

Final Report for Port Coquitlam Community Grant

Lions Park Demonstration Rain Garden Renewal



Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

*Kwikwetlem, known as "Red fish up the river."
A living river that reveals its spirit.*

coquitlamriverwatershed.ca
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Our Partners

City of Port Coquitlam

Port Coquitlam Community Foundation

k^wik^wə^ləm First Nation

Fisheries and Oceans Canada





Original Rain Garden (2021)

Through a partnership with the City of Port Coquitlam, Vancity, *kʷikwə́ləm* First Nation, and Jack Cewe Construction Ltd., the Coquitlam River Watershed Society designed and installed a demonstration Rain Garden in Lions Park, Port Coquitlam during fall of 2021. The project was a strategy for action, based on the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan (2015) to provide outreach to help home owners improve stormwater practices in the lower watershed.

The key objectives of the Rain Garden installation were to encourage best practices in rainwater management, water quality and riparian areas; provide outreach awareness of stormwater problems caused by everyday actions; and reduce stormwater impacts on the river system, riparian areas, salmon, cultural and spiritual values, human health and safety, and resource industries.

The project features two rain barrels that capture stormwater from disconnected downspouts on the adjacent decommissioned washroom building. The Rain Garden was designed to filter water from approximately 150m² of impermeable surface.



Over the summers of 2023 and 2024, volunteers from the community and the Society contributed over 80 hours of volunteer time to care for the garden. A rain garden can take up to three years to stabilize and manage itself, requiring less maintenance over time. However, with some unexpected drainage issues, and the effects of extreme temperatures, even hardy and drought-tolerant plant survival has been lower than normal.



Additionally, several plants had self-seeded in the Rain Garden since its inception in 2021. While some of the self-seeded plants included species that are helpful to the garden (such as Salmonberry and Pacific Bleeding Heart), others would disrupt the drainage system (such as Maple and Gary Oak trees). Plants that have not survived or that would be ineffective in the Rain Garden were removed and replaced with new native, drought-tolerant plants in order to allow the Rain Garden to continue to function, capturing and filtering surface run off and rainwater.



Rain Garden Renewal (2024)

Our 2024 project objective involved a significant renewal of the Rain Garden including weeding and dead plant removal, soil amendment, the addition of new plants, and a mulch layer top-up. Further, engineers from the City of Port Coquitlam assessed the site and advised us on improvements to our drainage system. The Society will implement these measures through the fall and winter of 2024.

In addition to revitalizing the Rain Garden itself, our project included installing a wall mural approximately 150 square feet in size, on the decommissioned washroom building adjacent to the Rain Garden. Our signage has also been updated.



Community Engagement

New Engagement Coordinator

In September, the Society hired Melissa Plisic as a new Engagement Coordinator to help with public outreach for the rain garden renewal project. Melissa was heavily involved with organizing three work parties for the rain garden, and also with the BC Rivers Day event on September 22nd. They successfully recruited volunteers from the Society's volunteer roster and their own social network for these events. Melissa also met with a teacher from Riverside Secondary School who leads the Environmental Club, which has led to a strengthened relationship with the school.

BC Rivers Day Event Promotion and Funder Recognition

The project team sent invitations to dignitaries from the City of Port Coquitlam, the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, kʷikʷəłəm First Nation, and our 2021 project partners for our BC Rivers Day event. In addition to posts that our communications coordinator, Jacqueline Chan, made on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter/X, we promoted our event with the following organizations:

- [Outdoor Recreation Council of BC](#)
- [City of Port Coquitlam](#)
- [Tri-Cities News](#)

Since July 2024, we have promoted the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation on our website's main page to recognize them as a key funding partner.



Save the date!

Join us at Lions Park, Port Coquitlam to celebrate -

BC RIVERS DAY
Sunday, September 22 - 11:00 am - 2 pm

- Traditional Welcome at 11:00 am! Planting event by 11:30 am
- Come by and help add new plants to our Rain Garden. View the new wall mural in progress!
- Visit our table display to learn about the Roundtable, our Rain Garden and impacts from Stormwater

If you can volunteer with pre-event preparations, or on Event Day, please contact us!
For more info, or to volunteer, contact us at outreach@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca



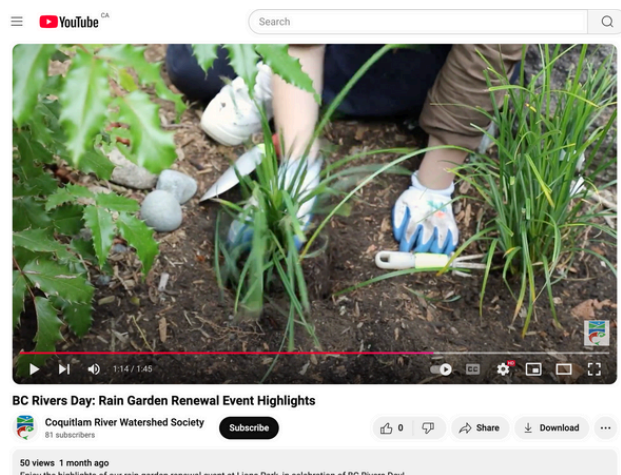
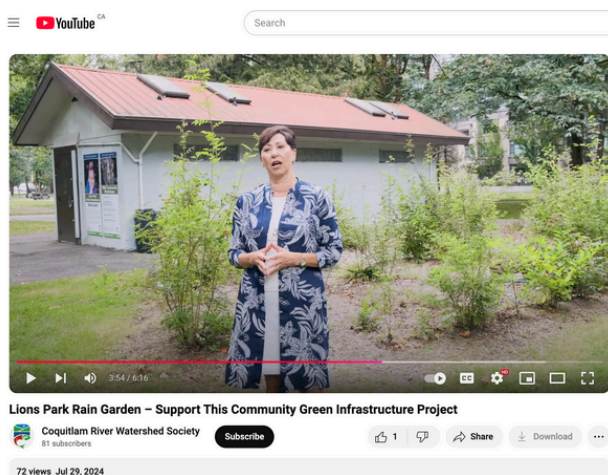
Video and Photography

At the onset of this renewal project in July 2024, the Society had an informational video produced by a student through the Canada Summer Jobs program. Our partnerships with the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation and the City of Port Coquitlam are exemplified in this video with appearances from Dawn Becker and Cllr. Nancy McCurrach.

Our BC Rivers Day event, held on Sunday, September 22, 2024, was photographed by Originelle Designs Photography, who also produced a short highlights video for us to post on our YouTube channel.

As of November 21, 2024, the Rain Garden Info Video has 72 views, and the BC Rivers Day Event video has 50 views.

- [BC Rivers Day Event Highlights](#)
- [Rain Garden Info Video](#)





ART + SOUL
CREATIVE CO.

New Mural

Artist: Laura Kwok

The project team first connected the Society with the artist through our social media network. The City Port Coquitlam and the City of Coquitlam both follow Laura Kwok's Instagram account, Art and Soul Creative Co, which is how we found her.

Kwok has been commissioned to complete some indoor murals for the City of Coquitlam at the Place Des Arts Education Center in Coquitlam. She has also completed murals for Jack Cewe Construction Ltd., also in Coquitlam, at their main Hillside Road office. She had also recently completed work for the City of Richmond and United Way.



Upon the news of our grant approval in July, the Society began working with local artist Laura Kwok. We included the members of our Core Committee to draft a mural proposal for consideration by Port Coquitlam's Arts and Culture team.

The concept development process involved a few drafts, including a dialogue with kwikwəłəm First Nation to ensure key elements were included. kwikwəłəm leaders also wanted to participate in a public event to attend its unveiling and add plants to the rain garden on BC Rivers Day.





Artist's Statement

This mural aimed to be inspired by the natural beauty of Coquitlam River area, the local and indigenous plant life found at the Lions Park Rain Garden. Red osier dogwood, deer fern, serviceberry, alpine aster and Nootka roses are all featured in the design, mirroring their actual presence in the garden itself.

The subtle silhouette of a Sockeye Salmon, symbolic of Kwikwetlem First Nation, which means Red Fish Up the River, glides in the background while (top left) a curious fisherman with his sea-green cap, explores the river and its wonders with a tiny pair of binoculars. The design is also an ode to local Port Coquitlam and District Hunting and Fishing Club stewards, who operate a salmon fish hatchery and help the community release smolts to the Coquitlam River at Lions Park during River Day events.

The process overall was very smooth all told. It does take time though, to ensure input is heard when a community-based project like this is initiated.





Work Parties

The Society held three work parties in September and October 2024 for the Rain Garden. The work parties in September had the goal of preparing the site for the BC Rivers Day event, and the October work party saw the final touches be put on the project.

During the work parties, we engaged several curious park-goers about the Rain Garden and watershed health. Following her involvement with a work party, one of our volunteers was elected to serve on the Society's board of directors in October 2024.

These volunteer work parties were organized by our Engagement Coordinator, and supported with guidance by the artist and Port Coquitlam Parks staff.

September 15

4 volunteers attended for 2.5 hours to paint the background of the new mural.

September 19

4 volunteers attended (3 for 1 hour, 1 for 2 hours) to remove unwanted plants from the rain garden. Parks staff collected "yard waste" following this event.

October 13

2 volunteers attended for 2 hours to apply the final coat of anti-graffiti varnish to the new mural.



BC Rivers Day Event

September 22





On September 22, the Society held a Rain Garden Renewal Event in conjunction with BC Rivers Day. The event was well-attended by community members and local dignitaries. Representatives from our ongoing partnerships with the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, the City of Port Coquitlam, kʷikwə́ləm First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Roundtable sector representatives were present. Riverside Secondary's Environmental Club teacher and club members were also at the event. We additionally caught the attention from several passers-by with connections to communities from across Metro Vancouver.



The purpose of our Rain Garden Renewal event was to educate the public about the benefits of rain gardens, and to encourage community members to get involved with maintaining the health of the Rain Garden in Lions Park. Additionally, our event served as the official debut of the new mural. Artist Laura Kwok was present at the event putting final touches on the mural to give community members the opportunity to see part of her artistic process.

In total 42 people attended our BC Rivers Day event. Of that 42, 27 attendees were actively digging holes, planting plants, and adding soil and mulch to the Rain Garden. Many attendees also visited our outreach tent, where we had set up our games about salmon and invasive species, and tabletop displays about invasive species and watershed health. Water and snacks were available at our tent for volunteers who assisted with planting and engaged with our educational materials.



We are very grateful to kʷikwə́ləm First Nation for partnering with us for this event. Three kʷikwə́ləm drummers shared a traditional Coast Salish welcome with our volunteers. During the blessing of the rain garden, attendees were invited to reflect on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and how the ecological degradation of the Coquitlam River is connected to the cultural losses that Indigenous Peoples continue to face.



New Plants

18

Slough Sedge

18

Merten's Sedge

2

Tall Oregon Grape

4

Flowering Red Currant

4

Nootka Rose

2

Serviceberry

2

Red Osier Dogwood





Key Project Benefits

1. Encourage best practices in rainwater management water quality and riparian areas:

- Work parties with community volunteers
- BC Rivers Day Event
 - Promotion of household rain barrels
 - Promotion of rain gardens
 - Speeches about water and ecosystem health
- Rain Garden Info Video
- New informational signage

2. Provide outreach awareness of stormwater problems caused by everyday actions:

- BC Rivers Day Event
 - Engagement with educational tabletop display
 - Speeches about stormwater management
- Rain Garden Info Video
- Increased Society outreach capacity

3. Reduce stormwater impacts on the river system, riparian areas, salmon, cultural and spiritual values, human health and safety, and resource industries:

- Collaboration with k^wik^wə^łəm First Nation
- New mural by Laura Kwok
- Work parties with community volunteers
- BC Rivers Day Event
 - Addition of new plants, soil, and mulch
 - Engagement with educational tabletop display
- Increased Society outreach capacity
- New informational signage





Financial Report

PoCo Community Foundation Budget Document Community Capital Projects Matching Grant info@pocofoundation.com				
Organization Name:	Coquitlam River Watershed Society			
CRA Charity Number: <small>(if applicable)</small>	CRWS partner Watershed Watch Salmon Society, our financial trustee does (#869489476RR0001)			
Contact Name:	Georgia Ohm, Coordinator			
Contact Phone:	778-874-5794			
Contact Email:	coordinator@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca			
Project Date & Year:	Summer through Fall 2024			
PROJECT RELATED REVENUES		Estimated Total	PROJECT RELATED REVENUES	Actuals
In-Kind*			In-Kind	
Volunteer Labour @\$24.08/hr			Three work parties of 2-4 people (20.25 hrs)	\$ 487.62
Two, 6-person 4-hr work parties (48 hrs)	\$ 1,160.00		Production and Installation of Info Sign (12 hrs)	\$ 290.00
Sign Planning and Design input (12 hrs)	\$ 290.00		Community Outreach Event at Rain Garden (42 hrs)	\$ 1,011.36
Community Outreach Event at Rain Garden (37 hrs)	\$ 890.00		Member support with Grant Report (3 hrs)	\$ 72.24
Contract and project administration by financial trustee	\$ 260.00		Contract and project administration by financial trustee	\$ 260.00
Construction supplies (drain rock, delivery/tractor service)	\$ 500.00		1 tractor scoop mulch, 1 tractor scoop soil, plus delivery	\$ 160.00
equipment, gloves, tarps, tent, folding tables, chairs from Society) (please add row to specify materials or supplies)	\$ 300.00		Site Planning - Port Coq Engineering & Public Works Drainage Advice - Port Coq Engineering & Public Works	\$ 150.00 \$ 200.00
			Society and Port Coquitlam supplies (planting tools, tents, tables, folding chairs, easels, sandwich boards)	\$ 100.00 \$ 300.00
Subtotal A	\$ 3,400.00			\$ 3,031.22
Income			Income	
Total Contribution of Applicant (Society project budget)	\$ 2,870.00		Total Contribution of Applicant (Society)	\$ 4,499.00
School Board Contribution (if applicable)			Includes project cash, Society Coordinator oversight, Engagement Coordinator and communications support	
Other Donations (please specify)			Fisheries and Oceans Canada (support for project)	\$ 1,000.00
Other Funding (please specify)				
Other revenue sources (please specify)				
Subtotal B	\$ 2,870.00			\$ 5,499.00
Subtotal A & B	\$ 6,270.00			\$ 8,530.22
PoCo Foundation contribution (from Matching Grant) <small>This should be the same amount or less than Subtotal A & B</small>	\$ 5,000.00			\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL Project Related Revenues	\$ 11,270.00			\$ 13,530.22
PROJECT EXPENSES**			PROJECT EXPENSES	
Materials (project related only) - soil, mulch, plants, sign			Sponsor Posters for Rain Garden Event	\$ 114.20
Black top soil - 2 tractor scoops	\$ 60.90		Snacks for Rain Garden Outreach Event	\$ 38.24
Bulk Red Fir (20-25 cubic ft/tractor scoop)	\$ 154.10		Other Project-related Supplies (garbage bags, garden stakes, zip ties, anti-graffiti varnish etc.)	\$ 489.88
Plants - Ferns, Roses, Oregon Grape - 47 one-gal pots	\$ 525.00		Nootka Rose, 2 x 2-gal Serviceberry, 2 x 2-gal Oregon Grape, 2 x 2-gal Red Osier Dogwood, 2 x 2-gal Flowering Red Currant)	\$ 372.18
Mural design and production (approx. 150 square feet)	\$ 5,838.00		Mural design and production (Artist Fee & Paint Supplies)	\$ 5,838.00
Professional Fees & Costs (project management, engineer advice, FN input, photo-documentation)			Professional Fees & Costs (project management, engineer advice, FN input, photo-documentation)	
Project Coordination/Management	\$ 1,820.00		Honoraria Kwikwetlem First Nation Drum Group	\$ 450.00
Engineer drainage advice	\$ 530.00		Project Coordination/Management	\$ 4,499.00
Photo and video documentation	\$ 892.00		See in-kind Above	\$ -
In-Kind labour, administration, materials, supplies	\$ 3,400.00		Photo and video documentation	\$ 585.21
Transportation and Shipping Costs - plant and soil material	\$ 250.00		In-Kind labour, administration, materials, supplies, advice	\$ 3,031.22
			transportation - Collect, return equipt., supplies: 4 events	\$ 245.63
TOTAL Project Expenses	\$ 13,470.00			\$ 15,663.56
Net excess of revenues over expenses	-(2,200)			-(2,133)
* Please note: volunteer hours are calculated based on City of PoCo Living wage rate of \$24.08/hour (Jan. 2023)				
** Please include any labour, material or other costs which are offset by in-kind donations				

The total Project Budget (cash and in-kind) for the "Lions Park Demonstration Rain Garden Renewal" was \$15,663.56. The Society's contribution and expenses were much higher than anticipated, with the Society taking on a greater contribution to offset project costs. A late summer grant provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a portion of which was used, assisted the Income stream needed for the project. While the total Income including the PCCF grant was \$10,499, the total project cash expenses were higher at \$12,632.23. Our in-kind revenue was modestly lower than anticipated, but efficiencies with planning the work parties, BC Rivers Day event, rain garden advice and supplies was achieved. Going forward into 2025, the Society will be seeking efficiencies in other work program areas to offset the \$2,133 cash shortfall.



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**Thank you for
your support**