

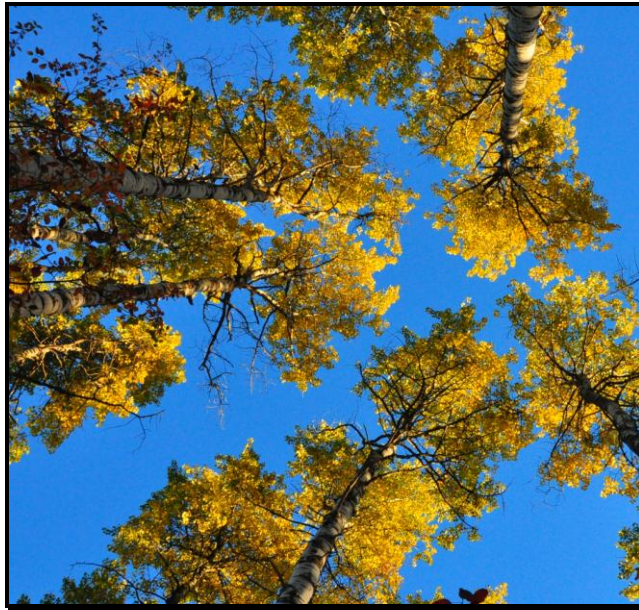


Comox News

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q' a'

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

Highmoor Greenway



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In November, a segment of greenway in east Comox was constructed. The Highmoor Greenway and park encompasses an area of approximately 0.89 ha and extends approximately 415 m south from the end of Admiral Road. The area was historically a plant nursery, resulting in a high abundance of large English Holly trees and many other non-native species. The area also includes two ecosystem types with three provincially rare or endangered ecological communities represented in small patches.

Approximately 40% of the area is characterized by a perched wetland hosting a provincially red-listed ecological community of trembling aspen, Pacific

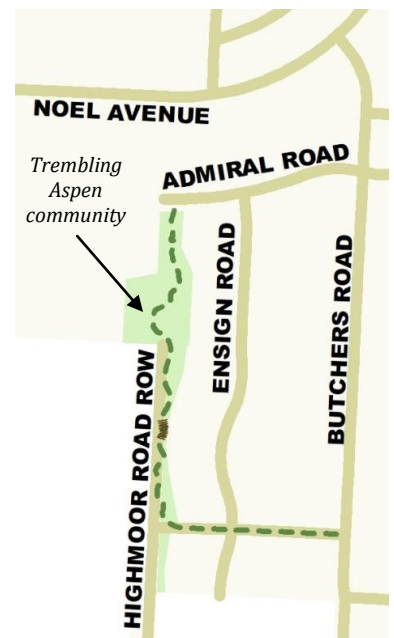
crab apple and slough sedge. Despite the small size, the wetland has high habitat value for wildlife in the area.

An estimated 15% of area is defined by a second growth conifer-dominated forest with little deciduous cover. Species composition in this small ecosystem patch is characteristic of the provincially red-listed Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape ecological community.

Species on the subject property that are characteristic of this red-listed community, in addition to Douglas-fir and dull Oregon-grape, include grand fir, salal, oceanspray, baldhip

rose, red huckleberry, common snowberry, trailing snowberry, and a herb layer of broad-leaved starflower, swordfern, and bracken fern.

The greenway provides recreational and viewing opportunities while avoiding negative impacts to sensitive ecosystem features. The trail was designed to follow existing worn trails and areas with invasive plant species, which reduced the disturbance to the habitat and the number of native plants needing removal. Any native plants that were removed will be replanted at a rate of 2:1. The trail alignment was also designed to ensure no negative impacts to site hydrology.



Changes to your blue box recycling program



The Town of Comox and Recycle BC have entered into a partnership for the collection of recyclable materials from curbside blue boxes. Recycle BC is a non-profit organization that is responsible for residential recycling programs throughout BC. In many communities, they partner with local government to ensure packaging and printed paper is collected from households, sorted and responsibly recycled.

The new agreement means there are some changes to

what blue box residents can recycle. New materials now accepted in your blue box include:

- Empty aerosol cans
- Tetra Pak boxes for soups and sauces (juice boxes not permitted)
- Milk cartons
- Frozen dessert boxes – i.e., ice cream boxes
- Plastic clamshells for baked goods, fruit and eggs
- Plastic and paper cups
- Spiral-wound cans – i.e., for frozen juice, chips
- Microwavable bowls and cups

- Plastic garden pots and trays for bedding plants, seedlings, vegetable plants, etc.
- Empty single-use coffee and tea pods (remove lids as they are not recyclable)
- Rigid plastic packaging for toys, toothbrushes, batteries, etc. (remove paper backing from the plastic and place in blue box separately)

Items not accepted in your blue box include:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Foam packaging
- Plastic bags and overwrap (the plastic film on Styrofoam food trays)
- Juice boxes (Tetra Pak)
- Hardcover or paperback books

More information on what can and can't be recycled can be found by using Recycle BC's Material Search Waste Wizard, found at <https://recyclebc.ca/results/material/>.

Oops Stickers:

The Town will begin tagging blue boxes that contain


unacceptable items with an "oops sticker" as shown. In the beginning, all items in your blue box will continue to be collected. Homes who repeatedly include unacceptable items may find these items, or their entire bin, left behind. Please familiarize yourself with what is and isn't acceptable, and call or email if you have any questions.

OOPS!

We collected your recycling today, however it may not be collected next time because of:

We were unable to collect your recycling today because of:

- Packaging not empty
- Materials not loose
- Plastic bags or overwrap in bin
- Glass in bin
- Foam packaging in bin
- Other unaccepted material in bin



Take plastic bags, glass and foam packaging to Comox Return Centre. Contact Town Hall or visit www.comox.ca for more details. 250 339-2202 or recycle@comox.ca

More information on program changes can be found at <http://comox.ca/modx/recycling.html>.

Brooklyn Creek habitat enhancement

Last year, a 60 metre long pond and wetland was constructed just south of the Gaglardi Academy. The newly created wetland added 600 m² of off-channel juvenile salmonid rearing habitat to the Brooklyn Creek watershed, as well as created habitat for amphibians, reptiles, aquatic insects, birds and mammals.

This year, a drainage feature was constructed along the eastern and southern edges

of Gaglardi Academy, which augments the water supply to the wetland. The wetland was also extended 30m eastward and a walking path added connecting Noel to Dogwood Avenue.

The project was a joint initiative between the Town of Comox and the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society, with funding from the Town and the DFO Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program.



Twin Sail Buildings

Completion of the Marina Park Enhancement Project was realized this summer with a successful launch of the new facility taking place during the B.C. Day long weekend. The addition of two new multi-use buildings (the Twin Sail Buildings), expanded public plaza, enhanced seating, and public washroom facilities has been well received by the public and visitors to the waterfront. If you would like to rent the buildings for your next meeting or special event, contact Colleen at the Community Centre: 250 339-2255 or cchestnut@comox.ca.



Community Centre change room renovations



The Community Centre change room renovations are complete! A new shower and changing area with improved temperature and pressure, along with attractive new colours and finishes, brighten up the areas. Come see for yourself and while you are here, check out the award winning Fitness Studio!

The new winter Recreation Guide, with programs and schedules for all your fitness

and recreation needs, is also now available. Get your copy of the Guide at the Community Centre or go to <http://www.comox.ca/modx/rec-guide.html>.



Provincial wildfires

The summer of 2017 was very interesting and challenging for Comox Fire.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner requested our assistance with the wildfires by deploying our Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer to the Cariboo region. Our SPU trailer has several high-pressure water pumps and over one hundred sprinklers, which can be used to wet structures during an advancing wildfire.

For 50 consecutive days, Comox Fire provided a five person structure protection team to assist with fighting Provincial wildfires. In total,

seventeen members of our department were deployed for various lengths of time. Structure protection was provided to over 140 structures on 60 different properties, and to the best of our knowledge, none of these structures suffered any damage from the fires.

This deployment was a great benefit to our community, as our members gained valuable experience and, at the same time, earned additional funds that will be put back into our fire service.

All of our firefighters contributed to this service.

While some were deployed, others picked up the slack here at home to ensure we could continue to provide great service.

Approximately 100 BC fire departments participated in this years record wildfire deployments.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

Snow and ice control

During snow and ice events, the Town will make every effort to provide for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Roads will be ploughed upon accumulations of 10 cm of snow, or when lesser accumulations result in dangerous conditions.

Roads will be ploughed in the following order: arterial roads, collector roads, local roads, cul-de-sacs and lanes. In addition, priority is given to routes serving public facilities such as the fire hall, hospital, Town hall, school zones, bus routes and the Comox Community Centre.

Ploughing will result in a channel of snow across drive-ways and accesses. The Town regrets that we simply do not have the resources to clear these channels afterwards.

Removal of snow from sidewalks in the downtown area is the responsibility of commercial and multifamily property owners. Please have your sidewalks cleared by 10:00 a.m., and we encourage

you to help others who can't. Snow and ice removal from sidewalks along arterial and major collector roads outside of the downtown area will be undertaken by the Town. Please note that priority will first be given to clearing one side only. Staff will also endeavour to clear snow and ice from sidewalks fronting municipal properties.

Homeowners, please do not deposit snow onto sidewalks and/or the roadway when clearing driveways. In most cases, we will have little choice but to redirect it back to where it came from. Please remove all parked vehicles from the streets until ploughing has been completed, and help to reduce flooding problems by keeping catch basins free from snow and debris. We also encourage you to clear sidewalks fronting your properties.

We encourage you to please help others who are not able to clear their own driveways and sidewalks.

Notices

911 Emergency: Help us help you

1 2 3 4 5

In the case of an emergency, such as a fire, medical or policing issue, the difference of a few minutes can mean the difference between life and death. **We need to be able to find you!**

Fire Chief Gord Schreiner recommends checking your own house numbers from the street on a dark raining night. Numbers should be highly visible, at least 3" in height and preferably reflective.

Reflective numbers are available at various retailers as well as the Comox Valley Monarch Lions Club. For more information, contact the fire department.

Woodstove exchange program

In the Comox Valley, there are times when fine particulate matter levels (PM2.5) exceed the applicable standards. These exceedances often occur in fall or winter, when many valley residents are heating their homes with wood, and when weather conditions result in temperature inversions that trap pollutants at ground level.

The Comox Valley Regional District offers increased incentives for homeowners who are exchanging a non-EPA certified wood stove for heating options such as pellet stoves, gas stoves/fireplaces, or electric air source heat pumps. Rebates for exchange to new EPA certified wood stoves continue to be available. Contact the Regional District for more information, 250 334-6000.

Fall cleanup

With the arrival of this year's storm season, once again the Town of Comox is requesting your assistance in clearing leaves and debris from catch basin grates. This is the best way to prevent flooding.

Please also do not deposit or blow leaves on to the road way as our limited staff and equipment do not allow for prompt removal.

Thank you for your cooperation!



This newsletter is a result of Council's initiative to increase communication with residents. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to see anything in particular in upcoming editions, please contact us.