CONSERVATION ACQUISITION BRIEF FOR THE BURDE STREET PONDS

The Burde Street Ponds and Trails represent a unique opportunity to purchase and protect a connected wetland and wildlife landscape within Port Alberni city limits at the exact time provincial and federal conservation programs are prioritizing wetlands, habitat connectivity, species at risk and community access. The Burde Street Ponds Properties are beloved by City Residents and represent a living ecological treasure which must be protected for generations to come.






Photo Credits: Top Left: Painted Turtle, Dave Jarrett, 2025; Top Right: Beaver, Ceilidh Haddock, 2025; Bottom Left Upper Burde Pond, Jennifer Haddock, 2026; Northern Red-legged Frog, Gerald Cuccio, 2026

Report Prepared in September 2026 by:

Jennifer Haddock - Director for Friends of Burde Street Ponds Non-Profit Society

Amended November 5, 2026 by:

Jennifer Haddock (Director), Penny Hall (Treasurer), Daryl Henderson (Vice President),

Sandy McRuer (President) and Ceilidh Haddock (Volunteer)

Land Acknowledgements

The Friends of Burde Street Ponds acknowledge that the Burde Ponds and adjacent properties are located within traditional and unceded territories of the Hupačasath and Tseshaht First Nations.



Photo Credit: Lower Burde Pond, Ceilidh Haddock, October 2026

Disclaimer and Limitations

This conservation brief has been prepared as a desktop review to provide a preliminary assessment of the potential conservation values of the subject property, 3333 Burde Street, in Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada. The assessment is based on publicly available information, existing mapping, spatial data, published sources, and other information available at the time of preparation.

No site visit, field surveys, biological inventories, or on-the-ground verification have been conducted as part of this assessment, unless otherwise specifically stated. Consequently, the presence, absence, extent, and condition of ecological features, habitats, species, or other conservation values have not been independently verified.

While reasonable care has been taken in compiling and interpreting the available information, no guarantee is made as to its completeness or accuracy. The author(s) accept(s) no responsibility for decisions or actions taken solely based on this preliminary desktop assessment.

I. DESCRIPTION OF SITE OPPORTUNITY AND REALTY INFORMATION

A once in a generation chance is here to protect the Burde Beaver Ponds!

The Burde Beaver Ponds are currently up for a Court-ordered sale, creating a rare and time-sensitive opportunity to permanently acquire and protect these ecologically rich lands from the imminent threat of development. The Friends of Burde Street Ponds Society (FoBSPS) is a Port Alberni Non-Profit Society launching a Fundraising Conservation Campaign with exactly this purpose in mind. FoBSPS is also a Federated Member of BC Nature.

Some specific information about the land parcels and the realty listing is given below.

- Location of Lands: 3333 Burde St. Port Alberni BC
- Lot Information: Lot A- PID 003-264-840

  Lot E- PID 024-356-743

  Lot G- PID 024-356-760
- Current Asking Price: ~~$7,950,000.00~~ $6,950,000
- Realty Listing: MLS Number 1039601

Figure 1: Map of 3333 Burde St. - https://www.cushmanwakefield.com/en/canada/properties/for-sale/land/bc/port-alberni/3333-burde-street/3333-burde-street-s

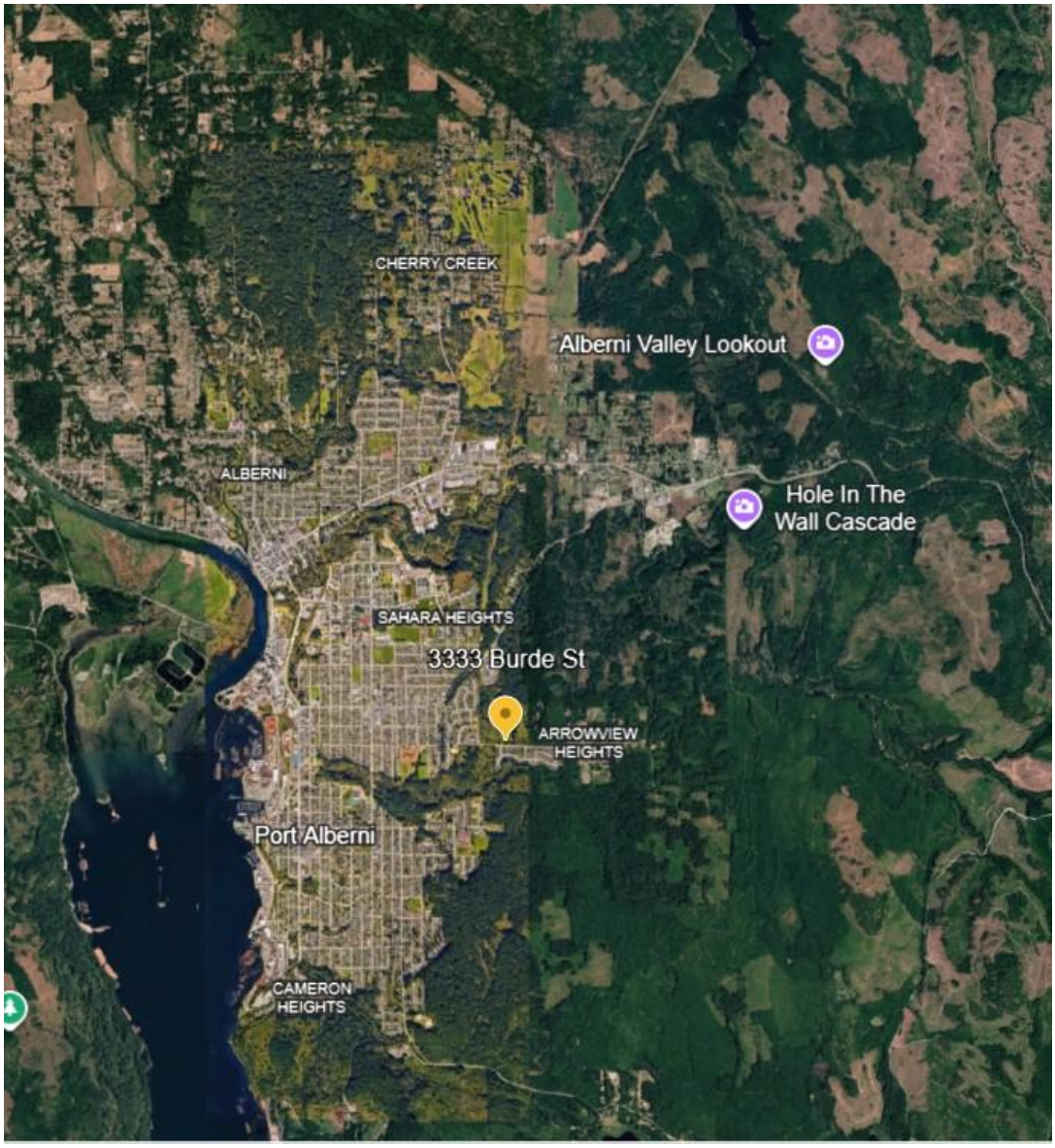


II. ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF SITE

The Burde Ponds wetlands, forest and riparian areas are currently located on private land. These wetlands are an ecological gem, in real danger of development and should be protected, in perpetuity.

The two main waterbodies/ponds in question are located within the City of Port Alberni and are locally known as the “Beaver Ponds or Redford Ponds” . Figure 2 below shows a screenshot of the overall area surrounding the property of interest.

Figure 2: Screenshot from Google Earth showing the Burde Beaver Ponds and surrounding area. Roger Creek flows directly through the Hole in Wall and makes its way down to the Somass Estuary. Note the two adjacent Riparian Corridors - Directly to North of the ponds is Roger Creek and Directly to South is Owatchet Creek (also known as Dry Creek), both of which flow into the Somass Estuary/Alberni Inlet. Also note the greenspace to North, East, and South of the ponds, allowing for less restricted movement of wildlife throughout the area in this portion of the City of Port Alberni.



The strongest site-specific evidence of ecological diversity comes from community observations and naturalist records. Sources include city records and information in the official community plan, local birding records, nature clubs, photographers, etc. These sources document a rich tapestry of incredible biodiversity on-site. Examples of local wildlife residents include an urban colony of beavers, a wide variety of forest birds and waterfowl, amphibians and reptiles, rich aquatic and terrestrial insect life, and at least two species at risk - the Western Painted Turtle and Northern Red-Legged Frog.

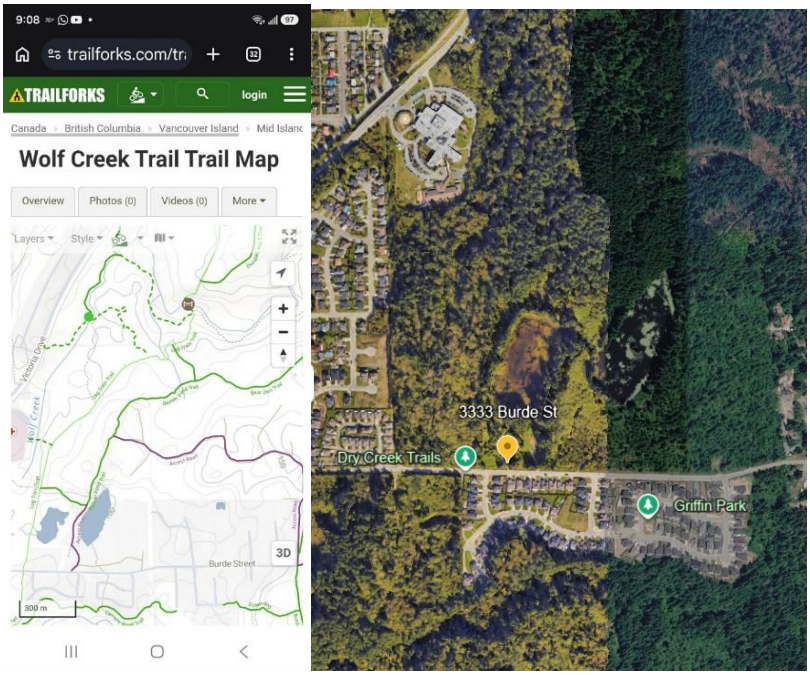
Due to the extensive trails network and exciting biodiversity to enjoy, the Burde Beaver Ponds are highly valued by city residents and visitors. Many residents are daily/frequent users of the Log Train trail system. These trail systems form an integral part of our community for health and wellness. Nature clubs, research, and school groups enjoy the opportunity to record and enjoy birds and wildlife, all within easy reach.

In 2021, San Group proposed a large residential development in this area, which ended up not going forward, and by 2024 the application was abandoned. Fast forward to the present (September 2026): the land is up for a court ordered sale, with the renewed possibility of a developer being the successful bidder.

III. WETLAND HABITAT AND HYDROLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

The Log Train Trail bisects the western portion of properties, leading to a trail network which includes trail access to both ponds and throughout the Roger and Owatchet Creek networks to North and South of Burde Street. The area forms an important ecological corridor through the city. Outflow from the two main ponds feeds through adjacent wetland/riparian areas to form the headwaters of Wolf Creek, which eventually empties into Roger Creek, which in turn drains into the Somass River Estuary/Alberni Inlet. There are a variety of maps available online, depicting the area of interest, but the Trailforks map shows how this wetland system drains under the Log Train Trail bridge towards Wolf Creek and eventually connects to Roger Creek- Wolf Creek Trail/Log Train Trail. A screenshot from Google Earth is also provided in Figure 3 below. A close-up of the ponds from Google Earth is also provided for reference, not necessarily to same scale.

Figure 3: Map of Log Train Trail near Upper Burde St and Burde Beaver Ponds Wolf Creek Trail/Log Train Trail and closeup of the ponds, Google Earth Screenshot September 7, 2026.



Wetlands offer biodiversity hotspots, which help to ensure species survival and are critical habitat and breeding grounds for birds, amphibians/reptiles, various species of fish and terrestrial life. The Burde

Beaver Ponds are rich with life, including the human residents spotted enjoying them daily. Citizen science data are available on eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2245087 and iNaturalist: https://www.inaturalist.org/places/burde-beaver-ponds

Acting as a natural sponge, wetlands absorb vast amounts of snowmelt and rainwater, slowly releasing this water during dry spells. In this way, wetlands offer a free and sustainable alternative to what could constitute a multi-million-dollar headache in infrastructure engineering fixes. Beavers are often considered to be "Nature's Engineers," and in many cases have been successfully introduced to mitigate flooding and habitat issues. Some recent and inspiring stories nationally and internationally of the coexistence with or introduction of beavers into urban systems are given in the article links below:

Can beavers make our cities better? (2021)

Calgary urged to adopt better co-existence program with beavers after animals killed (2023)

Beavers building waterfront home in Montreal suburb is a good thing, town says (2025)

Leave it to the beavers: How the industrious mammals are helping to stop a London tube station from flooding (2026)

Another lesser-known benefit of wetlands is their ability to be natural firebreaks. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the incidences of wildfires both locally, provincially, and federally. Wetlands serve to slow down the intensity and velocity of severe wildfires as outlined in the article written by Waseem Ahmed in the Climate Institute website: Don't Drain the Swamp (March 2020).

Serving as local cooling zones, wetlands convert solar energy into plant growth and create moisture evaporation instead of heat, preserving water availability and offering a much-needed cooling effect during heatwaves. With the current predictions around climate change and rising overall temperatures, this is a very welcome effect! Port Alberni historically experienced temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius during the heat dome of 2021. Local and Provincial responses to climate change related impacts are outlined below:

Alberni Valley Coordinates Community Response to Address Heat Dome Dangers (BC Association of Community Response Networks, 2022)

Impacts of climate change-Climate emergencies and B.C. (Clean BC)

Acting as natural sponges, wetlands tend to trap heavy metals, capture sediment, and neutralize agricultural runoff, helping to preserve downstream drinking water and reducing toxic algae blooms, as outlined in the 2022 article by Ducks Unlimited: How healthy wetlands support biodiversity.

As you can see…Wetlands do heavy lifting for our community! Leave it to the beavers!



Photo Credit: Sandy McRuer

IV. FOREST AGE/HISTORY AND ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

Ecological connectivity and responsible management of natural areas and waterways throughout the city is an achievable goal. Burde Street Property contains important wetland, riparian and forested Areas. Protection of natural areas within the city limits is identified in the City of Port Alberni's newest Official Community Plan and is important for management goals of climate, flood, and invasive species.

The Burde Beaver Ponds are situated in a young forest due to logging impacts over the last one hundred years. The community Log Train Trail off Burde Street passes through the land currently for sale. Over the years, these ponds have also been locally known as the "Burde Ponds," "Beaver Ponds," "Redford Ponds" and other colloquial names. During the mid-1930s, the Alberni Valley experienced a major logging boom. The land around what is now the Burde Beaver Ponds was heavily logged (right to the ponds' edge) using rail-transport methods. In 1937, H.R. MacMillan purchased the local timber rights and constructed a 25-kilometer logging railroad that utilized the old Bainbridge Mill grade. This historic rail bed ran directly past the ponds and is now known as the Log Train Trail. By 1985 the ponds were nicely forested and surrounded by a very rural atmosphere. The 50-year-old forest extended, mostly uninterrupted, all the way up the Hump (Alberni Summit on Highway 4). In 2005, the owner of the property around the ponds decided to log it and sell it, leaving only a thin fringe of older trees around the ponds. (Local knowledge by Sandy McRuer and Discover Alberni Episode 19 - Log Train Trail).

The adjacent lands around the properties currently for sale at 3333 Burde Street, have been mostly developed through the years, other than to the east. The land use in the eastern edge of the city in this area shows a mix of private and Crown land, including limited housing development/historical properties and the Hupacasath First Nation Woodlot Licence W1902. The Log Train Trail runs in a northerly direction alongside the ponds, eventually connecting to Roger Creek trail system. In so doing, it forms an important wildlife/ecological corridor throughout the heart of the city.

Figure 4 below, which is a screenshot of Map 8 in the current City of Port Alberni OCP, highlights how habitat connectivity is essential to preserve in this location, especially if further development is approved east of the ponds. The area around the Burde Beaver Ponds from Map 8 in the OCP shows green shaded natural areas and brown shaded Riparian Areas (Setback 30 m). In the OCP, the city also states:

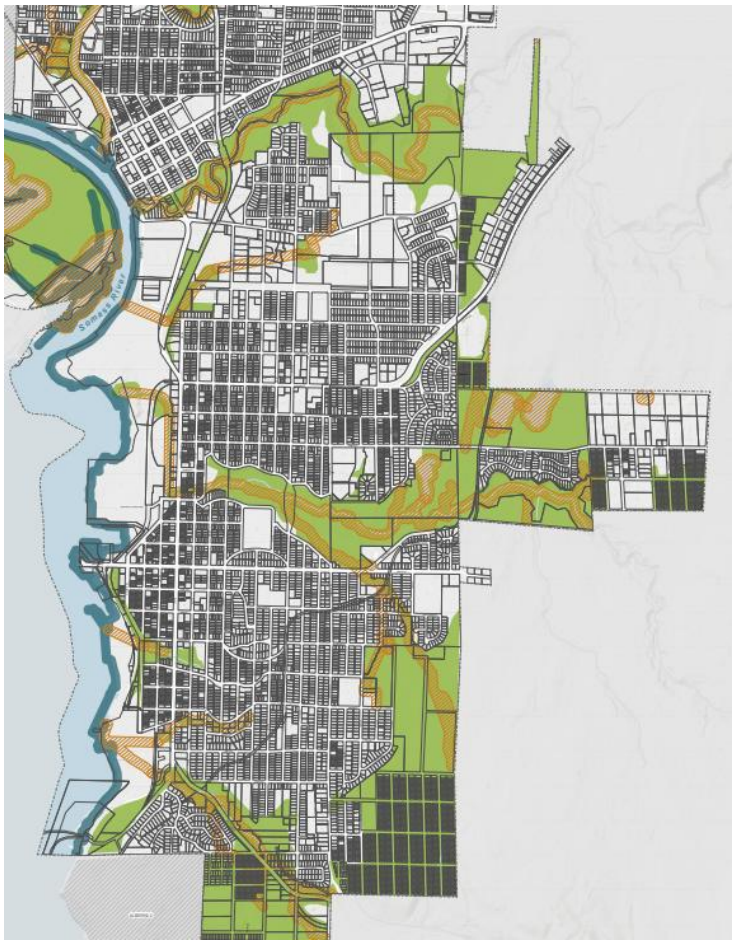
> *"3.3.1. OBJECTIVE Protect and improve Port Alberni's natural ecosystems to ensure our air, land and water are safe and clean for future generations.*
>
> *3.3.1.1. Partner with Indigenous communities, other levels of government, and community organizations to effectively monitor, communicate, and manage air, land, and water quality to protect human, wildlife, and ecosystem health.*
>
> *3.3.1.2. In accordance with the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, ravines, watercourses, and riparian areas will be preserved , and wherever possible, will be linked to other park spaces or natural areas to create a comprehensive network of green space. Trail opportunities within these areas may also be considered when not detrimental to the environment…*
>
> *3.3.1.6. In collaboration with the ACRD and neighbouring Indigenous communities, investigate and locate cross-jurisdictional ecosystem connectivity corridors to preserve and restore long-term connectivity between natural areas."*

(Page 21, Section 3.2.1 of the City of Port Alberni OCP, 2026)

Involvement in acquisition and protection of the three properties where the Burde Beaver Ponds are located is supportive of these stated goals for the city. However, many of these "Natural Areas," including the Burde Beaver Ponds property, are currently zoned for Future Development in the City of Port Alberni Official Community Plan (2026).

City "buy-in" for the protection of the Burde Beaver Ponds "Natural Area" is integral to the goal of leaving this natural legacy for our residents. We have had a verbal promise of interest and support.

Figure 4: A Screenshot of the Burde Beaver Ponds segment from Map 8 (page 21), as taken from the City of Port Alberni OCP 2026. (Reference: Map 8, City of Port Alberni OCP 2026). Green shaded areas are "Natural Areas," Brown shaded areas are "Riparian Areas" (Setback 30 m).



V. SPECIES AT RISK CONFIRMED PRESENCE ON SITE

Community observations and photographs, nature groups, city council meeting minutes, local newspapers and a variety of resources online confirm a historical and ongoing presence of two important vulnerable species at risk in the Burde Ponds and surrounding Riparian Area: Western Painted Turtle and Northern Red-Legged Frog.

Western Painted Turtle:

Development of the Burde Street Ponds will almost certainly present challenges for the sensitive Western Painted Turtle populations.

Western Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) have been sighted historically and currently in the Burde Beaver Ponds by local photographers and nature club members.

Figure 5: Photographs by citizens of Western Painted Turtle in Burde Ponds.



Photo Credits: Dave Jarret - 2026, Gerald Cuccio - 2026 and Sandy McRuer - 2020

Federal Legislation, specifically the Species at Risk Act (SARA), lists the status of the Pacific Coastal Population of the Western Painted Turtle as **Endangered**, meaning that they are at risk of extirpation (known as local extinction). The federally generated Western Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta bellii) Pacific Coast population: recovery strategy proposed 2018 states the following objectives and recommendations for habitat needed for species survival:

Goal: "To maintain, or to increase (where biologically and technically feasible), the number of individuals within extant population units and the distribution of extant population units within the species' range in coastal B.C… All efforts should be made to protect populations which are declining."

*Table 2: "Although most nesting and terrestrial movements occur within **150 m of aquatic habitat**, characteristics of **terrestrial habitat up to approximately 340 m from the water's edge can be integral** to the survival and population maintenance of most freshwater turtle species, including Western Painted Turtles. Where deemed appropriate and necessary for the species' survival and recovery, additional critical habitat should be identified within this additional area" (Table 2).*

*Section 3.1: It is also recognized that longer-range dispersal movements of Western Painted Turtle occur. The maximum reported **dispersal distance of Western Painted Turtles to neighbouring waterbodies is 3 km** (Bowne et al. 2006; House et al. 2010; see also section 7.2.1 in the provincial recovery plan).*

The Province of BC lists the Pacific Coast population of Western Painted Turtles as **Red-listed**, at risk of extinction. In 2016, BC published a Recovery Plan for the Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast Population (Chrysemys picta pop. 1) in British Columbia. Supportive strategies for these frogs are outlined below:

*"Survival and recovery habitat for the Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast Population includes a **Core Area of Activity that comprises all occupied aquatic habitat and 80 m of terrestrial habitat on either side of the waterbody or watercourse, and an additional Adjacent Terrestrial Area that incorporates 260 m of habitat beyond the 80-m terrestrial buffer. Both areas cover biophysical attributes and habitat within 3 km of an occurrence.** Management of these survival and recovery habitat areas should avoid and*

mitigate impacts to the biophysical attributes that support essential functions and features of the Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast Population in British Columbia."

Key human threats identified are the destruction and fragmentation of aquatic and riparian habitats due to development pressures. Road expansion can also cause these highly vulnerable species to be struck and killed, especially females in search of terrestrial nesting grounds and hatchlings moving overland.

Both federal and provincial management plans support the idea that greater protection is needed for this endangered species than currently mandated by provincial law. Sadly, the baseline provincial forestry and watercourse regulations (specifically a 30-meter riparian area buffer, and which can be shrunk down after assessment by a Qualified Environmental Professional - QEP) are very likely to be inadequate for protecting Western Painted Turtle populations, considering the recommendations above. It is likely that Western Turtle Populations would suffer from additional development pressures on the Burde Beaver Ponds lots if it is not conducted with sufficient environmental buffers, which should be determined by a QEP/Ecologist.

Northern Red-Legged Frog:

Federal Legislation, specifically Species at Risk Act (SARA) **lists the status of the Northern Red-Legged Frog as Special Concern**, meaning that they are not immediately threatened with extinction but are uniquely vulnerable to human disruption of habitat and natural factors (such as habitat impact by invasive species, such as American bullfrogs).

The **Province of BC** lists the population of Northern Red-Legged Frogs as **Blue-listed**. In October 2015, BC published a Management Plan for the Northern Red-legged Frog (Rana aurora) in British Columbia. Supportive strategies outlined in this document have the goal in mind to maintain self-sustaining and ecologically functioning populations across their native ranges in BC. Management actions should ensure protection of aquatic ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems and migration corridors as individuals require *up to five kilometres* to disperse from their breeding pools. Stewardship and Conservation efforts will be easier to achieve if these lands have protected status.

Figure 6- Pictures of Northern Red-Legged Frogs in vicinity of the Burde Ponds. Both photos are from under bridge of Log Train Trail, but these amphibians have been spotted at the ponds as well.



Photo Credits from Left to right: Sandy McRuer - 2017 and Jennifer Haddock – 2026

Development pressures and habitat loss are taking a toll on Western Painted Turtle and Northern Red-Legged Frog populations which ideally need up to 3 km of interconnected habitat to thrive.

Western Painted Turtles and Northern Red-Legged Frogs are local vulnerable populations that need their habitat protected. The City of Port Alberni, local residents, local First Nations, all levels of Government and other Stakeholders have a once in a lifetime opportunity to step up to protect these sensitive creatures in a way that could have long lasting legacy in ensuring the survival of our local populations of these Species at Risk.

VI. BEAVER CREATED WETLAND ECOSYSTEM

Beavers have been sighted locally in the Burde Beaver Ponds by nature enthusiasts, colloquially for "years and years" Living in the Alberni Valley March 4, 2021. An examination of historical satellite and air photo imagery could determine a more exact age of the ponds. The beavers originally migrated up the waterway from Roger Creek into what is locally known as Wolf Creek, according to local knowledge (Sandy McRuer). The impact these beavers have had on the ecosystem is that they have raised water levels, created standing trees which now support species such as woodpeckers, kingfishers, hooded mergansers and wood ducks, and created wetland habitat for a wide variety of species, including vulnerable species at risk. The presence of beavers in the ponds is acknowledged in the City of Port Alberni's Official Community Plan (OCP), which identifies the ponds as environmentally sensitive habitat that supports significant wildlife and warrants appropriate protection. However, the properties containing the ponds are private land and have been designated as Future Residential/Development in the newly adopted city OCP (2026). Although riparian and natural area protections would apply to future development, these measures are unlikely to provide sufficient protection for the sensitive Western Painted Turtle population inhabiting the ponds.

VII. WATERFOWL, SONGBIRD AND OTHER BIODIVERSITY VALUE

The Friends of Burde Street Ponds Society is currently compiling a collection of local photographs and sightings of flora and fauna in the Burde Ponds and vicinity, with a focus on species at risk. Public input is welcome! Please note the date, location, species, number, and any other pertinent information. Records should be input into iNaturalist and/or sent to saveburdeponds@gmail.com

The Burde Beaver Ponds have been described as an Ecological Hotspot in Port Alberni. Accessible via the Log Train Trail and the Beaver Pond Trail, the forest ecology, though relatively young, provides critical habitat for an impressive population of waterfowl, songbirds and other flora and fauna.

Bird Alberni notes on their website the following:

"Winter and spring waterfowl include Ring-necked Duck in good numbers, Bufflehead, occasional Pied-billed Grebe; year-round — Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron; nesters — Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser.

Other species include Barred Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Red-breasted Sapsucker and other woodpeckers — Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Northern Flicker; flycatchers — Willow, Hammond's, Pacific-slope; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Pacific Wren; kinglets — Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned; Varied and Swainson's Thrush; Dark-eyed Junco; Song Sparrow; Spotted Towhee; wood warblers, including Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, Yellow-rumped; Townsend's (large numbers nest in trees along the Beaver Pond Trail and near the cut blocks at the top of this trail); Western Tanager.

Beaver and river otter can be seen in both ponds but best be there early in the morning to increase the odds." Burde Street Ponds (Bird Alberni)

Lesser Scaup is a winter visitor. Spotted Sandpipers and Solitary Sandpipers pass through during migration. Other resident wildlife is abundant and thriving in this green corridor, for example deer mice, red squirrels, a Roosevelt Elk, and black bears to name a few of the local visitors! The ponds and surrounding forest are a truly rich tapestry of life and biodiversity found within the heart of our city. See Site Photos below for a painting of the life found within this gem.

VIII. SITE PHOTOS

Pictures are worth a thousand words!

The Friends of Burde Street Ponds Society is compiling a photo inventory/historical record of this area, from local photographers and nature enthusiasts. As above, we are also encouraging the public to upload their photos to iNaturalist or submit to us directly at: **saveburdeponds@gmail.com**. We ask that you provide the date, location, and correct identification, where possible when documenting species.

Below, we have provided a snapshot of citizen sightings for your enjoyment. Most have been captured by photographers and nature enthusiasts in recent years!








2026-Wood Duck and Red Squirrel. Photo Credit: Lorelei Andrew; 2026- Black Bear and Crossbills; 2019-Bleeding Tooth Fungus. Photo Credit: Dave Jarret; 2013- Beaver. Photo Credit: Sandy McRuer.

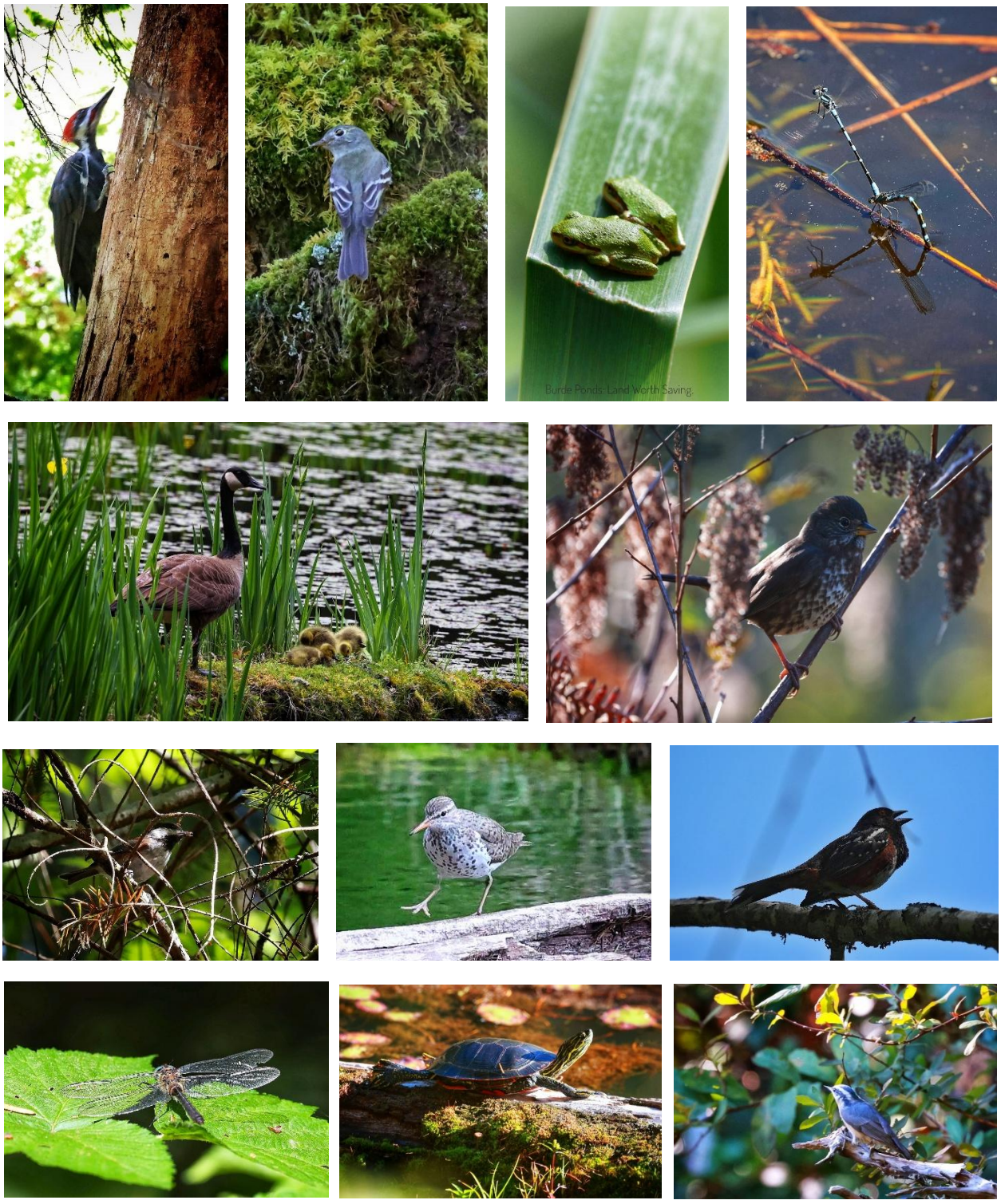








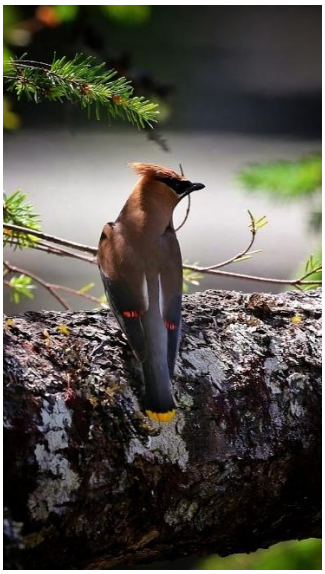
In order of left to right: 2026- Garter Snake. Photo Credit: Penny Hall. 2026- Dragonflies and Lower Burde Pond; 2025- Barred Owl, Pacific Wren, and Belted Kingfisher. Photo Credit: Ceilidh Haddock. 2026 – Bird Companions: Merlin and Northern Flicker by Dave Jarret; Heron and Kingfisher by Gerald Cuccio.



In order left to right: All Photos taken in 2026- Pileated Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Pacific Chorus Frog, Northern Bluet, Canada Goose and Goslings, Fox Sparrow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Spotted Sandpiper, Spotted Towhee, Dragonfly, Painted Turtle & Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo Credit: Gerald Cuccio.





In order left to right: 2026- Hooded Merganser Pair and nesting site; Western Painted Turtles, Great Blue Heron; Blue Damselflies - 2025. Photo Credit: Dave Jarrett; Cedar Waxwing – 2026: Gerald Cuccio





Historical Photos: 2017- Purple Finch & Warbling Vireo; 2013- Beaver. Photo Credit: Sandy McRuer.

IX. PROFESSIONAL ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

Very little official environmental/scientific reporting is available for these wetlands. To our knowledge, there have been two separate Environmental Assessments produced for developers. An assessment by Donald A. Blood and Associates, April 1997, was completed for a development proposal which did not proceed. It highlighted the ecological importance of the ponds. Another two assessments were compiled by Dave Clough, R.P.Bio of Clough Consulting Ltd for the San Group, as part of a development proposal requirement by the City of Port Alberni in 2021 and 2023, prior to their bankruptcy. At this point in time, both assessments by Clough are unavailable for public use.

We have a professional ecologist volunteering his time to prepare a desk top survey concerning the ecological and overall value of this wetlands system, including a look at species at risk and invasive species on site. This report is available as of Mid November 2026.

Abundant documentation by citizens throughout the past 10+ years includes regular sightings of a wide variety of birds (>120 species), beaver, red-listed Western Painted Turtles, blue-listed Northern Red-Legged Frogs and other wildlife.

Further Studies which could address Information Gaps:

- Indigenous cultural significance: Need confidential and culturally appropriate engagement with Tseshaht and Hupačasath First Nations, including Indigenous knowledge and archaeological and cultural-resource review where appropriate.
- A comprehensive species inventory: At least one full seasonal biological inventory covering spring breeding, summer, fall migration, a qualified professional should complete winter waterfowl period. Studies should include assessment of invasive species, sample at biologically active times of year, and address information gaps in prior assessments.
- Western Painted Turtle population status: Population size, age structure, nesting locations, overwintering habitat, movement routes, and genetic status.
- Amphibian Breeding Evidence: No officially confirmed species and breeding status has been performed to date. Will need nocturnal call ID, egg-mass, larval dip-net surveys as well as environmental DNA where appropriate, overwintering habitat assessment.
- Fish Presence: To confirm fish presence: Provincial/Federal fish database search, electrofishing, or other approved fish sampling, eDNA, fish passage assessment, hydrological connection assessment. There are local claims of Coho Salmon in Wolf Creek.
- Bat Studies: participate in sunset counts, guano and acoustic monitoring.
- Wetland Classification and area: BC wetland classification and boundary delineation, hydric soil assessment, vegetation mapping, hydroperiod, groundwater/surface water interactions, wetland function assessment.
- Hydrology and Habitat Connectivity.
- Community Knowledge such as Trail keepers, Nature Clubs, Birders, Photographers etc.

X. DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE AND WHAT WOULD BE LOST IF THE PROPERTY IS DEVELOPED

Federal/ Provincial Guidelines for Pacific Coastal populations of Western Painted Turtles indicate that the current legislative Riparian setbacks are unlikely to be sufficient for populations to sustain/thrive.

The information presented in this acquisition brief for Burde Beaver Ponds presents a compelling picture of the rich and thriving urban biodiversity in this wetland and natural area. Residents love and cherish the trails and ponds. Nature clubs, photographers, and school/university groups could enjoy the chance to observe our native species right in the city limits for years to come! Development is likely to be a real threat to this area, and the only way forward, especially if developed, is to impose adequate environmental protections which can preserve the overall value of this land!

XI. PROPOSED ACQUISITION COALITION

The strongest path forward for acquisition of these properties is a coalition of interested parties, which we are rapidly putting together. To raise the required funds and for future management of the protected wetlands, we propose a coalition of:

- Land Conservation Group(s) such as Nature's Trust BC (NTBC), Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and/or The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC).
- Local First Nations- Support and Consultation will be integral to our process.
- Local Government: City of Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD).
- BC Parks Foundation.
- BC Parks.
- MOE- Species at Risk Department.
- University of BC and Vancouver Island University Research Associates.
- Local Stakeholders/Donors

We are actively engaging with the above potential stakeholders and fundraising partners and can provide updates as soon as possible regarding our progress.

XII. CONCLUSION

Preservation of the Burde Beaver Ponds has now become a pressing local issue. Protection of Canada's remaining wetlands has become a national priority and has become a critical national mission. Wetlands provide a defense against climate change, removal of contaminants, and loss of biodiversity. Acquiring the Burde Beaver Ponds as a permanently protected wetland area will ensure that the ponds will contribute to the health and wellness for future generations in Port Alberni.

There are moments in conservation where a once in a generation opportunity to make a lasting difference is right before us .. **and the time is now. Cooperation with partners and a generous donation today can help make that choice possible.**

For more information, please check out our website at www.saveburdeponds.ca

SEND A MESSAGE TO DONATE TODAY and HOW TO GET INVOLVED!!

Write us at: saveburdeponds@gmail.com