

Regional District of Nanaimo Board – Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

This document contains closed ‘in-camera’ meeting decisions that have been released because they are no longer considered sensitive.

Hamilton Marsh Approval of Satisfactory Agreements with Funding Partners

The Board voted to rise and report on “Hamilton Marsh Approval of Satisfactory Agreements with Funding Partners” through a media release that will allow for the continuation of the fundraising campaign and for staff to conclude the necessary contribution agreements as required per buyers condition 8 (f), confirmation of sufficient funds raised through fundraising activities – Jan 30, 2026.

Released: February 24, 2026

November 18, 2025

Update on the Acquisition Process for Hamilton Marsh

In September, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) announced that a conditional Contract of Purchase and Sale (CPS) with Mosaic Forest Management had been signed for approximately 360 hectares (ha) of land known as Hamilton Marsh. An offer of \$30 million was accepted, with the sale anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2026, should all conditions of the CPS be met. The conditions to acquire the lands as regional parkland and conservation area include the RDN securing a minimum of \$7.5 million in funding through other partners.

On November 18, 2025, the RDN Board approved the release of the buyer's condition that 'satisfactory partner agreements for fundraising' be completed by November 21, 2025. Agreements in place include a contribution agreement with [Nanaimo & Area Land Trust \(NALT\)](#) and memorandums of understanding with [Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region \(MABR\)](#) and [Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Preservation Society](#). The public can donate to NALT or pledge funds to MABR in support of their fundraising campaigns.

To secure the required \$7.5 million funding by January 30, 2026, the RDN is also actively pursuing contributions agreements from other conservation groups and funding agreements with provincial ministries. Once those agreements are in place, they will be announced. Support from the Government of British Columbia, as well as funding support through federal grants, land trusts, individuals and corporations are essential to complete the acquisition.

"The RDN is grateful to the individuals, businesses and organizations who have already pledged their generous support, and to the future donors who will help us reach our \$7.5 million goal," said Stuart McLean, RDN Board Chair. "Together, we can preserve this ecologically significant area for the benefit of the many species that rely on Hamilton Marsh for their survival, and for the enjoyment of generations of RDN residents and people beyond our region."

Should all the conditions of the CPS be satisfied, Hamilton Marsh would 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.

For more information, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/hamilton-marsh-conditional-purchase. For information on RDN parks, visit rdn.bc.ca/parks-services.

About Hamilton Marsh

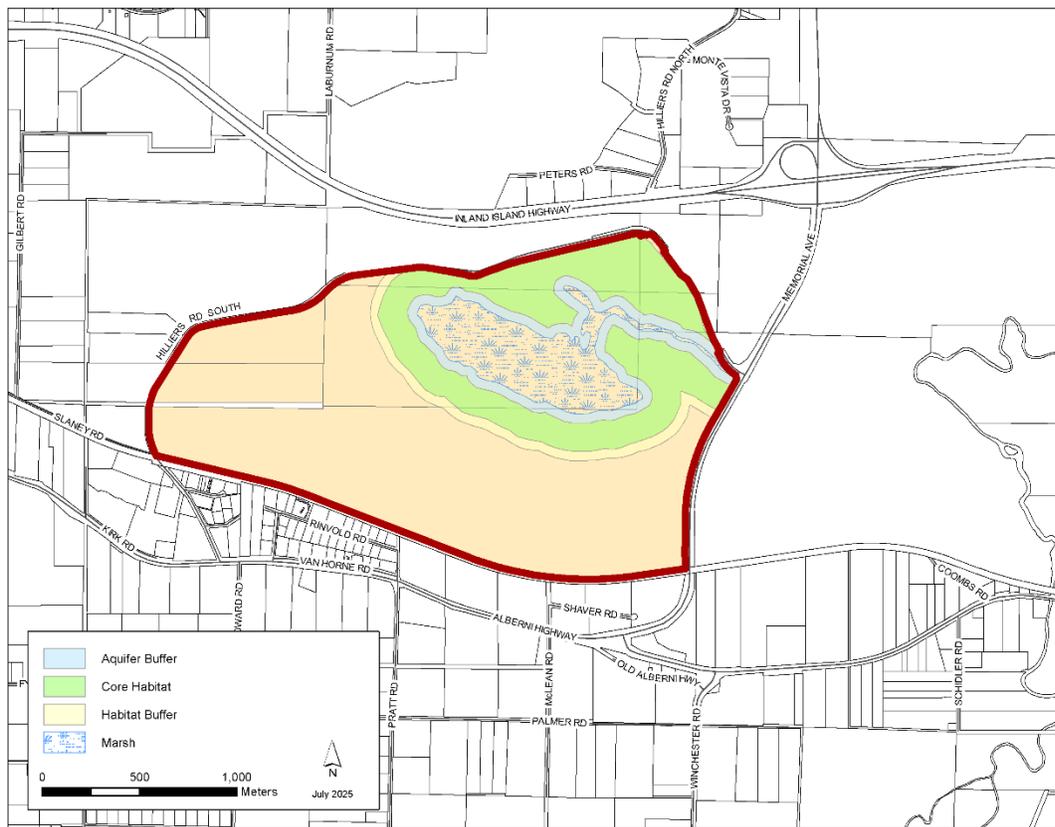
Owned by Island Timberlands and managed under Mosaic Forest Management, the Hamilton Marsh site is located south of the Town of Qualicum Beach with most of the land located within RDN Electoral Area

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F and a segment within Electoral Area G. The site is bounded by Hilliers Road on the north and west sides, Memorial Avenue on the east side, and the Island Corridor Foundation rail corridor on the south side.

The marsh, located on the north side of the property and approximately 36 ha in size, forms part of the French Creek watershed and connects with Beach and Grandon Creek in the Town of Qualicum Beach. It is formed through a combination of several wetland habitats including a prolific waterfowl brood marsh. Several species of wildlife that use the marsh and the surrounding mature, second-growth forest are listed by the Conservation Data Centre as species of concern or at risk.

The acquisition site contains many priority West Coast Region (WCR) environmental values including an extensive stand of mature forest. This ecologically significant wetland and mature forest is located within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic subzone. In the absence of a stand-altering disturbance the 100-year-old mature forest will be classified as old-growth within 150 years; the area represents an important recruitment site for this rare type of old forest within the province.



Map of Hamilton Marsh, located in RDN Electoral Area F and G

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