



# the partnership for water sustainability in bc

Town of Comox precedents are working examples of what “reconnecting hydrology and ecology” looks like in practice

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## BACKGROUND for JOINT NEWS RELEASE WITH TOWN

September 23, 2019

People learn from stories. The **Watershed Case Profile Series** is unique. Published by the Partnership for Water Sustainability, the series showcases and celebrates success stories and long-term ‘good work’ in the local government setting in BC. Our spotlight is on champions in communities which are breaking new ground and establishing replicable precedents for a **whole system approach**.

The 8<sup>th</sup> in the series recognizes the passion, commitment and perseverance over many years on the part of Town of Comox local government staff and volunteers in the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society to improve where they live. Working together, they are making a difference. The “Comox story” is indeed a blueprint for what the phrase **hard work of hope** means in practice. *Comox truly is a beacon of hope.*

For the past decade, elected representatives and staff in the Town of Comox have quietly and without much fanfare been on a journey. With the aid of hindsight, their experience shows what the phrase ‘*hard work of hope*’ means in practice, and what it involves to **lead by example**.

Whether or not Council and/or staff consciously always thought about it, the Town’s journey related to land development practices, ecological services and stream restoration has been guided by the Living Water Smart vision. The Town’s journey is ongoing, and involves building blocks.

The outcome? The neighbourhood concept plan for middle Brooklyn Creek would enhance the **Package of Ecological Services** in the Anderton Corridor, while protecting those same values in lower Brooklyn Creek. The package of ecological services concept refers to the combined range of uses desired by the community, in particular drainage, recreation and habitat.

The **Draft Anderton Corridor Neighbourhood Concept Plan** is precedent-setting because it demonstrates how application of the Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) approach helps managers change practices and adopt new strategies regarding the protection and enhancement of ecological systems in the stream corridor and riparian zone, and throughout the entire creekshed.

By taking action to reconnect hydrology and ecology, Comox is moving along a pathway that ultimately leads to a **water-resilient future** where flood and drought risks would be reduced, and ecological services would be sustained.

**VISIT WATERBUCKET.CA** to read this article about the presentation by the Partnership’s Kim Stephens to Comox Council on September 11, 2019: <https://waterbucket.ca/viw/2019/09/17/reconnecting-hydrology-and-ecology-the-partnership-for-water-sustainability-in-b-c-has-identified-the-town-of-comox-as-a-beacon-of-hope-because-of-precedents-it-has-established/>