

December 06, 2018

Mr Tom Osborne, General Manager, Recreation & Parks
830 West Island Highway
Parksville, BC, V9P 2X4
tosborne@rdn.bc.ca

French Creek Estuary Land

Dear Mr Osborne:

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce a community campaign, Save French Creek Estuary Land, representing citizens from French Creek, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo and many neighbouring communities and cities on Vancouver Island.

Our goals are to:

- Protect this critical area from a proposed development.
- Keep the land as natural space and wildlife habitat.
- Work together with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), Conservancy agencies and the Community, to add the land to the existing Regional Community Park.

The acquisition of 23 acres of land bordering the west side of French Creek Estuary provides a wonderful opportunity for the RDN to protect sensitive ecosystems, support community partnerships, enhance the health and well-being of residents, and meet the growing public desire for natural spaces.

French Creek Estuary Land is recognized as a priority for conservation. This unique transect connects 2nd growth Coastal Douglas fir forest, estuary, river and Salish Sea, providing habitat for an abundance of wildlife. Among its inhabitants are raptors such as eagles, hawks and owls, as well as deer, otter, mink, beaver, turtles and a multitude of resident and migrating birds. Two of Vancouver Island's three, large carnivores, black bear and cougar, occur here. Some species are listed as at risk.

The RDN prioritizes protecting sensitive ecosystems, reducing harm to the environment, and enhancing the well-being of the community in its Regional Growth Strategy, Official Community Plan Area 'G', Community Parks & Trails Strategic Plan, and Regional Parks & Trails Plan. The OCP documents a 'strong community desire to preserve the large tract of forested land remaining between the Englishman River and Little Qualicum estuaries,' referring to this 23 acres of land.

Over 2000 petition signatures from residents of the RDN and neighbouring communities reflects strong, community support for the protection of this 23 acres as natural land and wildlife habitat.

We respectfully suggest collaboration between the RDN, Conservation Agencies, and the Community, to work in partnership to protect and acquire this ecological treasure. We invite you to visit our website to discover more about this unique area and enjoy amazing wildlife photos taken at the site.

Yours truly,

Denise Foster, Peter Giesen, Penny Vanson, Peter Bonell
On Behalf of Save French Creek Estuary Land
Website: savefrenchcreekestuaryland.ca Email: saveestuaryland@gmail.com