

# Our Natural Waterway



Eelgrass

There are over 80 hectares of eelgrass meadows throughout the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet, providing critical nurseries and feeding grounds for salmon, herring and other fish. The native oysters and clams found throughout Portage Inlet and the upper Gorge Waterway are important "ecosystem engineers" that filter and clean large volumes of water each day. These abundant fish and shellfish were once an important food source for First Nations.



Native Oysters

The Gorge Narrows supports a rich underwater community of filter-feeding marine animals such as plumose anemones, sponges and bryozoans. Strong tidal currents in this area bring fresh oxygen and plankton to support the unusually high degree of biodiversity found in this subtidal zone.



Bryozoan



Plumose Anemone

Native trees, shrubs and other vegetation along the shore absorb and filter runoff from the land and help to prevent erosion of the shoreline. The Gorge Waterway is a federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the shoreline vegetation provides vital roosting and nesting habitat for the birds.



Native Trees in Craigflower-Kosampson Park