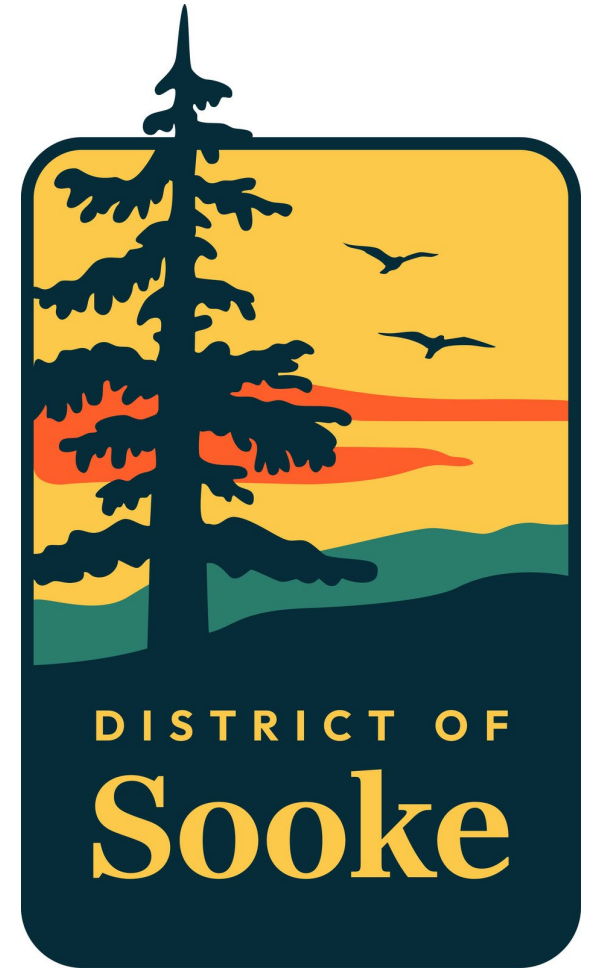


DISTRICT OF SOOKE

Streamkeepers Program Framework

2026 to 2029

*Thriving waterways, abundant salmon,
community-led stewardship.*



Program overview



VISION

Thriving waterways, abundant salmon, community-led stewardship.

The Streamkeepers Program is a community-driven initiative to monitor, assess, protect and restore local waterways and salmon habitat in the District of Sooke.

Initial implementation focuses within municipal boundaries while supporting regional knowledge sharing and a broader understanding of watershed health.

Estimated salmon returns have declined substantially from historical levels. Annual returns vary by species, environmental conditions and counting method.

Four-year program approach – 3 phases

1

2026 to 2027

Establish and monitor

A consistent monitoring and reporting system

2

2027 to 2028

Assess and restore

At least one restoration project initiated or implemented, subject to approvals and resources

3

2028 to 2029

Sustain and transition

A community-led stewardship model supported by strong partnerships

Establish and monitor

1

Build the foundation for a coordinated, community-supported monitoring program.

2026 to 2027

- Deliver Streamkeepers training and establish volunteer coordination
- Define monitoring scope, cycle, roles and responsibilities
- Launch a consistent monitoring and public reporting system
- Begin data collection within District boundaries
- Initiate regional knowledge-sharing connections

Outcome

A seamless, community-supported monitoring and reporting system is in place.

Assess and restore

2

Use monitoring data to identify restoration priorities and guide action.

2027 to 2028

- Analyze monitoring data to identify priority assessment and restoration opportunities
- Align findings with broader watershed context and regional knowledge
- Plan and implement assessment and restoration work
- Continue volunteer engagement and capacity building

Outcome

At least one restoration project is initiated or implemented, subject to funding, land access, professional advice, regulatory approvals and Council-approved budgets.

Sustain and transition

3

Establish long-term sustainability and community leadership.

2028 to 2029

Outcome

A sustainable, community-led stewardship model is supported by strong partnerships.

- Evaluate and refine the program approach
- Strengthen volunteer leadership and stewardship capacity
- Formalize the governance and partnership model
- Transition toward community-led coordination with partner support
- Maintain regional collaboration and data sharing
- Develop a long-term plan for watershed health
- Explore a multi-stakeholder watershed group

Roles and partnerships

District of Sooke

Initiates and coordinates the program, aligns it with municipal priorities and remains a core partner as community leadership grows.

Local Nations

Invited to identify whether and how they wish to participate, including Nation-led stewardship priorities, knowledge and monitoring practices.

Qualified program partner

May provide training, technical guidance, subject matter expertise and mentorship, subject to agreement and available resources.

Community organizations and volunteers

Carry out on-the-ground monitoring, assessment and restoration as the backbone of a locally led stewardship network.

Success indicators

- Strong and sustained volunteer participation
- Reliable, consistent monitoring data
- Priority assessments completed and restoration projects advanced as resources and approvals allow
- Effective regional collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Transition to community-led coordination
- Gradual improvement in river and stream ecological integrity over time

The framework moves deliberately from municipal coordination toward a sustainable, community-led model.