HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Approved Project Plans

Land Stewardship Grants

2023-2026 Funding Cycle

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grants

2023-26

Introduction

In 2008, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation was provided with a $9M endowment contribution from the Province of British Columbia to fund operations and maintenance activities on conservation lands. $3M of the endowment was allocated for activities on private lands managed by non-profit organizations. Since 2017, 25 grants have been awarded. This document contains the project plans approved for funding for 2023-2026.

Project #	Project Name	Region	Board Approved
1-817	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve	Vancouver Island	$49,969
1-818	Millard Learning Centre	Vancouver Island	$45,649
1-819	Matson Lands	Vancouver Island	$38,500
1-820	Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2	Vancouver Island	$31,399
2-764	Ryder Creek	Lower Mainland	$35,281
5-347	Horsefly River	Cariboo	$49,020
8-500	Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park	Okanagan	$22,000
		Total for program:	$271,818

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

1–817

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: _____1-817__ *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Penelope (Penny) Barnes				
Field Contact (optional):					
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Executive Director				
Organization Name:	Salt Spring Island Conservancy				
Address	265 Blackburn Road				
City:	Salt Spring Island	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V8K 2B8
Phone:	250-931-4627	Alternative Phone:	250-538-0318		
Email:	penny@saltspringconservancy.ca				
Website:	saltspringconservancy.ca				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.
$49,968.64

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	December 19, 1994
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-32945
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	89006 3977 RR0001
Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.	

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) is a land trust that was founded in 1994 and gained charitable status in 1995.

SSIC's mission is to protect and enhance the natural values of Salt Spring Island and its surrounding waters by acquiring land or covenants, and by educating landholders and the public toward improved land and water stewardship.

SSIC's vision is, "Working with landowners, partners and supporters, the Conservancy protects all of Salt Spring's environmentally significant places."

To date, SSIC owns eight nature reserves (306 ha) and holds or co-holds 17 conservation covenants (323 ha). SSIC is the sole owner and manager of seven of its eight nature reserves – Mt Erskine Nature Reserve is part-owned by Nature Conservancy Canada and BC Parks, and is managed by BC Parks.

SSIC's annual budget is typically $300,000 - $450,000. The budget increases significantly, however, for the years in which SSIC undertakes a land acquisition project. In 2022, for example, SSIC has a land acquisition project and the annual budget is $1,589,000, with the increase representing funds raised through donations and grants for the land acquisition project that is scheduled for completion in November 2022.

SSIC's funding comes primarily from private donations and grants. In 2021, for example, donations comprised 62% of SSIC's income and grants comprised 30%, while the remaining 8% was from membership fees, fundraising events and investment interest.

SSIC currently has one full-time, and two part-time, staff members and one core contractor; SSIC regularly hires up to six casual contractors with specific areas of expertise. We also have a strong volunteer base. In 2021, for example, more than 90 volunteers donated a total of over 3,000 hours.

SSIC manages seven of its nature reserves, totalling 265 hectares. Currently, SSIC has active, long-term restoration and enhancement projects on four nature reserves. Each reserve has a designated volunteer warden who regularly monitors the reserve, together with SSIC staff, contractors and other volunteers. Each reserve has a land management plan that is reviewed, and revised as required, on a set schedule. All nature reserves are managed according to these plans, with oversight from SSIC's Land Management and Acquisitions Committee. The committee is comprised of three board members, two expert volunteers and SSIC's Executive Director. Committee members have extensive experience in land management or acquisitions and include a professor of forest and conservation science at UBC and a retired park manager with over 40 years of international experience.

SSIC currently holds or co-holds 17 conservation covenants. Seven of these are monitored annually by SSIC and reports include land management advice. SSIC's Stewardship Program involves outreach to island landowners of target properties and includes visits to their land, a detailed report summarizing recommendations for stewardship specific to their land, and signing a stewardship agreement. SSIC has provided land management advice to 96 landowners through this program, and helped to protect 568 hectares of land on Salt Spring Island, encompassing a diversity of habitats.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve
Other names used (if applicable):	

Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	030-189-926 003-047-075	
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	48.825335, -123.486502	
Property size (Ha):	17.94 ha	
Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☐
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	PID 030-189-926: This was originally PID 003-958-710 (13.19 ha) and was acquired 9 years ago. 5 years ago, this PID underwent a boundary adjustment and became the present PID 030-189-926 (15.6 ha). PID 003-047-075: 8 years	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*		
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	No ☒
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.		
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☒	No ☐

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

Salt Spring Island (SSI) lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, the smallest and most at-risk zone in BC. Home to the highest number of species and ecosystems at risk in BC, including many of which are ranked globally as imperilled or critically imperilled, the CDF zone is of great conservation concern.

SSIC's Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR) lies within the Cusheon Creek Watershed on SSI. This watershed has been the target of conservation efforts for almost 40 years, specifically to protect critical habitat for Coastal cutthroat trout (*BC blue-listed) and Coho salmon – both of which are found in Blackburn Lake and adjoining streams. BLNR contains approximately 67% of the shoreline of Blackburn Lake, as well as inflowing creeks, wetlands, riparian areas, open meadows, and upland forests. The outflowing Cusheon Creek runs through a profit à prendre held by SSIC.

The reserve contains two provincially red-listed plant communities (Grand Fir/Dull Oregon-grape; Douglas-fir/Dull Oregon-grape) and one blue-listed plant community (Red Alder/Salmonberry/ Horsetail). Eighty-one native plant species were initially reported on the reserve, including the provincially blue-listed Ozette coralroot and Common bladder-moss. At least 35 additional native species have been planted during restoration projects. Peacock vinyl lichen, a federal (COSEWIC) species of special concern, has also been found on the reserve.

BLNR's diverse ecosystems provide habitat for abundant and varied wildlife, including more than 20 species at risk. To date, 110 avian species have been recorded on the reserve, including one provincially red-listed species* (Peregrine Falcon subsp. *Anatum*) and nine blue-listed species. The reserve is home to 15 species of mollusc, including one blue-listed fresh water clam, and 16 species of butterfly. Common wood-nymph and Propertius duskywing, red-listed butterfly species, are found on the reserve, as well as a blue-listed species of dragonfly, the Blue Dasher. At least seven reptile and amphibian species, including the blue-listed Northern red-legged frog, and 16 mammal species, including beavers and eight species of bat, are found on the reserve. Two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and Little brown myotis, are provincially blue-listed.

BLNR plays a critical role in both watershed health and biodiversity. The diverse mix of open and forested wetlands, riparian areas, wet meadows, open meadows and upland forests provide important wildlife habitat and filter and clean water as it enters Blackburn Lake. The reserve's range of ecosystems support a wide range of native species, including species at risk. SSIC's restoration projects and ongoing management efforts work with natural processes and natural succession to ensure sustainable, resilient ecosystems.

*BC Classifications - Red-listed: Threatened or Endangered; Blue-listed: Special Concern.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

SSIC's vision for BLNR is to ensure healthy ecosystems that are managed to support habitat for a diversity of native species and to maintain the integrity of the Cusheon Creek watershed. Because BLNR is SSIC's most visited reserve, our vision includes access to the public via current walking trails, as well as educational signage and events to increase conservation awareness.

Management Goals:

1. Increase and improve habitat for a wide diversity of native plants and animals, including species at risk
    a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species
    b. Improve native vegetation
    c. Restore wetlands, streams, riparian areas, seasonal spring and upland areas
2. Maintain or improve the quality of water entering Blackburn Lake
    a. Restoration of wetlands, streams, riparian and upland areas in order to reduce erosion/sediment deposition, clean run-off, control flooding and recharge groundwater supplies
3. Document biodiversity, including species at risk, on the reserve to help maintain ecological values and support future planning
4. Provide ongoing and educational public access
5. Work with other organizations, experts and adjacent landowners in furtherance of the above goals.

This application focuses on Management Goal 1.a*. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species* and Goal 4. *Provide ongoing and education public access*. In BLNR's Land Management Plan, management and control of invasive species are listed as integral to achieving SSIC's vision for this reserve. Control of invasive species, to prevent displacement of native species and reduction in biodiversity, as well as to encourage restoration of native species, is one of the most significant management challenges at BLNR. While the reserve has a high diversity of native plants, many of which occur in abundance, the reserve also has a large number of non-native plants due to its long history of disturbance. Portions of the land were formerly used for farming and agricultural grasses were seeded. More recently, the land was an organic golf course with seeded non-native grasses still surviving on the former fairways. SSIC has a long-term program of planting native species, including trees and shrubs, in these grassed areas. Protected from browsing by fencing or cones, these native species grow quickly and successfully 'shade out' the non-natives. SSIC has also begun 'roughing up' grassed areas adjacent to alder groves to encourage higher natural seed set which, with subsequent protection of seedlings, will accelerate expansion by the alder.

Additional non-native invasive plants reported on BLNR include Briar rose, Canada thistle, English hawthorn, English holly, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, Tansy ragwort and Yellow flag iris. Reed canary grass (RCG), possibly seeded when the land was a farm, now occurs as a thick layer fringing a large section of the wetland and riparian areas. RCG outcompetes native species and can fill in shallow wetlands. Since acquiring the land, SSIC's efforts to control invasive plants have been largely successful, such that annual maintenance is now routine, with many invasive species having been 'shaded out' by planted, or naturally encroaching, native species. Unfortunately, however, Canada thistle and Reed canary grass continue to challenge the regeneration of BLNR's native ecosystems.

On BLNR, SSIC has established experimental areas where recommended methods for the control of RCG are being employed. These experiments are based on native species 'outcompeting' and/or 'shading out' invasive species and require fencing to prevent browsing, as well as initial control of invasive species within the experimental areas through mulching and weeding. While still in the early stages, the RCG control experiment shows early signs of success. SSIC intends to implement this

method in RCG-dense locations on a multi-year timescale, utilizing native plants from our nursery and repurposed fencing (removed from successful experimental areas once native species planted can survive browsing). However, given the extent of RCG on the reserve and the timescale required, extensive RCG cutting is needed to prevent further encroachment in the interim. SSIC also recently established an experimental area in an open field with large-scale encroachment of Canada thistle (CT). The area, bordering a grove of native willow and alder, was 'roughed up' to encourage natural seed set. Until the outcome of this experiment is determined, spread of CT must be controlled through mowing.

SSIC's current equipment is inadequate for the level of RCG cutting and CT mowing required to control these invasive plants at BLNR; the areas involved are large and cutting/mowing must be done several times per year to prevent flowering/seed set and, for RCG, to also stress the plant and reduce rhizomal spread.

BLNR contains a number of streams such that bridges are required for the entire reserve to be accessible to pedestrian and vehicular (utility vehicle or tractor) traffic. In November 2021, the bridge over Hitchcock Creek was damaged due to flooding, prohibiting vehicular access to the southern sections of the reserve. The Fulford-Ganges Road access cannot be used by vehicles that are not licenced for road use, such as our utility vehicle and most farm tractors. In past years, neighbouring SSIC volunteers have used their tractors and mowers to mow BLNR's walking trails and thistle areas but this was no longer possible in 2022.

To help achieve management goals 1.a. and 4, SSIC is requesting funding assistance for the replacement of the bridge over Hitchcock Creek, a mower attachment for SSIC's utility vehicle, and a rugged and versatile brushcutter. SSIC is also requesting funding to hire a contractor(s) to mow the walking paths and CT areas, and to cut the RCG areas.

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

Should funding for the bridge replacement be unavailable, elements of land management on BLNR would be restricted because access to the entire reserve, using the utility vehicle, would not be possible. In 2022, for example, attempts were made to cut the thistle areas in the southern section of the reserve by hand (e.g. by string trimmer) but this proved infeasible. A bridge suitable for both small vehicle and pedestrian use, approved by a structural engineer and with the necessary permits in place, will provide long-term connectivity for the reserve for land management and public access.

Without suitable equipment for mowing the entirety of BLNR's walking paths, these paths will be less delineated and there is risk that public access to off-trail areas will increase, resulting in negative impacts on sensitive ecosystems.

Importantly, without funding for suitable equipment and contractor assistance, an additional risk to BLNR's conservation values would be further encroachment of Reed canary grass (RCG) and Canada thistles (CT), resulting in degradation of ecosystems and habitat for fish and wildlife, including species at risk.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve: 2019-2024 Land Management Plan. February 2019. C. Maslovat (LMPs for BLNR sections); C. Torgrimson (integrated LMP).

Garry Oak Meadow Demonstration Plan. February 2019. R. Underhill.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve Ecosystem Restoration Project. February 2014. T.R. Biebighauser.

BLNR reference document: Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Baseline Report. April 2017. C. Maslovat.

Invasive Species Management: SSIC applies up-to-date invasive species management practices on BLNR, utilizing provincial and regional documents, as well as peer-review research. The efficacy of invasive species management strategies is reviewed frequently and modified as required. The following list represents a small selection of resource documents.

Anderson, H. (2012). Invasive Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* subsp. *arundinacea*). Best Management Practices in Ontario. Peterborough: Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC). 2012. Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia. 25pp.

Metro Vancouver and the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (2020). Best management practices for reed canary grass in the Metro Vancouver region. http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/ReedCanarygrassBMP.pdf

The Nature Conservancy. 2004. Reed Canary Grass: Control & Management in the Pacific Northwest. https://www.invasive.org/gist/moredocs/phaaru01.pdf

Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC). 2014. Canada Thistle, *Cirsium arvense*. 2pp. https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.231/yjc.cc8.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_FS-CanadaThistle.pdf?time=1666122305

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

A local structural engineer has volunteered their expertise and time to design the new bridge across Hitchcock Creek and to provide site inspections during construction.

A local RPBio and Riparian QEP will donate their expertise and time to advise on all work within the riparian zone and will assist with completion of the necessary permits.

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with

Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

Volunteers regularly help with nature reserve maintenance. In 2021, for example, volunteers donated over 150 hours to BLNR maintenance, including invasive plant removal, trail clearing, and monitoring visits from a dedicated warden.

Until 2022, neighbouring volunteers have mowed the trails using their own equipment.

Professionals also volunteer their services. For example, an arborist provided free labour to remove dangerous trees and a local excavating company donated time to relocate a bridge deck that was washed away due to flooding.

Each year, educational workshop participants provide volunteer labour for plant propagation (by seeding, cutting and division) for management and restoration. Volunteers also provide labour for specific projects, such as planting and weeding. In 2021, for example, workshop participants and project volunteers contributed over 90 hours to conservation on the reserve.

Conservation of this reserve is indirectly aided through our extensive connections with our community. We provide numerous conservation education events each year, some of which take place at BLNR, including speakers, workshops, and guided walks. Our Stewards in Training Program takes all SSI school classes from kindergarten to grade 7 on yearly field trips to natural places on SSI, including BLNR, to learn about conservation.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

The property has public hiking trails, with 2 public access points. One trail, closest to the lake, is closed seasonally due to flooding and to prevent disturbance to migratory and ground-nesting birds. Dogs are not allowed on the nature reserve due to potential disturbance to wildlife and contamination of the wetlands.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.

We have requested funding to purchase the following two capital items.

1) Trailer mower for cutting Canada thistle and maintaining trails. Previously, a volunteer provided their time and mower for this purpose. We have a utility vehicle that has the capacity to pull a trailer mower.

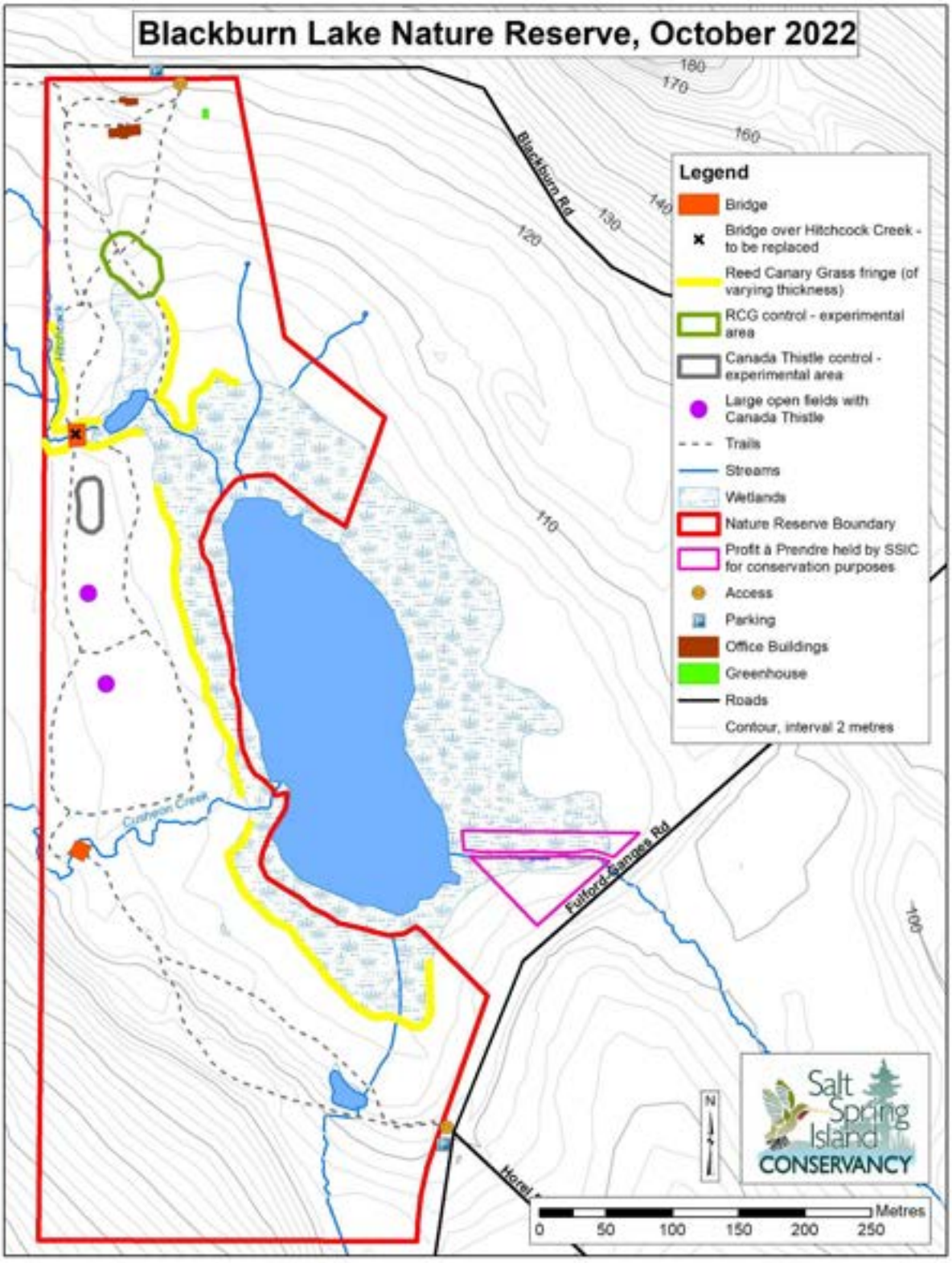
2) Electric brushcutter for cutting Reed canary grass, as well as thistles and introduced grasses in areas inaccessible to the mower. This is a high-powered tool equivalent in power to a 35cc gas model.

It comes with a grass blade, saw blade, and trimmer head. Included in the expense are two batteries and a fast charger.
Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.
We charge an administrative fee of 12%.

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.

See below.


Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, October 2022
Legend
Bridge
Bridge over Hitchcock Creek - to be replaced
Reed Canary Grass fringe (of varying thickness)
RCG control - experimental area
Canada Thistle control - experimental area
Large open fields with Canada Thistle
Trails
Streams
Wetlands
Nature Reserve Boundary
Profit à Prendre held by SSIC for conservation purposes
Access
Parking
Office Buildings
Greenhouse
Roads
Contour, interval 2 metres
Blackburn Rd
Fulford-Ganges Rd
Horel
Cusheon Creek
180
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
N
Salt Spring Island CONSERVANCY
Metres
0
50
100
150
200
250

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 44,614.86
Admin Fee %	12%
Admin Fee $	$ 5,353.78
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 49,968.64
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 15,999.02
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 15,999.02

Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Restore utility vehicle access to southern portion of reserve in order to permit invasive species control equipment access	New bridge over Hitchcock Creek (year 1) allows pedestrian and utility vehicle crossing (years 1-3)	Obtain design plans from structural engineer (year 1). Obtain necessary permits (year 1). Construct the bridge (year 1).
1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species (also contributes to Goal 4: Provide ongoing and educational public access)	Acquire equipment necessary to eliminate, reduce or manage invasive plants on the reserve	Acquire a trailer mower for controlling Canada thistle and a brushcutter for controlling Reed canary grass (year 1). Mower and brushcutter used successfully in years 1-3.	Purchase trailer mower to use with exisiting utility vehicle (year 1). Purchase brushcutter (year 1).
1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Canada thistle	Canada thistle mowed on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Mow Canada thistle 2 times per year (years 1-3).
1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Reed canary grass	Reed canary grass cut on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Obtain necessary permit exemptions (year 1). Cut Reed canary grass 3 times per year (years 1-3).
4. Provide ongoing and educational public access	Maintain clear trails for public access and to reduce the instances of the public walking off-trail and potentially damaging ecosystems	Public trails are clearly deliniated by mowing (years 1-3).	Mow trails 3 times per year (years 1-3).

Millard Learning Centre

1-818

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: _____1-818_____ *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Adam Huggins				
Field Contact (optional):					
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Restoration Coordinator				
Organization Name:	*Galiano Conservancy Association*				
Address	10825 Porlier Pass Road				
City:	Galiano Island	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V0N 1P0
Phone:	250-539-2424	Alternative Phone:			
Email:	restoration@galianoconservancy.ca				
Website:	galianoconservancy.ca				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.
$45,649.25

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	June 21, 1989
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-25093
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	BN886092998 R0001
Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.	

The Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA) is a grassroots organization that was founded in 1989 as one of the first community-based land trusts in British Columbia. Our mission is to protect, steward and restore Galiano Island ecosystems by creating a network of natural areas where a healthy environment, learning and a love of nature flourish, and we actively do so through land acquisition, ecological restoration, youth education, and environmental outreach programs.
The GCA has been conducting award winning restoration projects on Galiano Island for over twenty-five years and has been running environmental education programs for the past nineteen. We presently oversee the stewardship of over 1000 acres of land and have provided education to more than 38,000 participants on environmental topics. Our conservation activities have included invasive species removal in sensitive ecosystems, restoration in Douglas-fir plantation forests, island-wide ecosystem mapping, and Species-at-Risk inventories, public awareness raising and monitoring of Rockfish Conservation Areas. Current projects include ongoing invasive species management, kelp monitoring, groundwater conservation, wetland creation, and Species at Risk monitoring.

The GCA has an annual operating budget of around $500,000, with a ten-person volunteer board of directors, five full-time staff, and three part-time staff. In a given year, we provide between 10 and 20 paid student and volunteer internship positions. We have an active, engaged membership and donor base, growing earned revenue streams, and have received funding from Federal, Provincial, corporate, foundation, and private sources. In the past year, our volunteers clocked over 2,500 hours to support our education, restoration, and agriculture programs. Our staff now includes experienced practitioners in environmental education, ecological restoration, and sustainable agriculture. Our in-house expertise is supported by our close ties to professors at the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, and the dozens of undergraduate and graduate-level university students that participate in our programs annually, producing reports and academic publications.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Millard Learning Centre	
Other names used (if applicable):	District Lot 57	
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	002-025-175	
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	48.931, -123.473	
Property size (Ha):	76.1	
Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	**Yes** ☒	No ☐
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	10 years	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*		
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	**No** ☒
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.		

Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	**Yes** ☒	No ☐

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

District Lot 57 lies in the heart of the endangered Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone, an ecological classification that has been ranked as imperiled both provincially and globally.

The protection of District Lot 57 (DL57) was identified as a high priority in the Islands Trust Fund's Regional Conservation Plan (2011-2015), which was endorsed by the Islands Trust Council (December, 2010), and the protection of DL57 is consistent with the goals of NCC's Salish Sea Natural Areas Conservation Plan. The property is part of the Mid-Galiano Island Protection Network, a 500+ hectare contiguous network of conservation properties that protects a significant portion of the island's topographic variation and associated ecological diversity, and secures valuable pathways for plant and animal migration from sea level to Galiano's highest ridgeline. While DL57 includes tracts of healthy old-growth and mature forest, wetlands and sensitive coastal bluff, it also has an extensive history of agricultural use, grazing and small-scale forestry. Areas that have been impacted and modified through these past uses are now the focus of our ecological restoration work.

Forest and Woodland: Almost 20 hectares (ha) of old-growth and mature forested coastal ridge run the length of DL57's 2 km shoreline, forming a matrix of red-listed ecological communities. Below the forested ridge top lies approximately 7 ha of contiguous steep southwest facing coastal bluff, including patches of red-listed Garry oak communities, moss and herb-dominated seepage sites, and exposed rock or cliff. A large portion of DL57 (28 ha) is characterized by 70 to 100-year old Douglas-fir and western redcedar dominated forest with scattered remnant old-growth trees and snags. Most of the moist valley bottoms and lower slopes on DL57 (22 ha) were logged over the past century and maintained through grazing as open grass, sedge and rush-dominated fields. A small portion of this area (approximately 2 ha) was used for gardens and orchards. These open sites are now part of an active restoration program (see Chrystal Creek watershed project, below).

Species at Risk: The property provides habitat for several species at risk including the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*; Blue listed), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*, Blue-listed), Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*, Blue-listed), Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*; Yellow-listed), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*; Red-listed), Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*; Blue-listed) Pelagic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*; Yellow-listed), dense-spike primrose (*Epilobium densiflorum*; Red-listed), red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*; Blue-listed), and Pacific sideband snail (*Monadenia fidelis*; Blue-listed).

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

Our management goals and objectives for the next three years are as follows:

1. RESTORE ecosystems throughout the Millard Learning Centre

   The Chrystal Creek Watershed encompasses 28 ha of the Millard Learning Centre, and is entirely contained within the boundaries of the property. We are currently engaged in a 6 + year project to construct diverse seasonal and permanent freshwater wetlands, remove logging roads, remove invasive species, and reforest restored areas with native species throughout the watershed. Target species include the Blue-listed red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*) and the western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), which is a cultural keystone species that is expected to decline throughout our region as a result of climate change. Approximately 4.5 ha have already been restored, with another 7.5 ha slated for restoration within the next three years. This project engages community members, youth participants, university students, and Indigenous Elders in the design and implementation of restoration and plantings.

   Red-legged frog monitoring (supported by the previous HCTF Land Stewardship grant) has demonstrated that red-legged frogs are beginning to use constructed wetlands within 6 months of their creation. Funding from HCTF played a key early role in supporting project planning and leveraging over $300,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada to implement this program.

   Objectives for the next three years are as follows:
   - Plan, coordinate, and implement restoration activities across Phases 1, 2, and 3 of complex restoration program unfolding across multiple funding cycles with a diverse set of funders.
   - Host weekly Friday volunteer days and organize and organize post-secondary field school and volunteer group visits to engage students and the community in restoration projects.
   - Replace native plants as needed in planted areas after monitoring for survival.

2. EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre:

   With support from the HCTF Land Stewardship fund, we made significant progress on mapping and controlling target invasive species across the Millard Learning Centre over the past three years. We also improved and expanded our network of nature trails to facilitate public access to restored areas and reduce reliance on old logging roads. Over the next three years, we plan to implement the updated 2021 Introduced Species Management Plan by extending our efforts from target areas to include most of the property, and continuing to perform annual maintenance in areas we've treated for the past three years (since most target species have persistent seed banks, it is critical to continue to treat areas on an annual basis). We also have plans to further extend our trail network to allow us to remove several old, eroding logging roads.

Objectives for the next three years are as follows:

- Expand Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) removal activities from 2020- 2023 target areas include the entire property.
- Remove high priority invasive species across the property according to the new Introduced Species Management PL, including holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) and yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).
- Maintain 6.7km of public trails, including the new 1.7km Tranquility Bluff Trail.
- Construct foot trail (800 m) through the west branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed to replace roads that are removed
- Build a foot bridge / boardwalk to replace culverted road crossing at the outlet of Chrystal Creek

3. MONITOR and maintain restored areas at the Millard Learning Centre:

   Ongoing monitoring and management are critical to successful restoration projects, but are rarely accommodated by short, project-based funding cycles. HCTF Land Stewardship funding has allowed us to collect three years of robust annual monitoring data across our restoration projects. This information directly informs our management decisions. For the next three years, we would like to continue collecting data using our existing protocols. The goal is to generate longer-term data sets that can support management recommendations that have broader application throughout our region.

   Objectives for the next three years are as follows:

   - Perform detailed vegetation monitoring protocol for the Phase 1 area of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, and use results to inform revegetation treatments for Phases 2 & 3.
   - Continue annual monitoring of deer enclosure plots and forest garden plots according to specialized GCA monitoring protocols.
   - Complete annual repeat photography at established points across property to document the results of habitat conservation and restoration efforts.

4. DETECT Species at Risk at the Millard Learning Centre:

   Our previous HCTF Land Stewardship grant focused on three Species at Risk: red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*), dense-spike primrose (*Epilobium densiflorum*), and sharp-tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*). The former two are found on the property, while the latter has potential habitat mapped on the property and is the subject of monitoring and detection efforts of the neighboring property (Trincomali Nature Sanctuary). Over the past three years, we determined that (a) red-legged frogs are quickly making use of some of the newly constructed wetlands on the property, (b) dense-spike primrose has become established in recently-disturbed restored sites on the property, but that the seed source for the population likely originated in imported garden soil from Vancouver Island, and (c) sharp-tailed snake monitoring efforts will need to be pursued in partnership with the Islands Trust Conservancy. We plan to spend the next three years continuing to monitor the expansion of red-legged frog breeding habitat across the property, and working to establish an annual sharp-tailed snake monitoring regime on the property in partnership with the Islands Trust Conservancy.

Objectives for the next three years are as follows:

- Obtain necessary permits and collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy to monitor ACOs to detect sharp-tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*) presence along 2 km of suitable coastal habitat.
- Continue annual acoustic, visual, and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*) across artificial, natural, and newly constructed wetland habitats at the Millard Learning Centre.

5. DOCUMENT and share results from project monitoring activities:

   By 2026, the Galiano Conservancy will have collected between four to nine years of annual monitoring data (depending on the site) across a range of restoration projects. The results of these efforts can be synthesized into brief technical papers (or memos), published on our website, and shared with regional practitioners and practitioners. Relevant summaries will include: (a) comparison of the success of four distinct revegetation treatments on restored wetlands in old agricultural fields, (b) comparison of the impacts on vegetation composition and structure of excluding ungulate herbivores from different ecological communities, and (c) evaluation of monitoring criteria for forest gardens.

   Objectives for the next three years are as follows:

   - Produce brief technical paper communicating outcomes of Chrystal Creek restoration project activities and 4 years of monitoring.
   - Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 6 years of monitoring deer exclosure plots across a range of ecosystem types.
   - Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 9 years of monitoring forest garden sites using a wide range of criteria related to biodiversity, productivity, and social benefit.

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

The Millard Learning Centre is one of the largest privately held conservation lands on Galiano Island, and hosts the longest stretch of protected and undeveloped shoreline on Galiano Island. It receives thousands of visitors annually, including regular K-12 and post-secondary educational programs and volunteer groups.

When the property was purchased in 2012, the undeveloped shoreline and intact forest ecosystems present on the property gave it significant conservation value. Today, that value remains, and has been enhanced by a decade of ecological restoration projects targeting disturbed areas. The Galiano Conservancy has been very successful in securing funding to support an ambitious restoration program, and engaging thousands of volunteers and students in its implementation.

However, it remains difficult to secure funding to support long-term management, monitoring, and detection efforts. Funds from the HCTF Land Stewardship program over the past three years have allowed us to, among other things, (a) clear persistent invasive species from sensitive areas and restored sites, (b) jumpstart the $600,000 + Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, (c) collect three years of monitoring data for a range of criteria across our unique restoration projects, (d) maintain and expand a high-quality public trail network, (e) detect expansion of red-legged frog

breeding habitat into newly created wetlands, and (f) update our Invasive Species Management plan (attached) and Millard Learning Centre Management Plan (to be completed by the end of 2022).

The Millard Learning Centre has benefited greatly from three years of sustained funding, but three years is still too short a time to control many invasive species with long-lived seed banks, or to produce monitoring data sets that are sufficiently robust to generate practical management insights. The proposed funding for the next three years builds on the success of the previous three years, helping us to maintain a high standard of maintenance, access, and monitoring across the Millard Learning Centre property. It will also help us to facilitate the completion of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, continue to improve detection efforts for SAR, and share the results of 6+ years of monitoring efforts with regional practitioners and students. Ideally, this level of monitoring and maintenance would be the standard across conservation lands, but given resource limitations we feel it is especially important to commit them to properties like the Millard Learning Centre, which supports unusually high levels of public and student engagement. Without this funding, we would need to limit – as opposed to expand – our maintenance, monitoring, and invasive species removal activities. We would not be able to continue our SAR detection efforts, and we would be limited in our ability to communicate the results of our monitoring efforts.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Management Plans and Reports

The following are the guiding documents for the property:

Millard Learning Centre Management Plan (2013) – *This document will be updated by the end of 2022 thanks to the previous round of funding from the HCTF Land Stewardship program*

Millard Learning Centre Invasive Alien Species Control Plan (2021) – *This document was produced thanks to the previous round of funding from the HCTF Land Stewardship Prgoram*

Millard Learning Centre Framework for Ecological Restoration and Integrated Land-use Management (2015) – *This document will be integrated into the 2023 Millard Learning Centre Management Plan*

Design Concept Plan for Chrystal Creek Re-construction (LGL Limited, 2016)

Student Plans

Numerous reports have been produced by students over the last three years. The following are relevant to the goals discussed in this proposal:

An ongoing restoration of the Mill Site (2020)

Chrystal Creek Wetland Design Project (2022)

Coastal Douglas-fir Forest Restoration and Liner Wetland Construction (2021)

Deer Browsing at the Millard Learning Centre, An Analysis of current data and recommendations for Future Deer Monitoring & Management (2021)

Exploring the restoration of the Chrystal Creek Watershed through virtual media: A guide to observing and tracking historical, present and future ecological changes at the Chrystal Creek Watershed (2021)

Hyperabundant Deer: Making a Case for Monitoring and Management (2020)

Incorporating a Marine-Terrestrial Interactions Component Into the Chrystal Creek Watershed Restoration Project (2020)

Mill Site Adaptive Management Plan (2020)

Planting and exclosure plan for the west branch of the Chrystal Creek Watershed (2021)

Repeat Photography Standardization Plan (2022)

Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping and wildlife Tree Assessment on Galiano Island (2021)

The Northern Red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*) at the Millard Learning Centre: A habitat assessment, monitoring protocol, and strategy for bullfrog prevention (2018)

Tree thinning for the restoration of the Fuelwood Forest in the Chrystal Creek watershed (2020)

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

The Galiano Conservancy works with a wide variety of partner organizations, academics, and professionals on restoration and conservation for the Millard Learning Centre. These include:

University of Victoria:

- Dr. Eric Higgs and Dr. Nancy Shackelford from the Restoration of Natural Systems program and the Department of Environmental Studies regularly provide their expertise to projects at the Millard Learning Centre.
- Two upper-level Restoration of Natural Systems students are completing their capstone projects with the Galiano Conservancy by helping to plan and implement the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, and more RNS capstone projects are expected over the next three years.
- Dr. Eric Higgs hosts an annual 10-day field school at the Millard Learning Centre, with students contributing high-quality reports and volunteer labour .
- Volunteers with the UVic Ecological Restoration club plan and host several annual overnight volunteering trips to the Millard Learning Centre.
- Volunteers with International Make a Difference week help to host an annual volunteer day at the Millard Learning Centre.

University of British Columbia:

- Dr. Cindy Prescott from the Faculty of Forestry brings her undergraduate class for fields trips to the Millard Learning Centre.
- Dr. Jeanine Rhemtulla from the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences hosts a joint annual graduate student retreat at the Millard Learning Centre with Dr. Eric Higgs (see above).

British Columbia Institute of Technology:

- Dr. Eric Anderson from the Ecological Restoration program brings his class for field trips to the Millard Learning Centre.

BCWF Wetlands Education Program:

- BCWF staff provide expertise and loaned safety equipment to GCA restoration programs, and have helped organize workshops and volunteer support for GCA wetland restoration efforts in the Chrystal Creek watershed.

Islands Trust Conservancy:

- The ITC and GCA are planning on incorporating GCA staff into the ITC sharp-tailed snake monitoring program. The ITC will contribute expert support, protocols, and assistance with obtaining the necessary permits to monitor for shard-tailed snakes at established ACO locations at the Millard Learning Centre; in return GCA will take over monitoring activities at the adjacent ITC-owned Trincomali Nature Sanctuary.
- ITC Covenant Management and Outreach specialist Jemma Green provides her expertise to red-legged frog monitoring efforts at the Millard Learning Centre.

GCA Education Program

- K-12 programs at the Millard Learning Centre engage diverse students and age groups from schools across southwestern BC in conservation and restoration efforts. Older students often engage in volunteer activities.

Penelakut Elders:

- Karen Charlie, Richard Charlie, and Augie Sylvester contribute traditional knowledge and feedback on land management activities at the Millard Learning Centre. Indigenous hunting also helps to limit hyper-abundant deer populations on the property, benefiting conservation values for other species.

Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission:

- The Parks and Recreation Commission will contribute to the maintenance of the new 1.7 km Tranquility Bluff trail at the Millard Learning Centre.

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

Penelakut elders Karen and Richard Charlie have been involved in the ongoing process of the Chrystal Creek restoration project. They have contributed traditional knowledge to both management and restoration plans. The GCA is in frequent communication with them and is always working to increase their involvement in activities on the property.

Since our last application the GCA has hosted three “Feed the People” workshops, which has allowed us to open the MLC to Indigenous hunters. This one-of-a-kind workshop helps to reduce deer pressure from browsing and provide a space for inter-generational and inter-island knowledge sharing.

The GCA board has established an Indigenous Relations committee made up of board and staff members. This committee is focused on continuing to establish stronger relationships with local First Nations and Indigenous groups, facilitate land access for Indigenous hunters & foragers, and educate the GCA membership.

The GCA has also worked with the *Coast Salish People of Galiano Society – Lelum Sar Augh Ta Naogh First Nation* on other (non-MLC) projects and is always looking for new opportunities to collaborate.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

Within the past year we have documented 183 individual volunteers at the Millard Learning Centre. Volunteers include students, experts, and community members, and make contributions to planning processes, trail maintenance, invasive species control, restoration work, and biological inventory of the property.

Many hundreds (and likely thousands) more use our trails, read our interpretive materials, and enjoy our publicly accessible conservation lands on an annual basis.

The GCA delivers weekly ecological restoration days, through which we engage community members in restoration projects that we are currently undertaking. Volunteers gain skills in areas such as identifying invasive species, plant propagation, and establishing native species cover on disturbed sites.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

The trails at the MLC are accessible to the public from dawn to dusk. We have a parking area and a working office on the property with staff available Mon – Fri 9am – 4pm to answer questions and give trail recommendations.

There is 6.7 km of trails at the MLC, these trails provide access, connect public trails on neighbouring protected land as well as access to the beautiful shoreline of the property.

We have both a Classroom and a Backcountry campsite that are available to rent by the public with a requirement being that the individual or groups has to be participating in an environmental educational program or volunteering with us.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.

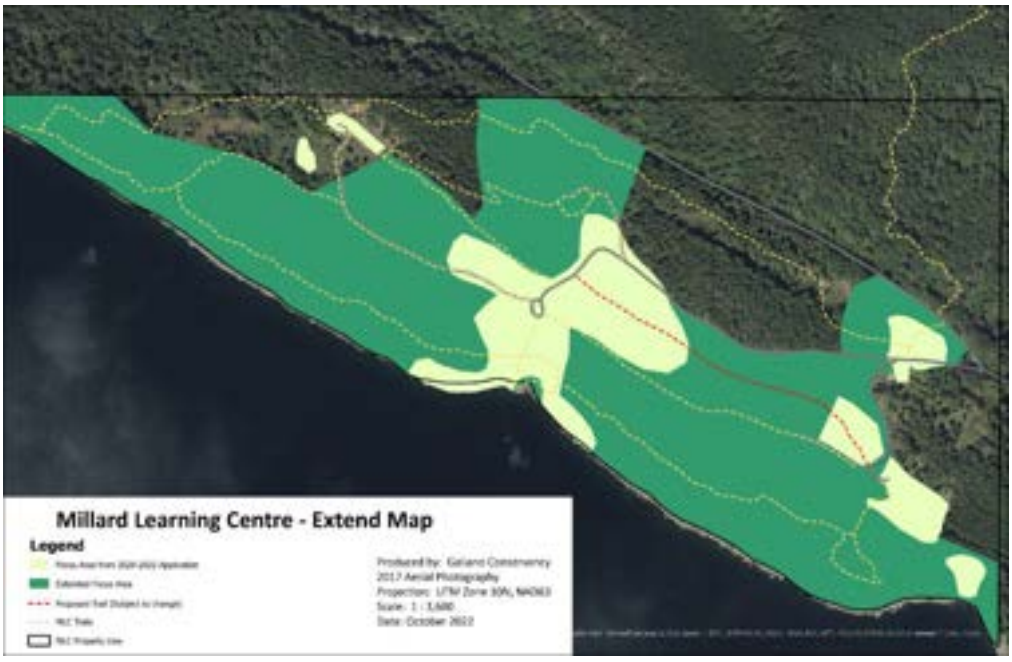
No.

Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.

We have included a 15% administration fee in our proposed budget to account for the implementation of the project activities e.g. office facility & supplies, bookkeeping, insurance etc.

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.




Millard Learning Centre - Monitor Map
Legend


Millard Learning Centre - Detect Map
Legend

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Millard Learning Centre (DL 57)	RESTORE ecosystems throughout the Millard Learning Centre	Complete the restoration of the Chrystal Creek watershed from ridgeline to shoreline	Restoration treatments - including decompaction, wetland construction, ditch removal, streambed realignment, distribution of woody debris, and establishment & protection of native plants - are applied across 11.5 ha of the 26 ha Chrystal Creek watershed.	Plan, coordinate, and implement restoration activities across Phases 1, 2, and 3 of complex restoration program unfolding across multiple funding cycles with a diverse set of funders
				Host weekly Friday volunteer days and organize post-secondary field school and volunteer group visits to engage students and the community in restoration treatments
				Replace native plants as needed in planted areas after monitoring for survival
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend and maintain network of nature trails	6.7 km of nature trails maintanined, and an additional 800m constructed to replace eroding logging roads	Maintain 6.7 km of nature trails
				Construct foot trail (800 m) through the west branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed to replace roads that are removed
				Build a foot bridge / boardwalk to replace culverted road crossing at the outlet of Chrystal Creek
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend invasive species management activities based on 2021 Invasive Species Management plan	Source and outlying populations of target invasive species identified in the 2021 Invasive Species Management Plan are efficiently controlled and/or eliminated across the property. [Control means the removal of all sexually mature individuals on an annual basis, continuing until the seed / propagule bank is exhausted.]	Expand Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius) removal activities from 2020-2023 target areas to include the entire property
				Remove high priority invasive species across the property, including holly (Ilex aquifolium), blackberries (Rubus spp.), yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus) and hawthorne (Crataegus monogyna)
				Continue to remove tansy ragwort (Jacobaea vulgaris) from across the property and nearby roadsides
	MONITOR and maintain restored areas at the Millard Learning Centre	Peform annual monitoring and maintenance activities to ensure long-term success of restoration projects	Monitoring protocols and repeat photography carried out on an annual basis across all active project sites at the Millard Learning Centre, contributing 3 years to ongoing data sets, generating insights for management, and providing opportunities for necessary maintenance.	Perform detailed vegetation monitoring protocol for the Phase 1 area of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, and use results to inform revegetation treatments for Phases 2 and 3
				Continue annual monitoring of deer exclosure plots and forest garden plots according to specialized GCA monitoring protocols
				Complete annual repeat photography at established points across property to document the results of habitat conservation and restoration efforts
	DETECT Species at Risk at the Millard Learning Centre	Perform targeted surveys to detect select Species at Risk	Presence / absence of sharp-tailed snakes (Contia tenuis) along 2 km of suitable habitat at the Millard Learning Centre determined with reasonable confidence. Spread of breeding populations of northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across restored / constructed wetland ecosystems at the Millard Learning Centre mapped and documented over a 3 year period.	Obtain necessary permits and collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy to monitor ACOs in order to detect sharp-tailed snake (Contia tenuis) presence along 2 km of suitable coastal habitat
				Continue annual acousitc, visual, and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across artificial, natural, and newly constructed wetland habitats at the Millard Learning Centre
	DOCUMENT and share results from project monitoring activities	Publish brief technical papers that communicate key practical insights derived from project activities to a students & practitioner audience	At least three brief (3-8 page) technical papers produced and dissemminated, highlighting the key results and outcomes of 6+ years of monitoring activities across a range of restoration projects at the Millard Learning Centre.	Produce brief technical paper communicating outcomes of Chrystal Creek restoration project activities and 4 years of monitoring
				Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 6 years of monitoring deer exclosure plots across a ranage of ecosystem types
				Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 9 years of monitoring forest garden sites using a wide range of criteria related to biodiversity, productivity, and social benefit

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 39,695.00
Admin Fee %	15%
Admin Fee $	$ 5,954.25
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 45,649.25

TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 324,560.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 238,350.00

Matson Lands

1–819

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: 1-819_____*(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Max Mitchell				
Field Contact (optional):					
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Habitat Restoration Coordinator				
Organization Name:	*Habitat Acquisition Trust*				
Address	PO Box 8552				
City:	Victoria	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V8W 2X9
Phone:	250-995-2428	Alternative Phone:			
Email:	max@hat.bc.ca				
Website:	https://hat.bc.ca				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.
$38,500

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	1996
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-36193
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	889626545RR0001

Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.

HAT is a regional land trust located in Victoria BC whose mission is to conserve nature on southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. We envision a future where the full array of natural habitats in our focus area are healthy and conserved. HAT pursues its mission by increasing protected areas, by stewarding and restoring natural areas, by engaging the public and above all, HAT works through partnerships. HAT was established in 1996 by the Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS) who envisioned a local land trust that would directly conserve land by acquiring titles and conservation covenants, and by working with residents to foster stewardship of natural ecosystems.

HAT was involved in promoting the effort to establish a Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt in the Sooke Hills and beyond. As a result of that effort HAT worked with the Society to Protect Ayum Creek to conserve Ayum Estuary. That purchase became HAT's first acquisition. Today, the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt is over 95% protected, and HAT directly stewards over 1600 hectares of natural habitats. Since then, HAT has participated in the protection of 30 conservation areas through easements/conservation covenants and fee-simple while managing those places through a variety volunteer stewardship programs.

HAT has 5 full-time and 3 part-time employees and more than roughly 500 active volunteers. HAT is a volunteer-focused organization that administers several programs that outreach to youth as well as adults. Volunteer and outreach programs include: Good Neighbours, BC Community Bat Program (Southern Vancouver Island), Green Spots, Goldstream Chums, Friends of Havenwood Park, and the Matson Mattocks as well as HAT’s volunteer events that perform restoration work on different conservation areas each month.

For the past 3 years HAT has been building relationships with members of the W̱SÁNEĆ, Sc’ianew and lək̓ʷəŋən communities who are themselves proponents for ecological restoration being culturally important and a means of expressing resurgent Indigenous jurisdiction. This has led to HAT working in friendship towards the creation of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area with the Sc’ianew on their territory, and supporting W̱SÁNEĆ conservation/restoration work and capacity building in W̱SÁNEĆ territory. In the past year HAT has begun to build relationships and work on projects around place-based language revitalization with members of the Songhees community in lək̓ʷəŋən territory, specifically at Matson Conservation Area. HAT understands the importance of Indigenous leadership when it comes to the conservation of ecosystems in the geography we work, and are adjusting our focus, vision, and mission to better support Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

Collectively, HAT staff have 63 years of experience in conservation land management, and organizationally HAT is well-respected for our stewardship of a variety of conservation areas throughout the Capital Regional District area.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Matson Conservation Area		
Other names used (if applicable):	MCA, Matson Lands		
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	023-666-897		
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	48˚25’43” to 48˚25’46” N; 123˚23’41” to 123˚23’48” E		
Property size (Ha):	0.984		
Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☐	
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	18 years		
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*			
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	No ☒	
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.			
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☐	No ☒	

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

Matson Conservation Area (MÇA) is the last section of intact Garry Oak Ecosystem – a cultural keystone ecosystem for the lək̓ʷəŋən and other Coast Salish Nations – along the Victoria Harbour front, located within the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, in the heart of the Salish Sea. Rare and endangered plant communities all live here, including Douglas-fir – Arbutus, Douglas-fir – Alaska onion grass, Garry oak - California brome, Garry oak – Arbutus, and Garry oak – Oceanspray, all provincially listed as S1 or S2 (“imperilled” or “critically imperilled”). This piece of land hosts blue-listed Great Blue Heron and Purple Martin, as well as Bald Eagles, Anna’s Hummingbirds, North American River Otter den site.

This property also has great cultural significance, containing two shell deposits (middens) confirming extensive land use by First Nations. With less than 5% of traditional lək̓ʷəŋən food systems left intact in lək̓ʷəŋən territory, the importance of this site as an eco-cultural nexus cannot be overstated. The importance of MCA for building care-based relationships between conservation organizations and Indigenous people also makes this site one of particular value and importance in this geography. This unique parcel of land is found along the Songhees Walkway in Esquimalt and provides a valuable ecological buffer between Victoria and Esquimalt parklands. The current condition of the ecosystems range from intact ḰŁO,ELENEȻ (Prairie or Garry Oak) habitat to heavily degraded Douglas-fir forest.

The site was once a large mansion with extensive European gardens, leading to our current challenge with invasive species (e.g., Scotch broom, English ivy, English Hawthorn, English Holly, Himalayan blackberry, Daphne laurel and several non-native grasses) were found thriving throughout the property and HAT and our partners are invested in an intensive long-term restoration and stewardship program.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

HAT's vision for Matson Conservation Area (MCA) is to be a thriving, fully-functioning ecosystem that is also a hub for volunteer restorations activities, and public awareness of First Nations traditional land use, conservation, invasive species, and how functional, local ecosystems can work in an urban setting.

The primary management goals for this property are to:

- Restore and improve the ecological integrity, ecosystem processes, and native biodiversity within the Conservation Area;
- Preserve and restore natural features of the Conservation Area, while adapting to a changing climate;
- Establish public outreach and educational opportunities on the Conservation Area;
- Protect the cultural and historic features of the Conservation Area.

The objectives for implementation of HAT's management plan include:

- Removing invasive species and monitoring/managing progress and successes;
- Enhancing, restoring, protecting, and sustaining the native Garry Oak ecosystems and the native wildlife that occur there;
- Encouraging community support and involvement for activities being undertaken on the Conservation Area, in particular through collaboration with Esquimalt and Songhees communities;
- Fostering public understanding of and support for the enhancement projects; and
- Outreach and education to the general public to enhance community knowledge of Garry Oak Ecosystems.

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

Prior to our reception of three years of funding from HCTF (CAT21-1-651), MCA has been funded solely through HAT's endowment fund prohibiting any substantial management or stewardship from taking place or even from being planned, specifically as much of the work needed at MCA is considered "management," making it difficult to find funding for ongoing work and future planning. Given this limited funding, our intention with this application is the continuation and enhancement of work on the implementation of management objectives, and oversight of the volunteer stewardship group (the Matson Mattocks). An additional three years of HCTF funding will contribute to successful management planning of MCA, particularly as we move into more direct relationships and involvement of members from the Songhees and Esquimalt communities. Without this funding, we expect a return to the challenges of stagnancy and roll-over of important goals year to year.

Volunteers undertake the majority of monitoring and stewardship at MCA, and until our reception of HCTF funding were working with an outdated management plan with no funds available to update the antiquated plan. An ongoing decline in management will lead to a re-establishment of invasive plants and trees that are currently under regular management, habitat for pollinators will decline, and roosting habitat and nesting trees will wane and perish if understory is not managed. Ecosystem loss will continue with iconic Prairie (Garry) Oak meadow species, such as common and great camas, chocolate lilies and sea blush, once again being crowded out by introduced grasses and annual and perineal forbs. Additionally, public access will continue to be a challenge, and temporary encampments on the property will not be reported and will become increasingly difficult to manage. The public and our partners will be hesitant to support and collaborate with Habitat Acquisition Trust if we are not able to meet our mandate of caring and restoring the MCA.

The relationship being built between members of the Songhees community and HAT through MCA will also suffer if this funding cannot be secured, as we will no longer be able to participate in the development of this relationship in a respectful way. This funding stream offered by HCTF represents the filling of a much-needed niche in the conservation community and, importantly for organizations like HAT, which would provide for the respectful care of these sensitive ecosystems in a good way.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

- Matson Property Management Plan (2004)
- Matson Baseline Report (2005)
- HAT's strategic Plan (2015-2020)
- MCA Restoration Plan (2022)
- Conservation Covenant (Matson Conservation Area)

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

- Matson Mattocks: volunteer labour, stewardship activities, wardens of the sight (confirmed);
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (3 years previous funding, and volunteer labour);

- Township of Esquimalt: Parks Dept. - pick up of biomass weekly, Bylaw services to manage encampments and garbage, drug paraphernalia.
- Victoria Community Police Officers: Providing service to escort campers out of the MCA.
- Greater Victoria Green Team: Partnered with HAT by providing volunteers for numerous community-based restoration events.
- Victoria Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Support for public awareness and importance of MCA to the Sanctuary.
- Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations: collaboration on cultural and educational community engagement events
- Ecological Gifts Program: Has provided limited funding for managing the MCA.

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

HAT has been working in partnership with members of the Songhees and Esquimalt (lək̓ʷəŋən) communities, and have recently completed a lək̓ʷəŋən-language interpretive sign that is on display at MCA. Currently, HAT is in the planning stages to support Songhees use of MCA for culturally resurgent work at MCA, and are envisioning new ways to work in friendship with lək̓ʷəŋən community members to better support Songhees and Esquimalt interaction with the lands of their traditional territories and to support equitable and inclusive stewardship of this existing, vibrant cultural keystone ecosystem for future generations. To support this HAT staff have spent time meeting with members of the community, particularly an Elder around language, and his family, and have communicated with Songhees governance. Because of the nature of privacy and the history settler organizations have with Indigenous communities in this province and country, we are unable/unwilling to give more details without consent from the individuals involved, or the nation itself.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

The Matson Mattocks are the stewardship group that holds weekly restoration events, contributing over 320 hours of stewardship per year for over 10 years. The Greater Victoria Green Team and Telus Day of Giving has also provided hours towards management of the land.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

Yes. The property is easily accessed from the Songhees Walkway (which can be accessed via Westbay Marine Village off of Head St, and from an access point off of Kimta Rd), as well there is a public entrance at the end of Garrett Place that utilizes the walkway along the front of the Swallows Landing condos, with a sweeping view of the meadow below and waters leading to a set of metal stairs that

are raised above the meadow down to the walkway. This is perhaps the most used access to Matson Conservation Area.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.
Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.
Yes, at 10%.

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.

A decent basic map can be found at the link below in PDF form: **MCA 2022 Restoration Plan (baseline) PDF**
https://habitattrusttrial-my.sharepoint.com/personal/max_hat_bc_ca/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?login_hint=max%40hat%2Ebc%2Eca&id=%2Fsites%2FHabitatRestoration%2FShared%20Documents%2FMatcson%20CA%20Restoration%20Plan%202022%2D2023&listurl=https%3A%2F%2Fhabitattrusttrial%2Esharepoint%2Ecom%2Fsites%2FHabitatRestoration%2FShared%20Documents&viewid=b2fb5cfc%2Dee5f%2D4ad7%2Dbddf%2Dcfef6d6ff1e3

Or here's a screenshot:

A copy of this map will be emailed with our application.

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Matson Conservation Area ("MCA")	Build upon previous enhancement and restoration of the native Garry Oak and associated ecosystems and the native wildlife that occurs in the Conservation Area through implementation of MCA Restoration Plan (developed with funding support through 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-651)	Continue to apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species following best practices that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival	1. All major infestations of woody invasive plant species (English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom) to be successfully treated with mechanical control (manual removal) and invasive species cover reduced by 75% 2. Reduce the impact of invasive grasses on native GOE meadow and assoc. pollinator habitat by mechanically removing targeted invasive grasses (such as Orchard Grass and Velvet Grass) from open canopy Garry Oak meadow. Invasive grass thatch in meadow to be removed from 25% of MCA 3. Properly dispose of any soil, seeds, and plant parts removed during treatment, and clean tools/equipment	Matson Mattocks stewardship group will continue to volunteer mechanical control (manual removal) of invasive plant species, and seasonal invasive grass thatch reduction at weekly work events
				Consult with experts on implementation of appropriate treatment strategy using alternative and/or innovative restoration methods in addition to manual removal (e.g. solarization, smothering, continued strategic herbicide application)
				HAT restoration crew employed annually to carry out MCA Restoration Plan, this includes: treating priority invasive species with manual removal and reduction of seasonal invasive grass thatch
		Install additional native plants; strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species	Enhance native plant biodiversity and abundance, promote ecosystem climate resilience, and prevent the re-establishment of invasive plant species. Native plant species cover of planting area to be increased by 25%	Annual planting of nursery-cultivated native seedlings (such as Garry Oak and Arbutus) to help ensure the successful establishment, survival, and generational succession of key species that struggle to self-germinate naturally.
				Annual Autumn sowing of native plant seeds. Variety and quantity of seed sown to be determined based on ongoing project monitoring, and observed outcomes of 2021-2022 seedings
				Monitor percent survival rate of planted seedlings and percent cover of planting area
		Improve quality and increase quantity of potential pollinator habitat	Increase on-site stock of potential native food sources, nesting materials, and sources of shelter for pollinators to ameliorate pollinator population health; guided by results of 2022 pollinator survey conducted by Pollinator Partnership Canada.	Continue to consult with pollinator experts to evaluate potential habitat and to develop plan for making improvements to polliantor habitat. Use data from 2022 seasonal pollinator surveys to inform plant seedling and seed selection for 2023 installations
				Install additional native pollinator plants through annual planting and seeding in areas newly cleared of invasive species
		Protect both naturally occuring and newly installed native plant seedlings (purchased and planted with funding support of the 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewarship grant 1-651) from deer grazing	Allow native species to reach stage of maturity where they do not require protective fencing from deer grazing in order to survive independently. Survival allows for generational succession of species such as Garry Oak and Arbutus, as well as the enhancement of native shrubs and wildflowers. Protective fencing is necessary for young plants to become fully established without being disrupted by deer grazing. At least 90% of planted seedlings survive to at least 3 years.	Beginning of Year 1: Install 100 feet of additional steel wire-mesh fencing to priority native plants and and to sensitive areas
				End of Year 1: assess effectiveness of existing fencing and adjust future fencing strategy as necessary. Assessment of fencing efficacy to be repeated annually
				Years 2 & 3: continue to install protective fencing around individual plants that require protection, in the manner assessed most effective the preceding year; expanding height and diameter where necessary
		Monitor restoration treatment effectiveness	1. Continue utilizing our effectiveness monitoring program, both quantitative and qualitative data collected will provide valuable information to gauge the project's success over	Contract plant biologists to conduct updated vegetation inventories using best practices identified by experts to update previous 2005 baseline vegetation report. Surveys to be conducted Spring 2023

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 35,000.00
Admin Fee $	$ 3,500.00
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 38,500.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$36,100.00

TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 25,100.00		treatment effectiveness, utilizing qualititative (photopoint) and quantitative data collection methods and reporting results at the end of 3 years.	valuable information to gauge the project's success over time. Data evaluation will inform adaptive management strategies and priorities. 2. Monitoring data assists HAT in communicating with partners, funders and other stakeholders about the progress and importance of the ecosystem restoration project. Having a robust data set will help engage a variety of people and organizations in the work being done.	HAT Staff and crew conduct ongoing photopoint monitoring and data collection before and after treatments, documenting effectiveness of treatment strategies. Effectiveness will be measured by percent cover of native species both generally and specific to pollinator habitat prescriptions, as well as percent cover (reduction) and re-germination rates of invasive species
					Documentation of data and analysis will be presented in report form in 2026.
		Management of the Matson Conservation Area will continue to take place collaboratively through consultation and discussion with multiple community partners, including the representatives from the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations	Continue to organize biannual meetings of the Matson Conservation Area Management Advisory Group (MAG) re-established under previous grant 1-651.	Management Advisory Group will meet 2x/year to coordinate implementation of the MCA Management Plan and MCA Restoration Plan	Coordinate biannual meetings of the Management Advisory Group to seek feedback and advice on management issues, community concerns, and progress and direction on management and restoration plans.
					HAT provides MAG with annual summary progress reports
			Engage directly with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and communities on issues of cultural importance, land management, and collaborative activities	1. Opportunities will be created for engagement with Indigenous community members on the land, leading to a mutual increase in knowledge on subjects such as traditional plant harvesting, as well as other traditional eco-cultural practices. 2. Indigenous land stewardship practices will be enabled at Matson Conservation Area in partnership with Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. 3. Create opportunties for Songhees and Esquimalt Nation community members to engage in stewardship	Establish a relationship with Chief and Council with both Songhees and Esquimalt Nations through annual presentations by invitation
					Facilitate an invitation for community members to visit MCA to participate in eco-cultural practices, and provide appropriate compensation for individuals to alleviate financial barriers to participation (at least 2 engagement events per year);
					Invite representatives from Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to join MAG or contribute expertise on management priorities at MCA
			Adapt and update Matson Conservation Area Management Plan and Restoration Plan	Updates to Management Plan will include Traditional Ecological Knowledge and practices of the First Nations in whose territory the MCA is situated (Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations), in the cases where such inclusion is consented to by the Nations. Updates will also incorporate climate change adaptation plans, and other relevant updates based on advances in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration. The Restoration Plan, which informs the techniques, priorities and strategies of field work, will be informed by the principles in the Management Plan and adapted accordingly.	Collaborate with knowledge-keepers to seek recommendations about integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices into MCA Management Plan and activities through at least 2 site visits and discussions per year;
					Collaborate with partners and experts in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration to seek recommendations about most current best management practices and climate change adaptation strategies, and their application to the MCA.
					Update the MCA Management Plan with sythesized information, and extrapolate new information recommendations to the MCA Restoration Plan. Updated Management and Restoration Plans will be finalized in collaboration with the MAG.

Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2

1-820

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: 1-820 *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Andy Blackburn				
Field Contact (optional):	(as above)				
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Lands Manager				
Organization Name:	*Denman Conservancy Association*				
Address	P.O. Box 60				
City:	Denman Island	Province:	B.C.	Postal Code:	V0R 1T0
Phone:	250-858-1570	Alternative Phone:			
Email:	lands.dca@gmail.com / info@denmanconservancy.org				
Website:	www.denmanconservancy.org				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.

Notes below added by Barb von Sacken:
DCA is requesting **$31,398.52** in funding from HCTF.
Please note the summary table in the Part 2 spreadsheet stopped including any budget information after row 30. The following table is how the actual summary in Part 2 should read:
Total: $ 30,484
Admin fee % 3
Admin fee $914.52
3 yr total inclu. Admin fee $31,398.52
Total additional contributions required $35,514
Total of additional Contributions Confirmed $30,514

The incorrect total DCA submitted was $ 30,014.20

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	1991
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S0027585
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	13769 8700 BC0001
Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.	

Denman Conservancy Association, founded by community members in 1991, has over 30 years' experience in working to protect and steward lands on Denman Island. DCA's mission is 'To engage the Denman Island community in the protection of natural ecosystems on the island, through: Acquiring, managing and stewarding lands; Educating; Enabling nature experiences; Building collaborative relationships; Enhancing human and financial resources to sustain our organization; and, Conducting our work/role in the context of global environmental issues.'
With an annual membership of 235 people, the work of DCA is carried out almost entirely by volunteers. In 2008 a part-time Land Manager contract position was created to support the Board of Directors (12 volunteer members) and its lands management sub-committee (7 volunteer members). The annual operating budget is approximately $55,000, with funds coming primarily from memberships and cash donations, active fundraising on Denman Island (biennial Home and Garden Tour, T-shirt sales, annual book-sale), and project grants.
Previously Funded Land Management/Stewardship projects include: HCTF Land Stewardship Grant 1-678
'Settlement Lands' (2017-2020), HCTF Land Stewardship Grant 1-733 'Central Denman Conservation Complex' (2020-2023); National Wetlands Conservation Fund (NWCF 1718 'Enhancement of Degraded Wetlands in Beadnell Headwaters Wetland Complex' 2017-2019); EcoAction grant EA-BC-2009k060 (2010 -2012), 'Landkeepers'; HSP projects 2013HSP6639 – Taylors Checkerspot butterfly Habitat Stewardship and continuing HSP Checkerspot work, jointly with BC MoE and GOERT Recovery Implementation Group; private land stewardship for Taylor's Checkerspot; Land Stewards program 1997-99.

In the past 31 years, DCA has undertaken numerous projects aimed at fulfilling its mission, including:

- Land acquisitions: 5 DCA-held conservation areas, contributing to and then managing 4 ITC Nature Reserves, holding Conservation Covenants on 15 properties.
- Stewardship & Management: Continued co-management of 4 ITC Nature Reserves, stewardship projects within 5 DCA conservation areas, annual monitoring & management of private Covenant Areas, assisting private landowners in conservation of endangered species such as Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly and Little brown bat, and other rare flora and fauna.
- Outreach & Education: Workshops, events and educational materials including Invasive species, Beavers, Bats, aquatic Invertebrates, Frog Festival, Denman Bird counts, Youth Nature camps.

DCA is partner in the management of Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) properties on Denman Island. ITC is a BC Government agency with major conservation land holdings in the Gulf Islands of BC. The ITC Board holds a conservation covenant on the Settlement Lands and Winter Wren Wood properties and a new covenant will be sought for the recently acquired (2021) Raven Woods & Wetlands conservation area. *No management activities are planned in ITC-owned Inner Island NR under this funding application; Inner Island is only included as it forms part of the Central Denman Conservation Complex. *

DCA also works collaboratively with Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) to ensure the management of the Denman Natural Burial Cemetery meets the conservation objectives set out in the Covenant held by DCA on that property. DCA also works alongside BC Parks to manage Railway Grade Marsh Covenant Area in Denman Island Park and carry out manual English Holly removal in Fillongley Park.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2
Other names used (if applicable):	Complex includes 1. Winter Wren Wood (DCA) 2. Settlement Lands (DCA) 3. Central Park (DCA) 4. Raven Woods and Wetlands (DCA) 5. Inner Island Nature Reserve (ITC) 6. Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery (DIMS)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	1. 009-712-305 2. 006-657-656 + 006-639-771 3. 006-639-411 4. 023-005-424 + 023-005-432 5. 018-012-256 6. 028-994-965
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	1. 49.557080 -124.817643 2. 49.552534 -124.805212 3. 49.537198 -124.782411 4. 49.543369 -124.803602 5. 49.546807 -124.801255 6. 49.535111 -124.778210
Property size (Ha):	1. 2.4 Ha 2. 63.5 Ha 3. 60 Ha 4. 32.4 Ha 5. 36.6 Ha 6. 1.1 Ha TOTAL: 196 Ha

Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☒
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	DCA retains ownership of 4 of 6 properties, and previously donated the other 2 to partner conservation societies. 1. Winter Wren Wood: DCA acquired 2000 2. Settlement Lands: DCA acquired 2006 3. Central Park: DCA acquired 2006 4. Raven Woods & Wetlands: DCA acquired 2021 5. Inner Island Nature Reserve: DCA acquired 1992, donated to ITC 1992, DCA is co-manager (stewardship activities funded under ITC Service Contract). 6. Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery: DCA subdivided from Central Park and donated to DIMS 2013, DCA holds covenant.	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*	Inner Island NR is owned by Islands Trust Conservancy, donated by DCA in 1992. Denman Natural Burial Cemetery is owned by Denman Island Memorial Society, donated by DCA in 2013.	
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	No ☒
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.		
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☒	No ☐

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

The Central Denman Conservation Complex encompasses 196 ha of diverse and rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecological communities throughout six conservation land parcels. Four of the six parcels are protected by Conservation Covenants and DCA, along with partner organizations, work to steward these areas and enhance the rich biodiversity present within this ecologically significant network on Denman Island.

The Conservation Complex features several large perennial wetlands, along with numerous vernal connected waterbodies, the headwaters of the salmonid-bearing Chickadee-Beadnell watershed and connected riparian habitat, rocky meadow bluffs, mature and old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir forest, and regenerating forest following logging during the late 1980's and 90's.

The six conservation areas within the Complex are all connected, either by sharing adjacent boundaries, or via trails connecting through the surrounding Denman Island Provincial Park & Protected Area. The Central Denman Conservation Complex, therefore, creates a vital continuous network of protected lands throughout central Denman and links the north and south drainages of the island. This uninterrupted network of conservation areas provides connected habitat and refuge for many wildlife species. Federally or Provincially-listed Species at Risk recorded within the Conservation Complex include (but are not limited to): Band-tailed pigeon, Barn owl, Western screech-owl, Barn swallow, Common nighthawk, Blue dasher dragonfly, Western pine elfin butterfly, Western pondhawk dragonfly, Common wood nymph butterfly, Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly, Dun skipper butterfly, Cutthroat trout, Great blue heron, Little brown myotis, Northern red-legged frog, Olive-sided flycatcher, Jagged germanderwort.

Raven Woods & Wetlands, the most recent acquisition and addition to the Complex, protects a large wetland and outflow creek draining into the fish-bearing Pickles Marsh and recovering forest stands, along with pockets of remaining mature forest. More than ten listed Species at Risk have been identified within this area to date. Recovering forest in areas across the Complex suggest a forest type Red Listed in climax condition and therefore among the most threatened ecological communities in BC; CDFmm 05 'Western red cedar, Douglas-fir – Kindbergia'.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

Denman Conservancy Association's vision for an extensive network of protected areas, providing uninterrupted refuge for wildlife and connected habitat has been furthered by the 2021 acquisition of the 32.4ha Raven Woods & Wetlands conservation area. Ongoing stewardship of these lands, in addition to the existing five other properties that make up the Central Denman Conservation Complex, is critical for repairing damage from logging in the late 1980's, restoring

and enhancing ecological biodiversity, and mitigation and adaptation to the increasing dangers of climate change impacts to sensitive and vulnerable ecosystems within Coastal Douglas-fir forests and wetlands on Denman Island.
Management activities aim to develop low-impact access into appropriate areas for community recreation and education purposes, whilst maintaining DCA's primary goals of protecting and enhancing sensitive habitat & wildlife.

Goal 1: Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection and sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW), a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.

Goal 2: Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora and fauna across the Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-fir stands, recovering forest areas)

Goal 3: Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration & mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.

Goal 4: Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun skipper (BC Red List); Western pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

Raven Woods & Wetlands conservation area (acquired 2021) is already experiencing human foot traffic, which is of special concern in sensitive wetland and riparian areas, such as the crossing of the outflow creek from Pickles Waterfall Wetland within the conservation area. Management plans to install a clearly defined trail, creek crossing walkway, and designated wetland viewpoint structure aim to mitigate the increasing impact of trampling, erosion and disruption by human activity and concentrate it to specific appropriate areas. Without funding to complete these planned works, there is great potential for increased human incursion into sensitive areas creating disturbance to wetland waterfowl, for example, and degradation of riparian areas and recovering forest floor vegetation.
These issues are also evident in other areas throughout the complex, where compliance and unauthorized usage (such as hunting, off-leash dogs) continues to be a challenge, providing increased risk to conservation values without funding for improved signage and trail maintenance work.
Following a professional survey for invasive American Bullfrogs in 2022, recommendations were made to continue vital monitoring of waterbodies across the Complex and continue education and outreach to the community about the threat of American Bullfrogs establishing a breeding population on Denman Island. The need for this continued work was confirmed by reported sightings of Bullfrogs in 2022, as with previous years.

Climate change impacts pose perhaps the greatest threat to sensitive native ecosystems throughout the Complex. Wildfire risk due to increasing drought periods and the lack of native forest understory

in degraded areas (because of logging and browsing by an over-abundant deer population) requires ongoing efforts to mitigate these threats and develop adaptation strategies. The continued monitoring of at-risk areas through fire-hazard season, and small-scale replanting and restoration efforts in degraded forest-floor areas are essential for reducing the risk of fire having potentially devastating consequences for the Conservation Complex, and the island more broadly.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

- Winter Wren Wood Management Plan 2002; First Revision Denman Conservancy Association 2020
- Settlement Lands Management Plan 2017, Denman Conservancy Association
- Baseline Documentation Report for the Settlement Lands, Balke 2017
- Central Park Management Plan 2006; First Revision Denman Conservancy Association 2016
- Inner Island Nature Reserve Management Plan 1994; First Revision Denman Conservancy Association 2005; Second Revision Islands Trust Conservancy 2020
- Baseline Documentation Report for Inner Island Nature Reserve Durand 2003; First Revision Balke 2019
- Management Plan for Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery 2012; First Revision Denman Island Memorial Society & Denman Conservancy Association 2018
- Baseline Documentation report for Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery, Fyson 2010, First Revision Fyson 2019.
- K'ómoks First Nation. 2020. Cultural Heritage Policy.
- Parks Canada Agency. 2006. Recovery Strategy for Multi-species at Risk in Maritime Meadows Associated with Garry Oak Ecosystems in Canada (proposed). In Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Ottawa: Parks Canada Agency. 98 pps. AND Replacement of Sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 of the Recovery Strategy for Multi-Species at Risk in Maritime Meadows associated with Garry Oak Ecosystems in Canada (2016).
- Invasive Species Council of British Columbia. 2010. bcinvasives.ca Various factsheets.
- IUCN. 2021. Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration.
- Society for Ecological Restoration. 2019. International Principles & Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration.
- B.C. Ministry of Environment. 2022. Best Management Practices for Bats in British Columbia, Victoria, BC. Environmental Information Resources System for Biodiversity. (Available at https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/viewDocumentDetail.do?fromStatic=true&repository=BDP&documentId=12460)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2017. Management Plan for the Northern Red-legged Frog (Rana aurora) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Management Plan Series. Environment
  Canada, Ottawa. 2 parts, 4 pp.+ 51 pp..
- Environment Canada. 2016. Recovery Strategy for the Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa. vii + 49 pps.

- Transition Salt Spring. 2021. Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan.
- Stan A. Orchard. 2021. bullfrogcontrol.com Innovations in Control and Eradication.
- Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) Conservation Partnership. 2021. Conservation Strategy.
- Islands Trust. 2018. Protecting the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone & Associated Ecosystems.
- Silva Ecosystem Assessment, Protected Areas Network Proposal Maps, Hammond 1999.
- Bird Conservation Regional Strategies (BCRS)-Region 5, Pacific Yukon Region. (Specific Activities called for within this strategy: Monitoring of wetland populations and invasive species.)

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Islands Trust Conservancy – mapping and GIS support, legal and other technical conservation expertise, Covenant-holder on Settlement Lands and Winter Wren Wood.

Denman Island Memorial Society – volunteer labour (e.g. Removal of invasive species), management and monitoring of Covenant Area.

Denman Island Residents' Association Parks and Trails Committees – volunteer support (e.g. Trails maintenance), tools/equipment, expertise and knowledge of wildlife and recreational connectivity within the Central Denman Conservation Complex, consultation on management aids and signage needs.

Denman Island Wildlife Advisory Committee – island-level coordinated response group for wildlife conservation issues, including invasive animal species such as American Bullfrog

Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department – coordination of signage, management aids and monitoring for protection against wildfire through extreme fire risk season.

Denman Island Climate Action Network – collaboration around outreach and education regarding climate change impacts and risks (e.g. extreme fire risk season).

BCIT MSc Ecological Restoration program – student visits, collaboration, and hosting of student projects & research.

Pesticide Free Committee – collaboration and funding for Invasive Species Workshops and events.

Denman Island Museum – collaboration on Importance of Wetlands and Beaver exhibit.

Comox Valley Community Foundation – 2023 Funding for consultation and collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation on language and naming and surveys (Environment and Climate Action Grant *pending $4000*).

DenmanWorks! – 2023 Funding for interpretive signage design work by Denman-based designer/illustrator (Grant *pending $1000*).

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

Denman Conservancy Association is actively working towards consultation and collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation and have formed a volunteer working group aimed at facilitating this process. Past communication has occurred between DCA and Chief & Council, and more recently with K'ómoks Guardian Watchmen regarding a potential visit to the Central Denman Conservation Complex (to be confirmed). DCA hopes to collaborate with KFN on the potential re-naming of some conservation areas within the Conservation Complex and surveys and restoration projects as part of ongoing stewardship of these areas. We have also applied for grant funding to support KFN involvement in our work from Comox Valley Community Foundation.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

The Denman Island community fundraised $111,000 towards the acquisition of Raven Woods & Wetlands in 2021 and donated countless hours of volunteer time in its acquisition. This is in addition to similar previous efforts to protect all properties that now make up the Central Denman Conservation Complex. Community members have supported DCA for over 30 years of conservation work on Denman by donating time, labour, materials, expertise, and funds.

DCA is a community-run organization, comprised of a volunteer Board, Lands Committee (and several other sub-committees) and membership of 235 individuals that take responsibility for the ongoing protection and stewardship of the Central Denman Conservation Complex and other protected areas. Volunteer work-bees, walks & talks, events, and monitoring activities are regularly attended by members of the community and are integral to conservation efforts throughout the island. Collaboration with multiple other community organizations (as noted in the 'project partners' section) also facilitates conservation and management practices throughout the Complex.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

All properties within the Central Denman Conservation Complex are accessible to the public, with trailheads throughout the complex. The proposed trail work in the newly protected Raven Woods & Wetlands will result in all properties within the complex being connected to the existing trail network.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.
No
Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.
Yes. 3% is requested.

10. PROPERTY MAP

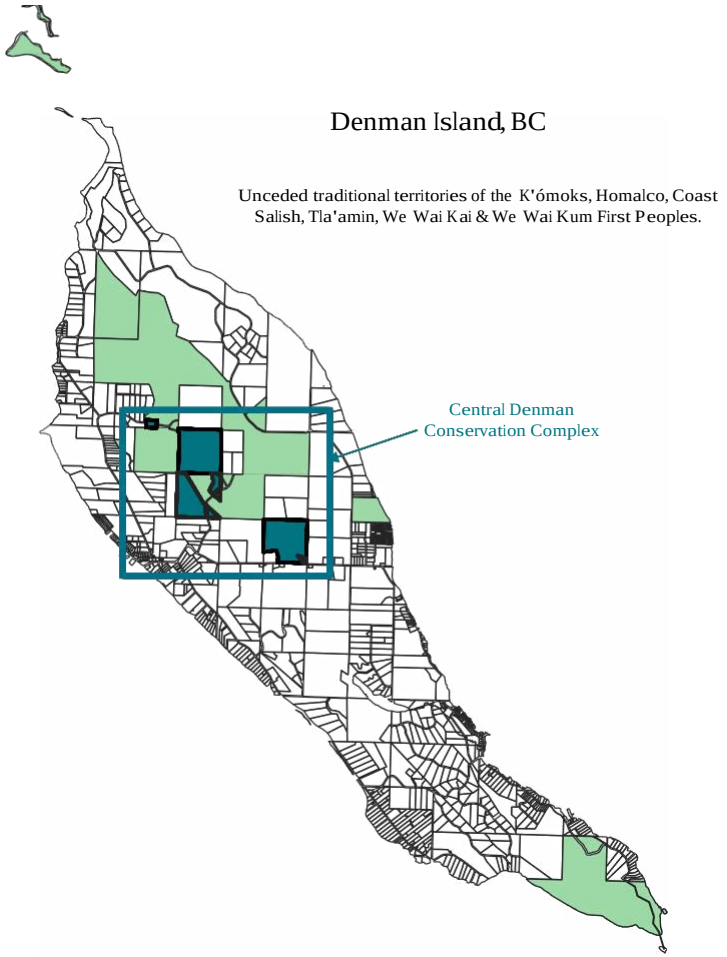
Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

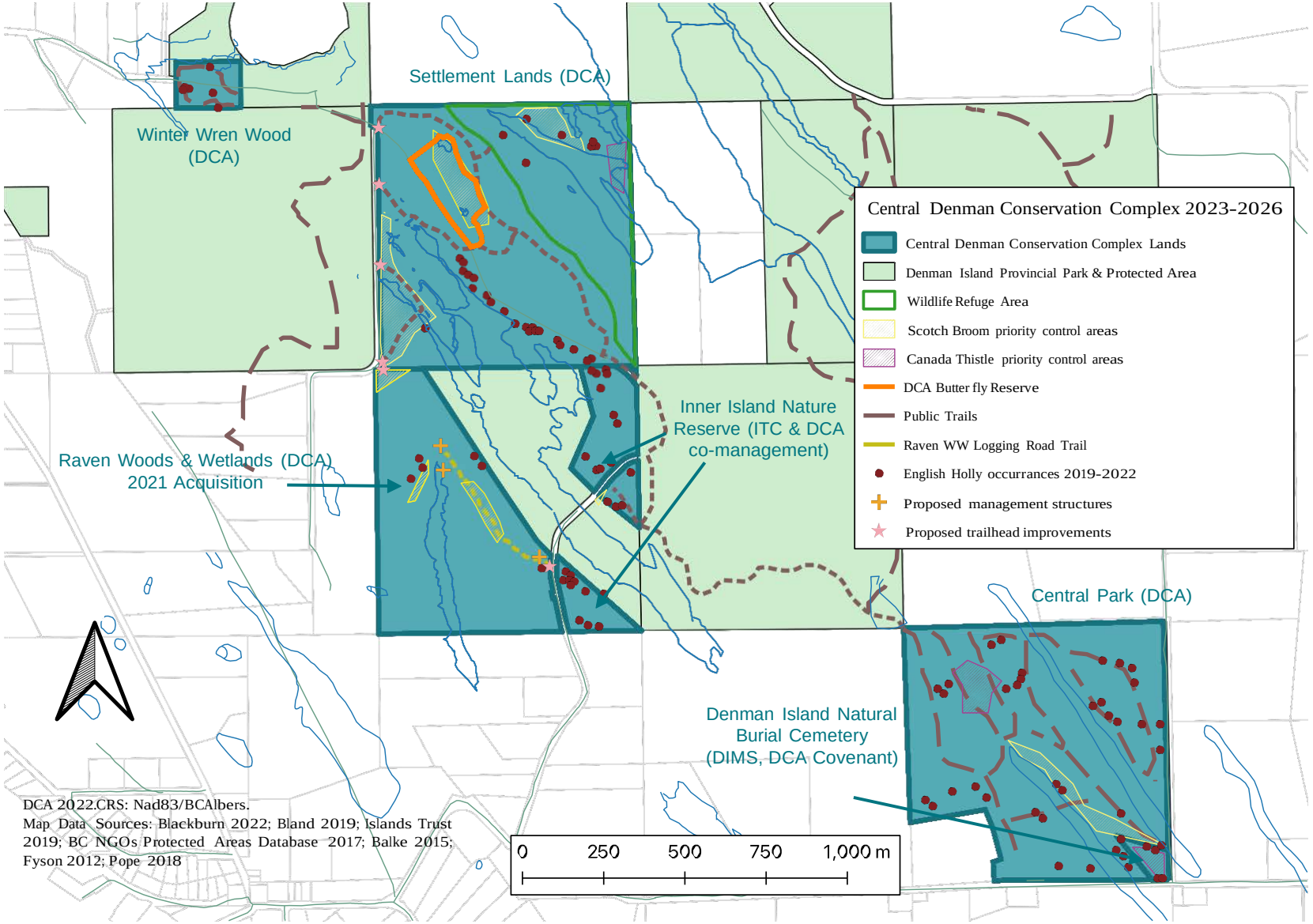
Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

Central Denman Conservation Complex context map (Blackburn, 2022)



Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2 inset map



Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Management planning for newly-protected RWW conservation area undertaken through surveying to inform stewardship activities and drafting of Management Plan.	Biological Baseline report produced to inform management planning & stewardship of RWW. Consultation & collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation on management activities and planning, eg. Naming & language, ethnobotanical survey.	Contract professional Biologist to conduct Baseline survey of RWW to facilitate management planning. K'ómoks First Nation outreach & organizing of visit(s) to collaborate on naming, management planning, and conduct possible ethnobotanical survey at RWW
	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Construction & installation of trailhead Info Kiosk with maps, access signage, cultural info etc., to educate public on importance of conservation area and ensure compliance with management regulations. Construction & installation of bench & railing at wetland viewpoint to provide public access to wetland view, whilst preventing incursion into sensitive wetland habitat Design, printing and installation of printed metal interpretive signage highlighting importance of wetlands, species at risk found there, climate change implications at wetland viewpoint
	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Lands Manager coordinates 4 volunteer trail-building work bees to create safe and clearly-defined trail for public access through conservation area, protecting native flora & fauna by reducing incursion into other areas by Construction & installation of low-impact creek crossing, using cedar logs & metal walkway, to mitigate damage from foot traffic already occuring and provide safe access to northern portion of proposed loop trail.
	Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir stands, recovering forest areas)	Trailhead improvements throughout Conservation Complex clarifying public accessibility and limiting potential incursion into ecologically sensitive areas.	Improved signage designed & installed and trail clearing work at 6 trailheads across complex. Metal walkways installed at 3 trailheads where deep ditches make for unsafe footing. Improved signage installed to mitigate ongoing compliance issues eg. Dogs, hunting.	DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install 3 metal 'catwalk' walkways across roadside ditches at new and existing trailheads. DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install newly printed trailhead signage indicating public access, naming, compliance, including First Nations language & naming in collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation. DCA Lands Manager organizes 6 trail clearing volunteer work bees to clearly indicate trailhead locations and provide safe access while protecting native vegatation.
	Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir	Protect against wildfire by encouraging seasonally-appropriate access to Conservation Complex lands & providing means for safe disposal of flammable	Volunteer coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew to carry out daily monitoring in high fire-risk areas throughout extreme fire hazard season (June-September). In collaboration with volunteer Fire Department, fireproof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by fire monitoring crew at main property entrances.	Coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew for daily fire monitoring through fire season (Y1-3) and updates faded fire compliance signage at trailheads. Fire-proof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by monitoring crew throughout fire season. (Y1-3)

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 29,140.00
Admin Fee %	3%
Admin Fee $	$ 874.20
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 30,014.20
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 31,524.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 26,524.00

	stands, recovering forest areas)	materials.		
	Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Small-scale restoration of native shrub & herb layer species & Indigenous food plants within CDF regenerating areas	Deer exclosure fencing (10m x 10m) erected in heavily-browsed area within complex. Replanting & seeding of native tree and shrub species within exclosure.	DCA Lands manager & volunteers conduct species survey, inviting K'ómoks FN to collaborate, & erect 10x10m fencing at selected heavily-browsed site. DCA Lands manager coordinates volunteer replanting & seeding of trees and shrubs in fenced area. Native trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as necessary. Lands Manager & volunteers conduct Y2 & Y3 species survey of deer exclosure, fence maintenance & replanting as necessary.
	Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-Fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Restoration of former parking area in Winter Wren Wood, now inaccessible to vehicles, through replanting & protection of native species	Site-appropriate native trees & shrubs are planted and caged for deer-browse protection to restore former parking area. Descriptive signage is designed and installed to explain restoration project to visitors.	Lands Manager & volunteers plant and cage 20 - 30 native trees & shrubs in former parking area. Trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as necessary. Lands Manager designs and installs signage indicating & explaining restoration activities in area. Coordinator carries out weekly watering of planted trees & shrubs during establishment period in summer months.
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Enhance wetland & upland habitats by restoring native plant diversity through manual removal of invasive species (Scotch broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel, Canada Thistle, St.John's Wort, Reed Canarygrass).	Coordinator organizes 600 volunteer hours + 230 paid hours to remove invasive plants throughout Conservation Complex. Treated areas are mapped and photographed. GPS locations of cut holly trees are marked, & follow-up treatments in Y2&3 to cut resprouting shoots. GPS locations of Daphne removed are mapped to monitor spread throughout complex. Completed work is documented with photographs & maps of treated areas to guide continual management efforts. Previous mapping of treated areas is updated for continued tracking of progress.	Carry out 5 volunteer work-bees each year + hire contractor for 60h per year to continue efforts to remove Invasive Scotch Broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel (and other species) across the Conservation Complex (Y 1-3) Hire contractor to remove min. 100 English Holly & Daphne Spurge-Laurel plants (an increasing invasive problem) throughout complex, marking GPS locations of plants removed. GPS locations are mapped for ongoing management. DCA Land Manager & volunteers use GPS locations to monitor previously cut Holly & Daphne stumps & remove resprouting shoots.
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue monitoring program for early detection of invasive American Bullfrogs throughout complex, following continued reports of probable presence & professional survey recommendations.	Volunteer working group is coordinated to carry out bi-weekly monitoring for American Bullfrog in perennial Lake/wetland habitats within the Complex. Outreach & information materials are updated with improved content following 2021 professional survey for American Bullfrogs on Denman.	Lands Manager to coordinate volunteer monitoring group (15-20 persons) yearly through email communication, data collection/record keeping and mapping, monitoring 12-15 waterbodies across Denman complex. Lands Manager updates American Bullfrog outreach & website material with improved information (eg. Identification techniques, lifecycle info etc.) following recommended actions from 2021 professional American Bullfrog survey.
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue habitat maintenance for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (TC) & other invertebrate pollinators by controlling ingrowing vegetation & increasing density of food & nectar plants for larvae & adult TCs and other species.	Ingrowing trees & shrubs (0-1m tall) are removed from Butterfly Reserve Transect immediate area, to retain sunny areas for native meadow species used as nectar & larval host plants for TC. Where possible removed trees/shrubs are relocated as part of small-scale native species restoration projects elsewhere in Complex.	Lands Manager coordinates 1 volunteer work bee each year (Y1-3) to remove ingrowing trees & shrubs in Butterfly transect area. Healthy and appropriate-sized trees/shrubs potted up for relocation to restoration areas by volunteers.

Ryder Creek

2-764

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: __2-764_____ *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Joanne Neilson				
Field Contact (optional):	Jon Blais				
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Executive Director				
Organization Name:	Fraser Valley Conservancy				
Address	PO Box 2026				
City:	Abbotsford	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V2T 3T8
Phone:	604-625-0066	Alternative Phone:			
Email:	joanne@fraservalleyconservancy.ca				
Website:	www.fraservalleyconservancy.ca				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.

We are requesting $30,679 in funding from HCTF.

Please note the summary table in the Part 2 spreadsheet stopped including any budget information after row 30. The following table is how the actual summary in Part 2 should read:

Total $	$30,679
Admin %	15%
Admin $	$4,602
3-year Total	$35,281

Additional Contributions Required	$25,710
Additional Contributions Confirmed	$15,510

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	November 21st, 1997
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-37626
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	879282762RR0001

Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.

The Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) has been working for over 24 years, to protect and enhance nature in the Fraser Valley for future generations. Our small team works collaboratively with all communities to protect and steward our shared land. We are the only locally based land trust in the Fraser Valley.

All our work is based on our guiding principles of:
Land We respectfully acknowledge we work on the territory of the Stó:lō peoples in the Fraser Valley. We value what the natural world provides – the air, the water, the fields, and the forests of the Fraser Valley.
Community We recognize the people who stewarded the land before us and continue to work alongside us to care for this valley. We value the beliefs and opinions in our community and the diversity of how we all connect with nature.
Integrity We incorporate sound science, local ecological knowledge, and the experiences of those who live and work on the land into our work. This is done in a respectful, collaborative, and permitted approach.
Collaboration We strive to build partnerships with all organizations interested in the protection or stewardship of the Fraser Valley.
Responsibility We believe every member of our community has a shared responsibility to steward the land.
Future We ensure our properties are protected in perpetuity. We undertake our programs with commitment to their long-term success.

Currently, we own five conservation properties and hold a conservation covenant on a sixth property. All these properties protect habitat for species at risk and/or important aquatic features. They are managed to protect and enhance the habitat. We undertake monitoring of the sites, and some require pro-active protection from human caused impacts. Since 2014, we have used the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices to inform how we protect and manage our properties.

We also run multiple programs that encourage everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge or of land ownership, to undertake stewardship actions and nature-based solutions to climate change. Please see our website for full details on the wide range of programs we offer.

We have a team of six full-time and one part-time staff members. They are supported by two main contractors and several other conservation experts as needed. We also have over 400 registered volunteers who support the implementation of our programs on an as needed basis and a nine-member volunteer Board of Directors.

Our annual budget for 2022 is $644,000. The majority of our funding is in the form of grants from Environment and Climate Change Canada, BC Gaming, and foundations (such as HCTF). In addition, we are supported by revenue from our social enterprise work and private donations.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Ryder Creek	
Other names used (if applicable):		
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	005-033-586	
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	49.082305, -121.882906	
Property size (Ha):	0.525 Ha	
Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☐
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	Since 2011	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*		
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	No ☒
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.		
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☐	No ☒

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

Our "Ryder Creek" property is in the Chilliwack River Valley within Electoral Area E of the Fraser Valley Region District. This area is in the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone and contains valuable aquatic and terrestrial habitat features used by at-risk species, as well as other forms of wildlife.

One of these key habitat features is Ryder Creek. Ryder Creek starts in Ryder Lake and drains through the upland community also referred to as "Ryder Lake" (within the City of Chilliwack). It flows south for approximately 2 km, through rural farmland and down the steep Chilliwack River Valley escarpment. Near the valley bottom it runs alongside the Chilliwack Fish and Game Club property

where it is joined by Wingfield Creek from the east. The combined water then flows east through some rural residential properties on either side of our property, before flowing south again for approximately 0.5km and entering the Chilliwack River.

The Chilliwack River watershed, including the lower reaches of Ryder Creek, is important spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids. Coho, chum, and pink salmon spawn in these streams. Their fry overwinter in pools and off channel areas. Rainbow trout and steelhead are also found in these streams.

Anthropogenic activities in the area such as historic logging, water diversion, land development and agriculture have contributed to a decline in these species, with coho salmon being especially impacted (Neufeld & Wykpis, 2011). Habitat improvement projects can demonstrate to local residents the importance of preserving these species and counteracting the negative impacts the watershed has faced.

Apart from the aquatic features, the property also contains a mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. This terrestrial habitat provides many opportunities for plants and wildlife. At-risk species including Oregon Forestsnail (*Allogona townsendiana*), Western Screech-owl (*Megascops kennicottii),* Northern Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*), Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), and Phantom Orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniae*) have all been observed within 2 km of the property (BC Conservation Data Centre and FVC staff observations). The habitat present indicates that some of these species may also be present on the site.

Separated by only Auchenway Road, the habitat on the property connects to Chilliwack River Provincial Park. This connection makes the Ryder Creek property part of a wider corridor for wildlife movement between the park, and the forested areas to the north. Game trails that are likely used by large mammals can be seen when visiting the property, confirming its importance as a habitat corridor for wildlife.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

The Ryder Creek property is protected in perpetuity through our fee-simple ownership of it as a land trust. We acquired it in 2011 after a landslide occurred upslope of the property in 2009. The slide affected the northwestern side of the property and blocked Ryder Creek at the toe of the slope, this flooded the property and required the residents to evacuate. After a geotechnical assessment, the property was deemed to be no longer habitable and acquired by the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD).

In 2011 the FVRD transferred ownership of the property to the FVC. At the time of acquisition some work was done to remove anthropogenic debris, clean up the creek, add beneficial landscape features, along with some revegetation efforts. Since then, little work has been done that would further benefit the property's conservation values and invasive species have invaded the property.

One of the challenges in undertaking the work required to preserve this property as valuable habitat is that a management plan has yet to be created. A management plan would help guide our activities here and enable us to prioritize those works. We have management plans in place for our other properties and find them invaluable tools when guiding our stewardship of the sites.

Our current vision for the property is to have its habitat restored, enhanced, and managed to its full potential. We can fulfil this vision through the goals listed below.

1. **Understand the current conditions.** Gather baseline data through surveying, mapping, and consulting experts. The objectives needed achieve this goal include:
    a. Identify the aquatic and terrestrial habitat present and associated species
    b. Assess the landscape
    c. Document the existing conditions of the soil and water
    d. Document historic land use
    e. Create baseline document that will inform the management plan and habitat enhancement on the property
2. **Guide property management both short and long term.** Use the baseline data gathered to inform a robust management plan to guide our stewardship of the property. Our objective in meeting this goal is to:
    a. Create a FVC board approved management plan
3. **Improve habitat.** Based on the management plan recommendations, initiate on the ground efforts on the property. These objectives will likely include:
    a. Reduce invasive plant species and increase of the presence of native vegetation
    b. Collect species and or habitat information to inform future management of the site
    c. Undertake habitat enhancement or restoration activities on the property

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

Several habitat types exist on the property including in-stream, riparian, and forest habitat. Each of these have their own conservation values that are at risk of being lost/degraded should we not be granted HCTF funding.

It is critical we develop a management plan for the Ryder Lake property so we can start pro-active stewardship of this important site. This funding will enable us to develop this plan to mitigate further habitat degradation and improve upon the existing habitat in both instream and riparian areas of the property. Degradation of this environment could negatively impact already declining fish species as they lose quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Invasive plant species pose one of the main threats that we are currently are aware of. Their ability to form monocultures lowers the existing biodiversity of the site. In the water this means a decrease in the variety of twigs and leaves that fall in, providing cover for fish, as well as feeding lower trophic level species. On the land, a loss of biodiversity can negatively impact wildlife by reducing the variety of food and usable habitat available. Without intervention, there is also the risk that they will spread to nearby properties and downstream.

Since much of this proposal includes us gaining a better understanding of the property, without funding there is the risk that it will not be brought up to its full potential as habitat. Some important conservation values may be overlooked and therefore not improved or allowed to degrade.

This is where a better understanding of the site and an informed management plan, as we are proposing for the funding, is essential. These activities become especially important as development within the Chilliwack River Valley and surrounding area continues.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Ryder Creek Habitat Restoration Project 48513 Auchenway Road 2010-2012 – Dave Lamson - 2010

Ryder Creek Ecological Restoration Plan Chilliwack, BC - Paul Neufeld and Petra Wykpis – August 8, 2011

Annotated Baseline Documentation Report Template – Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia – March 2021

Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices – Canadian Land Trust Alliance - 2019

Best Management Practices for Himalayan Blackberry in the Metro Vancouver Region - Metro Vancouver and the Invasive species Council – August 2021

Best Management Practices for Knotweed Species in the Metro Vancouver Region - Metro Vancouver and the Invasive species Council – July 2018

Best Management Practices for English and Irish Ivies in the Metro Vancouver Region - Metro Vancouver and the Invasive species Council – August 2021

Best Management Practices for Yellow Archangel in the Metro Vancouver Region - Metro Vancouver and the Invasive species Council – August 2021

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

We will incorporate feedback from staff at the Fraser Valley Regional District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as well as local neighbours as we develop our management plan.

As part of a separate project (funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada) FVC staff are working with FVRD staff on other properties in the area impacted by similar slides over the years. It is a goal of that project to have unstable and unhabitable lands in the area converted to connected conservation lands. Undertaking a management plan for the Ryder Creek property will compliment this broader-scale project.

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

We have not had any communication with the indigenous communities in the Chilliwack River Valley regarding our vision for this property yet. One of the objectives proposed for this project includes consulting with First Nation's regarding the history and significance of the area from their perspective.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

When we move on to the stewardship implementation phase of the project, we will reach out to community to engage volunteers to support the work.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

The property is fenced and not open to the public as it is considered a hazardous area due to the risk of future slides. Access to the site is under FVC supervision to minimize the risk.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.

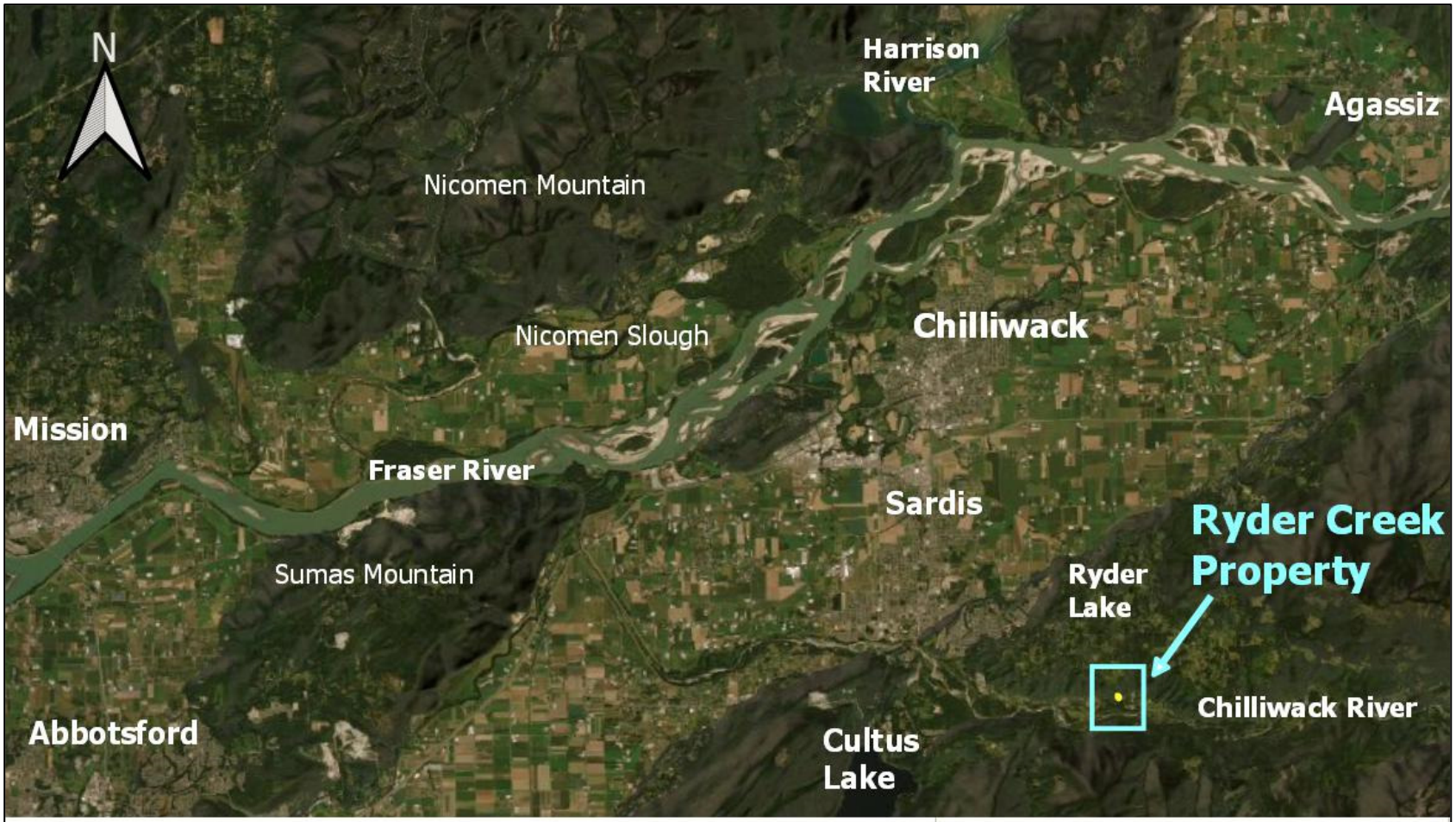
N/A

Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.

Yes, we charge a 15 % administration fee to cover our overhead expenses (office space, insurance, accounting, etc.) to run this project.

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.



Location of Ryder Lake Property in the Fraser Valley

Legend

Ryder Creek Property

0 2.5 5 km

Jon Blais, ATAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
October 19, 2022

FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Local Level Map of Ryder Creek Property and Surrounding Area

Legend

- Creek
- Ryder Creek Property
- Contour Lines

0 50 100 m

Jon Blais, ATAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
September 16, 2022

FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Ryder Creek Property Map

10 20 m

Legend

- Ryder Creek
- Property Line
- Contour Lines

Jon Blais, ATAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
October 19, 2022

FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Ryder Creek	Understand current conditions	Identify the aquatic and terrestrial habitat present and the species that may use them	Expert recommendations incorporated into baseline data collection and informs both the baseline report and management plan	Fish expert advising (species habitat, water quality monitoring methods, survey recommendations). Fish surveys if recommended. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.
				FVC Staff: Baseline vegetation surveys and mapping of invasive species. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and field equipment supplied by FVC.
				Expert advising on terrestrial wildlife suitability. Survey recommendations and implementation. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.
	Understand current conditions	Assess the landscape	The creation of a map or maps containing notable structures, hydrological features and property boundaries	FVC Staff: Visual inspection and mapping of notable structures throughout the property (Anthropogenic and natural)
				FVC Staff: Visual inspection with ground-based searches for altered hydrology. Mapping of all hydrologic features observed.
				FVC Staff: Confirm and map property boundaries.
Budget Summary - HCTF Funding	Understand current conditions	Document the existing conditions of the soil and water	Baseline data collected and organized for use in a baseline report and informs the management plan	Geotechnical expert advising (to understand site stability and asses risk). In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.
				FVC Staff: Water quality sampling
				FVC Staff: Soil sampling
	Understand current conditions	Document historic land use	Information collected and organized and reported in the baseline report and informs the management plan	FVC Staff: Investigation of historic land use/land use of surrounding area
				FVC Staff: Consult with a First Nation group regarding historic significance of the area
	Understand current conditions	Create baseline document that will inform the management plan and habitat enhancement on the property	Baseline report created	FVC Staff: Compile the data collected and create baseline document. Additional contribution is FVC staff RPBio supervision and review for baseline data collection and analysis
	Guide property management both short and long term	Create a plan that will be used to manage the property and make informed decisions both in the short and long term	Management plan created	FVC Staff: Interpret baseline findings and draft a management plan for the site. Additional contribution includes matching funds for FVC staff time.
				FVC Staff: Review plan for property with FVC board of directors and solicit input. Additional contribution is in-kind support from the FVC Board members.
				FVC Staff: Finalize and publish the plan.
	Improve habitat	Reduce invasive plant species and increase of the presence of native vegetation	Approximately 1500 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Manual invasive species control focused on the areas of highest importance based on the management plan created. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and
				FVC Staff: Plant native species where invasives were controlled. Additional contribution is planting tools provided by FVC and 10 person days of estimated volunteer support.
	Improve habitat	Collect species and or habitat information to inform future management of the site	Monitoring report(s) created	FVC Staff: Implement monitoring efforts outlined in the management plan.
	Improve habitat	Undertake habitat enhancement or restoration activities on the property	Approximately 100 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Undertake habitat restoration/enhancement activities as outlined in the management plan. For example may include off channel habitat creation or wetland enhancement.
				***Please note budget amounts for this goal seciton is not reflected in the summary section in the top left. It appears that the summary total stops calaculating after row 30.

Total:	$ 27,939.00
Admin Fee %	15%
Admin Fee $	$ 4,190.85
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 32,129.85
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 17,850.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 12,150.00

Horsefly River

5-347

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: ____5-347____ *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Barb Pryce				
Field Contact (optional):	Sarah Bayliff				
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Program Director – Southern Interior				
Organization Name:	Nature Conservancy of Canada				
Address	800 – 825 Broughton Street				
City:	Victoria	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V8W 1E5
Phone:	250-880-7416	Alternative Phone:			
Email:	barbara.pryce@natureconservancy.ca / sarah.bayliff@natureconservancy.ca				
Website:	www.natureconservancy.ca				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.
$49,020.00

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	1962
BC Society No. (if applicable):	n/a
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	11924 6544 RR0001
Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.	

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is the country's unifying force for nature. We seek solutions to the twin crises of rapid biodiversity loss and climate change through large-scale, permanent land conservation.

As a trusted partner, we work with people, communities, businesses, and government to protect and care for our most important natural areas and the plants and animals they sustain. We often work where others cannot, removing roadblocks to conservation and supporting transformational projects for the sake of nature and people.

Since 1962, our evidence-based planning framework has helped us bring Canadians together to conserve and restore more than 15 million hectares, coast-to-coast-to-coast. NCC is a registered charity. Today NCC employs over 350 staff and 1,300 annual volunteers across the country.

We envision a world in which Canadians conserve nature in all its diversity and safeguard the lands and waters that sustain life. The Nature Conservancy of Canada leads and inspires others to join us in creating a legacy for future generations by conserving important natural areas and biological diversity across all regions of Canada.

NCC's first project in British Columbia was the acquisition of Mud Bay in 1974 — a vibrant intertidal property in Vancouver's Boundary Bay. Since then, we have helped to protect over 825,000 hectares of the province's most biologically diverse lands and waters. Today the BC Region continues to work with our partners to protect and steward British Columbia's natural heritage.

Audited financial statements for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (June 1 – May 31) are attached. 2021-2022 statements will be available soon.

Through our partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, NCC has worked to manage invasive vegetation on Toad Hollow and Turtle Valley Farm, enhance riparian habitat at Morrissey Meadows, restore the ecologically and culturally significant Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve, protect sensitive vegetation communities at the Dutch Creek Hoodoos Conservation Area, and complete several conservation actions throughout the Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area	
Other names used (if applicable):		
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	015-038-343, 015-038-351, 015-239-438, 015-279-723, 015-279-731, 015-285-847, 015-285-855, 026-998-157	
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	52.287, -121.164	
Property size (Ha):	388.88	
Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☐
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	Since 2015.	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*		
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☒	No ☐

If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.	Black Creek Ranch (cattle grazing and herding license) Woodjam Ranch (haying license) *only a portion of the property is leased, (see Figure 4)	
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☐	No ☒

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

The Horsefly River Riparian Conservation area encompasses almost 12 kilometres of the Horsefly River shoreline and associated riparian habitat, along with landscapes of broadleaf forest and tame pasture, totaling an area of 388.9 hectares (960.9 acres).

The Horsefly River represents some of the most valuable salmon and trout spawning and rearing habitat in the province of British Columbia. The Horsefly River is used by Sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) Salmon as well as a distinct strain of Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The watershed is also important habitat for Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*), which are listed as a species of special concern both provincially and nationally. This broad riparian valley bottom (up to 800 m in places) is also home to a wide range of songbirds, waterfowl, and wading birds, and provides exceptional Moose (*Alces alces*) winter habitat. Observations of species of special concern at the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area include Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), American Bittern (*Botaurus* lentiginosus), Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus)*, Tundra Swan *(Cygnus columbianus),* Fisher *(Pekania pennanti*), and Nothern Myotis *(Myotis keenii).*

The Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area is characterized by the Sub-Boreal Spruce Dry Warm (SBSdw1) biogeoclimatic zone, which is relatively dryer and warmer than other areas of the Cariboo region, has lower levels of winter precipitation, and contains some of the most diverse Sub-Boreal Spruce forest in the region. The property is located approximately 20 km east of the community of Horsefly. The property is neighboured by multiple ranching operations and Crown land grazing tenures.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

NCC's vision is for the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area to support and sustain both valuable riparian habitat and diverse upland area. In turn, this will protect some of the most valuable salmon and trout spawning and rearing habitat of BC, support an assemblage of songbirds, and provide refuge for wildlife. NCC wishes to ensure that the natural resources on the conservation area are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations and to ensure that the public is informed about the corridor and engaged in its protection and enhancement.

One of the threats listed in NCC's management plan for the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area is incompatible livestock use resulting from livestock farming and ranching. This could include trespass of cattle and uncontrolled grazing practices. In B.C., livestock may roam freely on Crown land when authorized by the Range Act. Owners of land adjacent to Crown land with range tenures are responsible for the construction and maintenance of fencing between properties. Due to the conservation area being neighboured by multiple range tenures cattle, trespass through absent or damaged fencing has resulted in degradation of riparian habitat.

NCC holds agreements with local ranching operations which allow for a small area of land to be utilized for haying and grazing purposes, 34.1 and 29.2 hectares, respectively (see Figure 4). The lease area is composed of tame pasture that is dominated by the invasive grass, Reed Canary Grass *(Phalaris arundinacea).* Haying and grazing have been employed as methods of managing the invasive grass, with the goal of increasing native plant diversity. The grazing lease area had previously been fenced to contain cattle within the grazing pasture, restricting cattle access into native habitat, restoration project areas, and riparian habitat. Over time, the fencing has deteriorated and is no longer successful at containing cattle, increasing the possibility of cattle entering the areas NCC is trying to protect.

Addressing the threat of incompatible livestock use is one of NCC's management objectives for the conservation area. NCC plans to repair and replace fencing along the perimeter of the conservation area to prevent cattle trespass from neighbouring ranching properties and range tenures. This will help to control unwanted grazing throughout the conservation area. NCC also plans to install and repair riparian fencing around areas which are leased for cattle grazing purposes. This will prevent cattle from entering sensitive riparian habitat, and previous restoration project areas. Restricting cattle access into the riparian area will help limit sedimentation into the Horsefly River. Over time, the exclusion of livestock will help promote new vegetation growth, contributing to the enhancement of riparian habitat and providing habitat to a variety of waterfowl, songbirds, and wildlife.

Maintaining the fences throughout the property will be an ongoing priority. NCC staff will work to monitor the conservation area for areas of livestock trespass. Degraded or damaged fence lines will require repair or replacement over time to ensure management goals continue to be met. Riparian health assessments and monitoring of Reed Canary Grass vegetation cover will be performed to monitor progress of the conservation goals for the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.

With funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, NCC will achieve the following goals:

- Enhance the condition of shoreline and riparian habitat of the Horsefly River
- Control livestock trespass on the property

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.
Incompatible livestock use is listed as one of the threats in NCC's Property Management Plan for the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area. Cattle trespass and uncontrolled grazing can both be defined as incompatible livestock uses for the property. If perimeter fences are not maintained around the property, cattle will continue to trespass and access the conservation area from neighbouring range tenures. Without intact perimeter fences, cattle access will occur on areas where grazing is not intended nor compatible, risking soil compaction, increased bare ground, loss of vegetation, and damage to riparian habitat. NCC manages its grazing lease areas to exclude cattle from restoration project areas and riparian habitat. If these fences are not maintained, the risk of cattle access into these areas is increased. Without the installation and repair of riparian fencing, restoration work will be regressed, and riparian habitat will become degraded, lowering riparian functionality and ecological integrity. This is of particular concern given that the Horsefly River provides spawning and rearing habitat for Sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) Salmon as well as Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). While NCC has budgeted for consistent maintenance, the large-scale repairs and replacements and high cost of fencing is outside of NCC's operational budget. Without this work, the threat, and ecological effects, of incompatible livestock use on the property will be significantly increased. Completing this project will help further conservation on the property, protecting the investment that the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation made when contributing towards the acquisition of the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.
Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area Property Management Plan (2017) Black Creek Ranch Agricultural Licence (2020) Woodjam Ranch Agricultural Licence (2021) Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area Monitoring Report (2017, 2018) Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area Management Summary (2016) Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area Baseline Inventory (2016) Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area Restoration (2000)

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

This project will receive funding from NCC contributions to support costs of labour and materials.

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

The Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area is located on the traditional territory of the Northern Secwēpemc te Qelmūcw. Through communication by NCC and DFO, the need for fencing improvements to prevent cattle trespass has been shared with individuals of the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, which is a Northern Secwēpemc te Qelmūcw organization. As NCC achieves its conservation goals and completes fencing improvements, progress updates will be shared with the North Shuswap Tribal Council.

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).

Due to the property's proximity with salmon spawning habitat, there is a lot of collaboration with DFO to help conserve the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area. DFO provides routine monitoring updates of fencing throughout the property, informing NCC of areas requiring repair. Local community members who frequent the conservation area are also helpful by informing NCC of cattle trespass or fence failures.

Local ranchers have been helpful by completing minor repairs to fences throughout the property. Unfortunately, the need for fencing outweighs their capacity for repairs. Ranchers have helped to provide information on areas of high priority fencing which will be most important to replace to prevent unwanted cattle access. These ranchers also are willing to contribute towards conservation, supporting the installation of fencing to exclude cattle from riparian habitat. Without this information and willingness, these projects would not be possible.

NCC and DFO are collaborating to host a field tour of the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area. This tour will involve visiting different areas of the property where restoration projects have occurred, and areas where enhancements and improvements are needed. Local community members, neighbouring ranchers, members of the Northen Shuswap Tribal Council, and ministry representatives have all been invited to attend this field tour.

Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?

The property is accessible to the general public for low-impact, day-use only purposes such as nature appreciation, wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting, and fishing. The conservation area restricts the use of recreational motorized vehicles throughout the property.

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.
There are no capital expenditures requested for this project.
Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.
No. Administrative costs are covered, in part, by NCC's daily staff rate, in addition to other funding sources.

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.

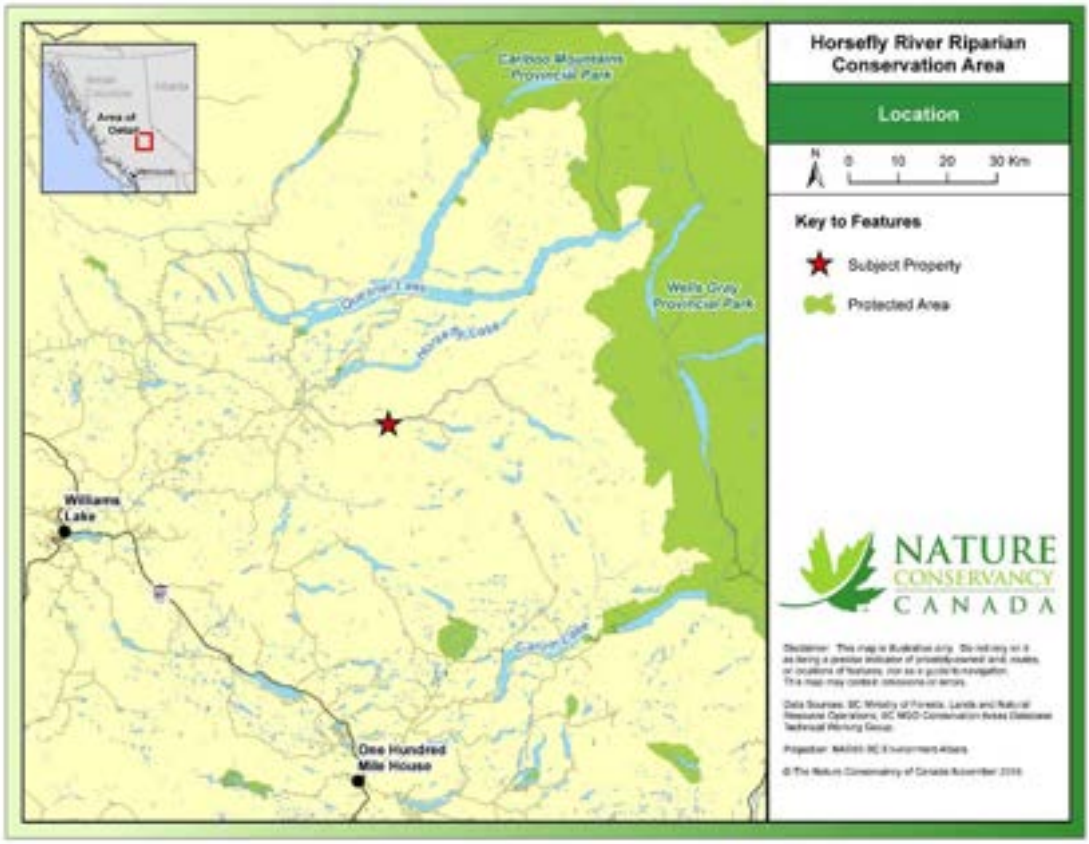


Figure 1: Location of the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area	Enhance the condition of shoreline and riparian habitat of the Horsefly River	Improve the condition of riparian vegetation and reduce sedimentaion by limiting cattle access along the Horsefly River	Grazing pasture fencelines along riparian areas are replaced and repaired as needed to restrict cattle access to restoration project areas and riparian habitat along the Horsefly River.	Develop a plan to prioritize fencing and strategize fenceline placement along riparian habitat.
				Repair and construct approximately 2 km of wildlife friendly riparian fencing along the Horsefly River.
				Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle in restoration project areas and riparian habitat. Complete riparian health assessments to assess progress of conservation goal.
	Control livestock tresspass on property	Prevent cattle access from neighbouring properties and range tenures and associated grazing and trailing on property	Property perimeter fences are replaced and repaired as needed to prevent cattle at large from entering the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.	Develop a plan to determine priority for property perimeter fencelines
				Repair and replace approximately 850 m of wildlife friendly fencing along property perimeters.
				Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle trespass. Monitor cover of Reed Canary Grass to assess progress of conservation goal.

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 49,020.00
Admin Fee %	
Admin Fee $	$ -
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 49,020.00

TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 45,000.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 45,000.00

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

8-500

Land Stewardship Grant Application Form Part 1 of 2

Funding Cycle: 2023-2026

HCTF Project File #: __8-500_____ *(HCTF to complete)*

Please submit a separate Application Form for each property/complex for which you are applying under this program. Please review the Program Guidelines and Eligible Activities List in full before filling out this form. If you have further questions, please contact Barb von Sacken at HCTF at bvonsacken@hctf.ca or 250-940-301.

1. PROPONENT (APPLICANT) INFORMATION

Project Leader:	Barbara Craven				
Field Contact (optional):	Jason Minaker				
Role of Project Leader in Organization:	Program Manager				
Organization Name:	BC Small Wetlands Association				
Address	1978 Pleasant Valley Road				
City:	Armstrong	Province:	BC	Postal Code:	V0E 1B2
Phone:	250-546-5021	Alternative Phone:	250-517-0335		
Email:	bacraven@telus.net				
Website:	http://smallwetlands.com				

2. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM HCTF

What is the total amount of funding requested from HCTF? Ensure that this number matches the total request in Part 2: Budget and Activity Detail.
$25,000

3. ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Date of incorporation:	January 2011
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S0057747
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	802617316RR0001
Briefly describe your organization including history, vision, mission, approximate annual budget, funding sources, and number of staff and volunteers involved. Describe your experience with conservation land management. Maximum 500 words.	

Established in 2011 by a group of community spirited professionals from diverse backgrounds, the BC Small Wetlands Association (BCSWA) is a multicultural conservation organization. Our mission is to promote social cohesion and the sharing of traditional knowledge and create opportunities for active public involvement in conservation work. BCSWA has an annual budget of $80K to $150K depending on the programs in progress. We have 2 permanent and 4 part time employees and 25 to 60 volunteers between spring and fall each year. We offer cultural ecological outreach programs for indigenous and non-indigenous youth at risk that are accessible and inclusive of marginalized groups and people with varying abilities in collaboration with the Secwepemc communities and the Thompson Okanagan school district. Our goal is to provide community programs that encourage environmental learning, as we believe ecological literacy needs to begin close to home, encouraging learners, especially youth, to understand how conserving wetlands can help mitigate the impact of climate change. We believe that visitors to the park who become aware of the value of wetlands and the natural areas that provide wildlife habitat may be motivated to make some positive contributions to their conservation.

Funding partners have included Environment & Climate Change Canada Eco-Action; HCTF Public Conservation Assistance Fund; OKWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant; Real Estate Foundation of BC; Telus Community Foundation and the Township of Spallumcheen. Tree Canada funded the creation of an edible trees forest garden in the park. With an initial grant from Natural Resources Canada Two Billion Trees fund, BCSWA is working to help plant 7000 native trees in Shuswap and North Okanagan by 2030, collaborating with the Thompson Okanagan School District, Splatsin Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land), Shuswap Lake Bands, Columbia Shuswap Regional District and R.J. Haney Heritage Park.

From 2011 to 2018, the BC Small Wetlands Association worked with the Switzmalph Cultural Society, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Secwepemc Fisheries Commission on wetland restoration projects, streambank remediation and the creation of habitat structures in the Shuswap Lake, Salmon River Delta. As owners and stewards of Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park in Spallumcheen since 2017, the BC Small Wetlands Association is responsible for the maintenance and development of two acres of wetland ponds and over 700 native trees and shrubs that provide habitat for wildlife.

4. CONSERVATION PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property/Project Name:	Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park
Other names used (if applicable):	
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	013-521-373
Geographic Coordinates (Lat, Long):	50.43168867015832, -119.20420337459711
Property size (Ha):	1.27

Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?	Yes ☒	No ☐
If yes, how long has your organization owned this property?	5 years	
If no, provide the name the NGO who has fee simple ownership of the property.*		
Is the property leased to any other party?**	Yes ☐	No ☒
If yes, provide the name of the leaseholder.		
Have you previously received any HCTF funding for the property or activities on the property?	Yes ☒ (PCAF)	No ☐

*If the property is owned by another NGO, you **must** include a letter from the NGO property owner stating that they support the application and providing permission to access the property and conduct the work.

**If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application.

5. HABITAT DESCRIPTION/VALUES

Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property. Max 500 words.

In 2017, the BC Small Wetlands Association (BCSWA) created Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park, a two-acre grassroots living showcase of Secwepemc culture, natural infrastructure and biodiversity conservation on a hobby farm in the Spallumcheen Valley. Situated midway between the Okanagan-Similkameen and Shuswap watersheds in a mainly agricultural area, the Spallumcheen Valley was originally wetlands and cedar/cottonwood forest that was cleared and logged in the late 1800s then ditched to improve drainage on the soil. BCSWA is restoring a small area of wetland and forest through the development of wetland ponds and by planting native trees and shrubs that are culturally important to the Secwepemc people of the valley. We work to promote the important role small wetlands play in climate change resilience and to highlight the vulnerability and insecurity of small BC wetlands under one hectare, both in rural areas and close to municipalities, that are not surveyed and therefore not protected. We research the culture, land use, the climate and the health of ecosystems historically, not only for the indigenous community but also as a valuable history/biology lesson for the students of the Elementary, High and Middle schools within walking distance of the park. We offer a cultural ecological outreach to indigenous and non-indigenous youth who are our wetland ambassadors, advocating for the protection of small wetlands and participating in hands on stewardship of the wetland ponds, plants, birds, animals, amphibians, and insects. Youth help to plant native grasses, trees and shrubs and learn how to propagate some of the culturally important native plants and seeds that no longer grow in the area. The many species of wildlife in the park include the red-winged blackbird, blue heron, red-tailed hawk, stoat, osprey, white-tailed deer, racoon, bees, blue dasher dragonfly, western toad, spade foot toad (at risk/endangered species), frogs, garter snakes, newts and salamanders. The park features an edible forest garden with fruit

trees, berry bushes, herbs and vegetables. The harvest, shared with the community as well as deer and other wildlife, includes fruit, nuts, edible leaves, medicinal plant products, mulch, seeds and propagation materials.

6. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Describe your vision for the property and list your management goals, which should be included as Goals in Part 2 of the application.

Our vision is to provide the community with a grassroots living showcase of Secwepemc culture, natural infrastructure and biodiversity conservation to encourage environmental learning and create opportunities for active public involvement in conservation work.
Our goals are:

- To continue the development and stewardship of the 2 acres of wetland ponds and forested areas through planting, replanting, recording inventories and updating the Resource Management and Stewardship 3 year plan.
- To engage the local community to participate in the management of the land conservation through open houses and events posted at an information kiosk at the park entrance, through invasive species removal workshops, and through a new pocket forest initiative. Community members help to create natural mini forests in a short period of time, primarily with the aim of restoring native flora and fauna as well as sequestering carbon.

Provide a brief statement on the risks to the property's conservation values if you do not receive HCTF funding to complete the work described in Part 2.

HCTF funding will enable BCSWA to increase the capacity to manage resources and volunteers, add conservation value to the park and reach out to the communities we serve. If we do not receive funding, we lose the ability to build capacity and this will have a slight but not significant negative impact on the property's current conservation values.

7. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park Resource Management Plan, 2019-2022.

8. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List any anticipated project partners and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Splats'in and Neskonlith Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers, advisors

Dr. Nancy Turner, Ethnobotanist, Emeritus Professor at University of Victoria, advisor

BC Community Gaming. $16,000

North Okanagan Community Foundation $10,000

HCTF-funded projects often take place on the territories of Indigenous communities or involve partnerships with Indigenous communities. Please describe any communication you have had with Indigenous communities about your proposal and include a summary of contacts and any feedback you received.

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park borders on the Splats'in reserve, the most southern tribe of the Interior Salish Shuswap (Secwepemc) Nation. The park is dedicated to the late Dr. Mary Thomas, a beloved Secwepemc Elder whose traditional knowledge of plants, trees and shrubs features on interpretive signs throughout the park. Mary's knowledge is shared with us through her daughter, Bonnie Thomas, and through Dr. Nancy Turner, University of Victoria Ethnobotanist. We collaborate closely with Nancy on Secwepemc culture and she donated her co-authored Paper "Secwepemc People and Plants" to BCSWA for reference. In Oct 2021, Splats'in Chief Wayne Christian joined local Middle School students to plant a grove of 215 in the park trees to honour the missing children of Kamloops Industrial Residential School. At the ceremony that followed, attended by Secwepemc Elders, local dignitaries and students, Chief Christian blessed the land and spoke about the importance of protecting the trees and wildlife. After the event he wrote:

"To all involved in this event thank you, truly reconciliation in action…. thank you and especially Barb for opening up your safe space to make this happen. Kukpi7 Christian". Subsequently Chief Christian sent an email to all the Chiefs: "Kukwstsmac Barb, I have included the Kukukpi7 (Chiefs) in this reply. Kukukpi7 there is an opportunity to work with Barb and her team in assisting in planting trees and getting the children involved similar to what took place with Len Wood Middle School in Armstrong. I will leave it with your communities to connect with Barb Craven. Wenecwtsin – Kukpi7 Christian Splatsin Tribal Chief Secwepemc Nation"

Kukpi7 Oliver Arnouse <oarnouse@lslib.com>;
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson <judywilson@neskonlithband.com>;
Lynne Kenoras Duck Chief <lduckchief@alib.ca>;
Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir (rosanne.casimir@kib.ca) <rosanne.casimir@kib.ca>;
Kukpi7 <kukpi7@bonaparte.band>;
Darrell Draney <ddraney@skeetchestn.ca>;
Kukpi7 Shelly Loring (councilShelly.loring@simpcw.com) <councilShelly.loring@simpcw.com>;
Chief Michael LeBourdais <chief@wpcib.com>

Describe local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property (200 words max).
Individuals and groups offer to help with planting trees and shrubs in the spring and fall. Groups include students from the local school district, members of local non-profit organizations, home school organizations, citizen scientists, pre-schoolers and a climate change action group. We are going to construct an information kiosk in the park listing maintenance tasks for the convenience of volunteers.
Is the property accessible to the general public? If there are property access restrictions, what are they, and what is their purpose?
Our park is open year round during daylight hours and there are no property access restrictions. In June 2022, we hosted the BC Wildlife Federation Wetland keepers Workshops which was free to the general public upon registration. Park facilities include a viewing platform, large covered pavilion, washroom and parking. We can accommodate gatherings of up to 100 people. In a Letter of Support from the Township of Spallumcheen, Mayor Christine Fraser wrote: "The Township is proud to have such an amazing park and wetland within our jurisdiction. The value of teaching and preserving the Secwépemc culture is without measure".

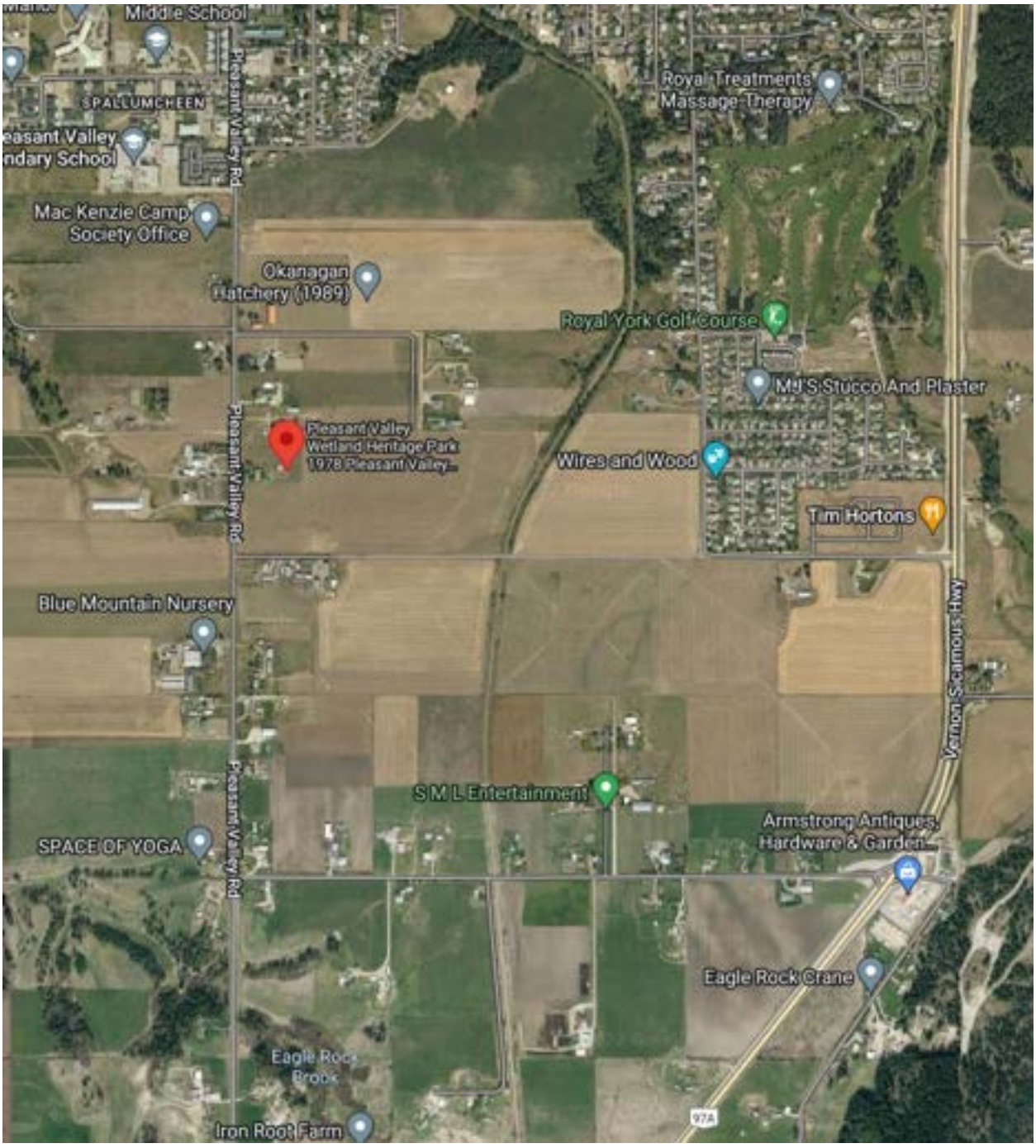
9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Are any materials and supplies requested considered capital expenditures (e.g. individual items over $1000 each)? If so, please provide additional rationale for the purchase.
No
Do you charge an administration fee? If yes, what is the percentage? If no, describe how you will cover administrative expenses.
No

10. PROPERTY MAP

Insert or attach one or more map(s) of the property or complex. The map should include property boundaries, and any significant features on the property.

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park. Note: The Google Map image below predates the Park by 10 years. Wetland pond locations and boundary have been added for reference.


Middle School
SPALLUMCHEEN
easant Valley
ndary School
Pleasant Valley Rd
Mac Kenzie Camp
Society Office
Okanagan
Hatchery (1989)
Royal Treatments
Massage Therapy
Royal York Golf Course
MJ S Stucco And Plaster
Pleasant Valley
Wetland Heritage Park
1978 Pleasant Valley...
Wires and Wood
Tim Hortons
Blue Mountain Nursery
Vernon Seymour Hwy
S M L Entertainment
SPACE OF YOGA
Armstrong Antiques,
Hardware & Garden...
Eagle Rock Crane
Eagle Rock
Brook
Iron Root Farm
97A

Land Stewardship Grant - Application Form Part 2 of 2: Budget and Activity Detail

Please read the Program Guidelines, including the "Notes to Application Form Part 2 (spreadsheet)" and the "Sample Part 2" before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities
Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Riparian planting and replacing trees and shrubs affected by drought and animal grazing.	250 willow whips planted, 75 trees replaced, 400 x 2 gallon new trees and shrubs planted, 5 new culturally important plants introduced	Research drought tolerant replacement trees and shrubs "Ministry of FLNR "Tree Book". In April contract Sagebrush Native Nursery to grow additiuonal trees and shrubs to be delivered for planting in Sept.
				Create additional interpretive signage for new species in the park with input from Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers
				Source culturally important plants that no longer grow in the area: Secwepemc People & Plants, University of Victoria. Dr. Nancy Turner et al 2016, plant each fall, cut willow whips when dormant
	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update management and stewardship plan for next three years using current data on plant and animal communities to inform management priorities	2023-2026 Park Resource Management and Stewardship plan completed and published	Inventories completed by staff and contractors
				Results incorporated into new management plan and priorities/activites updated accordingly
	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update inventory of trees and monitor carbon sequestration by trees, shrubs, plants and grasses, on a worksheet that calculates carbon storage by species, age and size.	Master spreadsheet updated 50 students participate in annual inventory, carbon storage increases by 1.05 tonnes year over year	Liaise with school board to arrange student group attendance days
				Provide tools for tree measurement and data recording events
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Youth learn about densely planted pocket forests and help with planting	Two pocket forests created	Staff and forestry expert select tree and shrub mix in March 2023,2024,202
				Arrange planting events, April- May 2023 and 2024 and contact youth organizations to sign up participants
				Contract Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers and forestry experts to speak to youth
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Community members participate in invasive species removal	Removal of 75% of Canada thistle, burdock and Scentless Camomile	Staff and expert consultant conduct baseline inventories, research best management practices (BMPs), consult local Invasive Species Council, and prepare Invasive Species Management Plan
				Provide tools and equipment to host annual invasive species removal days
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Provide Information kiosk to keep community organizations and visitors to the park up to date on volunteer opportunities.	Information kiosk constructed at entrance to the park	Construct information kiosk
				Create task list to be updated weekly and posted on Board. Post information on Events
				Maintain volunteer data base and updated task list
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Invite local landowners, Secwepemc Elders and local dignitaries to annual Open House and forest garden harvest	5 landowners express an interest in creating wetland areas on their land	Carry out maintenance and repairs as necessary on observation platform, pavilion and benches. Create post and chain fences to prevent access to sensitive wetland areas
				Schedule for Sept 30th each year, organize pop up tents and extra seating, arrange honorariums for Elders

Budget Summary - HCTF Funding

Total:	$ 22,000.00
Admin Fee %	
Admin Fee $	$ -
3 Yr Total incl Admin Fee:	$ 22,000.00

TOTAL of Additional Contributions Required	$ 26,000.00
TOTAL of Additional Contributions Confirmed	$ 26,000.00