

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	III
BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (2003) VISION.....	III
2003 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS.....	III
GLOSSARY	IV
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1
1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE WATERSHED.....	1
1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY.....	2
1.4 PROJECT TEAM.....	4
1.5 REPORT FORMAT	4
2.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOWKER CREEK BLUEPRINT	5
2.1 INTEGRATING FACTORS IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT.....	5
2.2 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS	5
2.3 DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CREEK CORRIDOR AND THE WHOLE WATERSHED	6
2.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION	6
3.0 WATERSHED ISSUES, VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES	7
3.1 ISSUES.....	7
3.2 VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	7
The Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan Vision	7
The Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives	7
3.3 A 100-YEAR VISION FOR THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED	7
4.0 PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT—SUMMARY.....	10
4.1 PRINCIPLES	10
1. Use creek-friendly management approaches wherever possible.....	10
2. Adopt requirements to reduce effective impervious area for new developments	10
3. Construct infiltration and retention features in boulevards	11
4. Incorporate Bowker Creek goals into municipal plans	11
5. Maintain effective communication of the Bowker Creek vision, goals, and actions.....	11
6. Plant trees and shrubs and protect existing trees.....	11
7. Purchase and protect key land in the watershed	12
8. Incorporate proposed greenways into land use planning	12
9. Include climate change adaptation and mitigation in all activities	12
4.2 DETAILED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.....	12
5.0 ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE CREEK CORRIDOR—SUMMARY	15
5.1 CURRENT CREEK CORRIDOR	15
5.2 ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE CREEK CORRIDOR.....	15
6.0 KEY ACTIONS FOR SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION.....	21
6.1 TEN KEY ACTIONS FOR SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION.....	21
1. Review and revise municipal plans to include Bowker Creek goals and actions	21
2. Adopt requirements to reduce effective impervious area for new developments	21
3. Remove specific invasive species beginning to colonize the watershed	21
4. Complete a pilot project to locate and build a demonstration rainwater infiltration/retention structure in each municipality	21
5. Support development of an urban forest strategy in Oak Bay to complement those underway in Saanich and Victoria	22
6. Develop a strategy to acquire key properties as they come available	22
7. Work with Oak Bay High School to design and implement creek restoration on school district property	22
8. Participate in the Shelburne Valley Action Plan process to identify current and future opportunities for creek restoration, rainwater infiltration, and/or greenway development	22
9. Work with creek-side landowners between Pearl and Trent Streets to achieve the long-term vision	22
10. Continue with restoration at Browning Park	22
7.0 MONITORING PROGRAM	23
7.1 MONITORING VARIABLES	23
A. Watershed Wide Monitoring Variables	23
B. Creek Corridor Monitoring Variables.....	23
C. Water and Sediment Quality Variables.....	24
7.2 MONITORING FREQUENCY	24
7.3 BASELINE CONDITIONS, 2009.....	24
A. Watershed Wide Monitoring Variables Results	24
B. Creek Corridor Variables Results	25
C. Water and Sediment Quality Results	28
8.0 REFERENCES	29
APPENDIX A—ACTIONS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	31
RATING CRITERIA	31
GOALS ADDRESSED BY THE ACTION	31
LEAD AGENCY (SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS).....	31
TYPE	31
FUNDING SOURCE	31
PRIORITY	31
ACTION LIST FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	32
APPENDIX B—ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE CREEK CORRIDOR	35
REACH NUMBERS	35
ACTION NUMBERS	35
RATING CRITERIA	35
GOALS ADDRESSED BY THE ACTION	35
LEAD AGENCY (SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS).....	35
TYPE	35
FUNDING SOURCE	35
PRIORITY	35
CHARACTERISTICS OF BOWKER CREEK REACHES	36
REACH 1: MONTEITH STREET TO CREEK MOUTH	38
Action List for Reach 1: Monteith Street to creek mouth	39
REACH 2: ANN STREET TO MONTEITH STREET	40
Action List for Reach 2: St. Ann Street to Monteith Street	41
REACH 3: DOWNSTREAM OF OAK BAY TENNIS BUBBLE TO ST. ANN STREET	42
Action List for Reach 3: Downstream of Oak Bay tennis bubble to St. Ann Street	43
REACH 4: OAK BAY TENNIS BUBBLE	44

Action List for Reach 4: Oak Bay tennis bubble	45	APPENDIX C-1: RECOMMENDED PLANT SPECIES FOR RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECTS ON BOWKER CREEK	108
REACH 5: CADBORO BAY ROAD TO OAK BAY RECREATION CENTRE	46	APPENDIX C-2: COMMON AND LATIN NAMES FOR COMMONLY-OCCURRING BOWKER CREEK RIPARIAN VEGETATION	109
Action List for Reach 5: Cadboro Bay Road to Oak Bay Recreation Centre.....	47	APPENDIX D—METHODOLOGY OF THE BLUEPRINT MONITORING PROGRAM.....	111
REACH 6: TRENT STREET TO CADBORO BAY ROAD	48	WATERSHED WIDE VARIABLES METHODOLOGIES	111
Action List for Reach 6: Trent Street to Cadboro Bay Road.....	49	1. Watershed Health Tracking System.....	111
REACH 7: RICHMOND ROAD TO TRENT STREET.....	50	2. Urban Tree Cover (% of watershed).....	116
Action List for Reach 7: Richmond Road to Trent Street	51	CREEK CORRIDOR VARIABLES	116
REACH 8: NEWTON STREET TO RICHMOND ROAD	52	3. Creek length above ground.....	116
Action List for Reach 8: Newton Street to Richmond Road	53	4. Restoration of open creek sections	116
REACH 9: PEARL STREET TO NEWTON STREET.....	54	5. Length of greenway developed	116
Action List for Reach 9: Pearl Street to Newton Street.....	55	WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY VARIABLES	116
REACH 10: CLAWTHORPE AVENUE TO PEARL STREET.....	56	6. Water and Sediment Quality.....	116
Action List for Reach 10: Clawthorpe Avenue to Pearl Street.....	57	Tables	
REACH 11: NORTH DAIRY ROAD TO CLAWTHORPE AVENUE.....	58	TABLE 1. BLUEPRINT ACTION EVALUATION CRITERIA	5
Action List for Reach 11: North Dairy Road to Clawthorpe Avenue	59	TABLE 2. APPROPRIATE RAINWATER AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEATURES FOR DIFFERENT LAND USES	11
REACH 12: KNIGHT AVENUE TO NORTH DAIRY ROAD	60	TABLE 3. WATERSHED HEALTH TRACKING SYSTEM SCORE (2009 BASELINE)	24
Action List for Reach 12: Knight Avenue to North Dairy Road	61	TABLE 4. URBAN TREE COVER (2005 BASELINE)	25
REACH 13: GARNET ROAD TO KNIGHT AVENUE.....	62	TABLE 5. LENGTH OF GREENWAY DEVELOPED.....	25
Action List for Reach 13: Garnet Road to Knight Avenue.....	63	TABLE 6. CREEK CORRIDOR VARIABLES (2009 BASELINE)	25
REACH 14: GORDON HEAD ROAD TO GARNET ROAD.....	64	TABLE 7. CORRIDOR VARIABLES BASELINE	26
Action List for Reach 14: Gordon Head Road to Garnet Road	65	TABLE 8. WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY: PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES IN EXCEDENCE OF GUIDELINES 1997–2007 BASELINE IN BOWKER CREEK.....	28
REACH 15: THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF VICTORIA (THE HEADWATERS) TO GORDON HEAD ROAD	66	TABLE 9. CRITERIA FOR RATING ACTIONS IN THE BOWKER CREEK BLUEPRINT BASELINE	31
Action List for Reach 15: The University Club of Victoria (the headwaters) to Gordon Head Road	67	Maps	
REACH 16: CEDAR HILL RECREATION CENTRE TO CLAWTHORPE AVENUE	68	MAP 1. BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AND ABOVE- AND BELOW-GROUND CREEK SECTIONS	1
Action List for Reach 16: Cedar Hill Recreation Centre to Clawthorpe Avenue (Tributary).....	69	MAP 2. LAND USES, SOIL TYPES AND REACH LOCATIONS	3
REACH 17: CEDAR HILL RECREATION CENTRE AND CEDAR HILL GOLF COURSE (TRIBUTARY).....	70	MAP 3. EXISTING WATERSHED CONDITIONS	8
Action List for Reach 17: Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Cedar Hill Golf Course (Tributary)	71	MAP 4. 100-YEAR VISION FOR THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED	9
APPENDIX C—BOWKER CREEK CHANNEL RESTORATION NEEDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS	73	MAP 5. BOWKER CREEK INITIATIVE POTENTIAL GREENWAYS	14
INTRODUCTION.....	73	MAP 6. BOWKER CREEK BASELINE CONDITIONS 2009	27
GENERAL RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS.....	73	MAP 7. BENTHIC SAMPLING SITES LOCATIONS.....	115
REACH SUMMARIES AND PRESCRIPTIONS	74	MAP 8. WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLING LOCATIONS	118
Reach 1A.....	74	Figures	
Reach 1B.....	76	FIGURE 1. WATERSHED TOUR WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 2009.....	2
Reach 1C.....	78	FIGURE 2. BLUEPRINT PUBLIC CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 2010	2
Reach 3A.....	80	FIGURE 3. THE BOWKER CREEK COMMITTEES AT WORK ON THE DRAFT BLUEPRINT	4
Reach 3B.....	82	FIGURE 4. BOWKER CREEK VOLUNTEERS AFTER COMPLETING A BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT	6
Reach 5A.....	83	FIGURE 5. BENTHIC SAMPLING IN BOWKER CREEK.....	12
Reach 5B.....	84	FIGURE 6. 100-YEAR VISION FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	13
Reach 7A.....	86	FIGURE 7. A DEMONSTRATION RESTORATION PROJECT AT ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	15
Reach 7B.....	90	FIGURE 8. 100-YEAR VISION FOR THE CREEK CORRIDOR.....	16
Reach 9.....	92	FIGURE 9. A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM VISION FOR FIREMAN'S PARK IN OAK BAY (REACH 2).....	17
Reach 12A.....	94	FIGURE 10. A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM VISION FOR OAK BAY HIGH AND OAK BAY RECREATION CENTRE (REACHES 3, 4 & 5)	18
Reach 12B.....	96	FIGURE 11. A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM VISION FOR RICHMOND ROAD TO TRENT STREET (REACH 7).....	19
Reach 15A.....	98	FIGURE 12. A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE FORMER RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATION (REACH 9)	20
Reach 15B.....	100	FIGURE 13. POLICEMAN'S HELMET (LEFT) AND INVASIVE KNOTWEED (RIGHT)	21
Reach 15C.....	102	FIGURE 14. TRENT STREET RAIN GARDEN, CITY OF VICTORIA.....	21
Reach 17A.....	104	FIGURE 15. CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR RESTORATION OF BOWKER CREEK AT OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL	22
Reach 17B.....	106		