

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
BOWEN COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
500 BOWEN ROAD (LOWER LEVEL)
WEDNESDAY, 2015-MAY-13, COMMENCING AT 4:30 P.M.

1. **STAFF TO CALL THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TO ORDER:**

2. **SELECTION OF CHAIR BY COMMITTEE MOTION:**

Pgs.
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(In accordance with the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, adopted 2010-JAN-25, the Committee will elect the Chair annually at the first meeting following April 1st from amongst its members.)

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** *(Motion required to adopt the agenda.)*

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Regular Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Meeting held Wednesday, 2015-MAR-11, at 4:35 p.m., in the Bowen Complex Conference Room.

Pgs.
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(Motion required to adopt minutes.)

6. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- (a) Melissa Tomlison of ACER (Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research), Vancouver Island University – Our “Horizon”.
<https://web.viu.ca/acer/>

7. **CHAIR’S REPORT:**

8. **STAFF REPORTS:**

- (a) **ACES 2015 Work Plan**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Pgs.
11 - 15

Purpose: To obtain ACES’s and Council’s approval on the 2015 Work Plan.

At their meeting held on 2015-MAR-11 the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability unanimously passed the following motion:

“ that the 2015 Work Plan, amended with the addition of “Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies”, be adopted, and that the Plan be brought forward to the new Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability.”

The amendments as requested have been made and Staff now present the 2015 Work Plan to the new ACES membership for approval and recommendation that Council approve the 2015 Work Plan.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability approve and recommend that Council approve the Committee's 2015 Work Plan.

(Motion required to adopt recommendation.)

- (b) **Restoration Plan for Vancouver Island Beggarticks (*Bidens amplissima*)** Pgs.
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner 16 - 21

Purpose: To receive for information, a plan to conduct restoration trails for Vancouver Island Beggarticks in Third Street Park.

Staff Recommendations: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive this report for information.

- (c) **Environmental Services Report** – December 2014 – April 2015. Pgs.
22 - 24
- (d) **Invasive Plant Month – May.** Pg.
25
- (e) **Bike to Work Week – May 25-31, 2015..** Pg.
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9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** (None.)
10. **NOTICE OF MOTION:**
11. **OTHER BUSINESS:** *(Motion required to review other business)*
12. **DELEGATIONS:** (None.)
13. **QUESTION PERIOD:** *(Agenda Items Only)*
14. **ADJOURNMENT:**



ADVISORY COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

(adopted 2010-JAN-25)

The following Terms of Reference apply to all Advisory Committees of the City of Nanaimo unless otherwise noted.

Appointment and Term

The member(s) of Council will be appointed annually by motion of Council.

Other members will be appointed for a three-year term commencing April 1st in the year following a general local government election (*does not apply to PNAC*). At-large members will be appointed by Council. Council will ratify appointments of members recommended by their specific associations.

Members of the Committee will serve without remuneration.

Chair

The Committee will elect the Chair annually at the first meeting following April 1st from amongst its members.

Meeting Procedures

All points of procedure not specifically provided for in these Terms of Reference shall be decided and determined in accordance with the current Council Procedure Bylaw.

Except where the provisions of the *Community Charter* apply, all Committee meetings shall be open to the public. Where the Committee wishes to close a meeting to the public, it may do so by adopting a resolution in accordance with the *Community Charter*.

The order of business is to be as set out in an agenda package to be provided to Committee members in advance of the meeting date. All decisions of the Committee will be reached by consensus or a majority vote of the members present.

Minutes of the meeting will be adopted by the Committee at its next regular meeting. After adoption, minutes will be circulated to Council for their information. Originals of the minutes will be signed by the Chair of the Committee and forwarded to the Legislative Services Department for safe keeping.

Reporting to Council

The Committee may report to Council on any issue within its mandate or other issues as requested by Council.

The Committee Chair will present recommendations of the Committee to Council for their consideration.

Budget

The annual budget of the responsible department will include funds for the operation of the Committee.

Staff Support

Staff support will be determined by the City Manager or his/her designate. Typical support functions include the following:

- Organizing and preparing the agenda, in conjunction with the Committee Chair;
- Distributing the agenda packages to Committee members;
- Taking and preparing draft minutes;
- Managing the files of the Committee, as necessary;
- Maintaining a list of outstanding issues for Committee action;
- In conjunction with the Chair, drafting Committee reports to Council;
- Provide professional advice on issues discussed by the Committee;
- Other duties as authorized by the City Manager or his/her designate

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
BOWEN COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
500 BOWEN ROAD (LOWER LEVEL)
WEDNESDAY, 2015-MAR-11, COMMENCING AT 4:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gail Adrienne
Ted Perry
Wally Wells

Suzanne Andre (*arrived at 4:40 p.m.*)
Shelley Serebrin

Emil Bock
Calvin Tant

Staff:

Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Environment
Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner
Kevin Brydges, Environmental Bylaw Enforcement Officer (*arrived at 4:40 p.m.*)
Robin Tweed, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Councillor Diane Brennan
Jan Hastings

Sheri DeBoer
Anne Kerr

Glenda Hunter

ACTING CHAIR: WALLY WELLS

1. **STAFF CALLED THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TO ORDER AT 4:35 P.M.**
2. **SELECTION OF CHAIR BY COMMITTEE MOTION FOR THE MEETING:**

It was moved and seconded that Wally Wells act as Chair for the 2015-MAR-11 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

- Add Item 11.(a) - Verbal update - Cat Regulation Bylaw.
- Add Item 11.(b) - Plant Salvage Program
- Add Item 11.(c) - WALT's AGM & presenter on Climate Change.

It was moved and seconded that the Delegation be moved forward to follow adoption of the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Meeting held Wednesday, 2014-DEC-10, at 4:33 p.m., in the Service and Resource Centre Board Room be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **DELEGATIONS: (10 MINUTES)**

- (a) Delegation request by Joanne Sales, and Judy Broserio, BroomBusters Invasive Plant Society, regarding the 2015 season.

Ms. Sales provided a PowerPoint presentation on the removal of broom. BroomBusters would like the City to demonstrate a desire and commitment to remove broom in the City. They request that the City consider establishing a Bylaw to ensure that property owners take responsibility for broom removal on their property. Ms. Sales will provide a copy of the Parksville Bylaw, which covers all invasive plants and noxious weeds, for the Committee.

\$20K in funding is available in the City's Invasive Plant Management Program budget. Some funds can be allocated to coordinate pick up sites but sites need to be identified in advance. There is currently no Bylaw in place; however, the Development Services Division does not allow clear cutting to happen prior to development. The City's Property Maintenance Bylaw also requires homeowner's to prevent noxious weeds from encroaching onto neighbouring properties.

It was noted that there is a heavy growth of ivy across from the Beacon (possibly Port Authority Property). Richard Harding advised that Mike Davidson should be contacted to determine if this is City property and whether it is covered under the maintenance contract.

Invasive plant month is May, and there is a possibility of also having one in the fall. Staff to consider how to increase media awareness of invasive plants and will return to the Committee with a strategy.

It was moved and seconded that the delegation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **PRESENTATIONS: (None.)**

8. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- (a) 2015 ACES Key Date Calendar.

Committee members would like to see the dates of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coast Communities (AVICC) AGM and Convention dates included on the Calendar. The AGM and Convention will be held in Courtenay 2015-APR-10 to 2015-APR-12. Information can be obtained at the following link: <http://avicc.ca/2015-convention-overview/>

It was moved and seconded that the 2015 Key Date calendar be adopted as amended with the addition of the AVICC AGM and Convention dates. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Process for Renewing Committee Membership. (*Reference documents: "ACES Mandate & Objectives", "Advisory Committees Terms of Reference".*)

Legislative Services and department staff have begun the process to notify, by way of public advertisement, all NGO groups and members-at-large that the City is seeking applications from individuals and nominations by groups for membership on the ACES due to the expiry of current member terms on 2015-MAR-31. Letters have been sent to the Chamber of Commerce, School District 68, Vancouver Island University, and the Snuneymuxw First Nation for their nominations.

9. **STAFF REPORTS:**

(a) **ACES 2015 Work Plan**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To obtain ACES's and Council's approval on the 2015 Work Plan.

Staff advise that the major piece of work will be the environmental framework.

Staff will also review the possibility that a Watercourse Habitat Compensation Bank can be developed for the City. This would be a useful tool where development has limited room to do restoration on site. Developers could provide funds to be utilized for other watercourse restoration projects within a defined area, such as the same watershed.

Committee members expressed concern with the concept of a compensation bank – feeling that all streams are connected and to compromise a part of the watercourse compromises all of it. Further conversations about what would qualify for the bank still needs to take place. It would not be a tool to be used lightly – a fairly high bar would need to be set. Staff would discuss with other communities for their input. A suggestion was made that staff look at fish values and water qualities and have other agencies involved (for example DFO) in the development of such a program.

UBCM – Committee members asked if staff would be attending and addressing changes that have been made. Staff to look into attendance and presentation.

Committee members felt that there should be a section in the work plan that would cover "Programs/policies to be monitored and promoted." (In the interest of not losing sight of past committee initiatives – ex. Pesticide use Bylaw.)

Committee requested that headings to be grouped and carried over to the new work plan.

Re: the Pesticide Bylaw Education - Committee members expressed concern that pesticide use and the Bylaw product sheets are not readily available at supply outlets. Perhaps they could be bigger or have a larger sign with tear off.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability recommend that Council approve the Committee's 2015 Work Plan.

It was moved and seconded that the 2015 Work Plan, amended with the addition of "Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies", be adopted, and that the Plan be brought forward to the new Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) **Review of The Woodstove Changeout and Burn It Smart Programs**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To review the regulatory options for managing smoke from wood burning appliances and report back to the Committee with recommendations.

Staff Recommendations: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability recommend that Staff:

1. review the City of Nanaimo's Burn It Smart educational material with woodstove retailers and report back to the Committee with recommendations on improving the program;
2. work with Bylaw Services and Building Inspections and return with recommendations on developing a woodstove appliance bylaw for the City of Nanaimo; and,
3. review the existing Woodstove Change-out Program and explore opportunities to include low / no carbon energy change-outs and report back to the Committee with recommendations.

Committee members requested that recommendation 2 be amended to read "work with Bylaw Services and Building Inspections to determine if a City of Nanaimo woodstove appliance bylaw or other enforcement mechanisms are appropriate or required and return to the Committee with recommendations; and,".

Committee members suggested that staff also work with VIHA regarding policies on emissions/air quality.

The Committee was advised that if the Fire Department is clear that if it is a safety issue, they will address it.

Within B.C. 42 local governments have specific Bylaws.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) **Update on Stormwater Engineering Standards Review**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To provide an update on the staff review of Section 7 (Stormwater Infrastructure) of the City of Nanaimo's Manual Engineering Standards and Specifications.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive for information.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: Section 7 of the Engineering Standards and Specifications Manual is available at the following link.

<http://www.nanaimo.ca/EN/main/departments/Engineering-Public-Works/4491/engineering-standards-manual.html>

(d) **Environmental Services Report** – December 2014 – March 2015.

Staff advised that the Horticultural Supervisor is reviewing the previous Tree Donation Program with a view to reinstituting it as an alternative to the discontinued park bench program.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (a) E-mail dated 2015-MAR-02 from Danielle Prevost, Environment Canada, regarding an invitation to attend a Public Open House on Species at Risk Recovery Planning scheduled for 2015-MAR-25.

- (b) E-mail dated 2015-MAR-04 from BC Wildlife Federation Wetlands Education Program providing a link to the report made available subsequent to the "Wetland Conservation in Eastern Vancouver Island" workshop. Link: <http://bcwfbogblog.com/2015/01/30/wetland-conservation-in-eastern-vancouver-island-a-workshop-for-municipal-and-regional-stakeholders/>

Well attended. Very high level conversation which opened the door for new ideas from some. Some attendees were hoping for more detailed hands-on opportunities.

- (c) Information received on Getting Climate Ready Webinars - Sea Level Rise & Extreme Precipitation with registration links:

Sea Level Rise (2015-MAR-25):

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3285547816579484161?utm_source=Getting+Climate+Ready+Webinars++&utm_campaign=Free+Webinars+in+Climate+Adaptation+&utm_medium=email

Extreme Precipitation on the West Coast (2015-MAR-31):

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3696854225810756865?utm_source=Getting+Climate+Ready+Webinars++&utm_campaign=Free+Webinars+in+Climate+Adaptation+&utm_medium=email

10. **NOTICE OF MOTION:** (None.)

11. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- (a) Committee members asked about the presentations to Council on 2015-FEB-02 regarding "Animal Control - Cat Regulations". Council did not accept the staff recommendation to "*direct Staff to make no amendments to the Animal Control and Regulation Bylaw regarding cats*", but instead unanimously passed the following motion:

"It was moved and seconded that council direct Staff to partner with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and prepare a report which presents options for the regulation of cats, including options which may lead to the creation of a cat regulation bylaw, and return to Council with their findings."

- (b) Plant Salvage program has begun – orientation will be held this Friday, 2015-MAR-13, with notices distributed to Recreation Coordinators. Pick up location will be Shores Drive on the north side of Wally Creek.
- (c) Gail Adrienne distributed a handout to advise the Committee of the upcoming NALT AGM and event speaker, Richard Hebda, who will be addressing "History of BC Coast Forests and Their Future Under Climate Change" following the AGM on Wednesday, 2015-MAR-18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brechin United Church Hall.

12. **DELEGATIONS:** (10 MINUTES)

- (a) Moved to Item 6.(a) on Agenda.

13. **QUESTION PERIOD:** *(No questions.)*

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded at 6:15 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Wally Wells, Acting Chair
Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

Richard Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Environment

2015-MAR-17
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City of Nanaimo

REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

DATE OF MEETING: 2015-MAY-13

AUTHORED BY: ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

RE: ACES 2015 WORK PLAN

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability approve and recommend that Council approve the Committee's 2015 Work Plan.

PURPOSE:

To obtain ACES's and Council's approval on the 2015 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (ACES) was created as an advisory committee to Council to examine the impacts of existing policies and practices regarding land use and development on our natural environment. The Committee makes recommendations to Council on how the City of Nanaimo can improve its stewardship of the environment for the future.

2014 Work Plan			
Project / Issue	Purpose / Definition	Outcomes	Priority
Watercourse / Riparian Health	Watercourses and riparian areas are protected within the City of Nanaimo under Development Permit, the City's Zoning Bylaw and through provincial legislation (<i>Riparian Areas Regulation</i>). To complement this protection, more can be done to improve public awareness of the importance and values of our watercourses and riparian areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Development Permit Area 1 (Watercourses) and 2 (Environmentally Sensitive Areas). Review and revise policy and guidelines. COMPLETED Provide advice in developing a public awareness and education program on watercourses and riparian areas in the city. ONGOING Explore ways to work developers on environmental stewardship opportunities. ONGOING 	High

Watercourse / Riparian Health, (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back to committee on staff initiative to update stormwater standards. COMPLETED Contact UBCM about changes to the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and explore the need to present the issue at AVIC 2015 or UBCM. NOT COMPLETED 	High
Woodstoves / Burn it Smart Program	Local residents with older wood stoves that produce an excessive amount of residential wood smoke are negatively contributing to the local environment, air quality and can impact local residents' health. An incentive to encourage homeowners to purchase more efficient woodstoves and "change-out" older models has been supported by the Province in the past, but future provincial funding is currently under review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the Province on funding the Woodstove Change-out Program for the fall of 2014. COMPLETED 	High
Climate Action / Sustainability Action Plan	The Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) was adopted by Council in December 2012. The City's Official Community Plan (planNanaimo) has identified sustainability as its guiding principle. The goals that make up the OCP reflect the sustainable approach the community wishes to strive toward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host an Environmental Forum (Climate Action Symposium). COMPLETED Coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Community Sustainability Action Plan as opportunities arise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realtor Energy Efficiency Program (REEP). ONGOING Stakeholder Engagement. ONGOING 	High
Erosion and Sediment Control	Development can create increased soil erosion in the course of construction and site manipulation. Erosion is often a long-term effect of a developed site as well. Soil exposed during clearing, grading and stockpiling can be easily transported onto nearby roads and watercourses. After development, the areas ability to absorb and retain surface runoff may be greatly reduced, increasing the erosion potential both on-site and downstream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the City's current policies, education, and training for staff and development applicants around erosion and sediment control. COMPLETED Report back to Council on any recommended changes. INCOMPLETE 	Medium

Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies	<p>Promote City environmental programs and policies during community events and provide an opportunity for the public to meet City staff and Committee members to discuss environmental issues.</p> <p>Programs/policies to be promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercourse and Riparian Area values • Invasive Plant Management • Community Sustainability Action Plan • City Green Building Policy • Pesticide Use Bylaw • ESAs and Habitat Protection • Burn it Smart Program • Water Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff /Committee members will participate in the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Earth Hour (March)</i> - <i>Earth Day (April)</i> - <i>Invasive Plant Awareness Month (May)</i> - <i>Bike to Work Week and Clean Air Day Event (June)</i> - <i>Rivers Day (September)</i> - <i>Environment Forum (October)</i> <p>COMPLETED</p>	Medium
City Native Plant Salvage Program	<p>This program preserves native plants in the City of Nanaimo that would otherwise be lost to development or municipal work. Through voluntary partnerships with developers, the volunteer program members remove plants from development sites before construction begins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Program initiated. • Staff to report back to ACES on progress in 2015. <p>COMPLETED. PROGRAM ONGOING</p>	Medium
Declining Bird Population Study: Cat licensing Bylaw	<p>In response to the release of a national report (Calvert, Bishop et al. 2013. A Synthesis of Human Related Avian Mortality in Canada. <i>Avian Conservation and Ecology</i> 8(2): 11) the committee directed staff to review opportunities to control cat populations as a way to lower bird mortality rates within the City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following council direction, Bylaws Department currently tasked with completing a report to council. Input provided by ACES on research dealing with the impact to wildlife from outdoor cats, provided to Bylaws. <p>COMPLETED</p>	Medium

DISCUSSION:

2015 Work Plan			
Project / Issue	Purpose / Definition	Outcomes	Priority
Environmental Framework for Nanaimo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An environmental framework would provide greater clarity on how the City's environmental policies and programs contribute toward meeting the City's OCP goal of Protecting and Enhancing the City's Natural Environment. • In addition, the framework would identify gaps in service level that could be targeted in order to build stronger environmental stewardship partnerships with the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess existing Environmental policies and programs and develop a draft framework for consideration. • Ensure assessments integrate with any core review requirements. • Host a public open house / forum on the Environmental Framework to allow for public input. • Complete a concepts and options review that will inform any priority setting and actions. • Complete Environmental Framework and seek endorsement. 	High

Watercourse / Riparian Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercourses and riparian areas are protected within the City of Nanaimo under Development Permit, the City's Zoning Bylaw and through provincial legislation (<i>Riparian Areas Regulation</i>). ACES responded to the following Council motion: <i>"that Council request that the Planning Department review the riparian setback variation policy, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (ACES), the Development Process Review Committee (DPRC) and the development community, and forward any resulting recommendations for change for Council's consideration."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility of establishing a watercourse habitat compensation bank for Nanaimo. Provide input into a performance measure for watercourse and riparian area health in the city under the "Balanced Scorecard." 	High
Green Nanaimo Awards	Every two years, the Green Nanaimo Awards recognize the achievements and activities of members of the community to enhance, preserve and protect the environment of Nanaimo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the City's 2015 Green Nanaimo Awards with the Social Planning and Development. Coordinate with other committees of Council to hold an awards ceremony in the fall of 2015. 	High
Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies	<p>Promote City environmental programs and policies during community events and provide an opportunity for the public to meet City staff and Committee members to discuss environmental issues.</p> <p>Programs/policies to be promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercourse and Riparian area values Invasive Plant Management Community Sustainability Action Plan City Green Building Policy Pesticide Use Bylaw ESAs and Habitat Protection Burn it Smart Program Water Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff /Committee members will participate in the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive Plant Awareness Month (May)</i> <i>Bike to Work Week and Clean Air Day Event (June)</i> <i>Rivers Day (September)</i> <i>RDN Green Building Tour (October)</i> 	Medium

In addition, the Committee recognizes that subsequent to this work plan, additional topics that fall under the Committee's mandate, and that require Council's attention, may arise or may be referred by Council for the Committee to consider.

At their meeting held on 2015-MAR-11 the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability unanimously passed the following motion:

" that the 2015 Work Plan, amended with the addition of "Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies", be adopted, and that the Plan be brought forward to the new Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability."

The amendments as requested have been made and Staff now present the 2015 Work Plan to the new ACES membership for approval and recommendation that Council approve the 2015 Work Plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS:

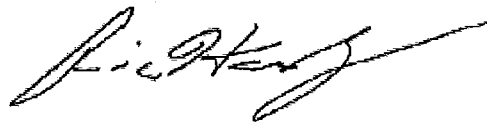
Community Building Partnerships: The ACES Work Plan builds on the ongoing commitment toward sustainability (under Environmental Responsibility) and the strategic priority of Community Building Partnerships.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Lawrance
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Concurrence by:



Richard Harding
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

2015-MAY-07

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City of Nanaimo

REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

DATE OF MEETING: 2015-MAY-13

AUTHORED BY: ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

RE: RESTORATION PLAN FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND BEGGARTICKS (*Bidens amplissima*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive this report for information.

PURPOSE:

To receive for information, a plan to conduct restoration trails for Vancouver Island Beggarticks in Third Street Park.

BACKGROUND:

Vancouver Island beggarticks (*Bidens amplissima*) is an annual plant that grows in a variety of wetland habitats including ditches, willow wetlands, old riverbeds, pond margins, streamsides, bogs, and tidal or non-tidal river edges (Klinkenberg and Klinkenberg 2001). Preferred habitats are usually sunny, have water levels that fluctuate from high in the winter and spring to low in the summer, and are used as resting and preening areas by waterfowl, which are probably the main dispersal agents (Ganders *et al.* 2002a). The species is a Pacific Northwest endemic, found only in southwestern British Columbia and northwestern Washington (Ganders *et al.* 2002b). In British Columbia, it is primarily found on southeast Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland, which as of 2008 supported more than 85% of the species known global range (Klinkenberg 2008).

The species was designated as Special Concern in 2001 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada because of declines in populations and its restricted distribution (Klinkenberg and Klinkenberg 2001). It was subsequently listed as Special Concern in Canada on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* in 2003 (Government of Canada 2014a). The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre listed the species as vulnerable (S3 - uncommon) in 2008 and it was subsequently placed on the Province of British Columbia's Blue list (British Columbia Conservation Data Centre 2014). Under British Columbia's Conservation Framework, Vancouver Island beggarticks ranks as priority 1 under goal 1 (contribute to global efforts for species and ecosystem conservation) and goal 2 (prevent species and ecosystems from becoming at risk) (British Columbia Conservation Data Centre 2014). The primary threats to

Vancouver Island beggarticks include competition from non-native invasive plants (e.g., reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)), mowing, infilling of wetlands by development and alteration of hydrological regimes (Vancouver Island Beggarticks Working Group 2014).

DISCUSSION:

A management plan for Vancouver Island beggarticks was prepared in March 2015, which outlines the status of the species, threats to its survival, and management goals, objectives, and actions for recovery (Vancouver Island Beggarticks Working Group 2015). Two of the recommended management actions in this plan are to 1) prepare site specific restoration plans to mitigate threats associated with this species and 2) test techniques and the feasibility of restoring and reintroducing the species in suitable habitat by establishing and monitoring experimental populations. To help achieve the above management actions for the species, a restoration plan was prepared for Jingle Pot Marsh, an ecosystem within Third Street Park where Vancouver Island beggarticks previously existed naturally.

Jingle Pot Marsh is located in the City of Nanaimo on southeast Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Vancouver Island beggarticks was first recorded at this location in 2001, with the last documented occurrence of a naturally occurring plant in 2007. Habitat loss through development activities, competition from native and non-native plant species, and a lack of disturbance are the main factors that have contributed to the extirpation of the species. Efforts to reintroduce the species following its extirpation were tried but failed to result in the re-establishment of sustainable populations.

A working group on Vancouver Island Beggartick Restoration from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) met with City staff and visited Jingle Pot Marsh in September 2014 to discuss and collect information for this restoration plan. Six sites were assessed for the presence of Vancouver Island beggarticks and their potential to restore the species. One historical re-introduction site was found to support one small flowering plant and other possible small plants that were believed to be Vancouver Island beggarticks, but no plants were found at other sites assessed. Three of the six sites had moderate to high restoration potential, one had low to moderate potential, and two had low potential (See Appendix 1 for air photos identifying the sites). The main threat to the species and its habitat at Jingle Pot Marsh is competition from non-native, invasive plant species, particularly reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and it was agreed that research on methods to control this plant would be a secondary focus of this project.

Funding and in-kind support has been offered by FLNRO, who have applied and received funding through the provincial Land Based Investment Strategy (Species at Risk). A funding proposal has also been sent to Environment Canada under its National Wetland Conservation Program. We are currently waiting to hear confirmation that the proposal has been approved.

One of the first steps needed is to increase the amount of viable seed for the proposed research plots. Beginning in the spring of 2015, the working group would like to work with the City to prepare two sites (defined as "south wetted area" and "west ditch" in Appendix 1) for planting of existing seed for the purpose of seed harvesting later in the fall. In the fall of 2015, research plots would be prepared for treating canary reed grass on two additional sites ("south marsh" and "east pond" in Appendix 1).

At this stage, we would like to inform the Committee of this restoration plan and confirm that it contributes to meeting the goals of the Management Plan for the Vancouver Island Beggarticks in British Columbia, the City of Nanaimo's Invasive Species Management Strategy, and the Jingle Pot Marsh Vegetation Management Plan. In addition, this plan could provide a template for the development of additional restoration plans and actions for the species and for reed canary grass control at other sites. The City of Nanaimo, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, and Vancouver Island University will be working together as stakeholders to work collaboratively to implement this restoration plan.

This restoration plan will be reviewed and revised, as necessary, after the 2020 growing season to ensure restoration activities are working effectively to achieve stated goals and objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Lawrance
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Concurrence by:



Richard Harding
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

2015-MAY-07

File: A2-12

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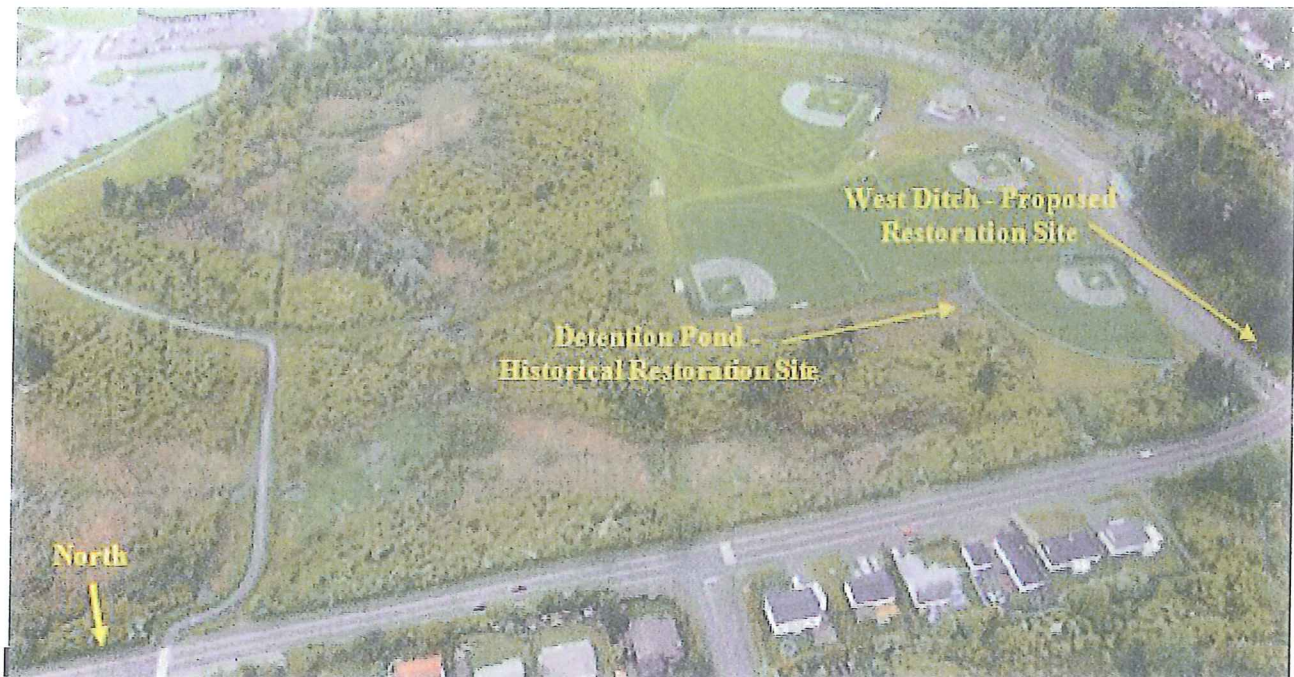
ACESRPT150513RestorationPlanForVancouverIslandBeggarticks(*BidensAamplissima*).docx

Appendix 1

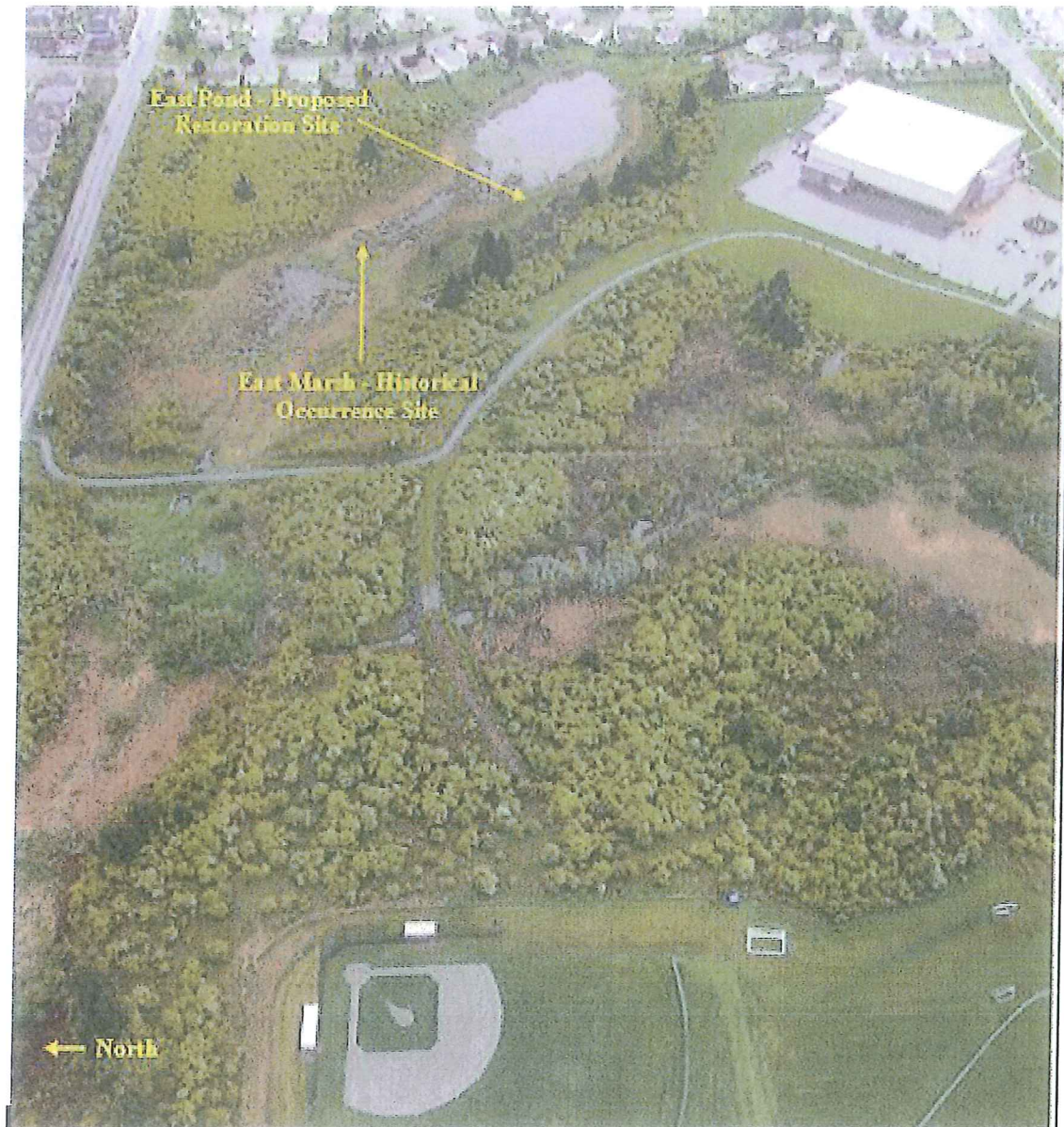
Aerial photos of Jingle Pot Marsh and the six sites assessed for Vancouver Island beggarticks restoration, City of Nanaimo, British Columbia.



May 2009 aerial view of Jingle Pot Marsh and locations of proposed south marsh restoration site and non-suitable south wetted area restoration site.



May 2009 aerial view of Jingle Pot Marsh and locations of proposed west ditch restoration site and historical detention pond restoration site (i.e., non-suitable).



May 2009 aerial view of Jingle Pot Marsh and locations of proposed east pond restoration site and historical east marsh occurrence site.

City of Nanaimo

**REPORT TO THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

DATE OF MEETING: 2015-MAY-13

AUTHORED BY: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT – DECEMBER 2014 – APRIL 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Initial meeting to discuss the review and update of the online City of Nanaimo Habitat Atlas. Text and graphics currently being prepared.
- REEP website now online (<http://www.vireb.com/reenp>). Held two meetings with Realtors at the Nanaimo Golf Course and the Grand Hotel to provide an update and congratulate 45 realtors who have completed training through the REEP program. Currently completing educational videos and planning for a second round of realtor training, beginning in April 2015. Held follow-up meeting with Vancouver Island Real Estate Board to discuss forward planning for REEP and for including the Energuide Rating on the MLS listing.
- 2015 Woodstove Change-out Program began 2015-JAN-05. To date, 26 rebates have been issued.
- Met with Parks staff to discuss re-establishing a tree donation program. Draft program plan reviewed by staff and currently being prepared for final adoption.
- Continuing with the density bonus review for green design in Schedule D of Zoning Bylaw 4500. Currently reviewing existing categories and points system.
- Working with the Buttertubs Marsh Management Plan Committee to begin an update of the Plan that includes consolidation of all conservation lands under one plan within the marsh complex area. Completed a Request for Proposals process and have hired a consultant to complete the plan update.
- Working with the Nanaimo Estuary Management Committee to complete a plan review and revised work plan for the Committee. Currently looking into creating a part time coordinator position to work with committee partners in implementing management plan actions.
- Helped support and attend *Wetland Conservation in Eastern Vancouver Island: A workshop for municipal and regional stakeholders*, sponsored by the BC Wildlife Federation.
- Arranged for an information meeting with planning staff and the energy manager for Island Health to discuss potential low carbon heating system alternatives for the existing heating boilers at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT REFERRALS:

- Nine development permit/rezoning referrals received and reviewed.
- Four subdivision referral comments received and reviewed.
- Four subdivision/DP referral meetings with staff.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- Completed review of draft revisions to stormwater section of Engineering Standards and Specifications. Currently under external review.
- Attended the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia Forum and AGM in Richmond, B.C.
- Conducted research for Water Services on purchasing a "Water Wagon" to provide City water and water conservation information, to residents during public events.
- Attended City Recreation Coordinator's monthly meeting and provided an update on the Invasive Plant Management City Plant Salvage Programs. Coordinated three training sessions and plant salvage with volunteers (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/plantsalvage).
- Attended staff corporate energy management review with BC Hydro.
- Attended presentation by Doug White on the Tshqot'in Court Decision and the significance of the Douglas Treaty.
- Attended VIU presentation on climate change information labels on gas pump nozzles. Presentation was made by Robert Shirkley from Our Horizon (ourhorizon.org).
- Supervised three volunteer invasive plant removal events involving ivy removal from trees and removal of ground ivy from a test area in Bowen Park.
- Organized and participated in a Plant Salvage event that transplanted over 50 sword fern plants to a site in Piper's Lagoon Park.
- Arranged for space and attended Nanaimo Car Share Coop AGM.
- Working with Bike to Work Week Planning Committee. Involved in events planning and coordination for Bike to Work Week Nanaimo (<https://www.biketowork.ca/nanaimo>).
- Meeting with Snuneymuxw First Nation Executive Director and his staff to discuss collaboration on environmental restoration projects. Follow-up site visits with Parks staff being arranged.
- Parks Operations Tailgate Meeting held for new and existing staff on City environmental topics (watercourse setbacks, trail maintenance, invasive plant management, goose / beaver management issues).

ENFORCEMENT:

- 18 Bylaw enforcement calls for service.
- Goose management review and planning ongoing.
- Attended Environmental Connection Conference (Erosion and Sediment Control).
- Ongoing evidence preparation for Court regarding 2589 Kenworth Road.
- Green Lake turnover water sampling.
- Review of City wide LiDAR information on watercourses and their setbacks.
- Brechin Boat ramp.
- Beaver dam management in Richards Marsh and Divers Brook.
- 6 Development review referrals.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS (VIP) PROGRAM:

- Playground start up meetings were held at Janes Park and Jesters' Way Park in February 2015. Both groups made presentations to the Parks and Recreation Commission on 2015-APR-22 and were approved for \$30,000 and \$25,000 respectively from the VIP Program.

- Staff are working with the neighbors around Broadway Park to re-initiate a VIP project at this site. The group has fundraised about \$15,000 for this project.
- Staff have met with the Nanaimo Community Gardens Society on several occasions to plan for the implementation of their greenhouse at Beban Park. A VIP grant of \$25,000 was awarded to this project in 2012. The group is moving out of their site at the RDN sewage treatment plant in August 2015.
- Site finishing will continue in 2015 at the newly installed Groveland Park and Hawthorne Park playgrounds. Landscaping and installation of benches and picnic tables is still required. The neighbourhood will help to plant the new trees for Hawthorne Park.
- The Westdale/Leslie Crescent Park Neighborhood Committee worked with staff to facilitate their visioning and assist in their proposal development. The Committee presented their proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission on 2015-APR-22 and was approved for \$30,000 from the VIP Program.
- Invasive plant removal was carried out by the Stephenson Point and South End Neighbourhood Associations and Samaritan House, as well as at Bowen Park and Pipers Lagoon Park, in the late fall of 2014.
- More invasive plant removal work parties underway throughout the City. Currently promoting "Invasive Plant Awareness Month" through local media and the City webpage (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives).
- Restoration projects at Janes Park were completed with the further removal of blackberry and reseeding of the area.
- Information requests about the VIP park improvement process have been made by neighbors in Sherwood Forest and Protection Island.
- The proponents of the Westwood Lake Picnic Shelter have met with an interdisciplinary staff team to discuss the details of their building permit and development permit applications as well as budgeting and moving their proposal and project forward.
- Hosted an annual VIP Appreciation Luncheon to thank volunteers in the VIP program. Staff provided a short presentation on the Invasive Plant Management and Plant Salvage Programs. RCMP also provided a short presentation on park safety.

ONGOING COMMITTEE WORK:

ITEM:	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS	STAFF
Environmental Framework for Nanaimo	Endorse the concept of developing an environmental framework for Nanaimo using a partnership model and that staff return with a report on the mechanics of developing the framework.	Report pending.	Environmental Services

2015-MAY-07

File: A2-12 / A1-15

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May is **INVASIVE PLANT MONTH**

Let's Pull Together!

Our focus this year is on **English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)** and **Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)**. Attend our upcoming events to learn about these plants and what you can do to fight back!
(Please register for the work parties in advance through ireg.nanaimo.ca using the barcodes included below)

EVENTS FOR INVASIVE PLANTS MONTH

- April 25 Broombusters Work Party at **Northfield Park**
10 am-12 noon (barcode 140377)
- May 3 Invasive Plant Work Party at **Nanaimo Ice Centre**
12-2 pm (barcode 136539)
- May 8 **DROP ZONE** at Bowen Park 12-4 pm
- May 16 Broombusters Work Party at **Oceanview Park**
10 am-12 noon (barcode 140378)
- May 22 Ivy Pull Work Party in **Bowen Park** from 2-4:30 pm
(barcode 136534)
- May 31 **DROP ZONE** at Bowen Park 12 noon-4 pm

Got ivy, broom, blackberry or daphne?

BRING IT TO THE DROP ZONE!

Available for homeowners to drop off invasive plants for disposal. Bring your bagged or tarped invasives to our drop zone on May 8 (12-4 pm) and May 31 (12 noon-4 pm) at Bowen Park (off Wall Street).

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives

250-756-5200
www.nanaimo.ca
ireg.nanaimo.ca



Take a
MOMENT

Bike to Work week

MAY 25 - 31, 2015

Get on your bike!

Enter for daily prizes and the grand prize draw at any or all "Celebration Stations". Grand prize is a bike courtesy of Arrowsmith Bikes that will be drawn at the Wrap-Up BBQ.

Bike Week 2015 Celebration Stations

MON, MAY 25	TUE, MAY 26	WED, MAY 27	THU, MAY 28	FRI, MAY 29
7-9 AM E&N Trail & St. George Hosted by GNCC	7:30-9:30 AM Woodgrove Centre (White Spot) Hosted by Woodgrove Centre & David's Tea	7:30-9:30 AM Fourth St & Wakesiah Ave Hosted by VIU	7-9 AM NRGH Hosted by NRGH & Cobs Bread	7-9 AM VI Fitness on Bowen Rd Hosted by VI Fitness, Moksha Yoga & Island Optimal
3:30-5:30 PM China Steps Hosted by DNBIA & Acme Food Co.	4-6 PM E&N Trail & Wellington Rd Hosted by VI Fitness, Moksha Yoga & Island Optimal	3:30-5:30 PM E&N Trail & Bowen Rd Hosted by City of Nanaimo & Cobs Bread	4-6 PM E&N Trail & Departure Bay Rd Hosted by GNCC & Cobs Bread	4-6 PM Beban Park "Wrap-Up BBQ" hosted by Quality Foods, Cobs Bread & Kinsmen

Bike support provided by GNCC or one of our local bike stores.
Enter for daily and grand prize draws at each Celebration Station!

BIKE TO WORK WEEK KICK-OFF

Lunch & Launch and Commuter Challenge
Friday, April 24 • 12-1:30 pm • Bowen Park

Join us for a free lunch and friendly bike competitions.

COMMUNITY RIDES

~Heritage Bike Ride~

Sunday, May 24 • 3-5 pm

(\$5 fee; register in advance with Parks, Recreation & Environment using barcode 138408)

~Rhodo Bike Ride~

Saturday, May 30 • 3-5 pm

(\$5 fee; register in advance with Parks, Recreation & Environment using barcode 138409)



Register at

www.biketowork.ca/nanaimo