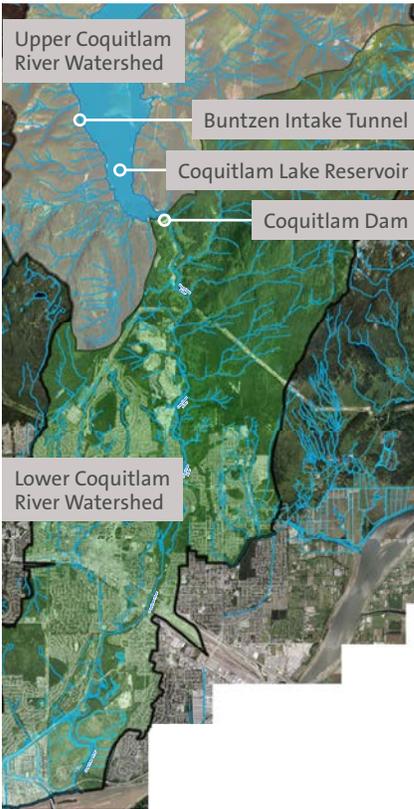




# Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan Implementation 2016 Going Forward



## Watershed Action Plan

Between summer 2012 and spring 2015, over 60 partners in the municipal, provincial, regional, federal and First governments, aggregate industry, arts and culture, education, outdoor recreation, real estate development sectors and stewardship groups worked together to create a watershed action plan for the Coquitlam River watershed. The Coquitlam River is one of the largest and most significant rivers in the Metro Vancouver Region and forms part of the traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation. Urban development spans 75% of lands within the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam,

where an estimated 156,700 residents now live. Yet, until now, the lower Coquitlam River watershed has lacked its own watershed plan. Development of the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan follows the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, an adaptive management approach that considers ecological and human well-being components – the things we care about – and presents strategies for action that will provide for a healthy watershed and a healthy community.

The full Watershed Action Plan will be available in a summary report form during 2016.

## Strategies for Action

This progress report highlights the strategies for action drafted over three years' effort that respond to key pressures that affect watershed health. In total, 17 strategy ideas were produced, from which three detailed Action Plans were developed to address the pressures from Stormwater, Invasive Species and Development. Provided the necessary implementation support and resources are generated through 2016 and going forward, these Action Plans and

possibly some of the others proposed will be advanced. The aim through early 2016 will be to work with the various Coquitlam River watershed Roundtable partners and funders in communicating the Action Plans and strategy ideas, share in the ongoing work of the Roundtable, and seek interest and commitment to implementing actions that will provide a healthy liveable community for people in this watershed.

The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable (the Roundtable) was founded in 2011 following a four-year community engagement process. The Roundtable coordinates and implements activities that promote the health and long-term sustainability of the watershed.

# WHAT PRESSURES ARE AFFECTING THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT?

## Stormwater (High)

## Development (High)

## Invasive Species (High)

## Recreation (Medium)



# WHAT ECOLOGICAL AND HUMAN WELL-BEING COMPONENTS ARE BEING AFFECTED?

Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Salmon, Cultural and Spiritual Values, Human Health and Safety and Resource Industries

Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Liveable Communities and Recreation

Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Recreation, and possibly Coquitlam River System and Salmon

Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Salmon, Resource Industries and Recreation

## Strategies for Action: 2

## Strategies for Action: 3

## Strategies for Action: 2

## Strategies for Action: 2

### Stormwater Homeowner

**Outreach:** to help single-family homeowners improve stormwater practices in the lower Coquitlam River watershed.

**Status:** A detailed Action Plan has been developed. Currently seeking implementation funding.

**Promote Adaptive Stormwater Management Process:** to achieve stormwater improvements at a watershed-wide scale.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.



### Development Incentives Feasibility

**study:** to develop potential incentive tools for the development community.

**Status:** A detailed Action Plan has been developed. Currently seeking implementation funding.

### Natural Space Watershed Strategy:

to assess current open space system, to identify areas to acquire new open space that provides multi-benefits derived from a watershed approach.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.

**Develop Impact Map:** to show cumulative watershed-wide impacts and assist decision-makers.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.



### Alignment of Invasive Species

**Management Efforts:** to compile watershed-wide data and apply across municipalities to address Metro Vancouver Invasive Species Management Strategy (Goal 3-L).

**Status:** A detailed Action Plan has been developed. Currently seeking implementation funding.

### Implement Ban On Sale Of Invasive

**Species:** to address Metro Vancouver Invasive Species Management Strategy (Goal 3-L and 3-M).

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.



### “No Impact” Campaign in Schools:

to provide locations where kids have access to, and learn how to recreate without environmental impact.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.

### Develop Coquitlam River Mainstem

**Outreach Campaign:** to prevent unsustainable recreation on the river corridor mainstem that harms riparian areas, aquatic habitat, native plants, and Species at Risk.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.



**Vandalism/Illegal Activity (Medium)**



**Water Extraction (Medium)**



**Mainstream Cultural Norms (Medium)**



**Mining (Low)**



Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Stewardship, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation

Coquitlam River System, Salmon, Human Health and Safety, Resource Industries, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation

Human Health and Safety, Stewardship, Resource Industries, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation

Coquitlam River System, Salmon and Liveable Communities

**Strategies for Action: 2**

**Littering/dumping Public Outreach Campaign:** to educate residents on cumulative damage of littering/dumping on a watershed-wide scale.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.

**Outreach Program:** to provide awareness and understanding about existing tree management and clearing bylaws in the municipalities.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.



**Strategies for Action: 3**

**Develop a Set of Recommendations for next revision of Water Use Plan:** to determine whether local-area water conservation efforts can offset water needs beyond WUP requirements to improve flows needed for salmon.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop Action Plan.

**Implement Water Conservation Outreach Program:** that focuses on the environmental flow benefits - connect water extraction and reduced water consumption of water to stream and salmon health.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.

**Promote "High" Standards of Water Practices for new Development, including supporting research:** to show benefits can reduce demands of development on the watershed.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.

**Strategies for Action: 1**

**Outreach Work:** to link the Natural Space Watershed Strategy (Development) and Coquitlam River Mainstem Outreach Campaign (Recreation) to make outdoor access easier. The concept requires further research.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.



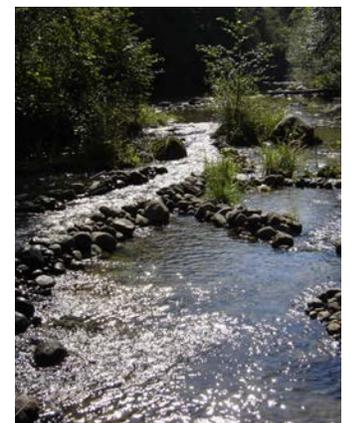
**Strategies for Action: 2**

**Conduct Outreach between Stewardship Groups and Mining Community:** to share information about current mining operations to provide better transparency on mining operations in the watershed.

**Status:** A conceptual model has been drafted. Some additional work is required to develop an Action Plan.

**Outreach on Current state of Mining Practices:** to inform the community what mining operations do to protect the Coquitlam River.

**Status:** This strategy idea has not been developed and will be furthered as capacity grows and resources become available.



# Our Watershed Planning Process

The Roundtable and its partners found a cost-effective approach, proven successful in other watersheds, known as the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. This five-step adaptive management approach seeks to integrate both ecological and human well-being concepts into the watershed planning process. Its key benefits include the ability to:

- Better link to desired impacts
- Build in an evaluation framework from the beginning
- Synthesize all different types of information
- Use an iterative process allowing for faster implementation; and,
- Account for ecological and human goals, which link through the provision of ecosystem services.

Traditionally, integrated stormwater management planning involves data collection, monitoring, mapping and hydrological analyses that require significant resources. The open standards methodology uses existing resource information, community-based and traditional ecological knowledge, and local experts to fill the data gaps, thereby providing a significant cost and timesavings.

As development of the watershed plan may guide future land use decisions, the Roundtable sought funding from organizations that

support healthy-living values and could influence growth in this area (Real Estate Foundation of BC, Metro Vancouver, and the Bullitt Foundation through the Watershed Watch Salmon Society). Though the open standards approach has been used throughout the United States for conservation planning, and in the Pacific Northwest for watershed planning, the Lower Coquitlam Watershed Management Plan is the first application of this tool for watershed planning in Canada, and among the first applications to integrate both ecological and human well-being goals.

The planning process involved conceptual models and subsequently strategies for action and detailed plans by answering the following questions:

- What do we care about and think is critical?
- How healthy are the things that we care about?
- What pressures are affecting the things we care about?
- Which pressures are the worst?
- What factors are contributing to the current situation?

Guided by the vision for a healthy watershed the Roundtable identified ten key ecological and human well-being components that would make a healthy watershed.

ECOLOGICAL COMPONENTS		Coquitlam River System		Riparian Areas		Salmon		Natural Areas	
HUMAN WELL-BEING COMPONENTS		Liveable Communities	Human Health & Safety	Resource Industries	Recreation	Cultural & Spiritual Values	Stewardship		

Subsequent exercises identified key pressures as affecting or threatening those things we care about, which are presented in the inside table of this update. For each pressure, one or more action strategies were developed to overcome the pressures in the watershed and help to restore where the things we care about have degraded.

The Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan is a living document that will change with time under the principle of adaptive

management. As people continue to put more and more pressure on ecosystems, it will become increasingly important to understand and promote the value of a healthy watershed for the community and human well-being. As the Roundtable guides strategies through the watershed plan, it applauds its forward-thinking municipal and First Nation partners and the many watershed sectors for making the implementation of the plan a realistic possibility.



For more information: [coquitlamriverwatershed.ca](http://coquitlamriverwatershed.ca)

For information on Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation: [cmp-openstandards.org](http://cmp-openstandards.org)

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