



## Riparian Areas

If your property, development or redevelopment is within 30 metres (98.4 feet) of a watercourse in New Westminster, you will need to protect the riparian area around the watercourse.

### What is a Riparian Area?

Riparian areas are natural buffer areas adjacent to watercourses such as streams, lakes, and wetlands that link aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems. These areas are vegetated, including trees, bushes and grasses which provide:

- shade and shelter to protect fish from predators;
- habitat and food for insects that are food for fish;
- organic debris that supports aquatic ecological processes; and
- channel stability which reduces the risk of bank erosion.

### Riparian Area Regulation

The Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) is provincial legislation that requires local governments to protect riparian areas during all land development activities. Development can refer to any

construction or modification of site conditions including the following activities:

- site preparation/grading;
- road or trail, dock or bridge construction;
- development of utilities (e.g., sewer, water)
- subdivision;
- building construction;
- alteration to vegetation; or
- flood protection works.

### About the RAR

If your property is within 30 metres of a watercourse (whether it usually contains water or not) as measured from the high water mark, then it is in a riparian area.

Any development activities that are undertaken on the property (see previous section) must comply with the City's Riparian Areas Protection Bylaw No. 7033, 2005: [www.newwestcity.ca/bylaws](http://www.newwestcity.ca/bylaws)

If you are considering development activities in a riparian area, a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) will be required to assess the development site to determine the setbacks and protection measures required.

The QEP will complete an assessment report that will be submitted to senior governments.

## Development in Queensborough

The watercourses (i.e., ditches, canals) in Queensborough have been assessed for fish habitat value and classified accordingly. Red and yellow coded watercourses are subject to the RAR. Please consult the Watercourse Classification Map (next page).

### When applying for a Building Permit

When applying for a development permit or a building permit, please include a site plan and attach the QEP Report.

A QEP may be required to monitor site conditions and building permit compliance at the initiation, at completion and occasionally during works to ensure that the site is properly managed.

### How to find a QEP

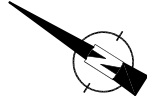
QEPs should be a part of a registered professional organization (e.g., Registered Professional Biologists of BC) and have Riparian Area Regulation training. For a list of QEPs who have taken RAR training please visit the Vancouver Island University (Natural Resources Extension Program).

Planning Division  
604-527-4532

# FIGURE 2 WATERCOURSE CLASSIFICATION

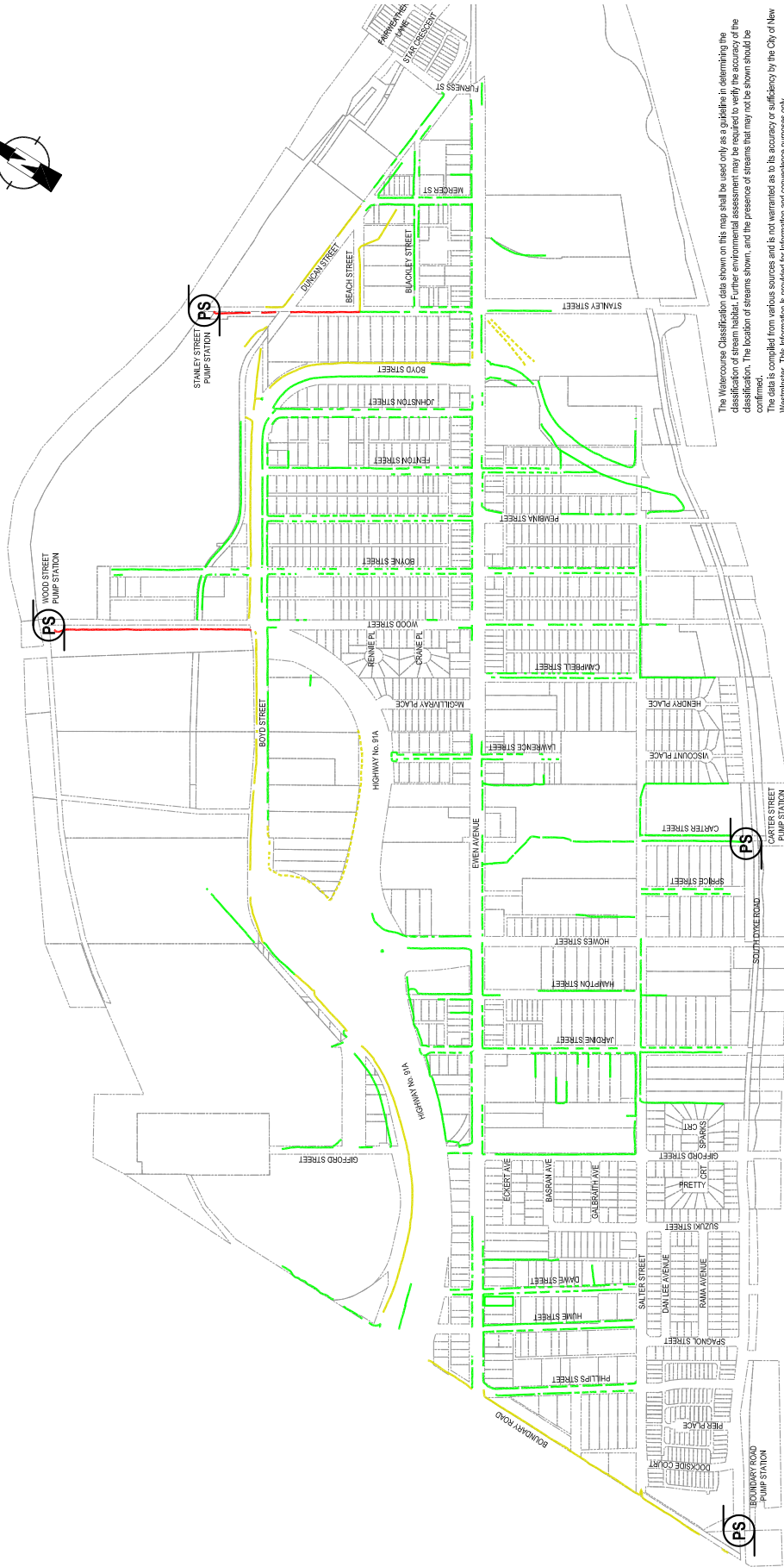
AUGUST 2012

## QUEENSBOROUGH NEW WESTMINSTER



Type of work	Class A	Class B	Class B2 (property not City owned)	Class C
<b>Large scale development next to system</b> (e.g. subdivision, development, reworking, development permit)	RAR requirements apply (DEP Assessment) (i.e. food and nutrient source only) Soilbacks are determined in accordance with RAR. DFO to be contacted: unavoidable impacts are to be offset by enhancement on a Class A or Class B watercourse City to notify DFO prior to starting work	Inaccessible fish habitat (i.e. food and nutrient source only) RAR requirements apply (DEP Assessment) (i.e. food and nutrient source only) Soilbacks are determined in accordance with RAR. DFO to be contacted: unavoidable impacts are to be offset by enhancement on a Class A or Class B watercourse City to notify DFO prior to starting work	Inaccessible fish habitat (i.e. food and nutrient source only) RAR requirements and DEP Assessment apply but not to the City You are advised to contact owner of property Not applicable	Not fish habitat RAR requirements do not apply (DEP assessment not required)
<b>Small scale new works within ditch system</b> (e.g. culvert installation, access crossings, utilities sending)	City to notify DFO prior to starting work	City to notify DFO prior to starting work	Not applicable	No contact required
<b>Large scale periodic ditch maintenance</b> (e.g. dredging)	City to notify DFO prior to starting work; Work within dry weather only - June through September 30 Notification not required	City to notify DFO prior to starting work; Work within dry weather only - June through September 30 Notification not required	Not applicable	No contact required
<b>Routine ditch maintenance and cleaning</b> (e.g. mowing, trash or debris removal)	Notification not required	Notification not required	Not applicable	No contact required

\* The City of New Westminster has no jurisdiction over watercourses located on highway or railway properties. In these cases, permitting for impacts to such watercourses is the responsibility of the land owner.



The Watercourse Classification data shown on this map shall be used only as a guideline in determining the classification of stream habitat. Further environmental assessment may be required to verify the accuracy of the classification. The location of streams shown, and the presence of streams that may not be shown should be confirmed. The data is compiled from various sources and is not warranted as to its accuracy or sufficiency by the City of New Westminster. This information is provided for information and convenience purposes only.

# Watercourse Classification Map