



# CVRD UPDATE

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT



**Latest News: CVRD Water Systems At Stage 3 Water Restrictions**



**Staff Report to Board: 3-year Transit expansion plan approved**



**Economic Development Cowichan Strategic Plan**

## Island Rail Corridor

CVRD working with ICF, First Nations and the Province on a shared vision for the future!



Join the CVRD on Sept. 14 for an Open House event at Charles Hoey Park in Duncan and learn more about this exciting project.

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## CVRD Water Restrictions

In step with the Province's move to Drought level 4, Stage 3 water restrictions are now in effect.

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## Careers at CVRD!

Come work with us! Check out our featured job opportunities in the Cowichan area.

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## CVRD Board and Committee Highlights

The following meeting highlights do not include all meeting items; meeting agenda packages and minutes are available on the [CVRD.ca](https://cvrld.ca) website.

### Upcoming CVRD Meetings:

Regular Board: September 11, 2024

Committee of Whole: September 11, 2024

Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC): September 4, 2024

For COTW, EASC & Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes, visit: <https://cvrld.primegov.com/public/portal>

Watch the Meetings

### 3-Year Transit Expansion Plan 2025/26-2027/28 (Approved)

The CVRD Board approved a proposed three-year transit expansion plan. This plan includes deferred expansions from previous years due to lack of provincial funding, along with new proposals for improved service in conventional, custom, and interregional categories.

For 2025/26, the plan reintroduces previously delayed expansions for Routes 7x, 6, and 5, adds new priorities, and proposes 4,750 service hours, including a new Sunday service for the Cowichan/Victoria Express.

The plan for 2026/27 and 2027/28 includes new core routes in Duncan/North Cowichan, additional hours for interregional services, and potential expansions for custom transit, with the CVRD initially committing funding for just the first year while future expansions depend on securing additional funding.

### Emergency Warming Centre (EWC) Spatial Siting Analysis

Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC) presented on work done to find a more permanent solution for siting an emergency warming centre in the core of the Cowichan region.

The CVRD hired consultants to analyze potential sites for Emergency Warming Centre (EWC) in Duncan and North Cowichan, considering best practices and the needs of vulnerable populations. With this analysis complete, the Emergency Management team will identify potential locations, including vacant land or temporary structures, for the 2025 Emergency Warming Centre.

Noted was the importance to have the centre within walking distance of other services, including spaces where the unhoused population may be able to find other spaces to stay warm during daytime hours.

Financial considerations were raised by Directors, including the \$170,000 cost for operating the centre during the 2023/2024 winter season.

### South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment Project (Update)

The CVRD is conducting a South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment to understand challenges in Mill Bay/Malahat, Shawnigan Lake, and Cobble Hill. A consultant's report outlines the assessment's goals: reviewing current planning and governance, gathering resident feedback, collaborating with community groups, and consulting with First Nations. To date, three community forum events have been held within each of the Electoral Areas to receive direct input from residents pertaining to current issues and concerns around governance and service delivery.

## Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) Strategic Plan (Update)

Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) is developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide its activities over the next 5 years. The plan will assess the economic outlook for the region, identify opportunities to further develop traditional and emerging economic sectors, review constraints to development, and identify priorities and define actions that can be undertaken by EDC and others to build a stronger, more resilient regional economy.

The project is divided into three phases: research, engagement, and strategy development. The research phase, completed in March 2024, involved a comprehensive analysis of economic data and trends for the region. The engagement phase, launched in April 2024, includes surveys, interviews, focus groups, and meetings with key partners, including First Nations. The final strategy development phase will commence in Fall 2024.

Learn more, visit [EDC's website](#) for the July update or the their project page at: [planyourcowichan.ca](http://planyourcowichan.ca)



## Period poverty project (update)

The Cowichan Women's Health Collective presented a report on period poverty to the CVRD Board in May 2024. They requested that free menstrual products be available in all public facilities. The CVRD Board approved a motion in June to research the costs of providing free menstrual products in all public facilities.

A subsequent report on the potential costs was presented to the Board on July 24, 2024. It was moved and seconded that the regional recreation commissions incorporate supplemental funding for the Period Poverty Project in the nine core recreation facilities, and the library and community halls and all bathrooms.

## CVRD MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

### Calendar

Find local events, Board & Committee meetings, online and in-person CVRD information meetings. Sign up to get notified and subscribe to the calendar.

## Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) Updates

### Development Services Division Report: Application No. RZ24A01 (1755 Mill Bay Road/PID: 000-446-670)

EASC recommends to the Board that staff work with the applicant to provide additional information within 60 business days of the Board resolution, prior to advancing Application No. RZ24A01 (1755 Mill Bay Road, PID: 000-446-670) for proposed intensive mixed-use development, to external agencies and First Nations.

Included are:

- An assessment with an accompanying restoration plan for the portions of land within Riparian Assessment Areas
- Confirmation that the proposed site plan is consistent with the Riparian Area Protection Regulation (RAPR) and Water Sustainability Act (WSA)
- A landscape plan prepared by a Landscape Architect (BCLSA), complete with a cost estimate. This is to include all hard and soft landscaping and must be coordinated with a qualified environmental professional (to include measures to remove invasive species, and retain existing vegetation)

For full details review: [meeting minutes](#)

### Utilities Division Report: Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Adaptation in Action Funding Grant Application

EASC recommends to the Board that an application for grant funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Adaptation in Action funding stream for the Dogwood Water System interconnect with the City of Duncan water system in the amount up to \$500,000 be submitted, and that (subject to grant approval) cost overruns, ineligible expenses and CVRD contribution be funded by long-term borrowing.

## EASC: Community Funding Recommendations



- **Cowichan Lake Secondary School:**

Recommended to the Board that a Grant-in-Aid, Electoral Area F – Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls, in the amount of \$1,500 be provided to the Lake Cowichan Secondary School to provide Bursaries to graduating students that reside in Electoral Area F – Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls to support their future education or training.

- **Caycuse Volunteer Fire Department:**

Recommended to the Board that a Grant-in-Aid, Electoral Area F – Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls, in the amount of \$10,000 be provided to the Caycuse Volunteer Fire Department to support the provision of S.A.R, First Responder, Medical Assist and Fire Protection for West Cowichan Lake.

## The Island Rail Corridor - Public Open House!

### Public Open House - September 14, 2024

Duncan Rail Station

Charles Hoey Park, Duncan, B.C. - 10 am - 2 pm

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is excited to announce the upcoming open house and online survey that are being held to gather community input towards the development of a shared vision for the Island Rail Corridor in the CVRD.

The open house will include an opportunity to learn about the corridor's past, present and future considerations, to see recent video footage of the Island Corridor (produced by the CVRD and BONE Creative Inc.), and share your ideas.

For more information, visit: [planyourcowichan.ca/island-corridor](https://planyourcowichan.ca/island-corridor)

**ISLAND CORRIDOR**  
PLAN YOUR COWICHAN  
CVRD

**Island Rail Corridor**  
*Towards a Shared Vision*

➤ **Drop by the Open House**  
Sept. 14, 10am - 2pm  
Charles Hoey Park, Duncan

➤ **Take the Online Survey**  
Sept. 14 - Oct. 5

Learn more!  
[PLANYOURCOWICHAN.CA](https://planyourcowichan.ca)

## Important Notices!

- **Cowichan Valley Trail: Waters Road Bridge Replacement**

Construction is currently expected to begin August 10 to late September 2024.

The link between Waters Road and Hawthorne Road Trailhead will be restricted/ impassable due to bridge construction.

- **Coastal Fire Centre: Fire Restriction Updates for Vancouver Island: Effective August 28, 2024**

Updated: August 28, 2024 Coastal Fire Centre Notice

- **Shawnigan Village Waterworks Proposal:**

AAP submission deadline for customers and eligible electors is Sept. 23, 2024 by 4:30 pm



NEWS RELEASE

Photo: courtesy of CVRD Parks & Trails

# Invasive Scotch Broom removed from Memory Island

CVRD Parks & Trails volunteers along with BC Parks staff, and student BC Park Rangers, worked together this June to clear Memory Island Provincial Park of invasive Scotch broom.

“It is rare in the world of invasive species removal to have a clear win like this one, so this project feels like a real success,” said CVRD Parks Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Aitken.

Katy Fulton, Cowichan Area Supervisor with BC Parks added, “Collaborating with community to enhance habitat for dozens

of species unique to this area is worth celebrating. Thanks to the strong team for coming out.”

Monitoring and removal of emerging Scotch broom plants will need to continue into the future as the seed bank lasts for many years. However, for now the native flora on the island has room to grow.

## LATEST NEWS

### CVRD Water Use Restrictions move to STAGE 3

July 19, 2024, all CVRD water systems operated by the Cowichan Valley Regional District are at Stage 3 water use restrictions in accordance with the Province moving East Vancouver Island to Drought Level 4.

As of August, 29, 2024, Drought conditions continue at Level 4.

Thank you for conserving water in your community.

[Water Use Restrictions](#)  
[BC Drought Map](#)



## Help Us Keep Wildlife Wild and Neighbourhoods Safe

Keep Wildlife Wild and Neighbourhoods Safe



CVRD FACEBOOK

Support Wildsafe BC - Use CVRD Recycling Centres

Hey Cowichan,

Dumping trash in the woods familiarizes wildlife with our garbage and leads to animals becoming habituated to residential neighbourhoods. Remember, a Fed Bear is a Dead Bear!

Bring your garbage and recycling to a CVRD Recycling Centre. Many materials that are illegally dumped can often be recycled free of charge.

For CVRD Recycling Centre locations and hours of operation, please visit: <https://www.cvrld.ca/.../Recycling-Centre-Locations-Hours...>

For more information on how to manage attractants and to report wildlife sightings, visit: <https://wildsafebc.com/>

# CAREERS at CVRD

## Featured Job Opportunity: Local FireSmart Representative

Now accepting applications for the temporary full-time Local FireSmart Representative position with Emergency Management Cowichan within the Strategic Services Department. This temporary grant-funded position is expected to run until September 2026.

Reporting to the Manager - Emergency Operations & Planning and supervised by the FireSmart Coordinator, the Local FireSmart Representative will assist in the implementation and maintenance of the Cowichan FireSmart program.

**APPLY**

## CVRD Bids & Tenders

Looking for a Cowichan Valley Regional District bid posting? Visit [CVRD bids webpage](#).

If you are a consultant, service provider, contractor, vendor, or supplier, this is a convenient place for you to find out about current bidding and contract opportunities.

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

CVRD Procurement

### CVRD Current Contracting Opportunities available:

- RFP# 24-26 Boardroom Audio / Visual System and Web Streaming Upgrade
- RFP# 24-27 CVRD Website Redevelopment



The CVRD offices located at 175 Ingram St. in Duncan will be closed Monday, Sept. 30, 2024 in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024.

CVRD Recycling Facilities are closed on all Statutory holidays. For more information please visit: [cvrld.ca](http://cvrld.ca)

*The CVRD would like to recognize that we are on the unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-satx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Pauquachin, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Nations, whose people have walked gently here for thousands of years.*



**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

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| Email: [Communications@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:Communications@cvrd.bc.ca)

**Work with us at the CVRD! Visit: [Careers at cvrd.ca](http://Careers at cvrd.ca)**

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