

What Is GreenStreams?

The S'amunu/Somenos watershed was once known as "the **greatest salmon nursery** on Southern Vancouver Island". Today, ongoing pollution and the spread of invasive plants severely limit fish migration and spawning, depriving the ecosystem and local community of the abundance of fish which S'amunu could provide. The GreenStreams mission is to **restore the S'amunu waterways to health** and to **reconnect the wildlife riparian corridors from mountaintops to the sea**.

How We Work

GreenStreams **collaborates with community volunteers, local organizations, and stream-side residents** through our **Community Stewardship Program (CSP)**. CSP **volunteers** help us manage invasive plants, add to riparian planting, restore in-stream areas, and monitor water quality throughout the S'amunu/Somenos Stream Corridors and Somenos Lake. GreenStreams recognizes that landowners who live along these waterways are valuable partners in caring for these streams for future generations. We collaborate with **stream-side residents** by helping them to evaluate their properties, understand how their activities affect the watershed, and providing solutions that work for them. By exchanging knowledge and collaboratively solving problems. GreenStreams **empowers volunteers and residents** to become stewards of the watershed, preserving the waterways and the plants and animals that depend on them.

What Is A Riparian Area?

The lands which border streams, rivers, and lakes are some of the **most unique and biodiverse ecosystems** on Earth. These important spaces are called "riparian areas," and they provide a number of valuable ecological services. Healthy riparian areas benefit everyone. By restoring and protecting the riparian areas around S'amunu/Somenos our community can enjoy cleaner water, healthier fish, reduced flooding damage and soil erosion, better surface water retention, and greater biodiversity.

The S'amunu/Somenos Watershed

The S'amunu Watershed is an important sub-watershed in the Cowichan region primarily due to its **historical place as a major salmon migration route**. Three major streams originating from Swu'qus (Mt. Prevost) and Mt. Richards meet at Somenos Lake, and then continue via Somenos Creek and the Cowichan River to the Cowichan Estuary.

Bings/Menzies Creek, Averill Creek, and Richards Creek are **spawning grounds and summer homes** for Coho & Chum Salmon and BC Blue-listed Coastal Cutthroat Trout. The riparian areas alongside these streams are also **wild highways** for many large mammals, including the rare Roosevelt Elk, bears, cougars, and even wolves. **Countless other bird, amphibian, aquatic, and insect species** use these stream corridors as routes for food and other needs. The watershed also has significant cultural values for the local First Peoples as well as numerous recreation trails for all manners of usage.

Over the last century and a half, land use practices have **degraded the streams' water quality**, causing the seasonal eutrophication of Somenos Lake and persistent blue-green algae blooms in summer. Invasive plants have also taken a toll on the watershed's health; an aquatic invasive plant called Parrot's Feather now covers almost 75% of Somenos Creek's 3km length. By removing invasive plants, preventing pollution, and supporting riparian areas, GreenStreams will resolve these problems and **restore the watershed to health**.

How You Can Help

- Join as a member
- Donate money, services, or materials
- Volunteer

Learn more at somenosmarsh.com



S'amunu/Somenos Watershed GreenStreams Project



RESTORE RECONNECT PROTECT



55 Station Street, Duncan, BC, V9L 1M2
info@somenosmarsh.com | 250-732-0462
somenosmarsh.com

Improving Water Quality
Monitoring and reporting water quality in Somenos Lake and its watershed streams

Acknowledging Cultural Corridors and Places
In partnership with Cowichan Tribes

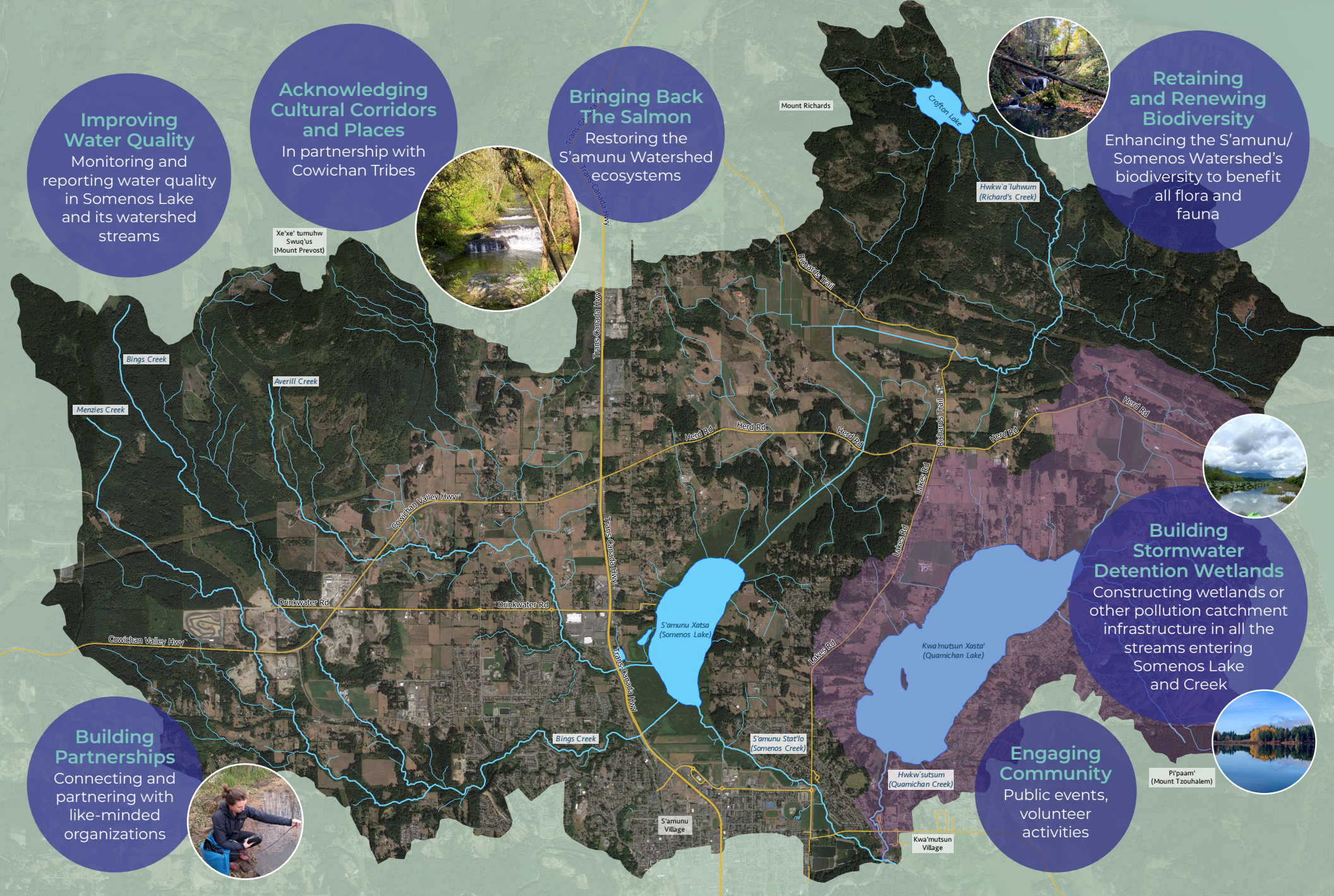
Bringing Back The Salmon
Restoring the S'amunu Watershed ecosystems

Retaining and Renewing Biodiversity
Enhancing the S'amunu/ Somenos Watershed's biodiversity to benefit all flora and fauna

Building Partnerships
Connecting and partnering with like-minded organizations

Engaging Community
Public events, volunteer activities

Building Stormwater Detention Wetlands
Constructing wetlands or other pollution catchment infrastructure in all the streams entering Somenos Lake and Creek



S'amunu | Somenos Watershed

Total Somenos Watershed Area: 71 km 2

- Stat-lo (Stream)
- Shelh (Road)
- Xatsa' (Lake)
- Somenos Watershed Boundary
- Quamichan Lake Watershed

