

## **AVICC Study Tour April 2026 District of Saanich:**

### **From Concrete to Canopy: Walking the Path of Urban Rewilding, Showcasing Green Infrastructure as a Climate Resiliency Superstar**

Learn about the integration of nature-based solutions and biodiversity within recent infrastructure projects and how this approach, alongside key partnerships and a re-wilding of our District, is being used to address climate change and achieve multiple community goals.

The tour will start by exploring the [green infrastructure and active transportation upgrade project around Tillicum Elementary School](#), learning about the approach to partnerships with the School District and incorporation of indigenous knowledge, tree planting and rain gardens to address climate resiliency, urban forest canopy cover and other community goals. The tour will then head to Tillicum Road to see recent Bike Lanes and active transportation upgrades in an area beginning to see significant densification and identified as a Primary Growth Area in our Official Community Plan. This will then lead us to [Cuthbert Holmes Park](#), a 26-hectare urban oasis where trails wind past the Colquitz River, rich with wildlife, birdlife, and native plants, and home to spawning salmon and the echoes of once-thriving heron colonies. Over the past decade, Saanich Parks has been transforming the park to improve recreational opportunities and enhance and restore biodiversity and forests. This includes removing invasive trees and plants, in-stream work to support salmon, cutthroat trout and other native fish and wildlife, building wildlife viewing areas, and creating a new Trembling Aspen woodland to expand the park's habitat range and improve overall park ecology.

We welcome delegates to join us on this walking tour to view the work conducted, learn about future goals and challenges, and understand the ongoing work restoring this park. Participants would need to be able to walk along trails with a slight grade in outdoor weather.