

April 7, 2026

## **Hamilton Marsh Regional Park and Conservation Area Officially Opened**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) celebrated the completion of the purchase of Hamilton Marsh and the surrounding forest on April 7 with dignitaries, funders, supporting organizations and the media. The purchase, finalized on March 27, secures the Hamilton Marsh lands as the RDN's thirteenth regional park and conservation area. The RDN again thanks all funding partners, community organizations and residents whose collective support made the protection of this ecologically important property possible.

Prior to the sign unveiling and ribbon cutting, speeches were presented by the following dignitaries:

- Chief Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation
- Chief Nicole Rempel, K'ómoks First Nation
- Stuart McLean, RDN Chair
- Ross McKeever - Vice President, Real Estate, Mosaic Forest Management
- Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Government of British Columbia
- Josie Osborne, MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim
- Gord Johns, MP, Courtenay—Alberni
- Jasper Lament, CEO, The Nature Trust of BC
- Trisha Beaty, Co-founder and Vice-President, The Sitka Foundation
- Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)
- Graham Sakaki, Regional Research Institute Manager, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
- Ceri Peacey, President, Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Preservation Society

At the event, attendees also explored the marsh and spoke with local subject matter experts about the flora and fauna found on the property. Photos of the event can be viewed on the RDN's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Starting in 2027, the RDN will work with our partners that helped secure the lands and engage with the community in the development of a regional park and conservation area management plan. With careful planning, this site provides the opportunity for people to see firsthand the importance of these lands while letting nature do what it does best on its own with minimal disturbance.

### **About Hamilton Marsh**

Situated south of Qualicum Beach, mostly within RDN Electoral Area F and partially in Area G, Hamilton Marsh is approximately 364 hectares. The marsh itself is approximately 36 hectares in size, and the surrounding forest area make up the remaining 328 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

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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.

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 on the Hamilton Marsh acquisition, visit [getinvolved.rdn.ca/hamilton-marsh-conditional-purchase](https://getinvolved.rdn.ca/hamilton-marsh-conditional-purchase). For more information on RDN parks, visit [rdn.bc.ca/parks-services](https://rdn.bc.ca/parks-services).

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