

Ms. Alex King
124 Sand Piper Place
Nanaimo, BC
V9V 1H5

February 7, 2023

Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog and City Council Members
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 5J6

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Walley Creek Streamkeepers to express our concern about potential development impact to an environmentally sensitive area in North Nanaimo: the wetlands associated with Walley Creek behind Piper's Pub, 4670 Hammond Bay Road.

In 2016 the Walley Creek Streamkeepers came together over mutual interest in enhancing Walley Creek's ecological diversity and fish habitat. Since then, our dedicated volunteer group has carried out many [projects](#) including stream surveys, water quality and quantity monitoring, outreach and education, riparian planting and in-stream restoration. These projects have been carried out in partnership with the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture department, the RDN's Community Watershed Monitoring Network, local schools, professional biologists, provincial hydrologists and Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Like all urban streams, Walley Creek faces challenges such as pollution from road runoff, illegal dumping, and extremes of high and low flow because of the inputs from storm drain systems and increasing impervious surfaces. Despite this, Walley Creek and its associated wetlands support an impressive diversity of plants and animals, not the least of which are coastal cutthroat trout (which are facing dramatic declines), SARA-listed birds, and several species of salamanders, including the Blue-listed Wandering Salamander. In addition to protecting this biodiversity, our streamkeepers group is working towards restoring the creek's traditional ability to support Coho salmon.

As the north end of Nanaimo is built out, less-desirable lands like those bordering wetlands are being developed. While we support smart growth and densification, we are concerned that changes to the riparian area will affect the quantity and quality of water in Walley Creek. We know that the City has several documents to guide environmental protection of sensitive areas,

including the Watercourse Development Permit guidelines, the Rocky Point-Hammond Bay-Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Plan (Bylaw 6500), and the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan. We're seeking your support to:

- Require that development at 4670 Hammond Bay Road set aside the wetlands as City park, to maintain ecological integrity.
- Establish an ecologically sensitive public access trail adjacent to the wetland (outside the 15m setback required in the DPA) as part of the goal of a public pedestrian trail connecting Neck Point Park to the Walley Creek trail, ending at Fillinger Crescent.
- Require any development to include a rain garden to slow the flow of water into the creek and allow greater groundwater absorption, to balance the loss of pervious surface.

We would be happy to meet you at the site and discuss our projects, concerns, and ecological goals, or to answer any questions you might have by email or phone. I hope we can count on your support to direct City staff as they make decisions about development in these important areas.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex King".

Ms. Alex King, on behalf of the Walley Creek Streamkeepers