

Presentation to Town of Comox Council  
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# Valuing the Water Balance Services Provided by Nature: The Brooklyn Creek Demonstration Application

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the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc

Google

You should know and celebrate that.....

The Town of Comox is a leader among municipalities  
in taking care of a 'creekshed' and enjoying a  
package of ecological services provided by it!

*This conclusion came from the analysis of the  
condition of Brooklyn Creek which was carried out  
earlier this year as a demonstration case of the  
Ecological Accounting Process (EAP).*

# Road Map for Presentation

- An Overview of the Ecological Accounting Process (EAP)
- Story of the Brooklyn Creek EAP Demonstration Application
- What the “Package of Ecological Services” Means in Practice

# An Overview of EAP

- Stage 1 – Test the Concept (2017-18)
  - Brooklyn Creek Demonstration Application
  - Cowichan Valley Demonstration Application
- Stage 2 – Refine the Concept (2018-19)
  - Regional District of Nanaimo
  - Capital Regional District
  - District of North Vancouver
- Stage 3 – Transferability (2020)
  - Make the EAP approach transferable for any local government to use

# The purpose of EAP is to....

- Assess the condition of creekshed hydrology
- Calculate what the community thinks the creekshed may be worth.

*This is the investment of time, expertise and dollars by the community to maintain and enhance the creekshed.*

- Describe the *Package of Ecological Services* that the community expects from the creekshed.

## The EAP analysis revealed that...

- Land use has modified the hydrology considerably

The EAP analysis revealed that...

- The community uses the ecological services in many ways

## The EAP analysis revealed that...

- What the community thinks the creekshed – this Package of Ecological Services – is worth



A photograph showing a grassy area with a muddy, rutted path leading from the foreground towards a house in the background. The path is dark brown and appears to be a drainage area. To the left of the path is a dense thicket of bare, brown shrubs. The house in the background is a two-story grey building with a white garage. The sky is overcast and grey. The ground is covered in green grass and scattered brown leaves.

Brooklyn Creek — Before Enhancement  
(playground at elementary school site)



A photograph of a creek bed after a restoration project. The foreground is filled with smooth, grey and white river stones. A small, shallow channel of water flows through the center. To the right, a dirt path runs alongside the creek. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage, a wooden fence, and a white building. The text "Brooklyn Creek – After Enhancement (creation of channel through elementary school site)" is overlaid in yellow.

Brooklyn Creek – After Enhancement  
(creation of channel through elementary school site)



## The EAP analysis revealed that...

- A methodology based on “real numbers” enables calculation of the value of the land underlying the creek corridor and adjacent riparian zone

## The EAP analysis revealed that...

- Having a long-range strategy is important

*NOTE: Since 2005, three ToC departments working with various collaborators have maintained and enhanced Brooklyn Creek.*

And in conclusion.....

The investment in Brooklyn Creek has not only prevented further degradation of the stream, it has enhanced the functioning condition along much of its course from Guthrie Road to Comox Harbour. The success of the long-range strategy has depended on a shared vision and commitment by all.

## A Look Ahead

On September 26, we will sharing  
the Town's story at the  
Asset Management BC Conference

In April 2019, we will be featuring the Town's  
story at "Parksville 2019", the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
*Vancouver Island Symposium on Water  
Stewardship in a Changing Climate*