

# Bonsall Creek Watershed Management Plan

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Canada



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**NORTH**  
Cowichan

# Background Official Community Plan

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# Official Community Plan (OCP)

OCP approved July 2011. Currently developing an OCP implementation Plan.  
North Cowichan's OCP includes:

## Principles

Sustainability

Economic opportunity

Smart growth

Healthy and safe community

Community engagement

## Goals

Preserve our rural setting

Guard our environment

Adjust to climate change

Encourage economic opportunities

Build strong communities

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# Agriculture

Preserve our rural setting

## Components

Agriculture

Forestry

Mining and Gravel Extraction

Landscapes, seascapes, and vistas

Housing & services in rural areas

- In support of Agriculture, North Cowichan established:
  - 2001: Strategic Agriculture Plan
  - 2005: Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Agriculture Advisory Committee
  - May 2012, workshop
  - January 2013, WIP
  - #1 Priority
    - water management

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# Environment

## Guard our environment

### Components

Ecosystem health, biodiversity and critical habitats

Air quality and noise pollution

Natural hazard area

Archaeology

- Sampling of the policies in support of the environment :
  - Protect environmentally sensitive areas
  - Protects and supports ecological functioning in watershed in its operations, and development review
  - Recognize and protect unique and special characteristics of ocean foreshores and other water front areas
  - Protect people and property from natural hazards (flood, steep slopes, fire hazard)
  - Protect archaeological resources and develop protocols with neighbouring First Nations

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# Climate Change

## Adjust to Climate Change

### Targets

Carbon neutrality

Sequestration

Adaptation

Mitigation

- Sampling of the policies in support of adjusting to climate change:
  - Action planning
  - Reduce footprint of municipal operations
  - Reduce carbon footprints in the development process
- February 2013 Climate Action Energy Plan approved by Council

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# Economy

## Encourage Economic Opportunities

### Components

Economic Development Environment

Rural- and environmental-based economic opportunities

New technologies

Waterfront commercial and industrial development

Commerce

Industry

- Policies in support
  - Extensive – for agriculture, forestry, industry, marine based, green technologies, commerce, recreational and tourist based.
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
  - 2010, set out priorities supported by Council

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# Community

## Build Strong Community

### Components

Growth Management

Housing

Public Realm

Safe and healthy community

Strong neighbourhoods and community

Transportation

Infrastructure

Parks and Recreation

- Policies in support
  - Extensive – urban containment, rural land protection, housing continuum, improved public spaces, work with other agencies in support of healthy community, local area plans, complete streets, affordable quality infrastructure, recreation for all ages.
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Community Planning Committee
- Chemainus Advisory Committee
- Local Area Plans underway for University Village and Crofton.

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# Background

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# AAC Priorities

- #1 Priority is the development of a water management plan that considers the needs of agriculture

## Work Priorities

### Components

#1 Water Management

#2 Economic Development

#3 Regulatory Barriers

#4 Bylaws, Policy, Land Use

#5 Agriculture Reserve Fund

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# BCWMP – Intent of Plan

The Bonsall Creek Watershed and Chemainus River Aquifer chosen

## Challenges

potable drinking water

drainage

seasonal flooding

large tracts of land within forestry

large tracts of land within the  
Agricultural Land Reserve

## Goal

to delve into watershed specific details, strategies, and design as supported by a water management vision

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# BCWMP – Intent of Plan

In regards to Agriculture

## Goals

develop a shared vision of agriculture for the study area;

Improve water quality entering and leaving properties

address drainage issues to lessen the potential for water use conflict

## Goal

enhance agriculture opportunities in the community;

integrate agriculture with other priorities within water planning areas;

Prepare implementation steps, for an agriculture water reserve recommendation.

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# BCWMP – AWG & Public Input

Advisory Working Group and Public Input

Economic sectors (agriculture, forestry, fishing, industry)

First Nations communities

Government (legislation, regulations, processes, technical information, resources)

Rural residential

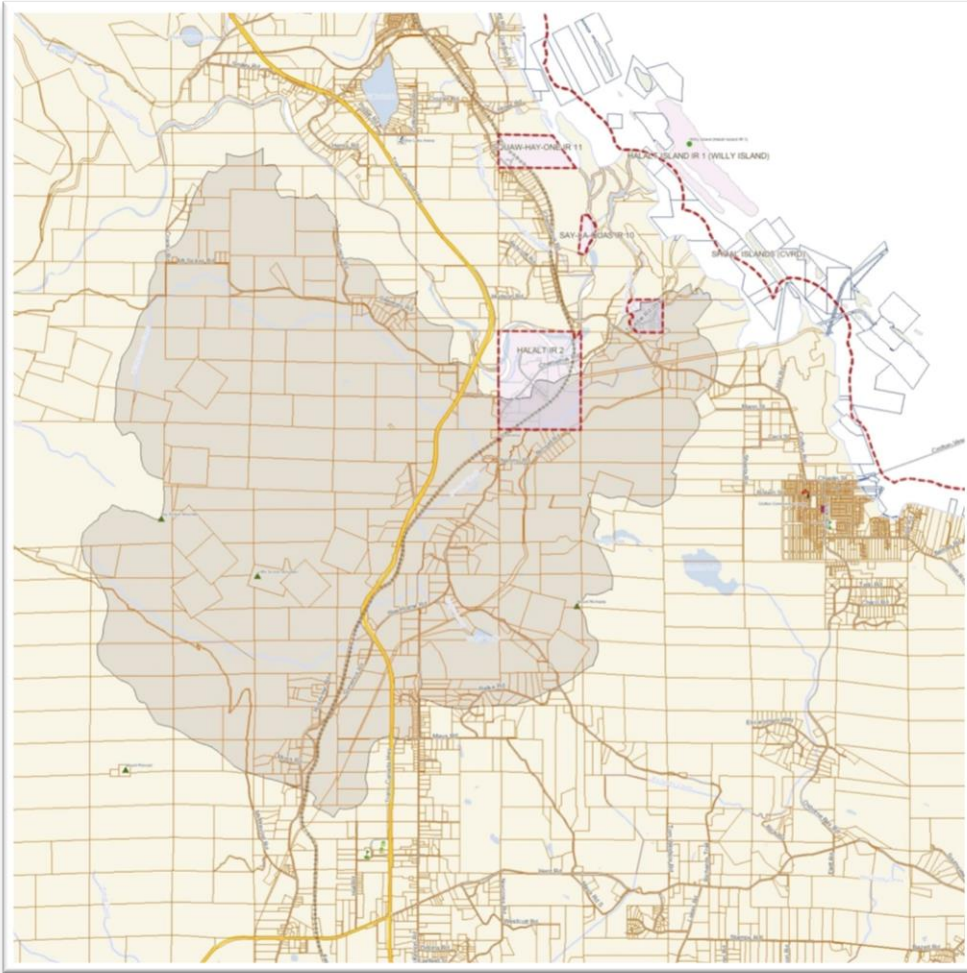
NGOs (eg environmental groups)

CVRD (technical information and resources)

North Cowichan - Planning, Engineering, Forestry, Parks and Recreation

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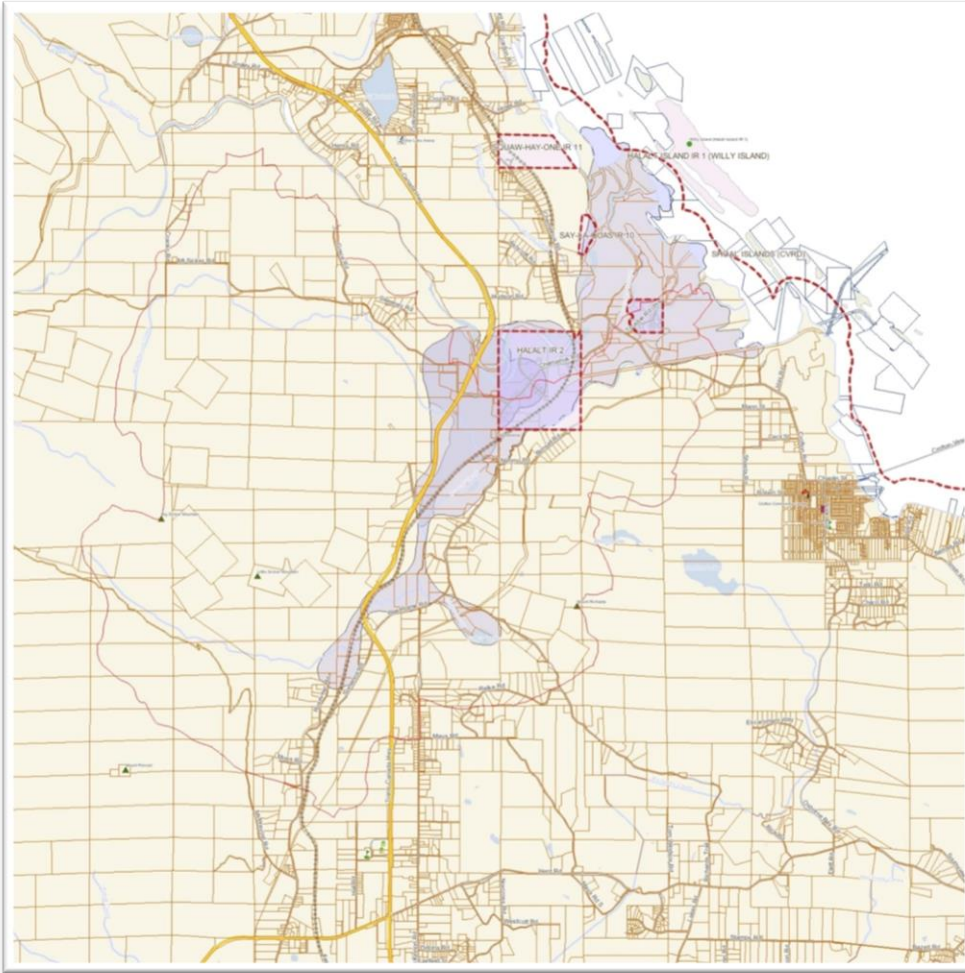




# Bonsall Creek Watershed

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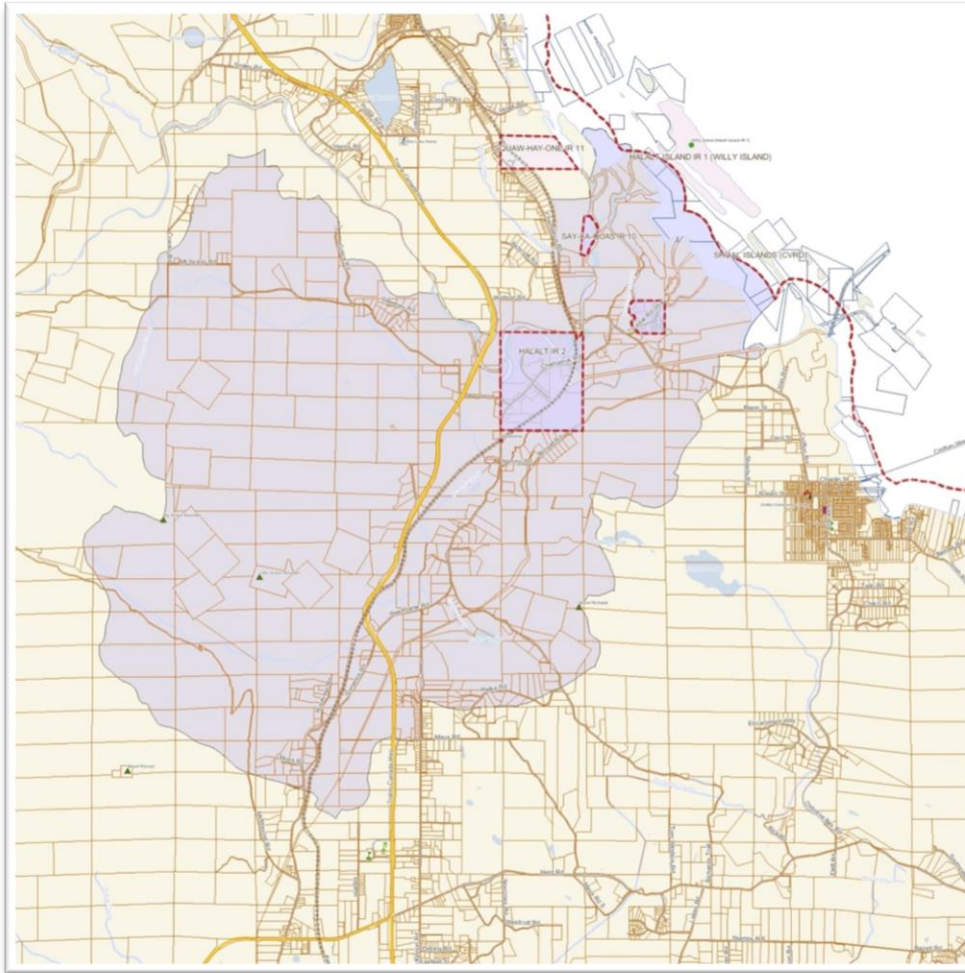


# Chemainus River Aquifer

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# Study Area

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## STAGE 1

### Public and Sector Engagement

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Staff Coordination Team</li><li>- Establish Advisory Working Group</li></ul> | Develop Public Outreach Strategy |
|--|----------------------------------|

### Water / watershed Issues / Information Gaps Analysis

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review existing information on water issues and identify gaps</li></ul> | Gather and consolidate public input |
|---|-------------------------------------|

### Respond to Water Issues

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Prepare water issues and water facts reports including a data base of information collected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Agriculture Water Demand Model</li><li>-Set performance targets</li><li>-Develop vision and goals</li><li>-Baseline Review</li></ul> | Gather public input on report, performance targets, vision and goals |
|--|--|

## Staged Planning Process

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## STAGE 2

### Prepare the draft BCWMP

Develop the objectives, options, actions, policy, implementation strategies, implementation budget and site design solutions to address:

- Water demand;
- Water supply;
- Water quality;
- Drainage;
- Aquifer Impacts

Gather and consolidate public input on implementation Consultation Plan and draft Watershed Management Plan

Finalize Consultation Plan

### Review / Approve BCWMP

Revise draft BCWMP based on public input

Submit plan for approval by North Cowichan Council

# Staged Planning Process

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# BCWMP – Specific Expectations

Consistent with North Cowichan's OCP

Identify key areas – drainage control, system design

Legislation analyzed, education and policy recommendations made

Community shared vision of our water resources and agriculture

Results of the water-demand model have determined agriculture potential

Options for agriculture water reserves identified for implementation

Options for best management and design practices have been identified for implementation

Implementation plan developed

A performance plan is developed for implementation

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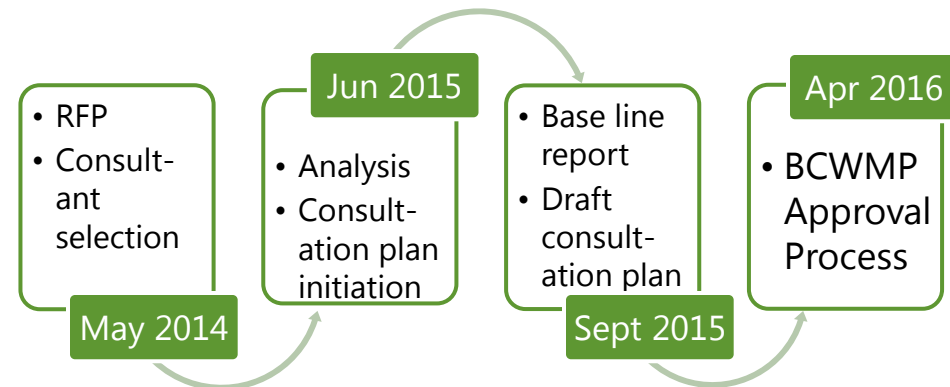


# BCWMP - Budget and Schedule

## Budget

AWG – direct expenses	\$10,000.00
Water Testing – direct expenses; volunteers needed	\$19,500.00
Consultant, including expenses; excluding taxes	\$110,500.00
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>
Investment Agriculture Fund	\$70,000.00
Municipality of North Cowichan	\$70,000.00

## Schedule [draft]



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