

# WATERWAYS of Burnaby

BURRARD INLET



## Wildlife

- Bear
- Beaver
- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Crab
- Crow
- Black tailed deer
- Mallard duck
- Red tailed hawk
- Heron
- Muskrat
- Owl
- Raccoon
- Spotted frog
- Chum salmon
- Coho salmon
- White sturgeon
- Cutthroat trout
- Steelhead trout
- Painted turtle

These species represent only a selected example.

## Legend



- Open waterway
- Piped waterway
- Lost waterway
- Lost pond
- Major watershed boundary
- Active Streamkeepers

# WATERWAYS of Burnaby

Water is vital to all life in our world. Keeping our local waterways clean and unpolluted is an important way to protect our natural heritage and environmental health. Burnaby is unique in that it has managed to keep so many of its historic waterways, supported by an extensive open space system, in an open condition. Together with its Environment and Social Planning Committee, the Community Heritage Commission and its community partners, the City of Burnaby has undertaken numerous initiatives to protect, improve, and give identity to our waterways.

This poster identifies Burnaby's three watersheds, provides a listing and history of our unique waterway names, and provides residents and property owners with tips on how we can all be stewards of our waterways.

## Preserving Our Natural Heritage

**Fish** – especially salmon and trout – need clean, cool oxygen-rich water to grow and spawn. Salmon need unobstructed waterways to complete their life-cycle migration from freshwater to the ocean and back to the spawning grounds where they were born.

**Wildlife** – birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects – need waterways and the “green” corridors that surround them for food, shelter and water. Burnaby's waterways form a network of habitat corridors that allow wildlife to move through the City.

**Waterways** – are connected to their watershed, the land basin they drain. Healthy waterways that support fish and wildlife contribute to the well-being and livability of our community.

**People** – stewards of our natural heritage – visit waterways to watch birds, observe nature, fish, canoe, walk along a stream, or “get away from it all”. Many have adopted stewardship roles in caring for Burnaby's waterways through litter and stream clean-up campaigns, habitat improvement projects, release of salmon fry, storm drain marking and collection of environmental data.

## Protecting Our Waterways

Protection of our City's valuable waterways and the natural environment is everyone's responsibility. Many people are unaware of how their actions can impact local waterways and how our urban areas are connected to the natural ecosystem. Lands surrounding all homes, businesses and City streets drain rainwater directly into the storm sewer system through drain tiles and catch basins. All storm sewers discharge this run-off directly into waterways throughout Burnaby.

The City's Watercourse Bylaw was enacted to prevent the discharge of contaminants into storm-water and local waterways. Do not use the storm-water drains and catch basins located outside buildings, in underground parking areas, and on streets to dispose of wastes. If you observe a spill of toxic or hazardous materials, inform the City's Engineering Dispatch immediately at 604-294-7200.

It is easy to recycle common household hazardous wastes, such as leftover household paint, motor oil, flammable liquids, gasoline and some pesticides, at the City's Eco-Centre (4885 Still Creek Drive).

To obtain more information on the safe disposal of toxic or hazardous materials, please telephone the BC Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253, email [hotline@rcbc.ca](mailto:hotline@rcbc.ca) or visit [www.rcbc.bc.ca](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca).

Residents and business owners can also telephone the City's Sanitation Division at 604-294-7972 or visit [www.burnaby.ca/sanitationandrecycling](http://www.burnaby.ca/sanitationandrecycling).

The following toxic products should be recycled or disposed of safely, and not poured down any drain:

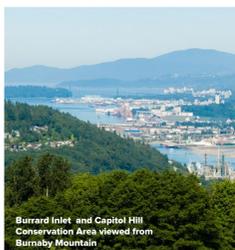
- AUTOMOTIVE**
- Motor oil
  - Antifreeze
  - Brake fluid
  - Gasoline
  - Transmission fluid
  - Degreaser

- PAINTS AND SOLVENTS**
- Paint
  - Lacquer and varnish
  - Paint thinner
  - Paint/varnish strippers
  - Rustproof coatings
  - Shellac

- CLEANING**
- Detergents
  - Drain and toilet cleaner
  - Rug and upholstery cleaner
  - Dry cleaning agents
  - Car wash detergents
  - Leather preservatives

- PESTICIDES AND DISINFECTANTS**
- Insecticides
  - Flea collars
  - Fungicides
  - Herbicides
  - Slug bait
  - Disinfectants
  - Swimming pool water
  - Wood preservatives

# Heritage Creek Names of Burnaby



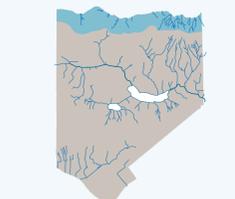
Burrard Inlet and Capitol Hill Conservation Area viewed from Burnaby Mountain



Burnaby Lake near the mouth of Brunette River



The North Arm of the Fraser River at Burnaby's Big Bend



## Burrard Inlet Watershed

The Burrard Inlet Watershed occupies the northern section of the City and 17% of the City's land area. It is uniquely defined topographically by the steep northern slopes of Capitol Hill and Burnaby Mountain. Its watercourses form a link between the forested slopes and the marine intertidal zone of Burrard Inlet.

**Aliceville Creek**  
This creek is named after the community of Aliceville established at the foot of North Road in 1884. This location served as a dock site for a ferry that transported early travelers to Port Moody and was also the site of two hotels until the turn of the century. When the Canadian Pacific Railway was built along the inlet in 1886 a station stop was named Aliceville after Alice Webster, the daughter of one of the hotel owners.

**Berry Point Creek**  
This creek was named after the landmark 'Berry Point' peninsula on Burrard Inlet. It received this name in 1859 by the Royal Engineers which surveyed Burrard Inlet on the Royal Navy ship – the H.M.C. Plumper. The name was printed on the first hydrographic chart of the area published in 1860, however its origin is unknown.

**Capitol Hill**  
This name emphasizes the origin of the creek's headwaters draining the north slope of Capitol Hill. This neighbourhood of Burnaby was named in 1912 after a residential subdivision promoted during the real estate boom.

**Cougar Creek**  
This name was adopted to commemorate the large population of magnificent cougars that once populated the Burnaby Mountain area.

**Crab Creek**  
Named after the numerous Crabs found on the shoreline of the estuary where this creek meets Burrard Inlet.

**Crabtown Creek**  
This creek is named to commemorate the people who lived along an area of Burnaby's Burrard Inlet shoreline in a village called Crabtown from the 1920s to 1957.

**Dynamite Creek**  
This creek was named to remember the old Dominion Explosives Company which was located on this part of the waterfront from c.1913-1920.

**Gull Creek**  
This creek is named for the Gull bird populations which can be found along Burrard Inlet's foreshore area.

**Heron Creek**  
This creek runs through the forested ravine that is home to a Heron Rookery.

**Huckleberry Creek**  
This creek is named for the many huckleberry shrubs which are important to wildlife habitat on Burnaby Mountain and Burrard Inlet.

**Kask's Camp Creek**  
This name commemorates the Kask's Camp established by William and Jenny Kask on Barnett Road nearby in 1925. They rented land for the construction of cabins that were served by a steam bath, general store and service station.

**Mill Creek**  
Cedar trees around this creek were logged at the turn of the century and sent to mills including the nearby Burrard Lumber Company for shingle and lumber production.

**Nichols Creek**  
Named after the Nichols Chemical Company, this creek had been originally used for the plant's production since it was established at Barnett in 1905.

**Rainbow Creek**  
Rainbow Creek is the historic waterway of Confederation Park that was named in 1912 after the Rainbow Trout that spawned there.

**Simon Creek**  
This name has been used for many years and was derived from the property being once part of the Simon Fraser University lands.

**Squatter's Creek**  
This creek name commemorates the community of squatter's that occupied the Burrard Inlet foreshore and used this creek as a water supply.

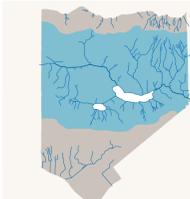
**Starfish Creek**  
This creek is named for the Purple Ochre Sea Star (starfish) which can be found along the foreshore area in Burrard Inlet.

**Submarines Creek**  
This creek was named to commemorate the history of the Russian Submarines assembled as a top secret project at the old Western Canada Fish Plant during World War I on Burrard Inlet.

**Takaya Creek**  
This creek is named for the aboriginal word Takaya, which means 'wolf' in the language of the Tsil'ist'at' First Nation of Burrard Inlet, and who through their legends consider themselves the 'Children of Takaya'.

**Thuk-Way-Tun Creek**  
This name was recorded from the memory of local First Nations Squamish Chief Haatsalano as their ancient name for the Barnett Beach area. It means "where bark gets peeled in the spring time." This is one of the few documented aboriginal names recorded in Burnaby.

**Tunnel Creek**  
This creek is located adjacent to the City's historic water distribution system opened in 1911 with a water tunnel under Burrard Inlet connected to the Seymour Reservoir.



## Central Valley Watershed

The Central Valley Watershed occupies the City's unique basin that drains both the south slopes of Burnaby Mountain and the north slope of the Kingsway ridge. Forming part of the Fraser River system this watershed covers 60% of Burnaby's land area. It includes the large green spaces of Deer Lake Park, Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park and the Still Creek, Cariboo, and Brunette River conservation areas.

### DEER LAKE

**Angelo Creek**  
This creek is named to recognize Burnaby pioneer Thomas D. Coldicut who is an Order of Canada recipient and founder of World Rivers Day. As the Chair of the Rivers Institute of the BC Institute of Technology, he has been instrumental in initiating and promoting many watercourse restoration projects in Burnaby's Central Valley.

**Beaver Creek**  
This creek, since the 1930s, has been named after the beavers which call it home and continue to dam its waters.

**Buckingham Creek**  
This name is derived from the creek's path through the historic 1912 Buckingham Street subdivision which was named after this Saxon place name in England.

**Chickadee Creek**  
The creek was named after the black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadee birds which are found in abundance in this forested area.

**Deer Lake Brook**  
As the only outflow of Deer Lake, this creek has had this historic name since the 1880s. Once known as Little Lake or Small Lake from the 1860s-1870s, in relation to the larger Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake was named circa 1880 after local hunters discovered its abundant game.

**Edgar Creek**  
Named after Robert and Maude Edgar who built the first house on the south shore of Deer Lake, which still stands today as a designated City-owned heritage building.

**First Beach Creek**  
This creek and its silt created the beach known as the "first beach" by local children in the 1930s.

**Flume Creek**  
This creek was used to fill a water flume to transport "shingle bolts" from the hillside to the Deer Lake Lumber Mill located on Sperling Avenue from 1905 - 1920.

**Oakalla Creek**  
This creek was created as a drainage channel by the prisoners of the Oakalla Prison Farm and is named to commemorate this historic prison constructed in 1911.

**Owl Creek**  
This creek is named recognition of the Great Horned Owls that have roosted in the forest here.

**Second Beach Creek**  
This creek and its silt created a beach known as "second beach" by local children in the 1930s.

**Third Beach Creek**  
This creek and its silt created a beach known as "third beach" by local children in the 1930s.

**Turtle Creek**  
This creek is named after the several turtle species found throughout Deer Lake Park.

### BURNABY LAKE

**Ancient Grove Creek**  
This creek commemorates the old growth forest (100 to 200 years old) of Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce, and Western Hemlock species found in the Brunette River Conservation Area.

**Ardley Creek**  
Named after the historic district and post office which took its name from the old Great Northern Railway Station established here in 1904 and named Ardley Station in 1909. It appears to have been taken from the old English word meaning meadow.

**Beecher Creek**  
This creek was named after Jimmy Beecher, who owned a farm on Springer Avenue where Beecher Park is located.

**Black Bear Creek**  
This creek is named for the black bears that were abundant in the area until the 1920s.

**Bog Creek**  
This creek name recognizes the large peat bog ecosystem of the Central Valley.

**Brunette River**  
This is Burnaby's oldest known waterway name having been placed on the first hydrographic chart of the Fraser River printed in 1860. It was named upon its discovery in 1858 by Robert Burnaby and the Royal Engineers because its water was stained the colour brown by the peat bog of Burnaby Lake.



Burnaby pioneer Claude Hill poses in his canoe on Deer Lake, 1905. CITY OF BURNABY ARCHIVES

### Buena Vista Creek

This creek winds its way through the old Buena Vista subdivision which opened in 1911 on the Burnaby Lake Interurban trolley line.

**Cedar Creek**  
Named after the large stand of Western Red Cedar trees which dominate the ravine through which the creek flows.

**Chub Creek**  
The historic name of Chub Creek was used for this northern branch of Still Creek and named after the chub fish that once frequented its muddy waters.

**Coldicut Creek**  
Historically known as Coldicut Creek, this name was derived from Coldicut Street which recognized Burnaby pioneer Thomas D. Coldicut who moved to East Burnaby in 1908 and served as Burnaby Councillor from 1910-1911.

**Corvus Creek**  
This creek is located near one of Metro Vancouver's largest roost sites for the Northwestern Crow, which has the latin species name of Corvus Caurinus.

**Crab-Apple Creek**  
In the 1890s a thick growth of wild crab-apple trees created a bowered tunnel along this section of Still Creek which was a favoured spot for boaters who admired the blossoms in the springtime.

**Cranberry Creek**  
This creek is named for the native cranberry shrubs that grew in abundance in the peat bogs surrounding Burnaby Lake and which were harvested by the First Nations.

**Crayfish Creek**  
Named after the small crustacean that resides in this creek and is well known to children locally.

**Cutthroat Creek**  
This creek is named for the cutthroat trout that has been identified historically in the Central Valley watershed.

**Dragonfly Creek**  
This creek is named for the dragonfly species that are found in the Still Creek area.

**Eagle Creek**  
This name refers to a pair of Bald Eagles which nested high in a fir tree at the mouth of this creek at Burnaby Lake in the early 1900s and were known to the community of Lozells.

**Elk Creek**  
This creek is named for the elk that were numerous in Burnaby's Central Valley prior to 1900.

**Guilchon Creek**  
This creek was named for the Charles Laurent Guilchon family who owned District Lot 33 from 1883 to 1908 and had a hunting cabin at the ravine near Willington and Moscrop. Willington Avenue, which crosses this creek, was named Guilchon Road in 1912.

**Holmes Creek**  
This creek was named to commemorate the William & Charlotte Holmes family who were Burnaby's first settlers on North Road in 1860 and received British Columbia's first crown grant to District Lot 1.

**Salmonberry Creek**  
This creek is named for the native salmonberry shrubs found in this area.

**Sculpin Creek**  
This creek is named for the Prickly Sculpin fish which have been identified historically in the Brunette River.

### Kingfisher Creek

This creek is named for the Belted Kingfisher birds that have been observed in the area.

**Lawson Creek**  
This creek is named to recognize Doreen Lawson who served as Burnaby Councillor for 23 years and who championed the preservation of Burnaby Lake and the city's many watercourses.

**Lost Creek**  
This creek, which flows open just north of Cameron Street, is lost under the pavement at Lougheed Mall, only to reappear at Lougheed Highway, and then is lost again until it resurfaces at the Brunette River.

**Lozells Creek**  
This creek is named for nearby Lozells Avenue, which in turn is named for Lozells, the historic name of this district established in 1908 and named by the pioneer Ward family formerly of Lozells Parish, Birmingham, England.

**Lubbock's Creek**  
This creek runs through the Lubbock's Woods Park which was once part of the farm at the corner of Canada Way and Burris Street operated by the Lubbock family between 1912-1975.

**Osprey Creek**  
Named after the small population of osprey in Burnaby Lake Park.

**Phillips Creek**  
Named for Phillips Avenue which follows the creek and which was named after Lozells pioneer George Phillips.

**Pole Line Creek**  
This creek is a historic ditch built to drain Pole Line Road built in 1905 for the power transmission line from Buntzen Lake Power Plant. The road was renamed to Sperling Avenue in 1912.

**Pollywog Creek**  
This name was used by neighbourhood kids in the 1920s who liked to capture little tadpoles (frogs) in the creek which they called pollywogs.

**Ramsay Creek**  
This historic creek name commemorates the Ramsay family that were the first residents of Robert Burnaby Park from 1905 to c.1925.

**Rayside Creek**  
This creek is located near Rayside Street, and the old location of Rayside station of the Burnaby Lake interurban trolley line. Rayside was named in 1911 after Arthur G. Ray and Samuel S. Ray, pioneers of the Burnaby Lake District.

**Rudolph Creek**  
This creek is named to recognize Elmer Rudolph, who has been instrumental as part of the Sapperton Fish and Game Club in reviving and protecting the Brunette River. He is a 1996 Burnaby Environmental Award recipient.

**Salamander Creek**  
Named after the many salamanders that dwell in this creek.

**Sumner Creek**  
This creek is named for the native salmonberry shrubs found in this area.

**Willow Creek**  
This creek is named for the willow shrubs found along the banks of Still Creek in this area.

### Silver Creek

This historic creek name is derived from the old term "Silver Salmon" used to describe the Coho species which once spawned here.

**Skid Creek**  
The gully of this creek was used for a skid road built by the B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Company to drag timber by horse teams from their lands on the slope of Burnaby Mountain in 1906. A portion of the old skid road still remains preserved in Burnaby Lake Park nearby.

**Skunk Cabbage Creek**  
This creek is named for the Skunk Cabbage plant which is found throughout this area and Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park.

**Spartan Creek**  
The Spartan Oil Well Company located their unsuccessful operation near this creek in 1922 to explore natural tar and oil deposits found in the peat bog.

**Squint Lake**  
This pond, created by the beavers on Eagle Creek, was named Quinte Lake by a property owner who proposed to build a tourist resort here in 1912 and who wanted to convey the majestic image of Quinte Bay of Lake Ontario. However, local residents joked that you had to squint to see it and the name Squint Lake stuck.

**Spring Brook**  
The name was established by local residents of the Broadview district and refers to the brook having flowed throughout the summer months from an artesian spring which kept the water cold and clear.

**Station Creek**  
Named after the Burnaby Lake Station established on the Great Northern Railway near this creek in 1904.

**Stickleback Creek**  
This creek is named for the Stickleback fish species that have been identified in the watershed.

**Still Creek**  
As one of Burnaby's largest waterways this creek was named in the 1890s because of the placid surface of the waterway which meandered through the bog of the Central Valley.

**Stoney Creek**  
This creek name has been in use since the 1960s and refers to the stoney stream bed of Burnaby Mountain's largest waterway.

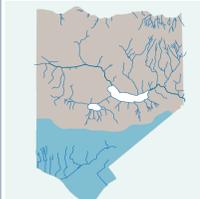
**Summer Creek**  
Old survey plans show this waterway named "Sumner's Ditch". It was named after the Sumner Ironworks Company which proposed to build a factory here in 1911.

**Sunken Engine Creek**  
Named after the famous Burnaby story of the Great Northern Railway train engine that disappeared into a sink hole being filled by railway workers at the peat bog in 1912 where this creek enters Still Creek.

**Thomas Creek**  
This creek is named after historic Thomas Street which this waterway forms a major drainage ditch.

**Trolley Creek**  
To commemorate the historic Burnaby Lake interurban trolley line which was operated by the BC Electric Railway Company from 1911-1953 and where this creek in part follows its now abandoned railbed.

**Willow Creek**  
This creek is named for the willow shrubs found along the banks of Still Creek in this area.



## Fraser River Watershed

Burnaby's Fraser River Watershed includes the southern slopes of Burnaby and the peat bog in the Big Bend. It occupies 23% of Burnaby's area and includes major creeks that flow directly into the Fraser River that are located in deep ravines that have been dedicated as parks.

**Byrne Creek**  
The largest of South Slope creeks, Byrne Creek was once known briefly as Woolard's Brook which flowed eastwards through the Big Bend bog. It was rerouted in 1893 by Pat and Peter Byrne along Byrne Road and has been known as Byrne Creek ever since.

**Byrne Slough**  
This historic waterway is the last remaining section of the old Byrne Road ditch constructed for the transportation of logs in the 1890s. Byrne Road was named after Pat and Peter Byrne, brothers from Ireland, with Peter serving as Burnaby Councillor from 1894-1905 and Reeve from 1906-1910.

**Boundary Creek**  
A modern creek name which refers to the location of the creek at Boundary Road.

**Froggers Creek**  
This creek flowed from a large pond located north of Sidley Street which was famous locally for containing a large number of frogs.

**Green Brook**  
This lost creek of East Burnaby was one of the major creeks of New Westminster and once entered the Fraser River at Sapperton.

**Glen-Lyon Creek**  
Named after the beautiful Glen-Lyon estate and mansion built by Duncan Campbell MacGregor in 1902 which is preserved as a designated heritage building beside this waterway.

**Gray Creek**  
Named after nearby Gray Avenue which was named after Peter Gray, a pioneer resident of the Central Park District.

**Jerry Rogers Creek**  
Named historically after "Jerry Rogers ditch". Rogers, a pioneer West Coast logger, used this creek to feed a system of canals to float logs to the Fraser River in the 1870s and 1880s.

**John Matthews Creek**  
This creek was named in 1972 when the park was dedicated John Matthews Creek Ravine Park after this active member of the Parent Advisory Committee for Clinton Elementary School.

**Kaymar Creek**  
Named after Kaymar Drive this name replaced the name of Dump Creek used in the 1930s which referred to the garbage dump that filled the ravine above Rumble Street.

**Power House Creek**  
This now small arm of Byrne Creek once provided the water to feed the steam-powered electric generating engines of the Westminster and Vancouver Railway Company Power House located at Griffiths Avenue.

**Salmon Slough**  
This slough area provides a natural ecosystem created for fish habitat restoration including salmon enhancement channels.

**Sanctuary Slough**  
This watercourse name celebrates its peaceful respite from the urban setting and also a sanctuary for fish and wildlife.

**Sturgeon Slough**  
This watercourse is named for the White Sturgeon fish which is found in the Fraser River.

**Sussex Creek**  
Named after nearby Sussex Avenue which was opened in 1912 and named after Sussex, England.

**Swing Bridge Slough**  
This watercourse runs parallel to the western side of the CNR Railroad tracks and the steel swing bridge constructed in 1930.

**Tillicum Slough**  
This watercourse was the mouth of an old drainage channel at the foot of Tillicum Street. Tillicum is a "Chinook Jargon" term meaning 'people'. Chinook Jargon was the historic trade language of the Fraser River and Pacific Northwest and incorporates the language of the Salish First Nations.

**Photo-montage of Brunette River, Today (colour) and 1912 (sepia).**



## Burnaby Streamkeepers

Burnaby's Streamkeepers Program is a community-based volunteer initiative that supports individuals and groups interested in "stream stewardship" – the act of caring for and learning about our waterways. Streamkeepers undertake hands-on stewardship projects such as cleaning creeks, learning about the ecology of a stream, enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife and increasing awareness in the community about the importance and sensitivity of waterways. Any person or community group can volunteer to become involved. For more information go to [www.burnaby.ca/streamkeepers](http://www.burnaby.ca/streamkeepers) or telephone the City's Planning Department at 604-294-7530.

## Community Development and Ecosystem Protection

The City through its various bylaws has actively maintained an open watercourse policy since the 1970s and more recently has initiated numerous strategies to address and reduce impacts of urbanization on watercourses and fish habitat. In managing and guiding growth and development, the City meets all legislative requirements as set out in the Federal Fisheries Act, and Provincial Water Sustainability Act, and Riparian Areas Regulation under the Riparian Areas Protection Act.

All new developments occurring adjacent to waterways in Burnaby are subject to review with regards to the City's policies and bylaws for protection and enhancement of streamside (riparian) areas. Visit the following City webpages to learn more about how our ecosystems and waterways are protected and enhanced when land is redeveloped: [www.burnaby.ca/ecosystemprotection](http://www.burnaby.ca/ecosystemprotection) and [www.burnaby.ca/erc](http://www.burnaby.ca/erc).

**BURNABY CITY COUNCIL**  
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Councillors:  
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Sav Dhaliwal  
Dan Johnston  
Colleen Jordan  
Joe Katsibey  
Paul McDonnell  
Nick Volkow  
James Wang



Waterways of Burnaby is a joint project of Burnaby's Community Heritage Commission and Environment and Social Planning Committee.

This map was prepared as a general guide for public information about watercourses within the City of Burnaby and is not intended for legal purposes. For detailed mapping information and regulations regarding development adjacent to watercourses, please contact