

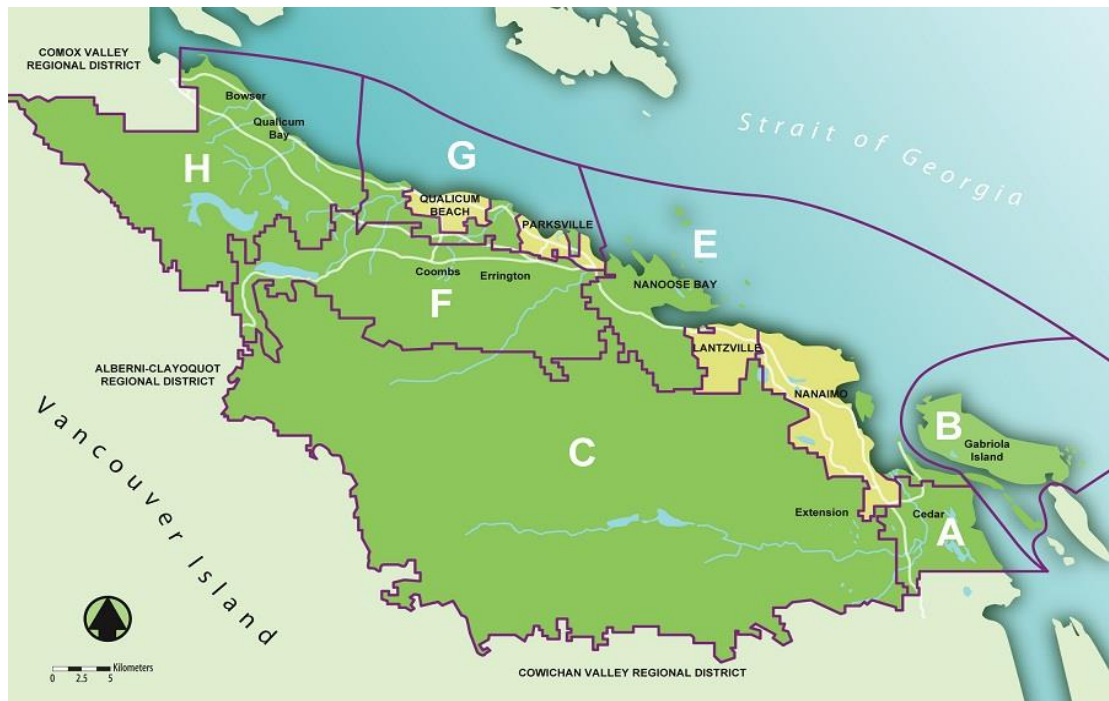


Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program

Presented by Julie Pisani,
Program Coordinator

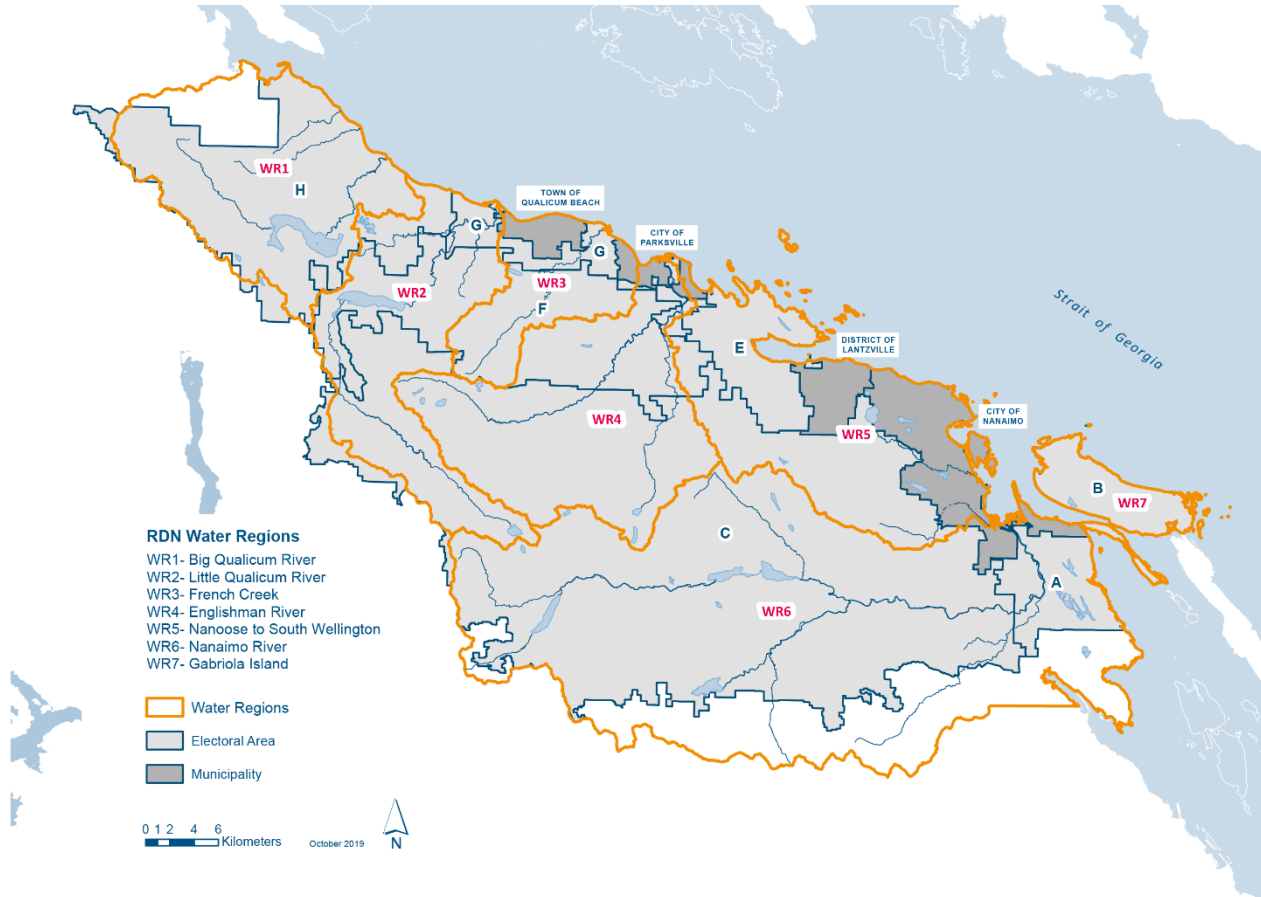


Our region



- Traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples.
- A federation of 4 municipalities & 7 electoral areas.
- RDN operates 9 small water systems in Electoral Areas.
- Municipalities operate drinking water services for their residents.

Water is not confined by political boundaries



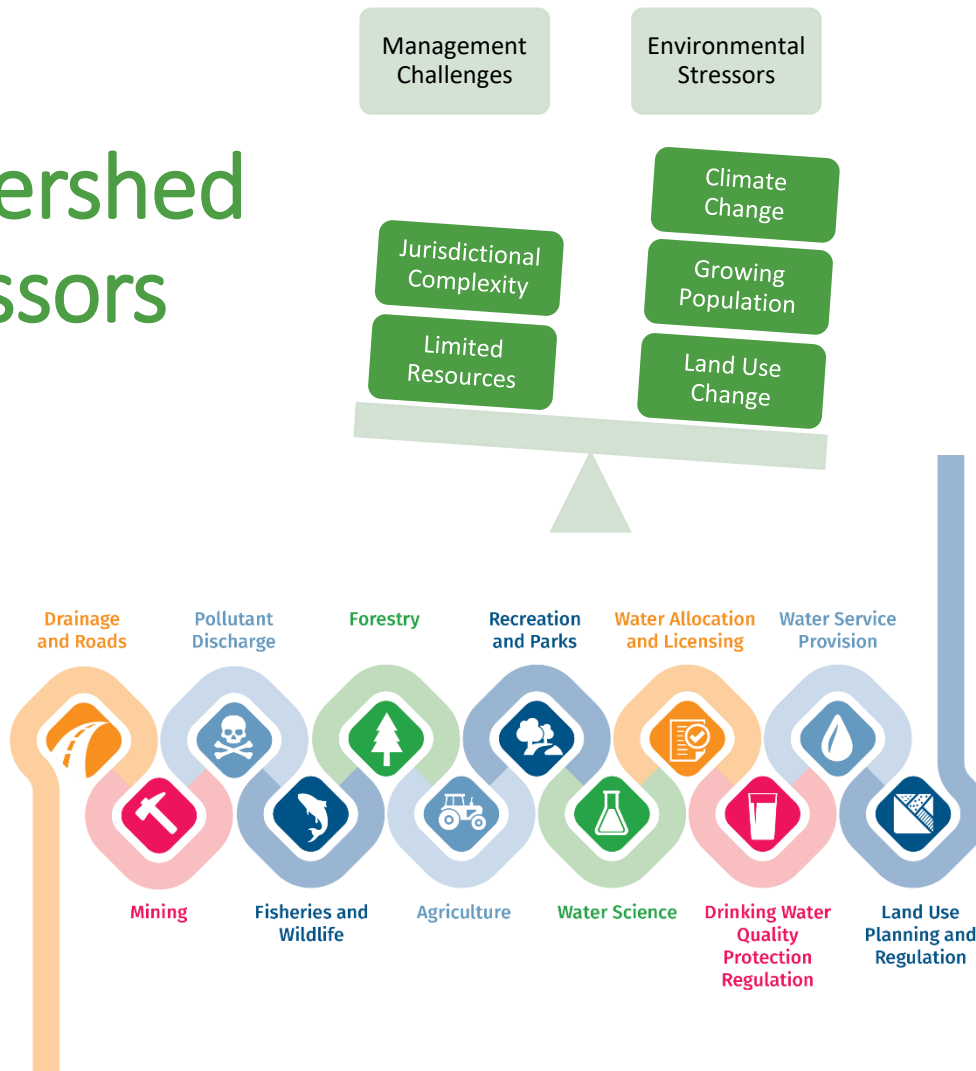
- Important to manage water on a regional, watershed scale
- DWWP's role is to coordinate this effort

Watersheds are assets



- Healthy watersheds provide our communities with:
 - Water Supply
 - Ecosystem Services
 - Habitat
 - Cultural values
 - Recreation

Watershed stressors



Common goals

- All Electoral Area OCPs
- All municipal strategic plans

...contain language about environmental protection, adequate water supply & ensured water quality...

“preserve & protect water quality and quantity”



Why regional investment?

- Shared water sources; need to manage upstream / downstream impacts
- Collect regional information to inform land use decisions & water allocations

Optimize service delivery

Protect local assets

Advocate to senior government

Advance reconciliation



Foresight – Drinking Water & Watershed Protection

2003

- RDN Board identified DWWP as a priority in 2003-2005 Strategic Plan.

2006

- DWWP Stewardship Committee established.
- Committee developed a 10-year Action Plan with a budget.

2008

- Electoral Area referendum secured elector assent to establish a DWWP service, funding through parcel tax.

2009

- Program implementation began with full time program coordinator.

2012

- The 4 member municipalities are all partners in the DWWP function by servicing agreement.

2019

- Action Plan updated for second decade 2020-2030

Program funding

2008

Referendum authorized up to **\$25** parcel tax (Electoral Areas only)

2009

Property tax of **\$10** was established in the electoral areas

2012

Formula agreed upon to phase in all municipal partners

2017

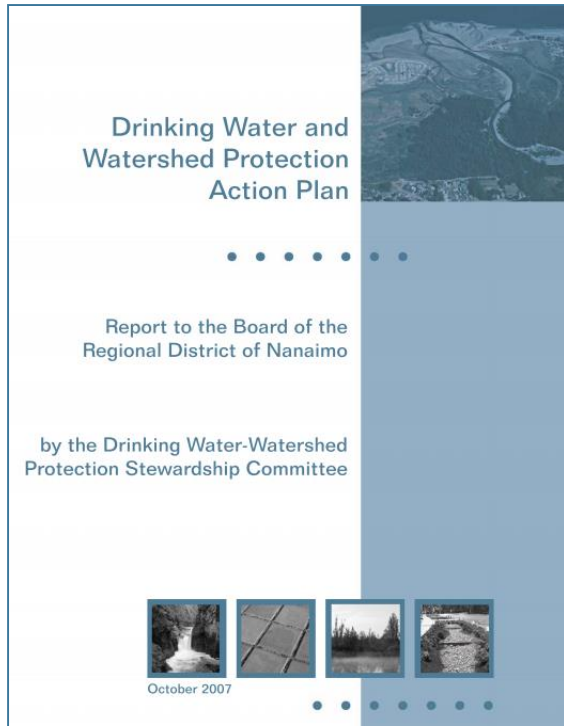
full phase in; all parcels pay **\$8** per year into the service

2020

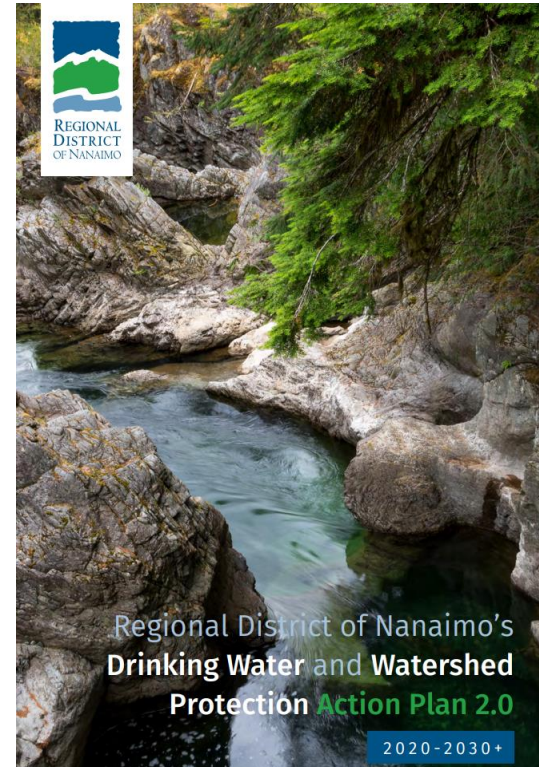
Parcel tax increase to **\$12** to fund additional scope in Action Plan 2.0

* Proposed upcoming increases to be rolled out in 2022 and 2023 to fund the delivery of the program through its 2nd decade to 2030.

The Action Plan

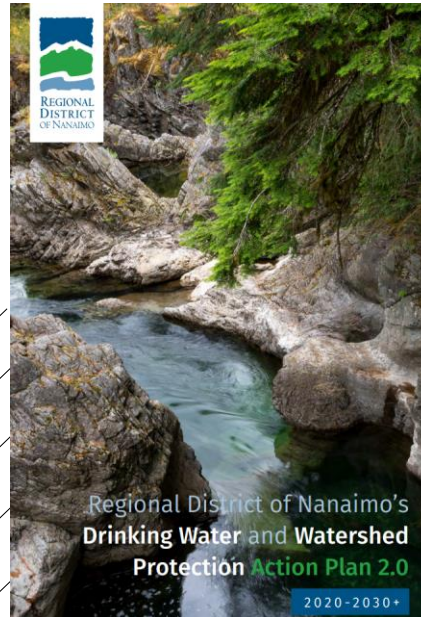


1.0

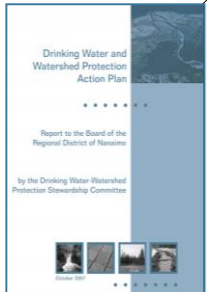


2.0

The Action Plan



- 1) Public awareness & involvement
- 2) Water resources inventory & monitoring
- 3) Management of land use & development
- 4) Watershed management planning
- 5) Management of water use
- 6) Management of water quality
- 7) Adapting to climate change



Our vision is for healthy, safe and resilient water resources in the region, enabled through strong partnerships.

Our mission is to provide regional leadership at the watershed scale to support water management, land-use planning, and community outreach and advance drinking water sustainability, climate adaptation, and healthy ecosystems.



Action Plan

Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)

- ▶ Tours
- ▶ Community events
- ▶ Curriculum-connected school materials*
- ▶ Irrigation Check-ups
- ▶ Workshops

New Sub-Actions

- ▶ Community-based Social Marketing program design
- ▶ Multi-media engagement
- ▶ Interpretive signage and demonstration sites
- ▶ Youth water leadership projects
- ▶ Public surveys

- ▶ All current rebates

- ▶ Explore new rebate options i.e. water flow meters for wells

Water Collaboration



Water Awareness and Stewardship



Water Information and Science



Water-centric Planning and Policy Support

KEY SCOPE EXPANSION for ACTION PLAN 2.0:

- RAINWATER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – in LWMP
- NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT – supporting data & inventory
- APPROPRIATE STAFFING LEVELS
- ENHANCED MONITORING & DATA MANAGEMENT
- EXPANDED FUNDING FOR REBATES & STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

- ▶ Informing long term plans*
- ▶ Informing current operations*
- ▶ Informing development approvals

- ▶ Expand integration of regional water information to RDN departments, and municipalities
- ▶ Develop a Regional Rainwater Management Strategy
- ▶ Recommendations on Provincial water application referrals

- ▶ Review and advise on internal policy
- ▶ Strategic external advocacy

- ▶ Research to identify best policies and practices in North America
- ▶ Implement rainwater management initiatives

Structure

4 Permanent Full Time Staff; Report to Water Services Mgr.

DWWP Program Coordinator

- Monitoring Network Coord.
- Stewardship Coord.
- Outreach Coord.

DWWP Staff
Implementing
Action Plan

DWWP Technical
Advisory Committee
Guiding Implementation

- DFO
- MFLNRO
- Island Health
- Municipalities
- Mosaic Forests
- Stewardship community
- Agricultural community
- VIU
- Professional hydrogeologist, hydrologist, biologist
- Water suppliers assoc.
- Community at-large
- Islands Trust
- MOTI
- Indigenous community reps

RDN Board

Receives meeting minutes and motions

Decide on actions related to outcomes of DWWP activities – i.e. resolutions to AVICC or UBCM

Challenges & Successes



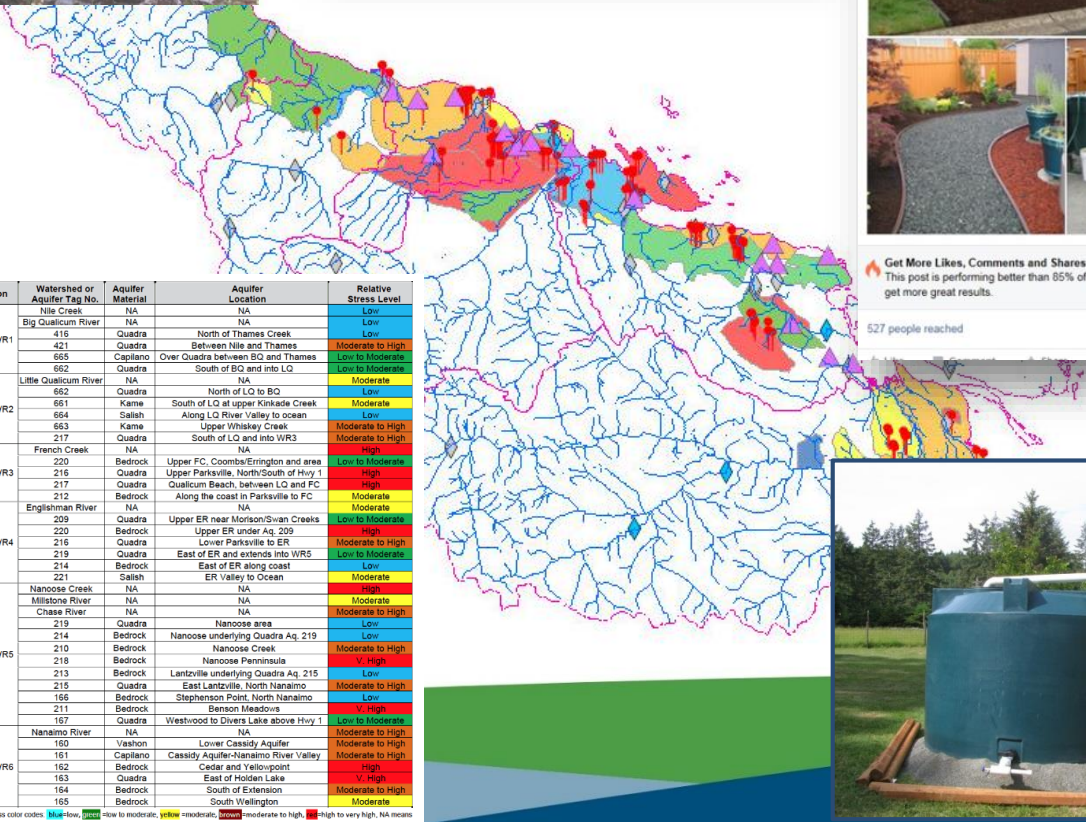
Regional District of Nanaimo added 3 new photos.
August 10 at 3:53pm · 🌐

Congratulations to Beth of Parksville, this week's Team WaterSmart Water Saver Contest prize draw winner! Beth converted her thirsty front lawn into a beautiful, water efficient landscape, complete with a permeable gravel path to help rainwater infiltrate into the ground. She also uses a system of rain barrels and large buckets to collect rain water for watering her garden.

Are you a champion water saver? Enter Team WaterSmart's Weekly Water Champion contest and you could win a rain barrel and other great prizes. Visit www.teamwatersmart.ca for contest details and entry forms.

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Key Learnings

- **Political champions** are an important ingredient for success
- **Interdepartmental collaboration** is essential – requires organizational identity that aligns with values of DWWP beyond just the water department.
- **Long-term reliable funding** (for programs and staffing) magnetizes crucial partnerships.
- **Working with stewardship groups** uses resources efficiently while building community capacity and awareness.
- **Utilizing consulting professionals** is important for specialized analysis
- **Demonstrating results** through collaborative initiatives builds long lasting relationships.
- **Coordination at the watershed level** is an effective role for regional government.
- Continued emphasis on **working with and supporting First Nations in co-managing water and land in the region.**



THANK YOU

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