



NEWS RELEASE

January 27, 2026

Conditional Purchase Agreement for Hamilton Marsh Update

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and Mosaic Forest Management (Mosaic) are pleased to announce that positive conversations are continuing in efforts to secure Hamilton Marsh lands as a regional park and conservation area.

Since November 2025, the RDN and its partners have secured over \$25 million in funding. Mosaic has agreed to revise the purchase terms to \$28 million, subject to Board approval, in their efforts to help the RDN preserve the site.

The \$2.5 million raised to date by funding partners includes:

- \$250,000 in donations raised by [Nanaimo & Area Land Trust](#) (NALT).
- \$103,000 in pledges secured by [Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region](#) (MABR) and [Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Preservation Society](#) that are contingent on the purchase being completed.
- \$1,250,000 in other pledges that are contingent on the purchase being completed.
- \$996,000 in other land conservation sources.

With the lower purchase price and generous support from the community and other agencies (to be announced if all the Conditions of the Purchase Agreement are satisfied), the RDN and Mosaic are optimistic that an agreement can be concluded to secure this critical forest and wetland area.

Donations and pledges will continue to be gratefully received while the parties aim to secure this key conservation site on Vancouver Island.

Should the acquisition of Hamilton Marsh be successful, it will become the RDN's thirteenth regional park and conservation area and would add to the over 2,814 ha of land already held within the other 12 regional and 216 community parks in the RDN. The RDN also has 78 km of trails in 10 regional trail systems.

Background

Hamilton Marsh, owned by Island Timberlands and managed by Mosaic Forest Management, is situated south of Qualicum Beach, mostly within RDN Electoral Area F and partially in Area G. The property is approximately 360 hectares. Hamilton Marsh itself is approximately 36 hectares in size, and the surrounding forest area make up the remaining 324 hectares. The marsh, located on the north side of the property, is part of the French Creek watershed and connects to Beach and Grandon Creek. It features several wetland habitats and is a vital brood marsh for waterfowl. The area supports wildlife listed as species of concern or at risk by the Conservation Data Centre.

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The site includes mature forest within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime subzone. Without disturbance, the 100-year-old forest will become old-growth within 150 years, serving as an important recruitment area for this rare forest type. Securing Hamilton Marsh would help advance British Columbia's progress toward Canada's 30 by 30 conservation goal—protecting 30 per cent of land and water by 2030.

For more information including FAQ and background documents, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/hamilton-marsh-conditional-purchase.

Quotes

“We thank Mosaic Forest Management for continuing to work with the RDN to acquire this ecologically significant land and for their reduction in the purchase price. We also extend our gratitude to all who have generously supported the purchase of Hamilton Marsh to date through donations, pledges and grants. Protecting natural areas benefits wildlife, water resources and future generations. Together, we will continue to find the path that will provide permanent conservation of this special place.”

Stuart McLean, Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

“Recognizing how important Hamilton Marsh is to the community, Mosaic has worked closely with the RDN for several years to bring this conservation initiative this far. We're pleased we could find an arrangement that helps conserve this important property in a way that works for all parties involved.”

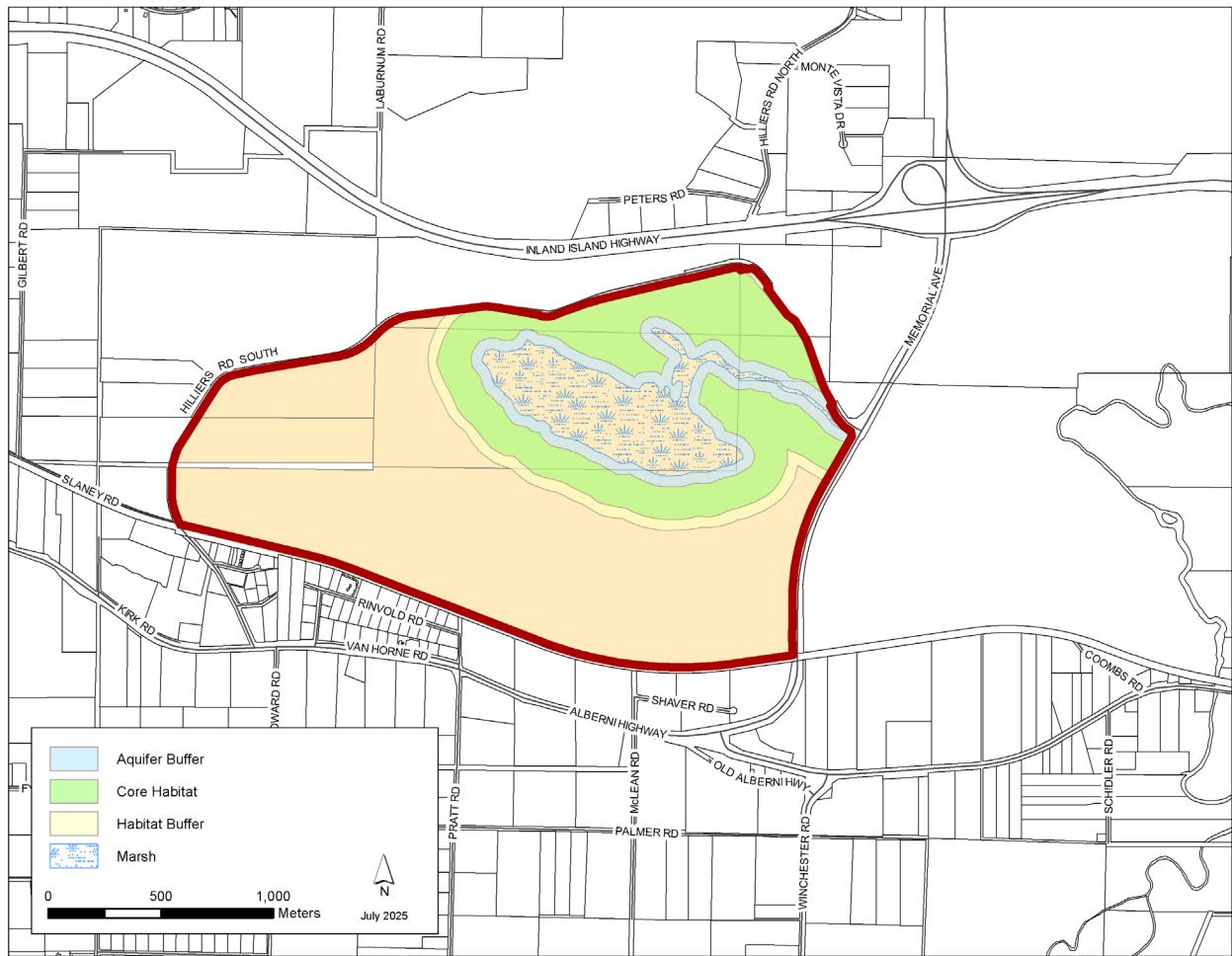
Duncan Davies, President & CEO, Mosaic Forest Management

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