

3.0 WATERSHED ISSUES, VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 ISSUES

To prepare the 2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan, a forum was convened that included all interested stakeholders and levels of government. This group worked by consensus to develop a draft plan. Public input was then sought through an open house and by posting the draft plan on the CRD’s website. The most common topics discussed by the public were:

- water quality
- flooding and flow management
- creating greenways, natural areas and more greenspace
- providing for biodiversity and habitat protection (both plant and animal) (Westland Resource Group, 2003)

Additional concerns raised included:

- reducing the length of piped sections and increased creek daylighting.
- watershed development and redevelopment.
- bank erosion, stability, and treatment.
- government coordination and planning (Westland Resource Group, 2003).

3.2 VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section presents the vision, goals, and objectives of the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan. The watershed management actions presented in Appendix A and the detailed reach-specific actions presented in Appendix B were developed to help achieve these goals and objectives.

THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN VISION

The varied human uses and natural areas in the Bowker watershed are managed to minimize runoff and pollution, making Bowker Creek a healthy creek that supports habitat for native vegetation and wildlife, and provides a community greenway to connect neighbourhoods.

THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. Individuals, community and special interest groups, institutions, governments, and businesses take responsibility for actions that affect the watershed

Objective 1A. Ensure all interest holders understand the values of Bowker Creek and the watershed so they can act responsibly.

Objective 1B. Foster long-term community stewardship of Bowker Creek and celebrate accomplishments.

Objective 1C. Plan and manage land in the Bowker watershed in ways that create compact and attractive communities, increase areas of greenspace, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve water quality in Bowker Creek.

Goal 2. Manage flows effectively

Objective 2A. Base watershed management decisions on a comprehensive understanding of the hydrological characteristics of the watershed; manage the risk of flood damage to property near Bowker Creek; and coordinate flow management decisions among jurisdictions.

Objective 2B. Encourage onsite retention and infiltration of stormwater to reduce the area of effective impervious surfaces in the watershed.

Goal 3. Improve and expand public areas, natural areas, and biodiversity in the watershed

Objective 3A. Prepare a comprehensive inventory of watershed values.

Objective 3B. Protect and enhance existing natural areas (or areas with restoration potential) in the watershed, particularly adjacent to Bowker Creek.

Objective 3C. Create a multi-use greenway corridor from the headwaters to the ocean, in accordance with the Regional greenway system.

Goal 4. Achieve and maintain acceptable water quality in the watershed

Objective 4A. Identify water quality problems and causes.

Objective 4B. Meet or exceed provincial water quality guidelines for aquatic life.

Objective 4C. Establish and maintain stable naturalized banks to protect water quality and public safety.

3.3 A 100-YEAR VISION FOR THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED

A series of conceptual images were created to help provide a tangible view of what the watershed could look like once the Blueprint is implemented. Map 3 “Existing Watershed Conditions” illustrates the ratio of the creek above and underground, roads and social context of the current conditions of the watershed. Map 4 “100 Year Vision for the Bowker Creek Watershed” illustrates the desired outcomes of the Blueprint. The ribbon of blue running the length of the watershed represents the daylighted creek. The greening of the watershed is portrayed by a green grid of green streets and greenways.

WHAT IS A GREEN STREET?

Green streets and parking lots are part of a sustainable rainwater management strategy that manages rainwater, reduces storm flow peaks, improves water quality and enhances watershed health. Green streets and parking lots:

- contribute to traffic calming
- reduce impervious surfaces, allowing rainwater to infiltrate
- increase urban green space
- improve pedestrian and bicycle safety
- recharge groundwater
- enhance community and neighbourhood livability
- reduce demand on city stormwater infrastructure
- deliver cleaner water to Bowker Creek

