



**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION



Regional District of Nanaimo
Electoral Area Services Committee

November 3, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region is requesting matching contributions from the Regional District of Nanaimo Parks Department of \$7,000 in 2026 and \$7,000 in 2027 to support restoration activities for proposed funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF).

Applications to HCTF are being submitted for Year 2 and Year 3 of the *French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve (FCENP) Habitat Restoration* Project. The goal of proposed work in Year 2 is to implement the next phase of restoration around the pond, focusing on removal of invasive plants and reintroduction of native species to restore ecological balance and advance toward the long-term goal of a self-sustaining, near-natural ecosystem surrounding the pond. To achieve this goal, the project will be guided by two objectives:

1. Eradicate invasive Himalayan blackberry at the southwest end of the pond area (approximately 200m²). Implement a monitoring and adaptive management plan to maintain less than 10% regrowth coverage by 2027 to ensure healthy conditions are available for future replanting with native species in 2027 - 2028.
2. By March 2027, extend the native plant ecosystem at the northwest end of the pond area (approximately 200 m²) by improving soil conditions through addition of organic amendments and establishing a diverse mix of native trees, shrubs, and groundcover species. Implement a monitoring and adaptive management plan to achieve at least 80% survival and measurable increase in native cover.

Year 3 of the project will build on activities completed in the previous two years to continue restoration efforts of removing invasive species and establishing native vegetation.

The project directly supports goals and actions outlined in the FCENP Management Plan by advancing on-the-ground restoration that enhances native biodiversity, controls invasive species, and improves ecological function within the FCENP. In addition, by taking action to remove and control spread of invasive Himalayan blackberry—a priority species of management concern identified by the RDN—this project contributes directly to the objectives of the RDN Parks Biodiversity Plan.

We appreciate the ongoing support from the RDN for this project and look forward to continuing to work together to achieve important restoration goals at the FCENP.

Thank you,

Graham Sakaki
Acting Governance Officer, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region