

January 28, 2026

RDN Stewardship Seed Funding Available for Watershed Projects in 2026

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is now accepting applications for community-level projects that monitor, restore or enhance regional watercourses. The Drinking Water and Watershed Protection's (DWWP) Stewardship Seed Funding grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per project and multi-year projects can apply annually for up to three consecutive years. The total funding available for this program is \$55,000 for 2026. There is no deadline to apply as funding is first come, first served based on project merit until the end of the year or available funding runs out.

To be eligible for Stewardship Seed Funding, projects must:

- be led by a non-profit organization and involve community volunteers,
- be jointly funded by other partners, donors or with in-kind contributions,
- acquire all the necessary permissions and permits for work to be carried out,
- and actively enhance or monitor stream, river, lake, estuary or wetland health, hydrology or function.

Projects that pursue recommendations from RDN-supported stream assessments or water quality monitoring, such as the Community Watershed Monitoring Network (rdn.bc.ca/community-watershed-monitoring), will be prioritized.

Since 2016, the RDN's DWWP program has supported 43 watershed enhancement projects throughout the region, with projects ranging from stream habitat assessments and monitoring efforts to wetland restoration and bank stabilization projects. Over \$1 million over the past 10 years has been granted to support watershed restoration projects in the RDN through the Stewardship Seed Funding program.

For program details, including information on how to apply for funding and application forms, visit rdn.bc.ca/stewardship-seed-funding. For application questions or to connect with stewardship organizations in your area, email waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca. For more information about the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program, visit rdn.bc.ca/drinking-water-and-watershed-protection.

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