



2018 AWARDS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Award of Excellence

Cowichan River Flood Protection Program



Consultant

Parsons

Owner/Client

Cowichan Valley Regional District;
Cowichan Tribes;
City of Duncan; and
Municipality of North Cowichan

Category

Natural Resource and Habitat

For more information, please contact:

Marek Hanel, P.Eng.
Parsons
☎ (250) 477-2206
marek.hanel@parsons.com

For many years the Cowichan region experienced higher-than-expected flooding, especially in the lower reaches of the Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds.

The multi-jurisdictional nature of the area had long been a challenge. In response, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, the City of Duncan, and the Municipality of North Cowichan – the Partners – undertook development of the Lower Cowichan/Koksilah River Integrated Flood Management Plan.

This was completed in late 2009 and provided essential information on flood hazard, flood risk, sensitive habitat and a list of priority projects. Soon after IFMP completion, Duncan and the surrounding area experienced two large floods.

In response to the flooding the Partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining their long-term commitment to work together and cost-share on integrated flood management project construction and maintenance. Federal and provincial funding was secured for key projects that reflected the integrated nature of the Partners' program.

The Partners retained Parsons to provide engineering consulting services for the Cowichan River Flood Protection Program for flood protection from a 1:200-year flood event on the Cowichan River.

The project was completed in five phases, with five funding agreements and eleven construction contracts. Parsons provided conceptual and detailed design, construction administration and project management of all phases of the program. This included numerous environmental permits due to the sensitive Cowichan River and Somenos creek floodplain.

The Program started in May of 2010 and was completed in April of 2017 with a total value of approximately \$22.5M for all five phases.