



Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre

Watershed Restoration & Conservation Action Project

Our Project



The Estuary Nature Centre's 26-month **Conserving & Protecting Cowichan Fresh Water for a Climate Resilient Future Project** aims to produce measurable results in conserving and protecting the Cowichan and Koksilah Watersheds and the salmon, other wildlife, as well as the human communities, including the Quw'ut'sun, who rely on them. We aim to effectively engage our local community, especially young people across cultures, in leadership and team-building training, workshops, community awareness-raising and effective hands-on water conservation and restoration projects – projects that restore riparian zones and

shorelines while honoring indigenous knowledge and building skills to make a real and sustainable impact both in our watersheds and in the lives of young people.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we have developed protocols to re-engage in ways that ensure the safety of all participants, the community and our staff and meet the guidelines from the BC Ministry of Health, Cowichan Tribes, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

Connect

By actively engaging youth and volunteers of all ages in watershed restoration, including riparian restoration and invasive species removal, we intend to not only help increase resilience to our local watersheds, but also to offer participants the opportunity to reconnect with themselves, the land and the water. Deep connection is vital to a healthy mind and body.

And knowing where or how to connect is not always simple. Here is a chance to once again reunite with the landscape, reconnect to community and create positive change today.

Take Action



Protecting our freshwater ecosystems, critical salmon habitat and our drinking water in the face of ongoing climate disruption is increasingly challenging – something that requires coming together as a community. Engaging local people, especially youth, in making connections, building skills and strengthening partnerships will amplify the creation of local solutions and help us protect our rivers, or salmon and our community into the future.

We invite you to rise up, learn new skills and have fun while making a difference! The skills

you learn at our workshops or participating in restoration work are transferable in many ways – from growing plants to growing food to conserving water. Nature is all around us and within us – we just need to pause and pay attention.

Our Goals:

1. To Conserve, Restore and Protect Watershed Resilience in the Cowichan & Koksilah Watersheds;
2. To Raise Community Water Conservation Awareness & Increase Our Water Conservation Literacy & Action
3. To Engage and Empower Indigenous and Settler Youth as Watershed and Climate Stewards and Leaders.

Our project team at the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre is committed to increasing community engagement and cohesion through a range of local restoration and conservation projects that protect local fish habitat, drinking water and our watersheds and buffer against climate impacts. while offering opportunities to revive our connection with the landscape and dig into new possibilities.

Our final numbers from this project are:

Reduction of water consumption = 11,356 liters
Area of shoreline protected, stabilized or improved = .05 hectares
Area of habitat in which management or restoration actions have been implemented through project activities = .55 hectares
Amount of indigenous plants, trees and shrubs planted = 2,325 plants/trees/shrubs
Percentage of indigenous plants, trees and shrubs planted that survived = 547% of plants/trees/shrubs

From old to young, from novice to expert, join us in caring for our local ecosystems and habitat – the water, the land, the plants and the many species that both sustain and rely upon it.

Join Us

Can you help us? Do you have a desire to connect and contribute? Join us to restore much needed habitat in the magnificent Cowichan Watershed! We offer programs for school groups, individuals and public restoration days!

For more information please email: restoration@cowichanestuary.ca

Partners and Sponsors

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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Thank you to our additional partners and sponsor!

[Cowichan Tribes](#), the [Cowichan Watershed Board](#), the [Cowichan Community Land Trust](#), the [BC Conservation Foundation](#), the [Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society](#), the [Pacific Salmon Foundation](#), the [Cowichan Valley Regional District](#), including Areas D and E, the [Municipality of North Cowichan](#), the [Cowichan Valley Naturalists](#), the [Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society](#), the [Outdoor Education Society – Story Trails](#), [Sh-hwuykwselu Busy Place Streamkeepers](#), [BC Nature Trust](#), [SeaChange Marine Conservation Society](#), the [Earth Guardians – Cowichan Valley](#), [School District 79](#), [Polster Environmental Services](#)