

Challenges on the River

The Nanaimo River has supported human activities for thousands of years. Our challenge is to restore and maintain a healthy ecosystem for the future.

We enjoy the river's wonderful water for drinking, irrigation and many kinds of recreation. We have also compromised its once-pristine waters, affected exchange of water between the river and related aquifers and applied other pressures resulting from human use impacts.

Fish populations (especially once-abundant Steelhead runs) have suffered through habitat degradation and over-fishing. A healthy river supports a variety of fish species, and fish are key indicators of aquatic ecosystem health.

The upper reaches of the watershed have been logged. While timber is a renewable resource and an important economic driver on Vancouver Island, historical practices contributed to diminished water quality as well as damaged fish habitat. Current timber harvest practices are much improved over the past. Forestry continues to be a major activity in the watershed.

Residential development is expanding. As the Central Island area gains popularity, so do beautiful areas such as the Nanaimo River. Planning should continue to consider the balance of rural growth and natural values.

Even recreational uses, while they may be all about loving the river, leave their mark—especially as human populations increase.

What's Next?

The Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable is a multi-stakeholder forum to share ideas, information and resources for stewardship of all the values supported by the watershed. The Roundtable began meeting in early 2013 and is developing ideas to reach out to the community to increase awareness of watershed stewardship.

What You Can Do

The Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable needs your voice, your input and your financial support to help us steward and protect the Nanaimo River watershed over the long term.

Contact Information:

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c/o (NALT)**

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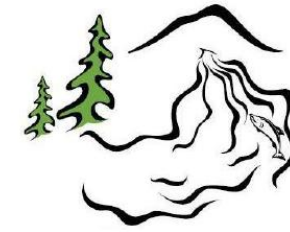
Project Partners to March, 2014 include:

**BC Ministry of the Environment
City of Nanaimo
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Island Timberlands
Log Storage Association
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)
Nanaimo Forest Products – Harmac Pacific
Nanaimo River Estuary Committee
Nanaimo River Stewardship Society
Recreational Canoeing Assoc. of BC
Regional District of Nanaimo
TimberWest
VI and Coast Conservation Society (VICCS)
Vancouver Island University
Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club
And other community members**



Roosevelt Elk - photo by Kim Brunt

Introducing...



**Nanaimo
River
Watershed
Roundtable**



The Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable is a multi-stakeholder initiative to develop strategies and actions that will protect the values of the Nanaimo River Watershed for the future.



The Nanaimo River and Its Values

The Nanaimo River originates from the Island mountain range on Southern Vancouver Island, consisting of over a dozen tributaries and four major lakes. From the headwaters to the estuary, the watershed encompasses 84,000 hectares with a mainstem river channel of 56 kilometres. The Nanaimo River watershed and its estuary are part of the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw and Stz'uminus First Nations.

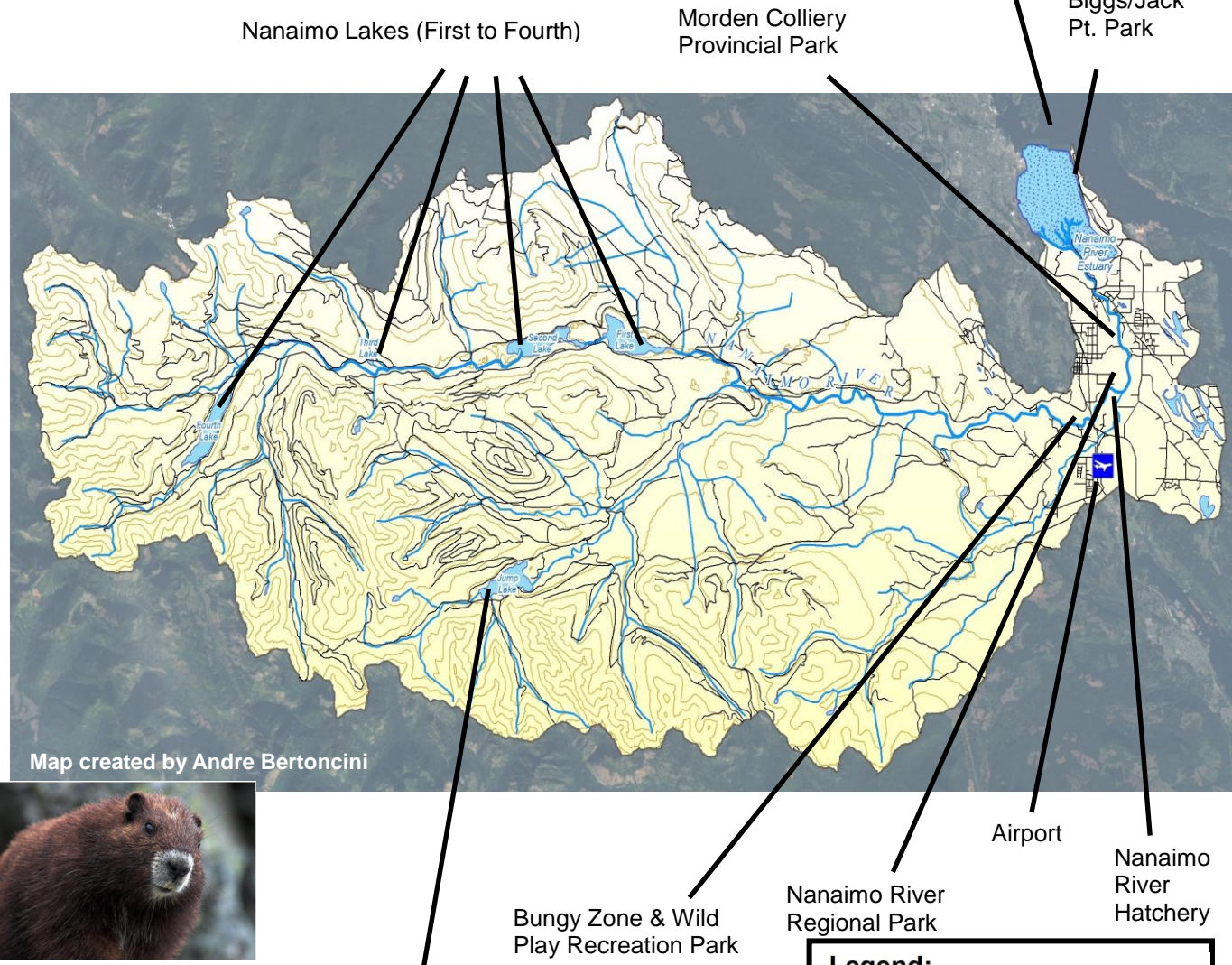
The Nanaimo River has many significant values, including:

- Areas and features of historical and cultural significance to the Snuneymuxw and Stz'uminus First Nations.
- Aquatic habitat for salmon, trout and other fish species as well as otters, birds, amphibians and insects.
- Riparian, estuarine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Drinking water for the City of Nanaimo, plus groundwater that feeds the aquifers of Cassidy, Cedar and South Wellington.
- Water supply for industrial and agricultural uses
- Forestry, agriculture, aggregate and other industries.
- Log storage in the estuary.
- Residential living and rural agriculture
- Recreational opportunities for swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking, kayaking and bird-watching
- Educational and research opportunities

Our Mission Statement:

To advise and develop strategies and initiatives for the long-term promotion, protection, sustainability and stewardship of the Watershed.

Points of Interest in the Watershed



Map created by Andre Bertoncini



Vancouver Island Marmot, an Endangered Species in Canada, are found in some subalpine meadows in the watershed.

Photo: Oli Gartner

Jump Lake Reservoir – Drinking Water for City of Nanaimo

And Other Interests and Activities:

- Many favourite “swimming holes”
- River kayaking and rafting
- Trans-Canada Trail

The Nanaimo River Estuary is the largest estuary on Vancouver Island

Legend:

- Nanaimo River Watershed Boundary
- Lakes
- Nanaimo River Estuary
- Roads
- Rivers
- Contours (200m interval)
- Airport