



EVENT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gerald Harris

geraldhdh@pacificcoast.net

FRIENDS OF BOWKER CREEK TO HOST “BOWKER BIODIVERSITY DAY” EVENT *Celebrating the Bowker Creek Biodiversity Corridor*

SAANICH, B.C. — Come celebrate with Friends of Bowker Creek at **Kings Community Nature Space (1845 Kings Rd) on Saturday, August 12 2023, from 1:00-4:00 pm.** Bring the whole family for this free event, featuring music, games, crafts, prizes and edible treats. Learn about the creek and the great vision for its future. More details to be announced in the coming days at www.bowkercreek.org

BOWKER CREEK — Bowker Creek is coming back to life. It flows almost 10 kilometers through Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay, but urban development in the 1900s buried most of the channel as a storm sewer. Now, the three municipalities are working together to restore the creek as a treasured public asset—partners in “a 100-year action plan”: *The Bowker Creek Blueprint*. A key purpose of the Blueprint is preventing flood and drought effects from climate change by restoring the creek and managing rainwater better. Volunteer groups are also working to bring back salmon in the creek and natural habitat on its banks. Diverse birds, insects, animals and plants are returning and thriving.

EXPANDING THE VISION — This decade, people are seeing climate change and habitat destruction close to home. Heat domes and atmospheric rivers, massive fires, and floods are directly impacting us. And so, restoring Bowker Creek gains new meaning. As municipalities respond to global and local issues with strategies for Urban Forest and Biodiversity Conservation, the Bowker Blueprint vision shines with new possibilities. We picture a living stream that supports a corridor of urban forest, active transportation, adaptation to climate change, natural beauty and wellness, all at the heart of urban density. We envision a Bowker Creek Biodiversity Corridor from the creek's sources to the sea.

OUR SALMON SYMBOL — Thanks to Sarah Jim, visual artist from Tseycum in W̱SÁNEĆ, that we may use her “Cosmic Salmon” image. Sarah comments about it: *“The salmon is a symbol of relationships. They feed the ecosystem and sacrifice themselves to the next generation. Salmon provide nutrients to the land by distribution of countless animals that rely on salmon for food and medicine. The celestial pattern within this salmon is a symbol of the interconnectedness of all things.”*