048	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1049	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1050	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1056	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1057	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1058	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	1059	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone		307190 W				(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST	920-395400

<http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/fidq/fishDistributionsQuery.do>

11/04/2011

Ministry of Environment - Fisheries Inventory Data Queries

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MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ACT	Cutthroat Trout (Anadromous)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Augmented	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092G04 22	U	(14-9, 01-JAN-1993)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CC	Sculpin (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 336562	P	(RABSVY-175209, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CC	Sculpin (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340728	P	(RABSVY-182248, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CC	Sculpin (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340729	P	(RABSVY-182249, 16-MAY-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CC	Sculpin (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340730	P	(RABSVY-182251, 13-SEP-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CH	Chinook Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190	W	(17-21, 01-JAN-1982)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CM	Chum Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092G04 18	P	(SISSM01, 01-JAN-1995)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CM	Chum Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	SPL Spawning location	092G04 19	U	(14-9, 01-JAN-1993) (17-20, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CO	Coho Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 18	P	(14-12, no date) (14-9, 01-JAN-1993)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CO	Coho Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092G04 20	P	(SISSM01, 01-JAN-1995)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CO	Coho Salmon	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous	Not Specified	SPL Spawning location	092G04 21	U	092G04 19 D (14-9, 01-JAN-1993) (17-15, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Fluvial	Wild indigenous	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 6500	U	(14-9, 01-JAN-1993) (17-20, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this	092F01 336562	P	(RABSVY-175209, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400

MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340728 P	(RABSVY-182248, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340729 P	(RABSVY-182249, 16-MAY-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340730 P	(RABSVY-182251, 13-SEP-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	CT	Cutthroat Trout	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(HQ1478, 01-FEB-1998)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	PMB	Pumpkinseed	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 336562 P	(RABSVY-175209, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	PMB	Pumpkinseed	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340730 P	(RABSVY-182251, 13-SEP-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	PMB	Pumpkinseed	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(17-14, 01-JAN-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	SB	Stickleback (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 336562 P	(RABSVY-175209, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	SB	Stickleback (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340728 P	(RABSVY-182248, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	SB	Stickleback (General)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340729 P	(RABSVY-182249, 16-MAY-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous WINTER Augmented	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092G04 24 P	(14-31, 01-JAN-1994) (14-9, 01-JAN-1993)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Anadromous WINTER Augmented	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	SPL Spawning 092G04 23 P	(14-9, 01-JAN-1993) (17-22, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400

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MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	158	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	164	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	167	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	168	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	169	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	170	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	171	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	172	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	173	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	174	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	3695	Hatchery production	OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(REL-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	ST	Steelhead	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif		Not Specified	OBL Fish observed at this	307190 W	(STLHD-SUM, no date)	3	17	SOUTH 920-COAST 395400

MILLSTONE RIVER	1	TSB	Threespine Stickleback	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	307190 W	(14-9, 01-JAN-1993)	3	17	SOUTH 920- COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	WST	Steelhead (Winter-run)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 336562 P	(RABSVY-175209, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920- COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	WST	Steelhead (Winter-run)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340728 P	(RABSVY-182248, 02-OCT-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920- COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	WST	Steelhead (Winter-run)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340729 P	(RABSVY-182249, 16-MAY-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920- COAST 395400
MILLSTONE RIVER	1	WST	Steelhead (Winter-run)	NOT SPECIF	Not Specif	Not Specified	point or zone OBL Fish observed at this point or zone	092F01 340730 P	(RABSVY-182251, 13-SEP-1979)	3	17	SOUTH 920- COAST 395400

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APPENDIX C:
SITE PLANT LIST COMPILED IN JUNE OF 2018



203- 321 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B6
SARAH BONAR 250-714-8446 CHRIS ZAMORA 250-714-
8864

**2191 East Wellington Road
June 21 & 26, 2018**

PLANT LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Trees</u>	
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Bigleaf maple
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Red alder
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling aspen
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Bitter cherry
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> ssp. <i>menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak
<u>Shrubs</u>	
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Saskatoon
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> *	Common hawthorn
<i>Daphne laureola</i> *	Spurge-laurel
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Indian-plum
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark
<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Cascara
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka rose
<i>Rubus discolor</i> *	Himalayan blackberry
<i>Rubus laciniatus</i> *	Evergreen blackberry
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Thimbleberry
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Trailing blackberry
<i>Salix lucida</i> ssp. <i>Lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i> ssp. <i>Douglasii</i>	Hardhack
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Common snowberry
<u>Herbs</u>	
<i>Agrostis exarata</i>	Spike bentgrass
<i>Agrostis scabra</i>	Hair bentgrass
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>	Shortawn foxtail
<i>Carex macloviana</i>	Falkland Island sedge
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	Slough sedge
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's lace
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Creeping spike-rush
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common horsetail
<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Cow parsnip
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common velvet-grass
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> *	Hairy cat's ear
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common rush
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian ryegrass
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medic
<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	Pacific water-parsley
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary-grass
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	Willow weed
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> ssp. <i>Pacifica</i>	Silverweed
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken fern
<i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	Western field buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Ranunculus uncinatus</i>	Small-flowered buttercup
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	Curled dock
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i> *	Tansy ragwort
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common tansy
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i> ssp. <i>americana</i>	American brooklime
<i>Vicia americana</i>	American vetch
*invasive plant species	

APPENDIX D:
BC CONSERVATION DATA CENTRE
RARE ELEMENT SEARCH RESULTS



203- 321 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B6
SARAH BONAR 250-714-8446 CHRIS ZAMORA 250-714-
8864

BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer Search Results

					Status		
Scientific Name	English Name	RISC Code	Provincial	BC List	COSEWIC	Global	CF Priority
<i>Abronia latifolia</i>	yellow sand-verbena	ABROLAT	S3 (2002)	Blue		G5 (1988)	1
<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>	Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> subspecies	B-NOGO-LA	S2B (2010)	Red	T (2000)	G5T2 (2008)	1
<i>Allium amplexans</i>	slimleaf onion	ALLIAMP	S3 (2001)	Blue		G4 (1988)	2
<i>Allium crenulatum</i>	Olympic onion	ALLICRE	S2 (2000)	Red		G4 (1988)	3
<i>Allium geyeri</i> var. <i>tenerum</i>	Geyer's onion	ALLIGEY2	S2S3 (2005)	Blue		G4G5T3T5 (2002)	3
<i>Anagallis minima</i>	chaffweed	ANAGMIN	S3 (2008)	Blue		G5 (1984)	2
<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies	B-GBHE-FA	S2S3B,S4N (2009)	Blue	SC (2008)	G5T4 (1997)	1
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	B-SEOW	S3B,S2N (2009)	Blue	SC (2008)	G5 (2008)	2
<i>Bartramia stricta</i>	apple moss	BARTSTR	S2 (2008)	Red	E (2009)	GU (2006)	2
<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	least moonwort	BOTRSIM	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5 (1998)	3
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled Murrelet	B-MAMU	S3B,S3N (2010)	Blue	T (2000)	G3G4 (2008)	1
<i>Bulbostylis capillaris</i>	densetuft hairsedge	BULBCAP	S1 (2006)	Red		G5 (1984)	2
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron	B-GRHE	S3S4B (2009)	Blue		G5 (1996)	4
<i>Callophrys eryphon sheltonensis</i>	Western Pine Elfin, <i>sheltonensis</i> subspecies	IL-CALERY-SH	S3 (2006)	Blue		G5TNR	4
<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>	Moss' Elfin, <i>mossii</i> subspecies	IL-CALMOS-MO	S2S3 (2006)	Blue		G4T4 (2001)	2
<i>Carex feta</i>	green-sheathed sedge	CAREFET	S2 (2002)	Red		G5 (1990)	2
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	foothill sedge	CARETUM	S2 (2007)	Red	E (2008)	G4 (1985)	2
<i>Carychium occidentale</i>	Western Thorn	IM-CAROC	S2S3 (2008)	Blue		G3G4 (2002)	2
<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i>	spring hornwort	CERAECH	S3 (2002)	Blue		G4? (1995)	4
<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>	Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies	IL-CERPEG-IN	S2 (2006)	Red		G5T4T5 (2003)	2
<i>Chamaesyce serpyllifolia</i> ssp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaved spurge	CHAMSER1	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5T5 (2001)	2
<i>Chrysemys picta</i> pop. 1	Western Painted Turtle - Pacific Coast Population	R-CHPI-01	S2 (2007)	Red	E (2006)	G5TNR (2007)	2
<i>Coenonympha tullia insulana</i>	Common Ringlet, <i>insulana</i> subspecies	IL-COETUL-IN	S1 (2006)	Red		G5T3T4 (1998)	1
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	B-OSFL	S3S4B (2009)	Blue	T (2007)	G4 (2008)	2
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	M-COTO	S3 (2006)	Blue		G4 (1996)	2
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	field dodder	CUSCPEN	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5 (2007)	2

<i>Cyperus squarrosus</i>	awned cyperus	CYPESQU	S3 (2001)	Blue		G5 (1993)	2
<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>	coastal wood fern	DRYOARG	S2S3 (2000)	Blue	SC (2001)	G5 (1999)	2
<i>Entosthodon fascicularis</i>	banded cord-moss	ENTOFAS	S2S3 (2007)	Blue	SC (2005)	G4G5 (2001)	2
<i>Epilobium densiflorum</i>	dense spike-primrose	EPILDEN	S1 (2010)	Red	E (2005)	G5 (1988)	1
<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	Horned Lark, <i>strigata</i> subspecies	B-HOLA-ST	SXB, SNA (2009)	Red	E (2003)	G5T2 (2008)	1
<i>Erynnis propertius</i>	Propertius Duskywing	IL-ERYPRO	S2S3 (2006)	Blue		G5 (2009)	2
<i>Euchloe ausonides insulanus</i>	Large Marble, <i>insulanus</i> subspecies	IL-EUCAUS-IN	SX (2006)	Red	XT (2010)	G5T1 (2010)	2
<i>Euphyes vestris</i>	Dun Skipper	IL-EUPVES	S3 (2006)	Blue	T (2000)	G5 (2006)	2
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Peregrine Falcon, <i>anatum</i> subspecies	B-PEFA-AN	S2B (2005)	Red	SC (2007)	G4T4 (2006)	2
<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>	Peregrine Falcon, <i>pealei</i> subspecies	B-PEFA-PE	S3B (2005)	Blue	SC (2007)	G4T3 (1997)	1
<i>Githopsis specuarioides</i>	common bluecup	GITHSPE	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5 (1994)	2
<i>Glaucidium gnoma swarthi</i>	Northern Pygmy-Owl, <i>swarthi</i> subspecies	B-NPOW-SW	S3 (2009)	Blue		G4G5T3Q (1996)	1
<i>Hemphillia dromedarius</i>	Dromedary Jumping-slug	IM-HEMDRO	S2 (2008)	Red	T (2003)	G3G4 (2005)	2
<i>Hemphillia glandulosa</i>	Warty Jumping-slug	IM-HEMGLA	S2S3 (2008)	Blue	SC (2003)	G3G4 (2005)	2
<i>Hesperia colorado oregonia</i>	Western Branded Skipper, <i>oregonia</i> subspecies	IL-HESCOL-OR	S2S3 (2006)	Blue		G5T3T4 (2000)	2
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	B-BASW	S3S4B (2009)	Blue		G5 (1996)	2
<i>Isoetes nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's quillwort	ISOENUT	S3 (2001)	Blue		G4? (1995)	2
<i>Juncus oxymeris</i>	pointed rush	JUNCOXY	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5 (1993)	3
<i>Limnanthus macounii</i>	Macoun's meadow-foam	LIMNMAC	S2 (2007)	Red	T (2004)	G2 (2006)	1
<i>Lotus pinnatus</i>	bog bird's-foot trefoil	LOTUPIN	S1 (2000)	Red	E (2004)	G4G5 (2001)	1
<i>Malaxis brachypoda</i>	white adder's-mouth orchid	MALABRA	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G4Q (2002)	3
<i>Meconella oregana</i>	white meconella	MECOORE	S1 (2005)	Red	E (2005)	G2G3 (2004)	1
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	water marigold	MEGABEC	S3 (2001)	Blue		G4G5 (1984)	4
<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>	Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies	B-WSOW-KE	S3 (2009)	Blue	SC (2002)	G5T4 (2003)	1
<i>Microseris bigelovii</i>	coast microseris	MICRBIG	S1 (2000)	Red	E (2006)	G4 (1995)	1
<i>Monadenia fidelis</i>	Pacific Sideband	IM-MONFID	S3S4 (2008)	Blue		G4G5 (2002)	2
<i>Mustela erminea anguinae</i>	Ermine, <i>anguinae</i> subspecies	M-MUER-AN	S3 (2006)	Blue		G5T3 (1996)	2

<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's Myotis	M-MYKE	S1S3 (2006)	Red	DD (2003)	G2G3 (2006)	1
<i>Myriophyllum quitense</i>	waterwort water-milfoil	MYRIQUI	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G4? (1995)	3
<i>Nearctula</i> sp. 1	Threaded Vertigo	IM-NEASP1	S2 (2008)	Red	SC (2010)	G3G5 (2006)	2
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	Cutthroat Trout, <i>clarkii</i> subspecies	F-ONCL-CL	S3S4 (2004)	Blue		G4T4 (1997)	2
<i>Packera macounii</i>	Macoun's groundsel	PACKMAC	S3 (2001)	Blue		G5 (1993)	2
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	B-BTPI	S3S4B (2009)	Blue	SC (2008)	G4 (2000)	2
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	B-DCCO	S3B (2005)	Blue	NAR (1978)	G5 (1999)	2
<i>Plebejus icarioides blackmorei</i>	Boisduval's Blue, <i>blackmorei</i> subspecies	IL-PLEICA-BL	S3 (2006)	Blue		G5T3 (2006)	3
<i>Plebejus saepiolus insulanus</i>	Greenish Blue, <i>insulanus</i> subspecies	IL-PLESAE-IN	SH (2006)	Red	E (2000)	G5TH (2003)	1
<i>Poecetes gramineus affinis</i>	Vesper Sparrow, <i>affinis</i> subspecies	B-VESP-AF	S1B (2005)	Red	E (2006)	G5T3 (1996)	1
<i>Pristiloma johnsoni</i>	Broadwhorl Tightcoil	IM-PRIJOH	S2S3 (2008)	Blue		G2G3 (2004)	2
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin	B-PUMA	S2S3B (2005)	Blue		G5 (1996)	3
<i>Promenetus umbilicatellus</i>	Umbilicate Sprite	IM-PROUMB	S3S4 (2008)	Blue		G4 (2000)	2
<i>Prophysaon vanatta</i>	Scarletback Taildropper	IM-PROVAN	S3S4 (2008)	Blue		G4 (2002)	4
<i>Psilocarphus tenellus</i>	slender woolly-heads	PSILTEN	S3 (2006)	Blue	NAR (1996)	G4 (1997)	4
<i>Ranunculus alismifolius</i> var. <i>alismifolius</i>	water-plantain buttercup	RANUALI1	S1 (2009)	Red	E (2009)	G5T5 (1995)	1
<i>Rubus nivalis</i>	snow bramble	RUBUNIV	S3? (2008)	Blue		G4? (1990)	2
<i>Rupertia physodes</i>	California-tea	RUPEPHY	S3 (2001)	Blue		G4 (1985)	2
<i>Salvelinus malma</i>	Dolly Varden	F-SAMA	S3S4 (2004)	Blue		G5 (2000)	2
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney's bulrush	SCHOAME	S1 (2000)	Red		G5 (1984)	1
<i>Sericocarpus rigidus</i>	white-top aster	ASTECUR	S2 (2008)	Red	SC (2009)	G3 (2007)	1
<i>Sorex palustris brooksi</i>	American Water Shrew, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies	M-SOPA-BR	S2 (2010)	Red		G5T2 (1996)	1
<i>Speyeria zerene bremnerii</i>	Zerene Fritillary, <i>bremnerii</i> subspecies	IL-SPEZER-BR	S2 (2006)	Red		G5T3T4 (1998)	2
<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	Autumn Meadowhawk	IO-SYMVIC	S3S4 (2004)	Blue		G5 (1985)	4
<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>	twisted oak moss	TORTLAE2	S2S3 (2007)	Blue	SC (2004)	GNR	2
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	TOXIDIV	S2S3 (2000)	Blue		G5 (1999)	2
<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>	Macrae's clover	TRIFDIC	S2S3 (2007)	Blue		G4? (2002)	2

<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	B-BNOW	S3 (2009)	Blue	T (2010)	G5 (1996)	2
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Murre	B-COMU	S2B,S4N (2005)	Red		G5 (2003)	2
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	Lindley's microseris	UROPLIN	S1 (2000)	Red	E (2008)	G5 (1990)	1
<i>Viola praemorsa</i> ssp. <i>praemorsa</i>	yellow montane violet	VIOLPRA1	S2 (2005)	Red	E (2007)	G5T3T5 (2000)	1
<i>Yabea microcarpa</i>	California hedge- parsley	YABEMIC	S1S2 (2008)	Red		G5? (1990)	1

Search Summary

Time Performed Thu Apr 14 13:12:32 PDT 2011

Results 85 records.

Search Criteria Species Group:Plants & Animals
AND BC Conservation Status:Red (Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened) OR Blue (Special Concern)
AND Forest Districts:South Island Forest District (DSI) (Restricted to Red, Blue, and Legally designated species)
AND MOE Regions:1- Vancouver Island (Restricted to Red, Blue, and Legally designated species)
AND Regional Districts:Nanaimo (RDN) (Restricted to Red, Blue, and Legally designated species)
AND Habitat Types:Riverine,Terrestrial
AND BGC Zone:CDF
Sort Order:Scientific Name Ascending

Notes 1. Citation: B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2011. BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer. B.C. Minist. of Environ. Victoria, B.C. Available: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/> (accessed Apr 14, 2011).

2. Forest District, MoE Region, Regional District and habitat lists are restricted to species that breed in the Forest District, MoE Region, Regional District or habitat (i.e., species will not be placed on lists where they occur only as migrants).

[Modify Search](#) | [New Search](#) | [Results](#)

APPENDIX E:
ARCHEOLOGICAL SEARCH RESULTS



203- 321 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B6
SARAH BONAR 250-714-8446 CHRIS ZAMORA 250-714-
8864

Sarah Bonar

From: Cooper, Diana NRO:EX [Diana.Cooper@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: April 13, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Sarah Bonar
Subject: RE: Data Request: SARAH BONAR R.P.BIO - R.P.Bio

Hello Sarah!

Thank you for your archaeological data request regarding 2191 East Wellington Road in Nanaimo.

I checked Provincial records for known archaeological sites, and while there are none mapped on the subject property, a large proportion of it has high potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites. Because all archaeological sites, recorded or not, are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the study area, completed by a qualified professional archaeologist is recommended prior to any ground-altering development.

I have included a screen shot of the area for your reference.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

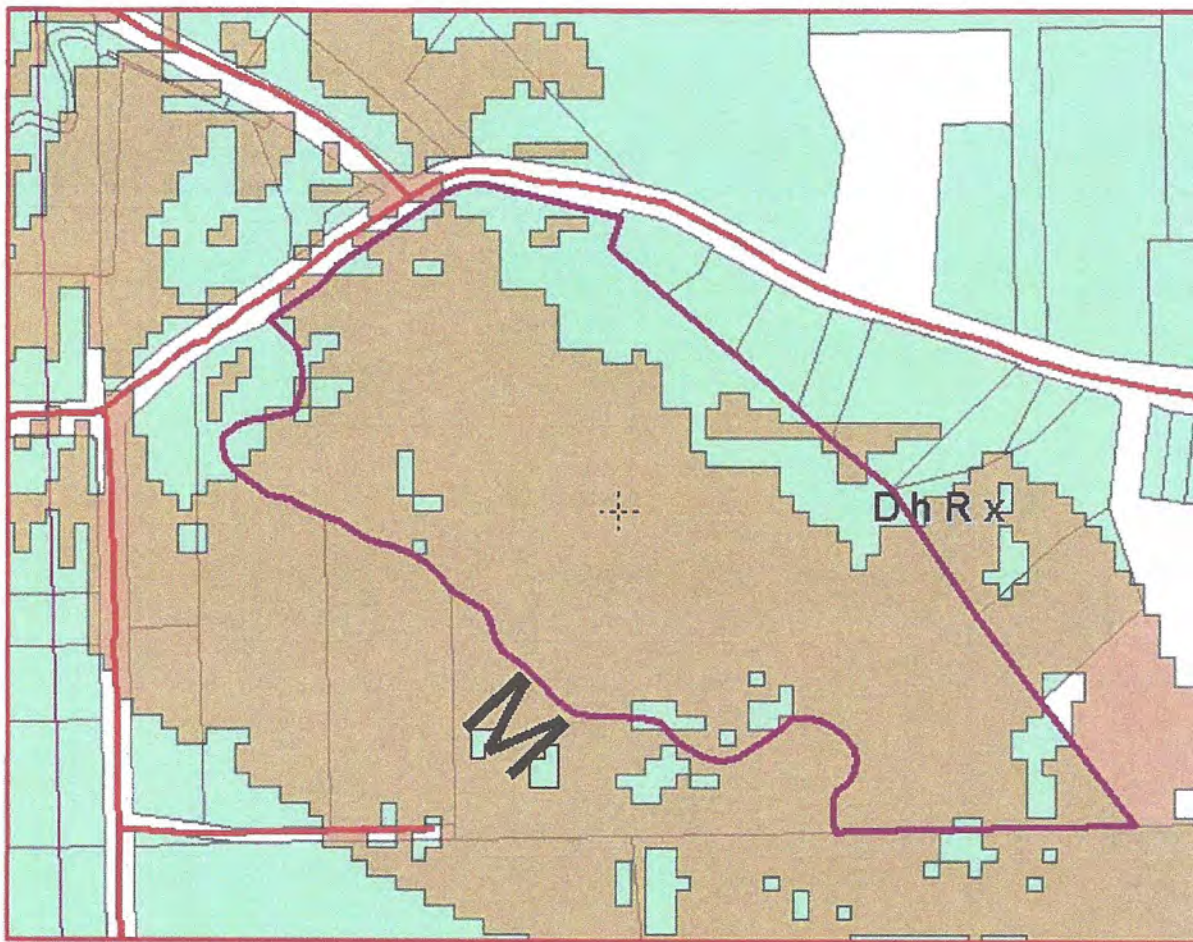
Diana

Diana Cooper | Archaeological Site Inventory Info & Data Administrator

Archaeology Branch | Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Unit 3 - 1250 Quadra Street, Victoria BC V8W 2K7 | PO Box 9816 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9W3
Phone: 250-953-3343 | Fax: 250-953-3340 | e-mail: diana.cooper@gov.bc.ca

Visit our website at: <http://www.tti.gov.bc.ca/archaeology/>

The purple outline is our current cadastral data for the area. The brown areas have high potential for unrecorded archaeological deposits.



From: SBONAR@CHATWINENGINEERING.COM [mailto:SBONAR@CHATWINENGINEERING.COM]

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 12:50 PM

To: ARCWEB FEEDBACK NRO:EX

Subject: Data Request: SARAH BONAR R.P.BIO - R.P.Bio

Terms and Conditions Accepted	Yes
Name	SARAH BONAR R.P.BIO
Affiliation	R.P.Bio
Address	1614 MOREY ROAD
City	NANAIMO
Province	BC
Postal Code	V9S 1J7
Phone Number	(250)753-9171
Fax Number	(250)754-4459
Email	SBONAR@CHATWINENGINEERING.COM
Why Site Information is Required	Biophysical assessment for the City of Nanaimo. The City has recently acquired the property for park land and proposed fish habitat enhancement opportunities within the property that will require excavation. The property lies within the floodplain of the Millstone River. The Address is 2191 East Wellington Road.
Third Party Access	City of Nanaimo.

Information Requested	
File Attachment#1	Google 1.jpg
File Attachment#2	
File Attachment#3	
File Attachment#4	
File Attachment#5	
Format for Requested Text Data	PDF
GIS Data	No

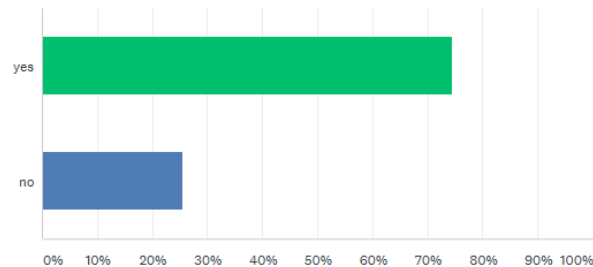
DRAFT

APPENDIX C: EAST WELLINGTON PARK “CHECK-IN” SURVEY

Open online from June 4-July 21, 2018 And at open house #1 on June 20, 2018

Question 1 - So you currently use East Wellington Park for recreation?

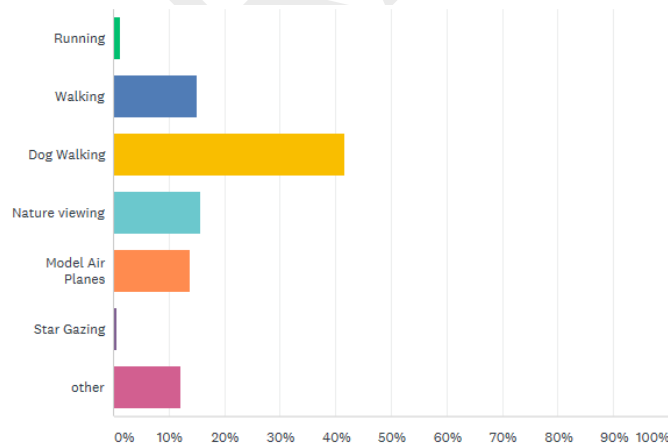
Answered 208 Skipped 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
yes	74.52% 155
no	25.48% 53
TOTAL	208

Question 2 - If yes, what activities do you use East Wellington Park for?

Answered 173 Skipped 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Running	1.16% 2
Walking	15.03% 26
Dog Walking	41.62% 72
Nature viewing	15.61% 27
Model Air Planes	13.87% 24
Star Gazing	0.58% 1
other	12.14% 21
TOTAL	173

Other Comments:

I love this beautiful park! It is a real treat to walk somewhere that is not a trail in the woods, and that is not a manicured park. It is a floodplain field with birds and wildlife and it is a great place to observe the change of seasons here. I walk my dogs, I look closely at the plants and trees and I marvel at the vista from one end to the other. I love the way it gets so wet in the spring that you need tall rubber boots and how tall the grass gets in the summer. I love how the frost settles on the leaves of the trees in the fall, and how a mist lies in it on those cold winter days. This is a special place.
Walking with and without dogs. Have also come at night to stargaze. Also love the nature viewing as well.
Running, walking and dog walking.
Dog too.
Nature viewing
Running, walking, play area for kids
Skating on frozen pond that occurs every year. It is a shallow gathering of water. Perfect for skating with no risk of falling through. Nature viewing.
Wild harvesting berries nettles.
I would like to choose more than one option – we used it for walking, nature viewing, running and ice skating when it floods and freezes (which is not often).
Just to be there!!!! Nature
I would fly a drone here potentially.
Walking with kids, fruit picking, skating.
I come here because it is peaceful, mostly unmarked by people to relax, take photographs.
Attempt to bicycle around perimeter with kids. Too soft and grass too tall. Needs packed gravel trail. Would be great to add some small bike obstacles for kids.

DRAFT

Have ridden my snowmobile...lol
Do not use – it is not a friendly place to use with all the off-leash dogs.
Blackberry picking and quiet time.
I use the park for a multitude of uses; your survey only allows one choice above. Nature watching and exploring, are second to dog walking, someone in my family attends this property every day of the week. We live down the road less than a km.
Flying a UAV (drone); walking, nature viewing.
I've only gone a few times to "run through the meadow" with my daughter when the grass gets long.
Nature viewing and walking (survey allows only one selection)
Biking
Walking, fruit picking, skating when weather permits, wildlife viewing.
Our property overlooks the EW Park, which adds a peaceful pastoral element to our view from the top of the escarpment. We also enjoy walks along the paths while watching the myriad of birds that utilize the field and surrounding habitat. Locals pick blackberries in season.
Wildlife viewing and as a habitat for migratory birds.
The survey does not make sense – it has no statistical validity, it is possible to use the park for multiple activities...run, walk, do walk, view nature ALL AT THE SAME TIME and star gaze. I have done all of the above activities and watched the other users have near misses with helicopters on the base landing flight path to Boxwood Road. Including drones/model aircraft and a powered parachute flyer who only quit after a helicopter flew low straight over him. I have also watched/tried to stop out of control off-leash dogs ripping apart farm livestock, and had to clear up lambs and sheep with their throats torn out. Also tried to warn dog walkers from being attacked by bears that were stalking them down the river. I can supply names of people attacked. Cougar has also stocked people.
When possible but part is not maintained for that purpose.
Use the hay to feed livestock.
NOTE: your survey does not allow for multiple activities to be selected. This should be changed. Our family uses this park for walking, nature viewing and some berry picking, but not as much as we otherwise would because it is treated as a dog off-leash area by a considerable number of people. I would definitely use this park for many other activities including kite flying, drone flying, picnics, and a myriad of other uses that require a large, open space. It is difficult to overstate how this sort of activity is limited by off-leash dogs in the park.
I practice flying my multicopters there. I design and build drones with six or eight electric motors and use this wide-open space to tune their programming and behavior. This is an ideal area because it is away from the coast, where planes fly and free from overhead power lines and wires.
FPV drone flying (sub 250g)
Model Electric Helicopters
In the past, I worked as a helper on those lands with the hay harvest.
Geocaching! I have 1 geocache hidden, my son had 5, but several have been damaged or removed. Only 3 exist now.
I want to be specific and say off-leash dog walking.
Your survey should allow people to pick multiple activities. I selected the one I use it for most often.
Multiple of your options. I'm often here birdwatching. I have about a years' worth of birding data and observations from my time there. I'm often with my dog and I have been star gazing.
I use it for a variety of the above options.
Ogling at the potential for farming!!!
Geocaching
It only allows one option but we have used it for walking, skating when the little bit of water froze.
Didn't even know it was a park.

Question 3 - What improvements would you like to see made to East Wellington Park?

Answered 179 Skipped 30

Some improvements to the path that goes around the perimeter. If the path was paved it would allow grater accessibility but a bark mulch path would be nice too. A garbage bin and a port-a-potty or composting toilet would be an added benefit. An entrance sign stating what types of flora and fauna are found there as well as the history of the land would be great.
Fencing and dog poop bag dispenser/collector along East Wellington Road. No additional fencing is required as dogs are contained by park's physical features – Millstone Creek, very steep ground to the east and dense groves of blackberries.
Bark mulch the perimeter path to improve accessibility for those who have some mobility challenges. Spread wildflower seeds along the edge of the path and permit them to grow and self-seed. Don't over mow! Let nature do its thing!
Designated on and/or off-leash areas for dogs. Proper garbage disposal amenities for litter and dog-bags. Interpretive signage with environmental and ecological information.
Farm use increases. Community garden.
A trail along the east side of the park against the cliffs.
None. We enjoy the park as it is – all four seasons. We were pleased to see the addition of some safe parking.
I would like to see the nature restored like it was before with all the animals roaming around.
If there could be a trash can by the parking lot so people don't litter, this will help keep it waste free and natural as possible.
Leave it alone. As is.
None. Leave it as natural as possible. Fix the back fill brought in by the City years ago to make the parkway. No environmental people were brought in to ensure it was graded properly which no prevents run off quickly. No asphalt or planes. Nanaimo can be a model for future generations to be as natural as possible. Bears and birds and cougars need this area.
Return the field area back to natural fauna and restore the banks of the river back to their natural stage. No parking lot or runway. Maybe a fenced off do run close to the road and a trail system that is for on leash only. It would be nice to see nature come first! Restore the area as best we can to original so that the wildlife has a place, THEN and only then do we access how or what human activities will this area allow.
Walking dogs from around the SPCA there is no proper path to get in. Gets very muddy in winter.
Keep it grassy and open. Add parking and perhaps regularly maintained garbage cans. Keep this area dog-off leash park.
Signage on East Wellington RD is good, but there is no signage on Westwood Rd side. Doesn't show up on city maps or google as park.
Off-leash designation – four separate benches around perimeter of trail, picnic tables near parking area, garbage can, doggy-do bags, stairs and ramp from parking area to field defined paths.
Management of wetland...planting trees, increasing biodiversity.
Can't get into the park from Westwood Road unless we walk along on the road to East Wellington but there is no path and cars go quickly there. An entrance from Westwood Rd would be great.
Access through far end of park to connect with Westwood Rd.
Official off leash area, a fence along East Wellington Road.
Access from Westwood Rd – currently you can almost access from here from - the crosswalk path next to the bridge but there is a small section of right-of-way on private section of land that needs to be finished from what I understand.
Washroom facilities, water to wash off mud, maybe a playground for young children.
None
I would love to see it become an off-leash dog area, the only improvement I can think of is a fence along the highway.
Fence along the road.
Dog off-leash park, maintained path, grass growth (mow it!)

Steps at the parking lot as it is hazardous to get down from your vehicle.
Gravel path around perimeter, maintain the river to prevent flooding upstream. Fence perimeter to prevent dogs from wandering then make it off-leash. Keep the park as natural as it is currently.
Develop park to resemble Buttertubs Marsh
Garbage cans for poop bags, off-leash dogs, better entrance (stairs)
Garbage cans, doggie bags.
Activities, engagement clubs
Changes that keep the park safe for the future. Today's housing has minimal (?) for kids and people. This site can do a lot for the mental well-being.
Minimal changes, love the natural setting.
If currently designated as an on-leash dog area, then this should be enforced. If not enforced (like it is now) then it is a de-facto off-leash area. To meet both objectives, make a fenced area for this use.
Do not make an off-leash park! We walk our dogs on leash, dogs running amok have killed our livestock by crossing the river. We don't see nearly as much wildlife as we used to (e.g. migratory birds) and we often encounter bags of dog feces thrown in bushes and left in the field.
Trail access for Suhana/Camas subdivision
More native plants – restore some of the wetland areas. Please leave as natural as possible – minimal pathways – no paving!
If possible, small fenced area for dog part but rest keep it natural by river fenced.
Just to preserve nature, no asphalt, dogs on-leash, I have heard scary stories.
Improved safety features – access, parking lot, pedestrian/cyclist separation on hill.
I would like to see natural features and improve natural functioning of side channels and enhancing appropriate vegetation.
Completely cordoned parking to not allow wheeled bikes, motorbikes. Garbage cans and doggie bag dispenser. Protection of bird life. Trees planted along the roadside parking, and native plants where the blackberries used to be.
Packed gravel trail, some optional bumps, bridge features to challenge kids. Grass cut so it's not 4 ft tall. Also great to use for RC airplanes but grass needs to be cut accordingly.
Minimal fencing along East Wellington to protect/contain off-leash dogs. Dog bags/waste arrangements.
Back to nature. Return field to natural state and vegetation.
Model airplane runway!
Walking paths and bicycle paths for young kids and family to use.
RC park
Model airplane strip, astronomy facility, dog walking trails.
Improvements to allow a mac sanctioned flying field for model airplanes.
Increased parking
All weather trail around perimeter
Any development would be an improvement, but definitely a walking path through the park would be a great start.
Very little, I like the idea of having a natural space to visit, potentially adding fencing nearest the road and along the river as well as the very back of the field where it borders on private property.
More benches, some rhodo plantings.
Facilitation of multiple uses with designated areas to minimize potential conflicts.
I would use the park if there were trails throughout with park benches strategically placed. Also, like to see a picnic shelter with picnic tables inside. An area for children to play on equipment would encourage many families to enjoy the park.

Drinking water fountain for people and dogs. A couple benches, other than that it would be best to leave some nature alone.
Keep as much nature as possible, bike/stroller/pedestrian access from Westwood Road.
Please leave it as it with no development other than the following: drop the silly leash law as nobody obeys it and dog walkers have been using this field longer than anyone else for recreation and few or no incidents and mutual respect; allow model aircraft folks to build their runway and restrict off-leash dogs in the "immediate" vicinity. DO NOT BUILD ANY ACCESS ROADS...just parking if necessary.
A raised walking bark mulch path for the winter months when it turns into a flood plain.
Restored flood plain and riparian corridor, fenced dog park management of wildlife corridor along the river. Restore migratory bird wetlands-screened from the dog park. Boardwalks if area remains flooded.
A park similar to Terra Nova park in Richmond. It's beautiful, fun and maintains its natural beauty.
Trees, gardens, art, but mostly some ways to avoid the flooding in winter so better drainage!
Just leave it; it's very beautiful as is.
I would like to see a path around the park and walkways on the flooded plain areas.
A fenced in dog walk as currently most users just let their animals run free and they do no stay in the park boundaries.
The park is well used even though there is limited infrastructure and the park is not well known. A lot of people drive to the park and bring their dogs, walk, operate R/C toys, view birds, etc. In addition to traffic on East Wellington, risk to pedestrians, cyclists has increased significantly, especially in the section between the Millstone bridge and the hill going up East Wellington toward the highway. Critical improvements are needed to address safety concerns: I would like to see the following improvements: Parking lot (consider relocating it to another area, (i.e. not in the front of Maxey, where there is even more risk to cause accidents). Physical separation between motorists, cyclists and pedestrians for the portion between the bridge and the top of the East Wellington hill. Physical separation could be achieved using concrete blocks, bollards, etc. Signage and/or paintings would not be efficient and would create a false sense of security. We have seen many times drivers cutting the corner and driving on the bike/walking path, leaving cyclists and walkers very vulnerable especially young kids or when not facing traffic. Kids and adults are walking regularly on that section of road. It gives access to grocery store, banks, and schools. It would be more used if it would be safer. Improved parking lot, improved visibility to get out of the parking lot, garbage collection? Off-leash pen, irresponsible dog owners combined with off-leash access have caused numerous dog attacks. Leash required for the rest of the park – limited infrastructure (benches in a couple of unique areas of the park to allow for wildlife viewing). Recognition that this area has unique agricultural value by planting fruit trees along the east side of the park. The area is also ALR and cannot be converted into a park without some thought. This field is wet all the way to July which is a very unique feature. Bike paths along the east side boundary of the park at the bottom of the cliff, giving access to Westwood Lake Road. In order to do that, access to three properties to the south would be needed.
A communal grove with free access to food grown on site.
It needs to be reverted back to the wetlands it was. Dogs should be banned; they are killing the farmers' sheep. Cougars and bears have been stalking the dog walkers as well. If it is put back to original use the goose problem would disappear from city parks and cemetery. Keep the people and animals out.
Much, much better drainage. There is a river to one side and a creek to the other, there is no good reason for it not to drain. Large fenced, off-leash dog park. Wildlife corridor along the river, ideally fenced so a whole lot of fencing it would seem. Parking has been improved, maybe asphalt rather than gravel though. Dog paws and gravel can be a bad mix, plus the gravel migrates to the road making it hazardous for any two wheeled vehicles, especially at the intersection with Maxey Road.
Leave it natural
Enforce dogs on-leash and don't let them use the whole park. It is degrading the natural habitat.
None – it's nice as an open natural field.
Since it is both situated on a flood plain and abuts the sensitive and protected Millstone River. I would like to see it remain in its natural condition. However, a garbage can and the standard dog waste bags and bin should be added to ensure dog owners pick up after their dogs.
As an environmentally sensitive area, this park should be rehabilitated using appropriate native vegetation. An opportunity may also exist for wetland creation, but keep bullfrogs and other invasive species in mind.

Good as is other than adding stairs from the parking lot onto the grass, a bit steep.
Replanting of native vegetation to expand waterside wooded areas, which are of particular value for red and blue listed species and sensitive species.
Keep it as a nature park. A very important stop for waterfowl and other migrating birds.
A vital wetland flood plain with the river held back by a man made embankment to prevent flooding, needs the flood channels reopened. This will prevent more house flooding upstream or likely damage to the road bridge. Part of an important wildlife corridor, a river wildlife corridor needs to be fenced to minimize any more dangerous wildlife/human interactions. Up to 4,000 migratory wildfowl a night used the park as a rest over. Off-leash dog walkers in an on-leash park with zero enforcement from Bylaw officers who publically state it is not their mission to enrich the city by prosecuting people. Dog owners encourage their dogs to chase birds off, creating issues of birds on school playing fields and calls to cull nuisance wildlife. Either fence and screen the perimeter footpath from the rest of the wetland/flood plain and wildlife or maintain the park originally designated as the Nature Field as a wildlife park and an attraction to draw tourists to Nanaimo.
Parking on E.W Road needs to be enlarged once the park has become known to the general public. Access from the parking areas to field needs to be improved. Little in the way of "improvements" is needed, no sports fields, no plastic jungle gyms, etc.
Designated as a RC model park so people have a safe place to enjoy the hobby and stop flying at school fields.
Have a stone amphitheater for educational purposes for youth/adults regarding history/natural environment ... indigenous history....
Ramp from parking lot to field level for those of us that have difficulty with steep grades. Improved access to the river as existing was destroyed by spring flooding. Proper refuse bins for dog waste and of course "official off-leash status".
All dogs should be leashed, I have found dogs aggressive, running wild, owners not picking up feces, litter, and lots of broken dog toys. City garbage cans for the ones who are responsible. A wildlife corridor, removal of dams restricting water flow.
No more dogs off-leash! I have walked there regularly with my young child and have encountered large dogs off-leash (including: pit bulls on 2 occasions) in the field and parking lot. Fine for the dog owner but unsafe for everyone else. Limiting dogs to a portion of the park and prohibiting them in the remainder may be the best solution.
Increased concrete barriers along East Wellington shoulder from top of hill above Maxey to Holland. Many locals walk and cycle to the park and the shoulder is not safe due to increased and speeding traffic, blind corners, and park visitors parking on shoulder forcing pedestrians to the road.
More traffic speed enforcement. Traffic typically travels well over the speed limit on East Wellington RD, especially down the hills above Maxey and Holland.
Proper garbage cans for dog waste.
Signage about wildlife known to us the park would be nice.
Viewing platform of Millstone River with some signage about the fish cycles may give people access and prevent folks from making their own trails.
Maybe a fence along the road? Kind of like it the way it is though.
Path along perimeter
The park is viewed as a dog off-leash area. The park should be more multi-use than that.
A designated area for flying electric planes and models.
Please no dog parks and no dogs, sorry be we have enough, let the people who do not want to be part of that lifestyle have some freedom away from barking fighting dogs and poop!
Much better parking and access
Garbage for dog waste, possibly cut grass twice per summer.
To be made off-leash please J
Fish and riparian habitat enhancement
Trail improvements
A large garden like Butchart Gardens would be amazing.

Off road parking and proper layout for RC flying.
A designated model airplane flying site. A small short grass or dirt runway for taking off and landing and a designated flying area. A baseball field is currently my flying field and is big enough.
The grass/field needs to be kept short.
None required.
I would like to see a grass runway or area for setup and safe flying area.
A driveable path to the eastside center of the field where one could fly the models from the trunk/back of a vehicle. A turn around would be nice for exiting.
Cut a small grass strip for the models.
Proper facility for flying model planes with washrooms.
An area of short grass so we could use planes with landing gear.
A landing strip for electric model airplanes.
Custom space for model airplane flying (electric motors) including tables, shelter and toilet.
Provide a runway
Model air park
Only to make it an off-leash park for dogs.
A play area for families similar to Mansfield, but without the soccer field.
This land should be developed to include a portion of it be used for sustainable organic agriculture examples.
The long grass needs to be mown and hay removed. This usually happens, but usage dwindles until it can be used again.
I would like places to put poop bags and that they be cleared on a regular basis. Otherwise, I think that it is wonderful for the dogs and owners.
Better separation from the road (fence/hedges).
Dog off-leash area
Dog on-leash, lots of songbirds and sparrows use the fields.
Improved parking, a gated fence along East Wellington and dog poop bag dispenser with suitable waste collection can.
A proper path around the whole field and stairs to get down into the path from the parking lot. Would like to see it say off-leash.
Safety
I would like to see proper garbage that is taken care of by the city. A water tap would also be beneficial. Other than that, I would mostly like to NOT see improvements to the park. It is great how it is.
Benches, garbage can.
A path around the park
A nice spray park for children or water slide park! The island does not have a water park anywhere.
More multi-trail paths available for various activities, i.e. dog walking, non-dog walking section, bird watching.
No improvements it perfect as is!
Stroller friendly walking trails.
None Leave it wild for birds and animals.
Leave it how it is, its undeveloped farm land and beautiful as it is.
None until the city streets are properly fixed.....have you seen the paving job on Dover Road?
Fencing, at least partially

A perimeter path along the edge of the park and connect it to Westwood Road to connect with the Trans Canada Trail.
Turn it into some sort of agriculturally productive area.
Bird viewing for in the field and by the creek? Dog poop bins and bags? Water?
Walking trails, history of the area
Fence aquatic area, keep allowing dogs.
More walking paths, bathrooms, a play structure for toddlers and older kids
Seating, clear trails
Space for public events
Would be great if dog park would stay with a walking path and maybe a small washroom.
Fence along road, otherwise leave as is.
Like it the way it is, keep it simple and natural, maybe add some fencing to keep animals from running out of the park onto the road. Had a close incident once.
Garbage bins and bags for dog feces.
Possibly a raised trail so that the full field can be utilized year round, Dog waste station and garbage can.
Poop bags provided and garbage along the park.
Pathway
Perhaps a raised platform for water inundated areas?
Looping trail, a few benches, not much.
None
Leave as natural as possible, green is good!
Native trees and plants, walking trails, interpretive signs telling about plant species, etc.
Don't @\$% with it !
Grass is hard on those of us with bad allergies in the spring.
Fenced dog area, community garden, playground, ball field.
Fenced dog off-leash area and baseball field would be perfect also playground could be cool.
Increased drainage to alleviate constant flooding
None
All weather trail from East Wellington to Westwood Bridge and a circle track/trail around the perimeter
More flowers and trees
Fenced on the road side of the park, leveled to avoid water pooling during winter.
Toddler friendly
Running/walking path
Fencing
Water drainage, it's unusable for months of the year, better access to the creek.
Possible chip trail for runners/walkers? Playground/field for kids and perhaps fenced area for dogs
Playground
Please keep it an off-leash park – those are the only people who use it!
Make paths so people can use it for walking, hiking, viewing nature.

A fenced off-leash dog area would be great.
Trails and a viewing platform of the marshlands.
Link to other parks in area via sidewalks or trails (ie: Westmark Road and Westwood Lake)
Dog off-leash area
Grade a portion of the property, 500' x 50', to make a grass runway for electric powered model aircraft.
Grass cut and area to land and take off small electric aircraft, with parking
Garbage cans, plastic bags for dog poop, gravel path.
Model airplane runway and possibly more parking.

Question 4 - What other wishes or ideas would you like to share for the future of East Wellington Park?

Answered 151

Skipped 58

I understand that the local model airplane club is interested in that area as well. It's an awesome place for flying model airplanes. I would hope that every group that is interested in using the park is also able to respect and care for its natural beauty.
Love the nature element to this area. All the birds and other flora and fauna make it a special place within the city limits. We have some great walks among our forests at Collery Dam, Westwood, etc. We just don't have another large open area to walk the dog, to soak up some sunshine and breathe in nature. Don't over develop the park.
Maintain as agriculture land.
To maintain the park as a wildlife area for birds and wildlife. There are eagles, hawks, turkey vultures, bats and migratory birds that use this area. The bests are most likely nesting in the cliffs. The turkey vultures show up in late March and head south in September. The migratory birds use the area annually during flooding as a stopover. There have been sightings of bears, cougars and deer that transition through from Mt. Benson and along the Millstone River. The area is in a floodplain that floods every year during high rainfall and/or snowmelt from the Millstone River. The water can be up to a meter deep and flows through the valley to Westwood Road. Parts of the field first called makes the most sense with a trail and some benches for wildlife/bird viewing. Any improvement would have to consider the annual flooding and build accordingly. A fenced dog park could be established at the East Wellington end of the field where there would be minimal impact on the rest of the field.
We would like to stress that this is a nature park and we can't improve on nature. An improvement would be to turn it into an off-leash park as there are so few of them. This park allows us to throw a frisbee and/or chuck a ball.
There should be trash cans by the parking lot so people don't have a reason to litter, but I like the park just the way it is, without any concrete on the field.
I wish there is NO model airplanes. This will disrupt the natural animals and it will get very noisy for people who live close by and for people trying to enjoy the nature.
Leave it as it is for future generations.
Leave it alone, no asphalt, no lanes....natural.
Nature reserve zone along the river that is 100% off limits to all.
A proper path from the SPCA/Westwood Road bridge along the right of way.
Keep this area a dog off-leash area.
Better access from Westwood Road. If you enter from Westwood Road by the bridge there is a sign about 100 paces in that says NO trespassing – which is confusing because there is a city right-of-way to get to the park from there. Needs to be clearer that you can enter on the right-of-way and the sign needs to come down or explain where people can cross to the park.
Covered picnic area, running water, fence at front.

This land is FANTASTIC farmland. The city should work with local farming groups and turn this space into a civic/community style farm or, the city could help make this a demonstration farm site. The City of Richmond has established municipally supported agriculture projects. Nanaimo can too!
Better signage so more people know about it. It's a beautiful spot to walk your dog. Better access from Westwood Road.
Would like it to be a dog off-leash park. Whenever we are there are no others or possibly one other walker, often with a dog off-leash as well.
Better access. It's only accessible from East Wellington Road at the moment. It is flat so could be made into a sports oval or left as a nature reserve with some access to the creek. But currently only a few residents on East Wellington Road can access it. There are no paths yet from Westwood Road where most houses are and the BCSPCA shelter. I'm sure they would also like to access it to walk animals if that was possible.
Maybe picnic tables and a covered area for larger gatherings like at Bowen Park.
Maintain it as an off-leash dog park.
It's such a large and beautiful space, its perfect to take the dogs there.
Make park officially off-leash (I go every day and estimate 95% of users are dog owners with their dogs off-leash.
Most of the people I run into, almost on a daily basis are walking dogs. Although it's preferable to be off-leash, it's also good to share with the few who come out for other activities.
It's the perfect place to walk a dog. Keep it mostly like it is.
This area needs to stay as parkland.
Better entrance from the parking area.
Maintain as an undeveloped place.
Benches, garbage pick up.
Dog off-leash area permitted or de-facto pretty much limits the use for wildlife viewing and many other uses. I would prefer it remain an on-leash area and enforced. This would allow for all other activities in question 2.
A trail (natural, not paved) for walkers, runners would be nice to connect to Parkway Trail.
Many children in area that would use the park if access from neighborhood is created.
Like the idea of tying it to a greenway trail through the city.
More monitoring
Cement barrier on side of road. Cars tend to pass the white line with traffic increasing. I worry about safety when I walk and my children ride their bikes.
Bike path to Westwood Road, leave the park as wild as possible, limited infrastructure.
Dogs should have a designated area in a fence, part of the area should be on-leash to protect nature.
I would like to see the park remain as natural as possible because that is why it is perfect just the way it is. The more people and groups that want to have a piece of it, the more likely it will lose its perfect peace. NO motorized anything (model planes, bikes, ATVS, motor bikes.
Dogs should be on-leash if other users are present. Dogs off-leash tend to conflict with runners, RC's, kids, other users. Please keep improvements to a minimum to keep property taxes low and maintenance as a winter coho rearing zone.
Less dogs off-leash, garbage cans.
Approval for model airplane field (on a small part)
RC Park
I believe this park can accommodate many groups on a shared use agreement.
Specified times for shared users.
Keep it natural, (i.e. enhance the natural flood plain environment) no lights

Nice flower gardens, picnic areas, and most of all a nature playscape for children, with lots of natural loose parts for them to play with, a digging area, stepping stones, natural things for them to climb and perhaps a mud kitchen?
I wish for it to become a formal off-leash area for dogs. It would be my hope that the neighbors' properties and livestock are protected as I have heard anecdotally that this is a problem, but never seen it myself.
Some bicycle stands to lock bikes onto
Wetland and riparian restoration; wetland could have floodwater detention as a tandem purpose. Enhanced/restored wetland and riparian area could include a trail and boardwalk with interpretive signage. Fenced designated off-leash dog park; signage to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs, along with a bag dispenser, designated model airplane/UAV landing strip; educational signage about safe UAV flying practices and etiquette.
More parking to be made available please as it is becoming more popular.
Possibly something that mimics what was done at Linley Point.
Absolutely no roads, only paths as currently already there.
There would need to be garbage cans for the dog feces.
Dogs on-leash, make sure acts as a natural floodplain and animal habitat
Instead of just flowers and shrubs, etc, I would like to see an edible garden, fruit and nut trees. Berries, mint, etc. With plaques or signs educating about our edible environment and some of the many uses of our native plants on our BC coast.
Why was this area not considered from BC Housing assisted housing project. It's not near schools or other concerns A twice daily bus could take the tenants to medical appointments, etc.
Please leave it, no need to spend money on something that is beautiful as is.
I enjoy the park being natural. I think the only improvement would be a path and a bench.
A fence put up along the borders of the private property owners whose properties are adjacent to it.
Based on the timing of the consultation. I fear that the plans for the park have already been established. If this consultation is truly a consultation, then I would expect a meaningful consultation including consultation with other agencies and departments within the City of Nanaimo. In my option, an ideal outcome would be to satisfy not only all users but also respect the value of the land (agricultural and nature reserve). In this case, not all users like dogs running around everywhere, uncontrolled. I have often seen dog owners parked on the field or the parking lot with their dogs running around everywhere without any supervision. I think this is irresponsible and dangerous for other users. The effect is that one type of user prevents another user to use the park. Therefore, a dog off-leash (not fenced) is unacceptable. If there is going to be a dog off leash area, please make it such that it is a pen (similar to Beban Park), make sure it is located near the road.
Talk to environmental engineer and the farmer above the property. He is a wealth of information.
Maybe a paved trail around the perimeter, for the less abled body.
Keep it natural
Leave most of the land as natural habitat without dogs running free. How can it be called a Nature park as it is now?
It's a nice place that floods often, year round infrastructure would be unlikely. Leave it to nature.
I would like to see all motorized vehicles, including drones and model planes banned from the park, as they create a stressful environment for both the bird life and those park users enjoying the tranquil setting, also a dusk to dawn curfew.
Humans, dogs, cats and Norway rats have plenty of parks, so I am in favor of providing decent space for wildlife.
Off leash dog park, which is what we use it for.
This area with high ecological value that is needed to increase adjacent upland beside aquatic ecosystems. The best use of this land is conservation and sensitive access. Dog parks are better kept away from sensitive wildlife and watershed areas. Particularly, flying model aircraft in a sensitive bird habitat is a bad idea. There are many places in Nanaimo to fly model aircraft that are far better. For example, sport fields are often not used by teams, such as at Beban Park. Those types of areas should be made available at non-team sport occupied times to model pilots for the record, I am an electric model aircraft hobbyist and have built and flown many scale military aircraft and sport planes. I am also an avid wildlife enthusiast and outdoor guide.

Please keep it natural. We humans are fast ruining what little there is left for our activities without thought about the impact of the creatures that call the area home. Let's give them a thought for a change.
Nature tourism is the main island tourism industry. Nanaimo has unrecognized wild habitat assets to draw tourists to stay supporting hotels, restaurants and tour companies, and not just transit through to the ferries. Internationally recognized biosphere reserves and important bird areas are on the island drawing tourists to other parts of the island. Keeping wild habitat assets in cities such as Nanaimo is globally recognized as best practice in city governance. These economic development assets need to be valued and recognized and promoted for the benefit of all.
Continue to let the hay cutting to G. McCullum; allow off-leash dog walking away from E.W Road.
Improve the parking
Outdoor theatre
This is a jewel of a park and should remain as undeveloped as possible.
Ensuring it remains a floodplain.
Would be nice to continue farming the field to some degree, and supporting its use by waterfowl and other wildlife.
Provide waste containers
I would like to see the future trail plan slated for 2020, and how this would connect to other trails.
An area maintained as a runway for model plans would be a great use to me and fellow modelers.
A place for relaxation.
A sanctioned rule abiding model aircraft flying
We have made many great connections with the other people who walk their dogs at this park. Would love to see it made officially off-leash.
City garbage can.
Multi-use trail outside of floodplain areas to connect to Parkway Trail.
Something child/family friendly to take the kids to.
It would be nice to transform it into a park like Beacon Hill Park or a small Butchart Gardens.
Kite flying, RC, rock crawling, other RC activities.
Only that it be developed as a recreational park for wider use than the already plentiful sports fields (baseball) and dog parks.
Some ideas for bug control, in the late evenings, it's pretty bad with mosquitos.
I'd like to see it set up for model aircraft.
Washrooms and uses for other groups. Fences around the outside for dog walkers.
More electric model aircraft facilities (covered area expansion, tarmac runway, signs). Electric models only designation (exclude gas/nitro models).
That the park enforces the on-leash dog walking (Bylaw). People still have their dogs off-leash.
More assess/planned activities by various groups.
Allow electric model aircraft.
Keep it natural.
Ball field
This area is so large a community garden could also be incorporated
Community playground!
Leave it as is.
Fence it off on East Wellington Rd as sometimes idiots ATV and snow mobile on the surface damaging it.

Maybe a pond if possible, small pond and garden.
Community food forest.
Community gardening with walking trails.
Benches
Playground for children of all ages.
Dog off-leash
A natural playground near the parking lot end. www.naturalplaygrounds.ca
Put a traffic light at the intersection of Jingle Pot and Westwood Road, it is unsafe in summer to cross over Jingle Pot.
Other than the runway leave the property as is.
Make it conform to the Canadian MAAC rules and regulations to allow their liability policy to apply to the park.
Benches, lights, drinking water
No
Small playground area with green space and picnic tables.
A restroom facility. It could be closed from 10-8, similar to other facilities in Nanaimo.
Trails, walkways, the land floods and should be allowed to flood, bird habitat, food production for Nanaimo Foodshare programs.
Understand it would be linked with other green space. A proper "trail" would be nice...but the valley does flood in winter.
I go to the park 5 times a week and love to see that so many dogs and owners benefiting from it.
None
More established trail. Often grass over grows the trail and gets very dewy. Also lots of ticks are exposed with high spring grass.
Leave winter coho rearing habitat along Millstone intact. Allow farmer to cut hay in field, keep park as is.
Add a place dogs can swim and play in during the summer months.
I would like it to be a dog off leash area.
Off leash dog park
Water park, spray park.
More access points
Walking trails
Public parks are notorious for dogs running off leash even though they are required to be leashed, unless in off leash areas...real enforcement is needed.
If it's going to be made off leash, fence it between the field and the nearby farms.
Walking paths, picnic tables or small shelter for the community to use as a park.
Create ponds for beauty and for Ecosystem diversification and potential aqua food production.
Dog trail
Off leash park
Clever level trails, bikes, running
Easy walking trails.
Not too much development, natural space is best, improved access and some space for community events.
This has been used for dogs and think it should continue
Leave as is, lovely meadow in spring and summer.

Might be beneficial to have a designated off leash area so those of us who want to walk on leash can do so safely.
Leave to nature
A pump track for beginner bikers
Keep it dog off leash friendly
Fencing, stay as natural as possible.
It is a great dog recreation area as is.
Leave as is, parking lot is good idea, nothing more.
Walking trails only, no bikes, dogs on leash okay
Park area specific for kids without changing too much of the open concept for those people and dogs that go there.

Question 5 - Do you have any other comments you would like to share about planning for East Wellington Park?

Answered 121 Skipped 88

Other than minor access improvements leave park and current park maintenance as is.
I understand some special interest groups are interested in accessing the park, and within limits I feel it should absolutely be a multi-use park. Stargazers are at the park and no one else is. If they want a firm pad to place telescopes then why not. I don't own drones but I hear that those users want access to the park. I am not opposed provided that the hours are limited. Perhaps also only on certain days. Their use must not interfere with those there for a walk, drones can't fly over or harass walkers. If they want an airstrip, limit the width and length of the runway – perhaps 6m x40m. This limits the size of drones that can be launched as well as imposing a self-regulated number of users at one time. The runway would make a great stable platform for telescopes at night. A botanical garden open to the public and free of charge could provide a self-guided tour and educate locals and tourists on the vegetation native to the island.
Dog area could be in a fenced zone to protect wildlife and dogs.
We enjoy taking our young grandsons to the park and explaining to them how this area for recreation works...the grass cutting and gathering, the birds of prey, the geese, not to go too close to the river. We also enjoy the interaction with the other park users who share the same ideas.
I DO NOT WANT model airplanes, runways, if you fly model airplanes you will be ruining animals' homes and the peace and quiet of the people's houses that live around the area and it would ruin the nature.
This park should be restored to its natural state. I do not want to have model airplanes flying around my house on weekends, having competitions and asphalt in the field. They are too loud and are going to disrupt the animals. The field is best left to be natural as possible.
Don't fix something that's already perfect.
No asphalt, no planes, no off-leash park.
Leave park natural.
I have only lived in this area for 3 years and have come to love and appreciate how peaceful this area is at times. I look forward to the yearly spring music festival put on by the returning song birds, waterfowl and frogs. The deer, quail, and bear that visit are a joy. Fall is especially grand with the changing of the leaves across the whole valley and the influx of the migrating wildlife is pretty cool too! We live right above the park on East Wellington and even though it has only been three years we are noticing a change in the area. As more and more people bring their dogs to the area and let them run loose, especially in the spring, the birds and other wildlife has slowly disappeared. The thick brush and nesting areas are over run by the dogs looking for something to chase. Rarely do you see the deer in the field anymore. This area is special and care should be taken before we develop, there are not many areas like this anymore. I don't think I would appreciate the sounds of model aircraft flying all day on a weekend or week night, what happens when they have air shows and competitions? We have two dogs and they always bark when people fly their aircraft now and this is happening only once in a while. As for the astronomy club, I would be for that only if there was no road leading into the middle of the park, maybe a nice path instead.

Good for model planes and dogs to both use the park but needs a better path on the right of way from Westwood Road or SPCA for the dogs to use or it's too muddy.
I'd like to see the right of way made into a more clear path so other people from the BCSPCA can take dogs into the park over the right of way. Signage to be fixed to make it clear there is a right of way.
Use this space as a demonstration site for preserving and increasing biodiversity, and engaging the public in land stewardship through farming and permaculture.
Needs access from Westwood Road side and signage. It's also not list on Google Maps as a park.
Still not many people can access it as only one hard to reach East Wellington entrance. Access from Westwood Road is almost possible but just need a short section completed.
We love the natural rural setting so not a huge development (large buildings).
No
I visit the park every day and hope to continue doing so with my two dogs. I hope you consider making it an official off-leash dog park.
It is a great space for people and pets to get exercise and have fun. Save some effort and money by not over developing, leave as natural as possible. Users can adapt and experience the seasons, flooding, tall grass, hayed field. It is all interesting and part of the experience.
NO
The section of the Millstone River that runs through this park appears to contain the bottleneck that causes the river to back up and spill over into the fields in the park and the properties on Maxey Road. Attention should be paid to maintaining the river to limit the effects of this flooding. Log jams and debris jams exist along this section of the river and should be cleared before flood season. Ways to decrease the bottleneck should also be explored.
Do not allow model airplanes and drones to ruin the wonderful environment that is green space.
Been using this field for many years.
Please leave room for dogs to run free, very important.
Keep as natural as possible.
Leave it as is, realize that this special space needs to survive and flourish into the far future.
I feel it is a wonderful dog under control park.
It's nice to have a flat area as natural space. Other uses such as a kite flying, picnics and many other uses that are enabled by open space is a nice asset to Nanaimo.
No drones! Noisy with the potential for invasion of privacy to surrounding residents. Preserve as nature sanctuary.
No sidewalk access on E Wellington Road. Therefore is accessible from Camas Rd/Suhana.
We love walking our dog here and readily admit off-leash times when there is no one around. I regularly pick up garbage I find – nice that someone has brought in garbage cans.
People should walk their dogs with leash.
Long-term vision would be connect this park to Buttertubs Marsh, via an underpass under the highway.
Drones are dangerous and disruptive and we are in a helicopter flight path area.
EW Park could be a haven for wildlife and people. Activities I have seen over the years I've been coming there: family picnics in the tall grass, seniors painting the scenery, wedding photos using the great hay wheels as props, children skating and playing hockey when the flooded field freezes over, people training their dogs for obedience, horseback riders. On the negative – cyclists pushing us off the path, drones and airplanes – noise disturbance and upsetting wildlife, more garbage has become visible since word is out it is a dog park! Poop bags everywhere flung in the bushes.
Is there options for nature viewing platform, creek, spawning fish, etc. Make a destination at the far end so there's a point to hike to the end with kids.
Nanaimo needs an electric r/c field, too many people fly in the parks.

No dog park, we have enough.
The hay does not make for pleasant walking as dogs are on narrow trails. The dog owners do not tend to clean up after them. Some may do but not all.
RC Park
Beautiful site. Congratulations to the city and parks for their visionary look in our city.
Washrooms?
Allow dogs by all means, but not, please not, free range.
I'm glad this is happening. Parks are essential for healthy lives.
Have you considered designating a portion of the park for lease to local farmers that cannot afford to buy land in the region? It could also be a great site for a small community farmers market.
Thank you for asking our input.
No
DO NOT ENFORCE LEASH LAWS FOR DOGS...EXCEPT IN VICINITY OF MODEL AIRCRAFT (ELECTRIC ONLY) RUNWAY.
I hear one of the suggestions is for model planes. If that went through there would have to be limited hours of operation due to noise factor.
A meaningful comprehensive consultation process for the public.
Why was this area not considered for BC Housing's assisted housing project? It's not near schools or other concerns. A twice daily bus could take the tenants to medical appointments, etc.
Save the money for a project that is important.
It is such a blessing to have this green space in our neighborhood.
Leave the non-dog areas alone to be used by the wildlife who have used the fields forever. I've seen every sort to wildlife walk, fly or swim through that area. Not so much lately due to the free running dogs.
Make the area safe for all, reduce the chance of conflict and value all users. Value the land (ALR) develop the plan that is responsible and for which we can all be proud of. Thank you.
Nuh uh
No
Read above
I was very pleased when the district decided to purchase the field and that we so enjoy watching the park through its many changes throughout the year, including the months it is flooded by the Millstone River and the occasional times in winter when those waters freeze enough to invite skaters to the park. It is a wonderful natural asset.
NO.....
NO, all is good as is.
I hold a master of Community Planning and uphold the principle of using the right spaces in the community for the best uses. I want to see East Wellington Park as an area where habitat restoration is successful and backed by proper biological studies and science based decision making as an example of sound community planning.

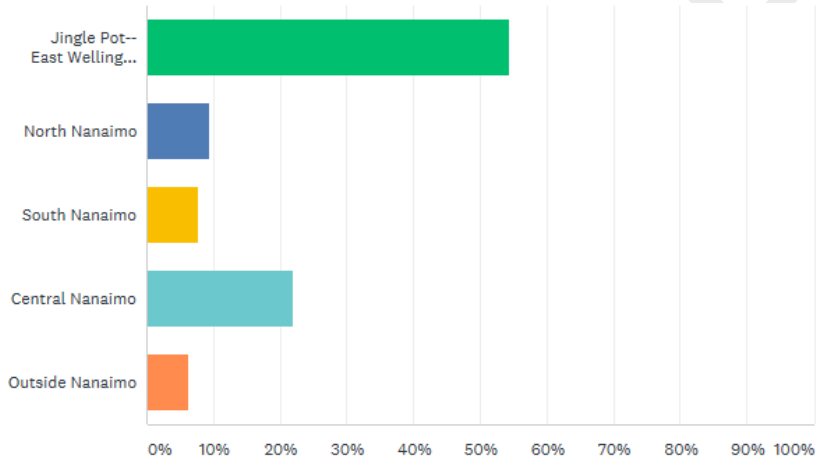
City governance and planning needs to be more proactive than reactive to situations like East Wellington Park that have developed happenstance due to complaints from a few dog owners and their own limited personal self-interest being chastised for having their dogs off-leash. One woman had her arm broken by an out of control dog. Another woman similarly knocked down and left phoning for help unable to get up by the dogs owners. A local farmer has lost 8 sheep from dog attacks from the park since 2012 when the park was first being put forward. Island farming and farm land needs to be valued and protected and supported. As many users as possible need to be represented. The public consultation period is incredibly short severely limiting public response. There are substantial grant funds available and free well-qualified expertise from a number of organizations to assist with restoring such vital flood plains and wetland areas and important wild habitat assets. These include Ducks Unlimited, Birdlife, Wildlife Habitat Canada, VIU, to name a few. I am a former Environmental Management professional and project consultant for Birdlife, IUCN, WWF and several international governments. I would be happy to donate my time to the city to assist this process in any way I can help.
EW Park is a flood plain for the Millstone River. This is its primary function and should be retained for this purpose.
If made into a RC Park would be nice if it was a club with people joining and having MAAC insurance.
Think outside of the box, with heavy public influences.
As a regular, frequent user of the park I believe the barest minimum of improvements and relief from harassment by Animal Control contractors would go a long way with the many hundreds or even thousands of residents that enjoy the wide open spaces with their pets, hobby aircraft and stargazing activities. This is a floodplain after all that spends 6 months a year underwater....winter freeze even presents a nice safe open air ice skating opportunity ...it is a place dearly loved by the community that have enjoyed it for so many years now. Ok until the Animal Control contractors arrived on the scene it was quite tranquil, now the imminent potential threat of fines and confrontation has scared many users away and a constant stress factor for those who still enjoy taking their animals for a run in the tall grass.
That development doesn't affect upstream residence, farms and land, and ensure proper water flow for Millstone.
The park is a beautiful spot but it currently caters primarily to dogs off-leash. It would be nice to get dogs back on-leash so others can feel safe using the area. Also would be nice to slow traffic and increase safe shoulders to encourage locals to walk/cycle to park.
No
Picnic tables
There is no sidewalk leading to or from the park. Installing some form of pedestrian access would really improve the appeal. A sidewalk on Holland RD, and/or EW Road would assist both the park, and the schools in the area.
Wonderful location for a QUIET flying club!
Proper access, parking and good signage to keep things safe some way of keeping the rule breakers and noise makers out. The close by residents should not have to put up with any more disruption than any other beside a park, with soccer or baseball. If this park was to be used as a model aircraft flying field, it should be electric only, with restricted operation times of certain types (eg: helicopters). A flying field here would also lessen the use of playing fields being used in a unrestricted (unsafe) way of flying model aircraft.
I think this is a perfect place for an off-leash dog park. Due to the marshy and flood floodplain nature of most of the field it is undesirable for most other uses for around 75% of the year. We usually visit the field twice per day, and 99% percent of the people we see are using it to enjoy recreation with their dogs. Very occasionally, we see some flying a drone, or using the long grass to take pictures in the summer which is also great as the field is so big it is easy to separate the dogs for others enjoying themselves. Thank you so much for asking the community their thoughts.
Millstone floodplain provides significant ecological values, including fish habitats. Hay farming should either be reduced or stopped and enhancements made to improve ecological conditions (floodplain, riparian, and aquatic habitats) in association with enhancing parkland uses such as trails.
Park should be open to all citizens all times and NOT be controlled by any club RC or others. Terms of reference states "Equitable access to parks, recreation and wellness services and facilities by "all" citizens.
Vancouver has designated RC flying parks, it would be nice to have one in Nanaimo where we can set up multigt racing events.
Very little would be required to make it suitable.
I have been a resident of Nanaimo for 59 years and involved in the hobby for 30 years. I think it's time we had a safe flying site like other communities in the province and country.

For safety reasons exclusion dates and times should be specified for model flying. Also, the weight of the models should be limited (foam models only?) Due to noise considerations all models must be electric only. Model flying should be open to the public and free, otherwise will continue to occur in city parks and school yards.
It should be available to electric model airplane flyers.
The park board cuts a wide trail through the shrubs at the east end of the park for the walkers. This would help contain any threat of picking up ticks.
No.
RC model flying site is required as government restrictions are going to limit this activity which will eliminate a great hobby and harm business that support the hobby.
No
No sports fields, swimming pools, ice hockey rinks, convention centers, please. Keep it in the ALR. Food and flower production with trails and information on sustainable agriculture.
It's a great area. Enjoy the green space.
I wish to continue using this space as an off-leash park. It is great the dogs can run and on grass, swim if they want. This is a wonderful asset to the city and for dog owners. A one of a kind. My three dogs have benefited tremendously by what this park provides.
It's nice to have a space for dog walking.
Very beautiful park, maybe some care taken to preserve the riparian banks of the park. Lots of trees have been wind thrown and lost due to the banks collapsing.
I have been using this park and perimeter trail for more than 10 years as an off-leash dog area. I have seen and know of dozens of other dog owners who use the area for off-leash walks. Please keep the park use as an off-leash area!
Just would like to see this be a safe place for dogs and kids of all ages to go to play, maybe add a place for dogs to swim during the summer.
Many people currently walk their dogs off-leash at this park and I have never had any problems. I would really like to see it continue to be an undeveloped area where responsible dog owners can take their dogs off-leash.
No
Some type of green energy project.
Please leave it as parkland
No cement/metal playgrounds. Maybe a wood walkway around the outside for accessibility but leave it as natural as possible.
Clean up the rest of the city first
Nope
Playground, petting zoo
No
Please have dog poo bags and a garbage can to dispose of it. Tired of stepping in it.
No
No
It's wet in the winter/spring. Not sure that we can/should manage that.
Dog friendly or dog off-leash would be nice.
You have to remember it lays in a flood plain, harvest the hay when it is ready. No real development for amenities, etc.
Sufficient parking space
Might need some drainage or outdoor ice rink in the winter.
The flooding that occurs every winter would definitely need to be addressed to make the above suggestions a reality.

The EW parkland is situated in the perfect location for a community playground and family sports outdoor space.
Great place to walk the dogs off-leash.
Make it multi-use, don't just cater to dog users...share the area.
Please don't wreck it.
A community garden/food forest.
If it is kept as an off-leash park, please don't enclose it.
Keep it simple and as natural as possible.
This is an opportunity to provide a legal field for model aircraft hobbyist in Nanaimo.
No
No
No

Question 6 - Which best describes where you live?

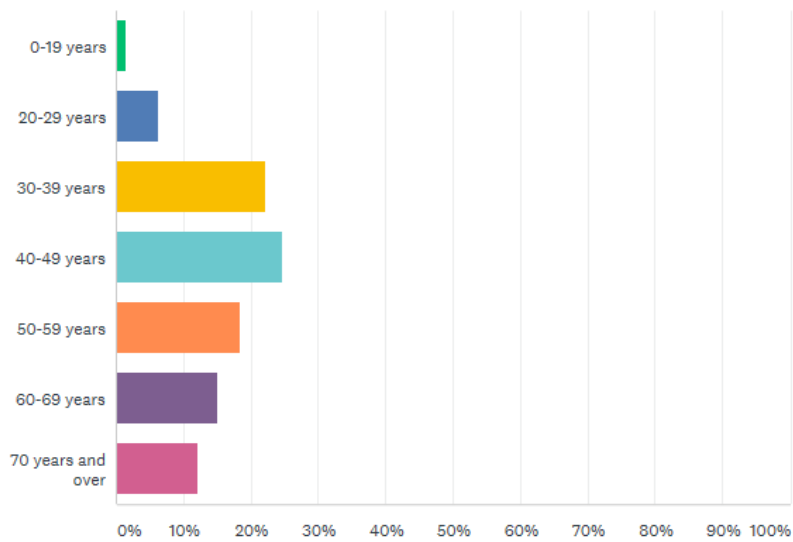
Answered 204 Skipped 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Jingle Pot-- East Wellington Neighbourhood	54.41%	111
North Nanaimo	9.31%	19
South Nanaimo	7.84%	16
Central Nanaimo	22.06%	45
Outside Nanaimo	6.37%	13
TOTAL		204

Question 7 - In what age group are you?

Answered 207 Skipped 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 0-19 years	1.45% 3
▼ 20-29 years	6.28% 13
▼ 30-39 years	22.22% 46
▼ 40-49 years	24.64% 51
▼ 50-59 years	18.36% 38
▼ 60-69 years	14.98% 31
▼ 70 years and over	12.08% 25
TOTAL	207

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT B



NANAIMO
ASTRONOMY
SOCIETY

Chris Boar - President Nanaimo Astronomy Society,
1774 Montana Road,
Nanaimo, B.C, V9X 1C7.
4th August, 2019.

To Nanaimo Parks & Recreation, & Culture Dept.

The Nanaimo Astronomy Society (NAS) is writing to express our interest in a partnership with Nanaimo Parks & Recreation in establishing a park area dedicated to public night time astronomy viewing and outreach/education.

NAS is a non profit registered BC Society, which averages around 60-80 members per year. We meet monthly, hosting presentations from Professional astronomers. In addition we run public outreach/viewing sessions in Nanaimo, as well as on request group outreach, e.g. schools, girl guides, etc.

NAS has a long term objective of establishing a 'Star Park' in Nanaimo. This would be an area publicly accessible 24/7, with minimal light pollution, allowing public enjoyment of the night sky, along with smaller (less than 20 people) public outreach groups run by NAS as required.

NAS has kept in regular contact with the Parks & Recreation Dept over the last 3 years, keeping our objective in mind, to identify a suitable location for a Star Park. The new East Wellington park development is ideal for our needs. Primarily due to; large open sky, minimal light pollution, and 24/7 access.

We envisage the Star Park to be fairly compact and simple. E.g. a couple of benches facing South, some information boards about the night sky, and ideally a concrete pad (at least 6x6) for telescope use during Public outreach. Additional 'nice to have' would be some sort of shielding (fence/vegetation) to block the view of the parking lot street lighting from the Star Park area, as well as astronomy themed artwork.

Once the Star Park is established, NAS would then like to pursue and gain the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada 'Urban Star Park' (USP) designation. See https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/RASC_PRESERVE_APPLICATION_REQUIREMENTS_2018_0.pdf

NAS believes this designation would be a 'feather in the cap' for the City of Nanaimo as there are very few Canadian USP's.

NAS looks forward to working with Parks & Recreation to make our vision a reality.

Best Regards,

Chris Boar
President, Nanaimo Astronomy Society.

ATTACHMENT C



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

October 15, 2019

Madeleine Koch, MCIP, RPP
Parks and Open Space Planner
Parks and Recreation
City of Nanaimo

Thank you for reaching out to Vancouver Island University (VIU) to discuss the potential partnership opportunities at East Wellington Park. During our initial consultations with Nanaimo City staff regarding the future use of the Park, it appears that there will could be some amazing opportunities to collaborate with the City to offer experiential learning opportunities for our students while enhancing a community space.

At VIU we have invested significant time and energy in developing our Academic Plan. Within that Plan some of the core objectives that we have identified include the following:

- enhance experiential learning opportunities and involvement, and community-based learning activity
- support opportunities to build high quality scholarship, research and creative activity
- sustain collaborative relationships, including research opportunities, with business and industry, communities, educational partners, governments and Indigenous communities in order to ensure suitable responses to regional cultural, economic, environmental and social needs
- support community-based learning that builds on Indigenous protocols, ways of knowing, and facilitates bridging into VIU

We feel that the potential partnership opportunities that exist within the scope of this project would help us achieve these objectives. Our Horticulture program resides at the G.R. Paine center only blocks away from the Park location and they are keen to participate in the development process for the space as well as potential on-going experiential learning opportunities. Our Heavy Equipment Operators program would be keen to participate if the opportunity was there for our students to have the opportunity to apply their learning and training in an industry setting. The Science and Technology faculty at VIU also has a number of programs that could participate in this partnership either through the design phase of the project or through ongoing applied research opportunities, including Natural Resource Protection and Fisheries and Aquaculture.

This potential partnership could provide valuable ongoing experiential learning and research opportunities embedded with indigenous ways of knowing for VIU students. I would like to submit this letter of support for the City of Nanaimo and VIU to explore partnership opportunities as part of the East Wellington Park plan development process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessie Chalmers'.

Jessie Chalmers
Associate Dean, Trades and Applied Technology
Vancouver Island University

ATTACHMENT D

From: Jen Cody <Jen.Cody@nanaimofoodshare.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Madeleine Koch <Madeleine.Koch@nanaimo.ca>; Rob Lawrance <Rob.Lawrance@nanaimo.ca>;
Craig Evans <craigevans@gmail.com>; Denise Neilson Bullock <dneilson0517@gmail.com>
Subject: East Wellington Plan

Thank you Madeline and Rob for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for the park planning for East Wellington Park.

Please see the letter on behalf of Nanaimo Foodshare below.

Dear City Council,

Nanaimo Foodshare is excited with the opportunity to support the city in the process for planning of East Wellington Park. Our Board of Directors has discussed the East Wellington Park, its status as an ALR property, and its potential as a park contributing to sustainable agriculture and ecological conservation. The board fully supports the prospect of a long term relationship working with the city to ensure that the park plan supports a balance of agriculture, community use, and environmental conservation. We feel that this is an exciting opportunity to support the community in continuing to develop sustainable agriculture in Nanaimo and the region.

Currently, Nanaimo Foodshare is conducting an environmental assessment of the neighbouring property at 2090 Skaha Drive and engaged in agricultural food production on 2 acres at this property. The timing of our activities engaging in agriculture and ecological assessment presents an opportunity to work in tandem with the city and potentially coordinate our activities to achieve efficiencies in assessment for the same ecosystem.

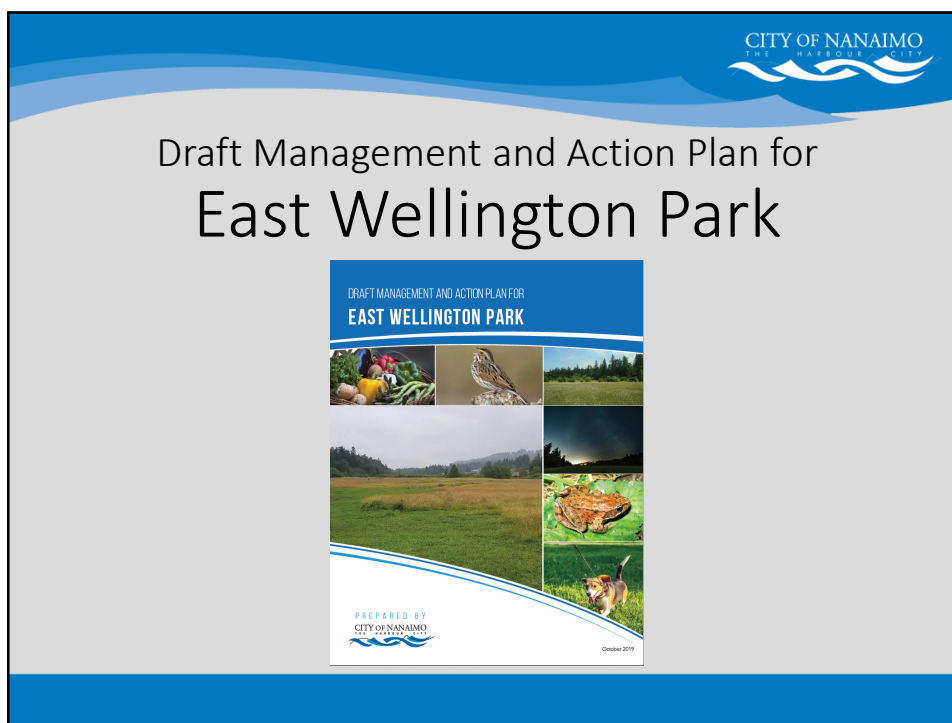
We look forward to working with the city to support the development of a park with so much positive potential.

Sincerely

Jen Cody

Catch the Five Acre Farm Film [here](#)!

Jen Cody
Executive Director
jen.cody@nanaimofoodshare.ca
250-753-9393



The Site

- 12.7 ha in size
- Acquired in 2014
- Next to Millstone River
- Seasonally flooded
- In Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Environmentally sensitive
- Future site of Millstone Sewer Trunk expansion

Planning Process to Date

- Public consultation (survey and open house)
- Stakeholder consultation
- Environmental assessments



Goal 1: Environmental Conservation and Restoration

- Park provides important riparian and seasonally flooded open field habitat
- Opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife habitat values along the Millstone River
- Create restoration opportunities that combine agriculture and ecological restoration



Goal 2: Agricultural Production

- East Wellington Park is in the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Facilitate ecologically sensitive agriculture and horticulture opportunities within the park
- Collaborate with other agencies and community groups including:
 - Vancouver Island University
 - Nanaimo Foodshare



Goal 3: Support Astronomy Activities

- Nanaimo Astronomy Society (NAS) currently uses the park for night sky viewing.
- Opportunities to add modest astronomy amenities
- Opportunity to pursue an “Urban Star Park” designation for East Wellington Park through the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

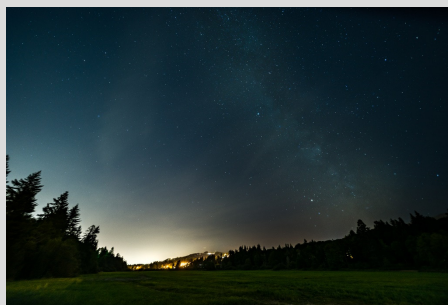


Photo Source: Chris Boar, Nanaimo Astronomy Society

Goal 4: Support Education and Research

- East Wellington Park offers opportunities for education and research that blends agricultural activity with environmental conservation and restoration
- Vancouver Island University's (VIU) G.R. Paine Centre is located nearby, and community-based experiential learning is supported by VIU's Academic Plan
- VIU, Nanaimo Food Share, and Nanaimo Astronomy Society have expressed interest in collaborating on education and research



Goal 5: Accommodate Dog Walking

- Support dog walking that balances the public desire to see more dog friendly parks with the need to respect the agricultural and environmental sensitivities of the site.
- Mitigate potential conflicts between dogs, other park users, wildlife, and sensitive habitat areas.



Goal 6: Improve Park Access and Amenities

- Facilitate year-round park access
- Improve accessibility
- Facilitate and enhance nature appreciation

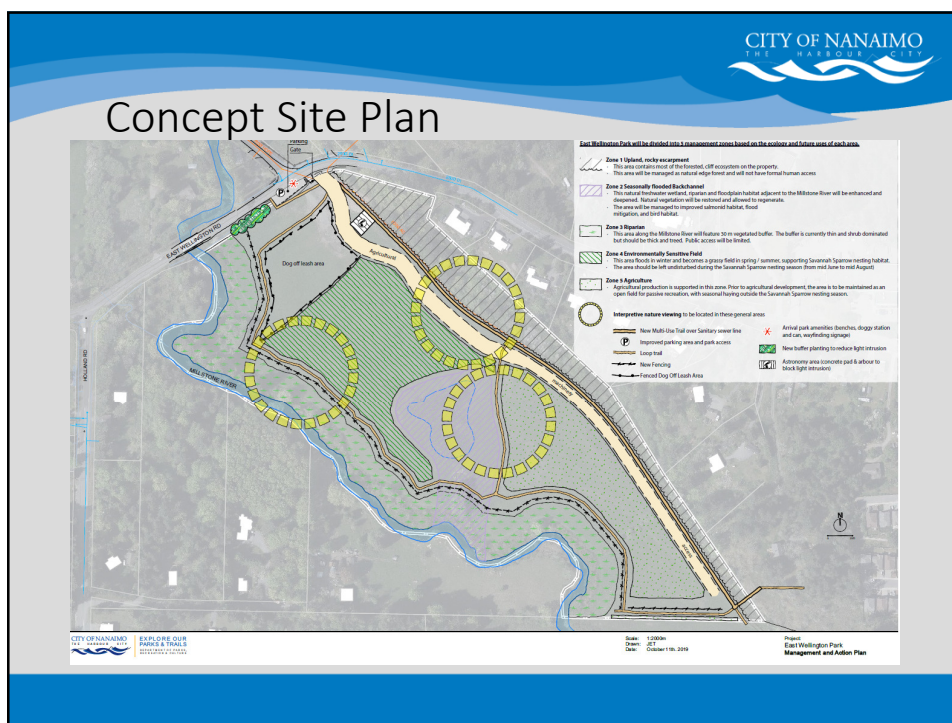


Implementation Schedule

- Includes short, medium and long-term implementation actions

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Long Term Actions						
15	Develop the site for agricultural production	Goal 2	2020- ongoing	Vancouver Island University; Nanaimo Food Share; other community groups; CoN Parks and Recreation	Site works and servicing, to be determined	Moderate
16	Install interpretive signage related to the agricultural uses	Goal 4 (a)(i)	Following development of agricultural use	CoN Parks and Recreation; agricultural users	Sign materials; graphic design	Minor
17	Develop astronomy area(s)	Goal 3 (a)(i-ii)	2023	Nanaimo Astronomy Club; CoN Parks and Recreation	Paving materials; arbour construction and materials	Moderate

(Plan excerpt)



Recommendation (Next Steps)

That Council direct Staff to:

- Hold an open house at the park and post the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan to the City of Nanaimo's website to gather public input;
- Submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Reserve for park development; and,
- Report back to Council with the final draft plan.