

# Bonsall Creek Watershed Management Plan

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# Background - Official Community Plan

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Canada



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**NORTH**  
Cowichan

# 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:
  - 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

- 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

- 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

Encourage Economic Opportunities

## Components

Economic Development Environment

Rural- and environmental-based economic opportunities

New technologies

Waterfront commercial and industrial development

Commerce

Industry

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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
  - urban containment, rural land protection, housing continuum, improved public spaces, complete streets, affordable quality infrastructure, recreation for all ages.
- Committees:
  - Agricultural Advisory
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Community Planning
  - Chemainus Advisory Committee
- Advisory Working Groups
  - University Village Local Area Plan
  - Crofton Local Area Plan
  - BCWMP

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# AAC Priorities

## Work Priorities

## Components

#1 Water Management

#2 Economic Development

#3 Regulatory Barriers

#4 Bylaws, Policy, Land Use

#5 Agriculture Reserve Fund

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

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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

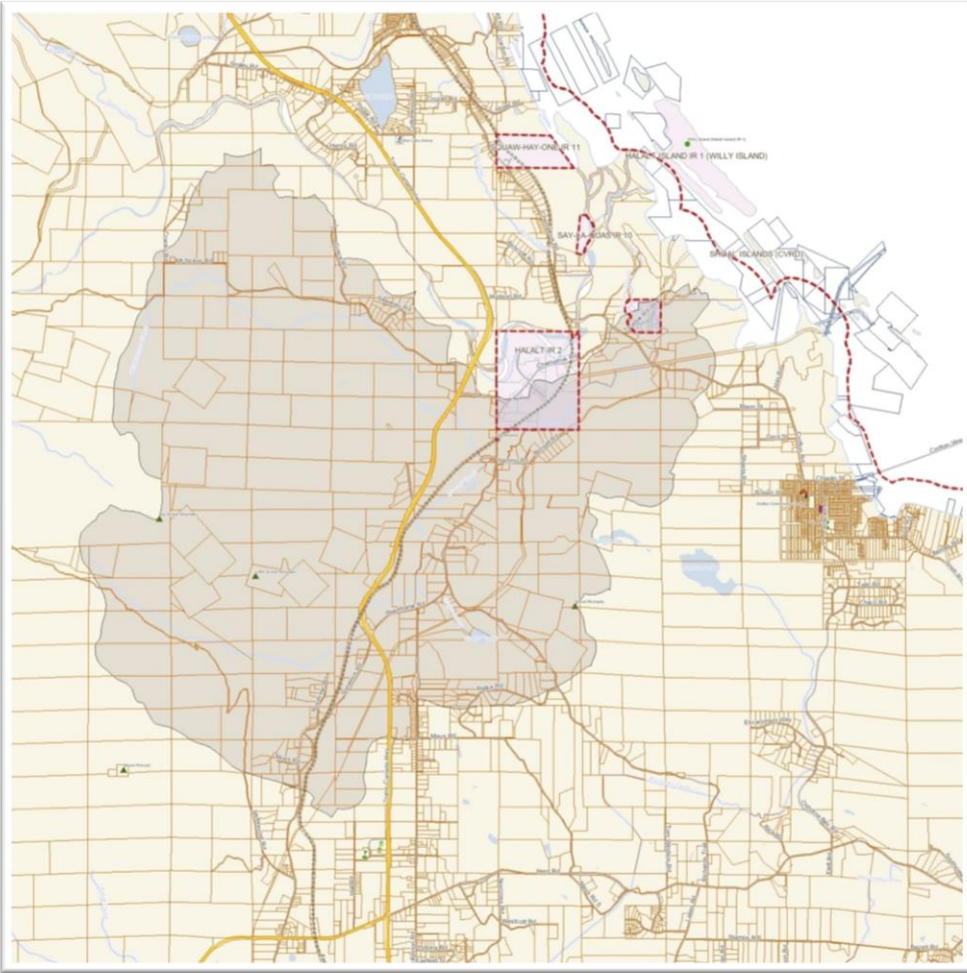
NGOs (eg environmental groups)

CVRD (technical information and resources)

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

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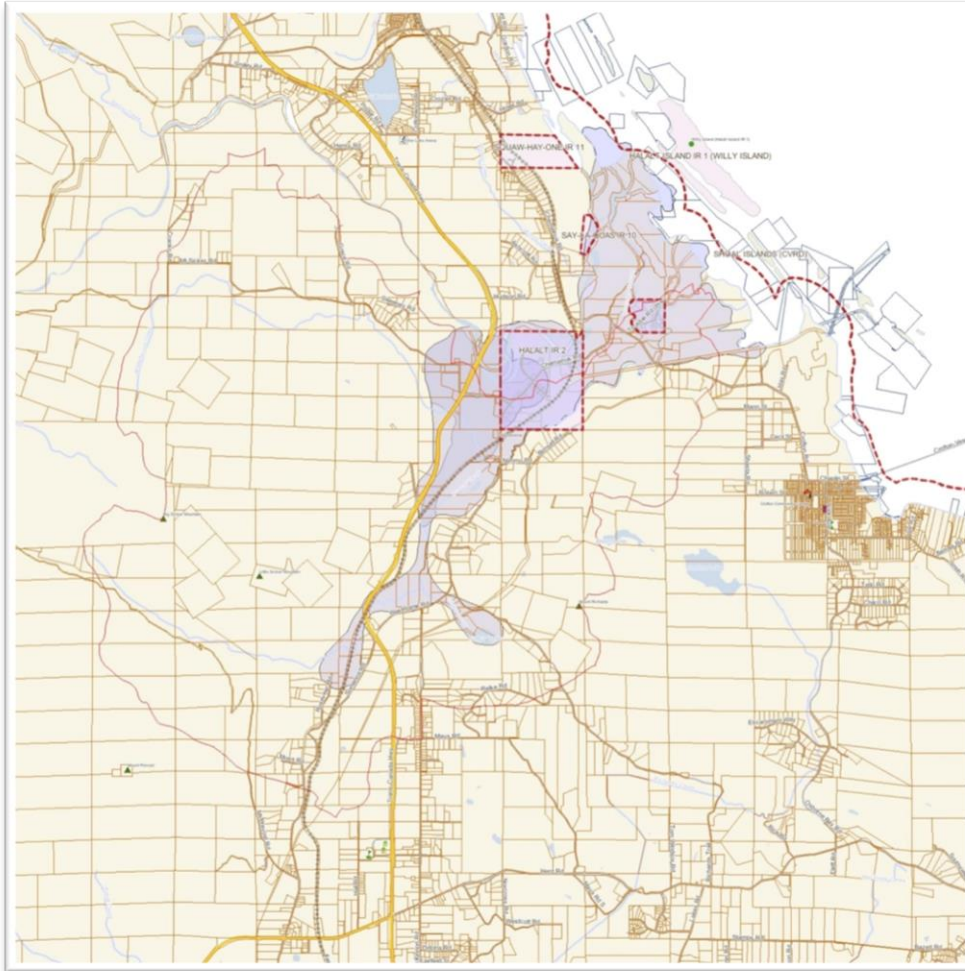




# Bonsall Creek Watershed

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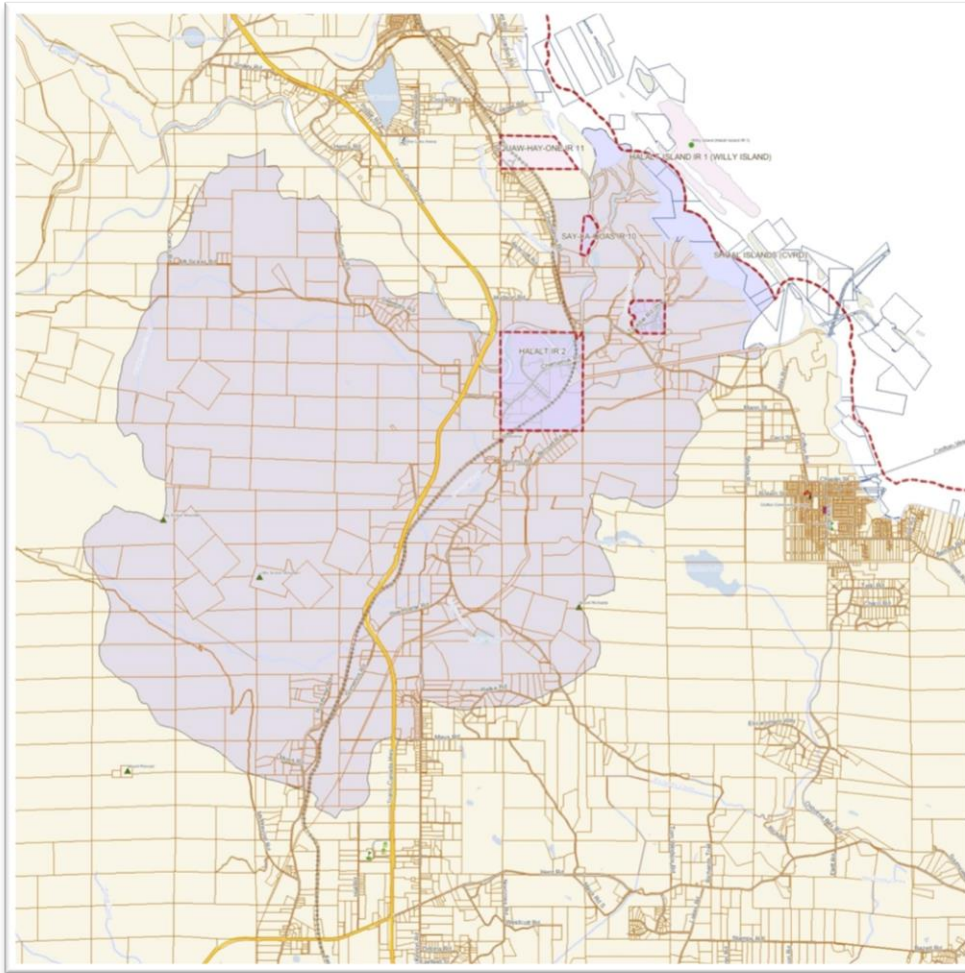




# Chemainus River Aquifer

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# Study Area

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## STAGE 1

### Public and Sector Engagement

- Staff Coordination Team
- Establish Advisory Working Group

Develop Public Outreach Strategy

### Water / watershed Issues / Information Gaps Analysis

- Review existing information on water issues and identify gaps

Gather and consolidate public input

### Respond to Water Issues

Prepare water issues and water facts reports including a data base of information collected

- Agriculture Water Demand Model
- Set performance targets
- Develop vision and goals
- Baseline Review

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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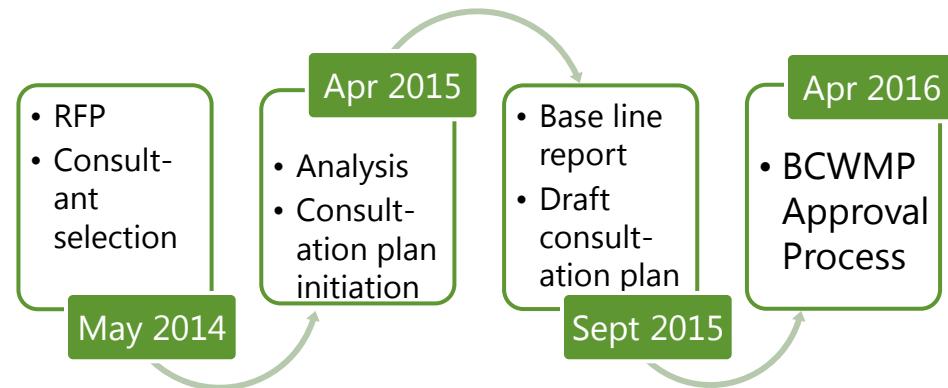


# BCWMP - Budget and Schedule

## 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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# Advisory Working Group (AWG)

- Agriculture
- Engineering
  - Municipal
  - Provincial
- Environmental quality
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Ground water
- Industry
- Local Government
  - First Nations
  - CVRD
  - North Cowichan
- Water Quality



Critically  
guide the  
process

- Decision Maker – North Cowichan Council
  - Sets direction/approves Terms of Reference, Consultation Plan, and BCWMP
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
  - Provides advice to Council about the need, the process and the product
- North Cowichan Staff, the AWG, consultants, interested public
  - Ensures technical needs are met
  - Ensures the development of a community vision for water and agriculture

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