
CRWS Updates

- Presenting to Port Coquitlam City Council Dec. 3
- Rain Garden Presentation to Arts Connect Nov. 21
- CRWS Bank Account opened – will be taking over management of finances in 2025
- Board Committees: Finance, Funding and People and Culture
- Board Roles: Kirsten Wilson as Chair, Margaret Birch as Vice Chair, Jim Allard as Treasurer, Sonya Knechtel as Secretary
- City of Coquitlam Board Representative assigned



Lower
Coquitlam
River
Watershed
Plan



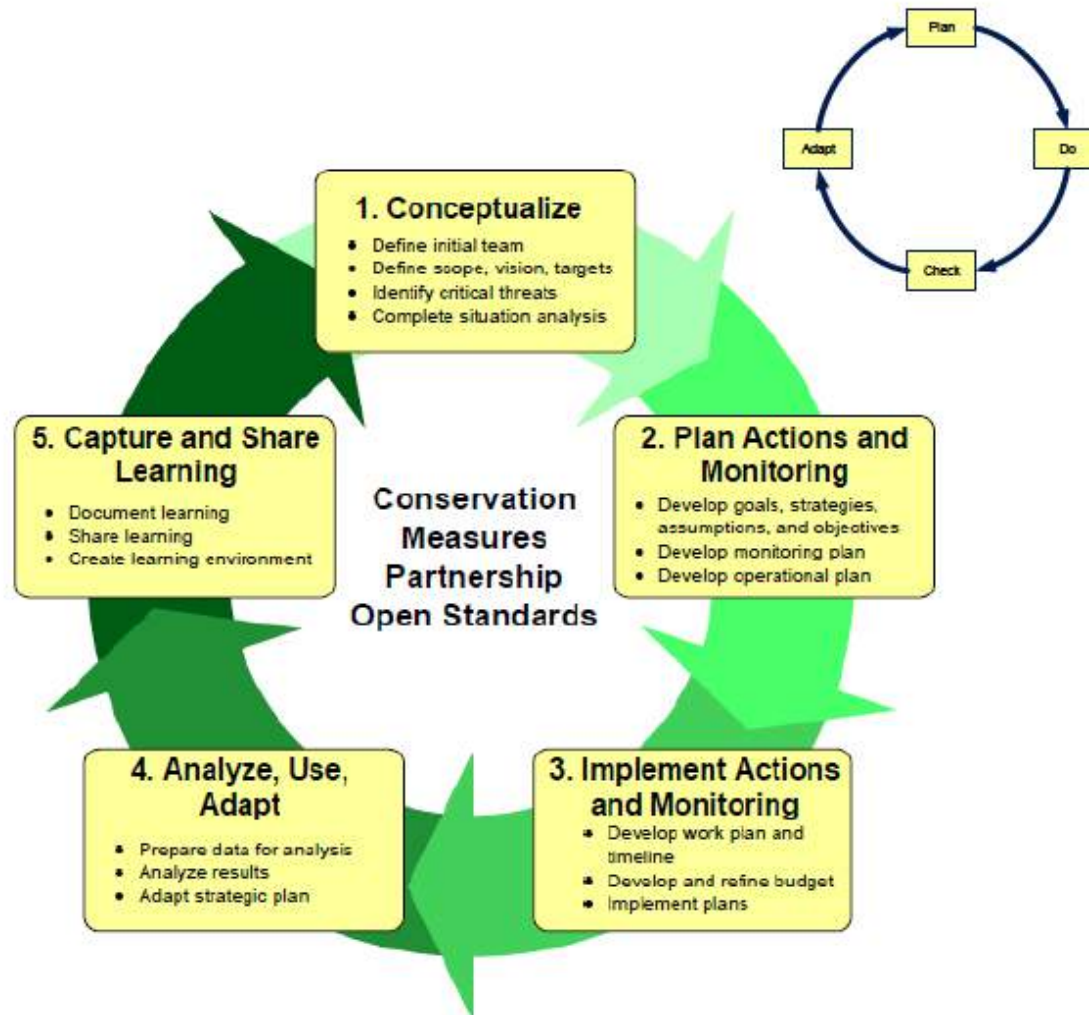
<https://www.coquitlamriverwatershed.ca/download/watershed-plan/>

About the Plan



- Developed over the course of 2014-2015 with support from Roundtable Member organizations and public consultation. One decade later, the Plan is still in implementation.
- The Watershed Plan identifies:
 - Pressures on the watershed
 - Effects of pressures on components of ecological and human well-being
 - Strategies to mitigate pressures and their effects

Adaptive Management Approach





Pressures – 14 identified during planning process

Hazardous spills

Stormwater

Invasive Species

Development

Water Extraction

Vandalism/Illegal Activities

Roads/Railroads, Transportation

Mainstream Cultural Norms

Dams and Dikes

Culverts

Urban Wildlife

Sewage and Wastewater spills

Mining -aggregate

Hatcheries

Ranking Effects

Pressure Ranking Analysis on *What We Care About*, rated each from low to very high. Exercise led group to select High, Medium and Low Pressure areas to focus the Roundtable could work on.

Pressures ↓	Ecological and Human Well-being Components										
	Coquitiám River system	Natural areas	Salmon	Riparian areas	Human health and safety	Resource industries	Liveable communities	Cultural and spiritual values	Stewardship	Recreation	Summary Pressure Rating ↓
Hazardous spills	High		Very High		High					High	Very High
Stormwater	High		High	Medium	Low	Low		Low			High
Invasive species		High		High						Low	High
Development	Medium	Very High		High	Low	Low	Low	Medium			High
Water extraction	Medium		Medium		Low	Low		Low		Low	Medium
Vandalism / Illegal activities	Medium	Low		High				Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Roads, railroads, transportation	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium		Medium			Low	Medium
Recreation	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium		Low				Medium	Medium
Mainstream cultural norms					High	Low		Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Dams and dikes	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low				Medium			Medium
Culverts	Medium		Medium								Medium
Urban wildlife					Low		Low				Low
Sewage and wastewater spills			Low		Low		Low				Low
Mining - aggregate	Low		Low				Low				Low
Hatcheries			Low							Low	Low

Strategies for Action

- Watershed Plan working group – selected 8 Pressures Stormwater, Development, Invasive Species, Water Extraction, Recreation, Vandalism/Illegal Activity, Mainstream Cultural Norms, and Mining.
- 17 Strategies for Action were developed
- Since 2016, progress on strategies has been Active, Ongoing, Partially or not started.
- Strategies for action are only possible as capacity to develop grows and resources become available.

Plan Strategies: Stormwater

- Strategies in Plan:
 - **Stormwater Homeowner Outreach:** Outreach to Single Family Homeowners to adopt voluntary practices.
 - **Promote Adaptive Stormwater Management Process:** To achieve stormwater improvements adaptive improvements at a watershed-wide scale



Stormwater: Actions and Achievements

- Summer 2020 Stormwater Committee formed
- **Promote Adaptive Stormwater Management**
 - Spring 2021 CC Mtg -- all governments' presentation on stormwater management plans and monitoring programs
 - 2024: City of Coquitlam water quality monitoring [video](#) & City of Port Coquitlam Stormwater Management [video](#)
- **Stormwater Homeowner Outreach**
 - 2021 – Installation of community demonstration Rain Garden
 - 2024 - Rain Garden renewal and informational wall mural in conjunction with BC Rivers Day
 - Rain Garden needs ongoing maintenance and promotion
- Promoting stormwater improvements through outreach and education at a watershed-wide scale an ongoing effort

Plan Strategies: Development



- Strategies in Plan:
 - **Development Incentives Study:** explore options with the development community, Kwikwetlem First Nation, environmental and legislative experts and devise strategies that may address development pressures in the watershed
 - **Natural Space Strategy:** assess the current open space system to identify areas of importance that provide multi-benefits for future development areas based on ecological, social and economic values
 - **Develop an Impact Map:** to show watershed-wide environmental activities, natural areas and human impacts to inform decision-makers and the community about ways to address pressures from development on lower watershed

Development: Actions and Achievements

- 2017 Development Committee formed
- **Development Incentives Study**
 - 2017 – Development Strategies for Action Case Studies
 - 2018 – Developers workshop, Kwikwetlem First Nation engagement
 - 2019 – Natural Assets Management workshop; Roundtable input with Morguard on Coquitlam Mall re-development plans
 - 2023 – UBC Centre for Law and the Environment ‘LIDs’ report on environmental building codes, bylaws, policies and regulations.
- **Natural Space Strategy**
 - 2018 – UVic ELC Northwest Burke Mountain Report – received by Coquitlam for consideration in NW Burke Neighbourhood Planning
- **Develop an Impact Map**
 - 2020 – Interactive Watershed Atlas and Project Catalogue released – geospatial information on the watershed

Several substantial and comprehensive resource tools and documents have been produced, that need to be made more accessible to the community through small information write-ups or presentations, e.g., the interactive Atlas, UBC LIDs report.



Plan Strategies: Invasive Species

- Strategies in Plan:
 - **Alignment of Invasive Species Management Efforts:** address Metro Vancouver's Invasive Species Management Strategy to align efforts across municipalities. Compile watershed data.
 - **Implement Ban on Sale of Invasive Species:** target development of an educational awareness campaign for watershed residents to learn about the impacts invasive species can have on watershed health, and how to help manage them.

Invasive Species: Actions and Achievements

- 2016 – 2019

- Developed an Outreach table and banner display and materials to highlight the impacts invasive species have on watershed health
- Organized plant walks with Port Coquitlam staff to identify invasive and native species along side Coquitlam River - BC Rivers Day event
- Delivered multi-event outreach and survey campaign to raise awareness on impacts from invasive species on watershed health
- Ongoing alignment with Metro Vancouver and Cities to advance messaging to help achieve ban on the sale of invasive species
- Invasive species pulls with community businesses, volunteers – Maple Creek
- Invasive and Native Plant id. Game taken to many public outreach events

Invasive Species: Actions and Achievements

- 2022 Video series
 - Produced a [video](#) on pressure of Invasive Species on fish and wildlife
- 2023
 - Blackberry Pull with Lime Bikes
 - Urban forests and Invasive Species addressed by City Coquitlam staff during [presentation](#) at Community Meeting in October 2023
- Suggested in 2024: Develop a walk or workshop to teach high school students about invasive plants and their effects.



Plan Strategies Vandalism/Illegal Activities

- Strategies in Plan:
 - **Littering/Dumping Public Outreach:** educate residents on cumulative damage of littering/dumping on a watershed wide scale
 - **Outreach Program:** provide awareness and understanding about existing tree management and clearing bylaws in the municipalities



Actions and Achievements: Vandalism/Illegal Activities

- 2019 – 2022
 - Organized various shoreline river clean ups – events aimed to spark a changing in behaviours
 - 2021 – developed presentation for newcomers, empowered homeless to help with clean ups
- 2022
 - [Video](#) on effects of illegal dumping in Maple Creek
 - ‘Mutant fish’ art installation at Gates Park, built from garbage collected from streamside clean up
- 2022 - 2024
 - Annual riverside clean up activities in Gates Park
 - Video on clean-up in Gates Park .
- 2021 Presentation to SUCCESS – needs to be updated and re-formatted.



Plan Strategies on: Recreation

- Strategies in Plan:
 - **“No Impact” Campaign in Schools:** a school program where kids have access to learn to recreate without an environmental impact
 - **Coquitlam River Mainstem Outreach Campaign:** to prevent unsustainable recreation on the river corridor mainstem that harms riparian areas, wildlife and aquatic habitat, native plants, and species at risk

Recreation: Actions and Achievements

- 2019 – Roundtable members participated in Environment events at secondary schools to seek input from students on pressures and that stem from recreational ideas.
- 2023 - Educational workshop for students of Castle Park Elementary School, whose art was posted as signage along the River to discourage dogs in the river.
- There have been increasing calls from the public to clarify responsible riverside behaviors. This could be communicated through a video, school workshops, etc.
 - Educate – “Leave no trace” recreation in schools.
 - Encourage appreciation and access of natural spaces through programs like David Suzuki’s “Unplug and Play”.



Salmon and Aquatic species

- Salmon is identified as an Ecological Component, one of several components we care about as being impacted by a number of pressures in the watershed: Invasive Species, Stormwater, Water Extraction, Recreation, Mining
- The Watershed Plan addresses the impacts on salmon and aquatic fish habitat through several strategies for actions related to the pressures identified
- A combination of support for salmon, fish and habitat can also be addressed through ongoing outreach and education initiatives. Re-establishing a Habitat Committee could facilitate this work.

Salmon and Fish – Actions and Achievements

- 2018 - 2019 - members and community volunteers assisted fin clipping and fish release events, and fall adult chum salmon brood stock captures for DFO and the PCDHFC
- Habitat and Habitats page maintained on Website – highlights watershed hatcheries, partner projects and photos
- 2022 - installed large concrete Salmon at Rain Garden, Lions Park with City of Port Coquitlam and DFO partners
- [2024 Video](#) on Fish-friendly flood gate study at ǻ́éxətəm Regional Park
- [Presentation](#) on Salmon and Steelhead populations at Community Meeting in October 2023.
- [Presentation](#) on KSRP Sockeye hatchery at Community Meeting in October 2023
- Fall 2024: New display boards for public outreach on Salmon

Suggestions?

Additional Rated Pressures

- Water Extraction (Medium)
 - **Develop a Set of Recommendations for Next Revision of Water Use Plan (WUP)** – the Roundtable remains engaged in BC Hydro Coquitlam River Monitoring Committee meetings held annually
 - **Implement Water Conservation Outreach Program** – aligns with Stormwater pressure. Roundtable have developed water conservation outreach materials as part of outreach table display
 - **Promote ‘High’ Standards of water practices for new development, including supporting research** – Nov 2022 - UVic ELC completed report on Reducing Water Extraction and Increasing Environmental Flows in the Coquitlam River
- Mainstream Cultural Norms (Medium)
 - Actions link closely with strategies presented for **Natural Space Strategy** (Development) and the **Coquitlam River Mainstem Campaign** (Recreation)
- Mining (Low)
 - 2018, 2019 - Mining practices have been presented by aggregate sector reps as part of scheduled ‘watershed tours’ to funders and partners



Committees

- Habitat Committee
- Stormwater Committee
- Recreation Committee
- Development Committee?
- Communications Committee?
- Others?

Other Projects, Ideas and Partners

- Watershed Plan Assessment
- Projects involving Secondary or Post-Secondary Students
- Canada Summer Jobs project ideas? Due November/December 2024
- Seeking presenters and chairs for 2025 Core Committee Meetings
- Other ideas?

Next Steps and Important Dates

- Canada Summer Jobs Applications open Nov. 18 2024 – Dec. 19 2024
- Budget Planning for 2024
- Annual Report due Feb. 15, 2025
- Work Planning – ½ Day workshop: Wednesday Feb. 26, 2025