



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

DYKE ROAD PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

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

Located on the Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation near the city of Courtenay and town of Comox, Dyke Road Park is situated at the confluence of the Puntledge and Tsolum Rivers where they join to form the Courtenay River. As part of the K'ómoks Estuary this area is designated as Class 1 in importance (World Wildlife Fund Canada, 2013) and the area is also recognized as a Canadian Important Bird Area.

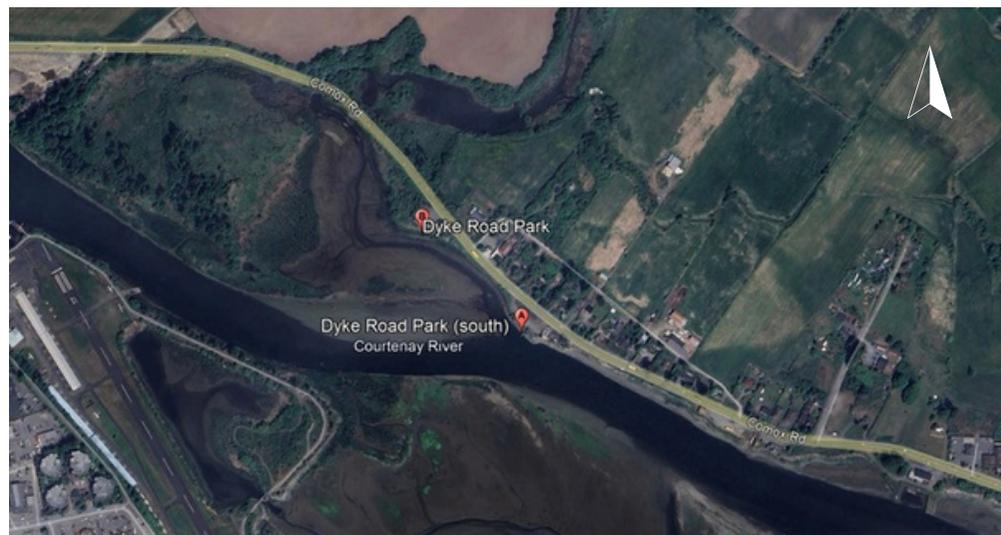


Image © 2025 Airbus imagery captured 5/17/2023

The Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation is referred to as the Land of Plenty because of its richness of resources including salmon, shellfish, rockfish, deer and berries. The K'ómoks First Nation and the Land of Plenty, which includes the waters of the K'ómoks estuary, have a deep relationship since the resources are foundational to spiritual beliefs, harvest practices, clothing design, and much more.

KEY FEATURES OF RESTORATION PROJECT

Phase 1 is now complete and Phase 2 in the upland area is scheduled for spring 2026.



Photo credit: Kelly Loch

Project Kick-off meeting, August 2024.

Phase 1 has included the following:

Collaboration has been a key feature of this Resilient Coasts for Salmon project. Partners have included the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), Project Watershed, Guardians of Our Salish Estuaries (GoOSE), the K'ómoks Nation and their Guardian Watchmen, Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) the Stewardship Centre for BC, Hapa Collaborative, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and Current Environmental.

Expansion of the salt marsh through extensive plantings and reprofiling, along with the installation of eco-cultural fencing that is intended to protect the vegetation against geese herbivory. Archaeological monitoring was carried out throughout shoreline excavation.



Photo credit: Nick Page

Salt marsh planting of Carex and Juncus



Photo credit: Nick Page

Eco-cultural fencing to prevent geese herbivory



Photo credit: Kelly Loch

Archaeological monitoring during construction

Creation of new tidal channels and a habitat island that will benefit the five species of salmon that inhabit the estuary by providing opportunity for off-channel resting and foraging along a shoreline shaded with overhanging vegetation.



Photo credit: Nick Page

Tidal channel and habitat island

Retention of mature trees and the addition of extensive riparian plantings to support the overall ecological health of the site. In Phase 1 over 20,000 plants were installed in the salt marsh and riparian areas.



Photo credit: Kelly Loch

Mature trees retained on habitat island



Photo credit: Nick Page

Riparian planting featured native species: Red Flowering Currant.



Photo credit: Nick Page

Elevated boardwalk out to the salt marsh area

Innovative access to the shoreline with an elevated boardwalk that provides an immersive experience for park visitors while protecting the important riparian and salt marsh areas.



Photo credit: Daniel May

Daniel May, the CVRD Project Manager for the Dyke Road Park Project:

"This award winning project represents the dedication and support from various partners for many years now, from project planning through to implementation. Through collaborative design discussions the project team has created a nature-based approach to protect the coastline from erosion and flood risk while also implementing important habitat and park amenity enhancements. When complete in spring 2026, this well-loved park will be a showcase for Green Shores® and will provide the community with both a functional and alluring space to visit."

WHAT'S NEXT?

- A plan for interpretative signage that will share the ecological and cultural story of this amazing project and place is being co-developed. CVRD and Hapa Collaborative are working with the K'ómoks First Nation, SCBC and GooSE to develop signage content, and K'ómoks First Nation is also providing a new name for the park
- Green Shores (GSSD) Certification is in a preliminary phase with CVRD Planning and Parks staff and Current Environmental having developed a draft GSSD submittal. Final verification will occur after project completion in spring 2026
- Site monitoring and maintenance of Phase 1 is underway by Project Watershed, Current Environmental and CVRD. Possible maintenance activities may include the addition of goose fencing where necessary, removal of silt fencing and installation of textile cloth under the boardwalk to manage vegetation growth through the metal decking
- Project documentary is in progress with PSF capturing interviews and updates from project partners along with visual content of the transformation of the project site
- A building permit for the new pavilion has been obtained
- Procurement for Phase 2 construction of upland project components is underway by CVRD Parks.
- Communication for the public is in progress with CVRD Parks working with CVRD Communications to develop the methodology and materials for project updates for the public
- It can be noted that this project was awarded for its collaborative approach and natural design the **2024 Sustainable Communities Award** by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

