

The Importance of Biological Expertise for Green Shores Shoreline Restoration Projects:

Lessons from Dyke Road Park, Comox, BC

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Two topics

1. The changing role of biologists as part of inter-disciplinary teams for shoreline projects
2. Lessons from Dyke Road Park project



Our role is changing!

- Historically, biologists often had a limited role that focused on a suite of technical tasks (fish, plants, regulation, permitting).
- These technical tasks have expanded: species at risk, sea level rise, ecological processes, invasive species, changing regulatory requirements.
- More importantly, we've expanded our role to be a bridge to an engaged local community, to stewardship groups and First Nations, and to understand that ecosystems have a historical and cultural dimension as well.

Coastal projects are about teamwork!



Participants in the Dyke Road Park Project

Decision Makers & Regulators

Comox Valley Regional District
K'omoks First Nation
Stewardship Centre of BC
Project Watershed
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Province of BC
Nature Trust of BC

Stewardship Groups

Stewardship Centre of BC
Project Watershed
Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries

Funders

Union of BC Municipalities – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund
Pacific Salmon Foundation
DFO (Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund) through Project Watershed
Nature Trust of BC
CVRD - Community Works Fund
BC Hydro- BC Regreening Grant

Consultants

Current Environmental
Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Hapa Collaborative
Baseline Archaeology

Contractors

Jake Shepherd Trucking
Makon Construction
NATS Nursery
Peel's Nursery
Selletin Habitat Restoration
K'omoks FN Guardians



Comox Valley Airport (YQQ)

Dyke Road Park

Courtenay

K'omoks FN

Comox

Comox

Dyke Road Park Project



Older park infrastructure (1988)



Lower value plant communities



Restoring intertidal marsh habitat



New marsh benches



Marsh planting



New park infrastructure

A landscape photograph showing a grassy field in the foreground, a stream or small waterway winding through it, and a line of trees in the background under a cloudy sky. The image is used as a background for the slide.

Summary

- The practice of biology is becoming more complex.
- Biologists are expected to have expanding technical skills.
- But also support and sometimes lead interdisciplinary teams with strong connections to both local communities, and First Nations governments.
- Green Shores is a useful tool for incorporating these requirements.

Questions?

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