

TO: Qualified Environmental Professionals  
FROM: Development Services  
DATE: August 26, 2021

**RE: Riparian Assessments Requirements**

---

The requirements for riparian assessments within the District of Squamish are stipulated within [Development Permit Area 1](#) (Environmental Protection). This letter provides high level guidance to Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP) who are conducting riparian assessments for natural streams or ditches within the District. The District's requirements both meet and exceed that of the provincial *Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* (RAPR).

#### **Natural Streams**


- *Natural Stream* means any stream that is not an artificial watercourse (e.g., creek, river, channelized stream, wetland, lake or ravine).
- Watercourse and wetland mapping is available on the District's WebMap. The QEP must verify the existing environmental conditions in the field, as the watercourse and wetland mapping are not 100% accurate or complete.
- Table 34-2 and Section 34.7(k) within DPA 1 stipulate which of the RAPR assessment methods (Simple or Detailed) is to be implemented.
- Where the Simple Assessment methods are required, buffer averaging may be considered. Buffer averaging is to be done in accordance with Section 34.7(k) and (l). Please note that the resultant Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) must meet or exceed RAPR requirements. As such, the QEP may need to conduct both a Simple and a Detailed Assessment, and clearly show how the buffer averaged SPEA is equal to or greater than the Detailed SPEA.
- The District has [Riparian Signage Guidelines](#).
- The District requires compensation for habitat loss(es) as per Section 34.5 (h) of DPA 1.
- The details regarding compensation or restoration should be provided in the Site Bio-inventory or a separate report, as opposed to being imbedded into the RAPR Forms. Some QEPs choose to submit a DPA 1 Riparian Assessment Report with the RAPR Forms appended.
- The RAPR Forms and any associated reports are to be submitted to both the District and the Province for review.

#### **Isolated Wetlands**

- Please note that isolated wetlands are included in the definition of a stream within DPA 1. As such, they are protected and assigned a setback as per Table 34-2 or as deemed appropriate given the quality of the habitat.

#### **Ditches**

- Section 34.7(q) within DPA 1 details the requirements for ditch assessments.
- SPEA widths are stipulated in Table 34-3 and are based on ditch classification (yellow, orange or red).

- 
- Ditch classification mapping is available on the District's WebMap. The QEP must verify the ditch classification in the field, as the ditch mapping is not 100% accurate or complete.
  - The Provincial assessment methodology is not used, nor are the RAPR Forms, and the assessment does not need to be submitted to the Province.
  - The ditch assessment report is to be submitted to the District for review.

Please review DPA 1 in detail. Should you have questions, feel free to contact an environmental coordinator. Send an email to [environment@squamish.ca](mailto:environment@squamish.ca) or call 604-815-5012.

Thank you for protecting our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Environment Team

**Disclaimer:** This letter is a summary of municipal bylaws and guidelines. It is not legal advice and does not provide an interpretation of the law. In the event of any conflict or difference between this letter and the bylaws or guidelines, the bylaws or guidelines are correct and legal and must be followed.