

RESILIENT COASTS FOR SALMON



ESQUIMALT GORGE PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

GREEN SHORES® FOR SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION SITE PROJECT UPDATES FALL 2025

Located in the Township of Esquimalt, the project site is on the south shoreline of the Gorge Waterway, near the parking lot at Sioux Place. It is within the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Lək̓ʷəŋən) People, known today as the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. The site is also located within the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and is important to numerous species such as Buffleheads that use and migrate through this area.



KEY FEATURES OF RESTORED SITE

An extensive riparian zone was planted with native species while retaining overhanging vegetation. The shoreline was restored using natural materials such as large woody debris, repurposed boulders from riprap removal, and native plants. The grade was also adjusted to create a more gradual slope, improving resilience to sea level rise and storms.



Riparian zone planted with native plants and trees retained



Native shoreline plant: gumweed



Repurposed boulders and woody material; more gradual shoreline

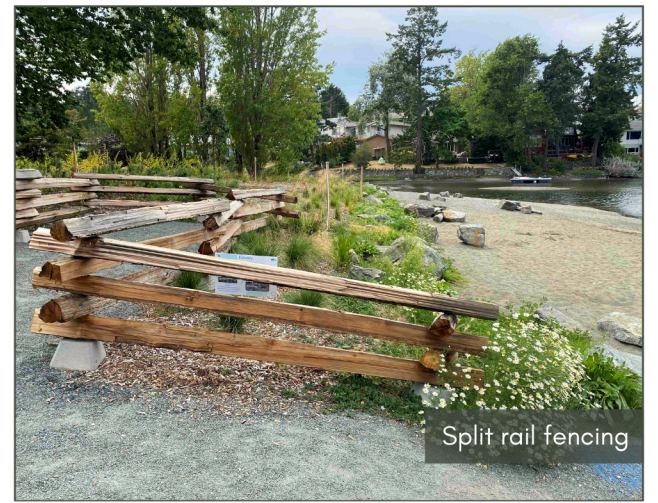
Educational signage was installed and accessibility to the shoreline for park users was improved with a newly installed mobi-mat. Split rail fencing protects the native plants and trees in the important riparian zone.



Ecology of Gorge sign



Mobi mat



Split rail fencing

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships have been key for this collaborative project and have included the the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Stewardship Centre for British Columbia, Township of Esquimalt, Capital Regional District, Gorge Waterway Action Society, and World Fisheries Trust.



Esquimalt Gorge Park sign

Robbie Young, Manager of Parks with the Township of Esquimalt, has played an instrumental role in the project.

"Partnering with Green Shores has truly elevated our approach to shoreline development. The Green Shores for Shoreline Development (GSSD) Demonstration site project not only enhanced the natural beauty of our shoreline but also strengthened community connections and improved local habitat. The Stewardship Centre team made the process easy, inspiring, and deeply rewarding – we're proud to showcase this site as a model for sustainable shoreline development in our community."

— Robbie Young, Township of Esquimalt Parks Manager

All photos taken by Kelly Loch, 2025.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Green Shores for Shoreline Development project verification is scheduled for October – November 2025.
- Project monitoring will continue under the guidance of the Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) and the Township of Esquimalt.
- The project team is hoping to have a grand opening to celebrate the newly created site; tentatively Spring 2026.

