

New online platform for residents to discuss ERWS project and provide input

City of Parksville residents now have another way to provide input with the launch of the Englishman River Water Service page on PlaceSpeak. PlaceSpeak is an online platform where residents and business owners can find information, register to receive updates, discuss issues, complete a survey and share ideas about the ERWS project.

The Englishman River Water Service is a joint venture between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo, related to the funding and provision of bulk water services. ERWS is developing a project to sustain a healthy river system and meet the future water needs of the City and the RDN (Nanoose). Components include:

- New river water supply intake located and designed to protect aquatic habitat.
- New water treatment plant and distribution system to meet Island Health's drinking water quality standards.
- Proposed aquifer storage and recovery system to balance seasonal water supply and demand and reduce river water extraction in the summer, through use of a storage aquifer.
- Phased design and construction to meet local needs and to achieve affordability.

ERWS is engaging the public in this project in several ways. A community working group, made up of representatives of the Parksville and Nanoose communities, is advising the project team on items of concern as well as options and issues to be addressed during the design process. The City and the RDN would like to hear the public's thoughts and priorities regarding this project. To help gather input, the City has set up a forum on PlaceSpeak – a location-based online consultation platform which ensures feedback is from people directly affected by the project.

Mayor Chris Burger said, "PlaceSpeak has been successfully used for public consultation by many communities throughout British Columbia and we hope this will bring greater participation in our community for such an important project. PlaceSpeak is yet another tool in our consultation toolbox. As well, we will host a public open house in May."

PlaceSpeak allows citizens to influence the planning process in an open, secure and transparent manner and provides evidence of community views and priorities, which can be taken into account in decision-making. With PlaceSpeak, residents can research, reflect, engage and respond at any time. It is a true chance to speak your mind and be heard.

The ERWS PlaceSpeak page includes project background information, a discussion forum and community survey. To participate, residents need to register with PlaceSpeak and connect with the topic. You will be requested to provide your home address to confirm you live within the local area. Registration with PlaceSpeak is free, all information collected is private, profiles are not visible to anyone else and PlaceSpeak does not disclose personal information.

SURVEY: The purpose of the survey is to gather feedback so community views can be taken into account when decisions are made on how to proceed with this project. The survey which will remain open until April 13, consists of ten questions and should take about five minutes to complete. A hard copy of the survey is available from City Hall or by calling 250 954-3073.

Please note: Second page includes instruction on how to use PlaceSpeak.

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For more information:

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Mayor Chris Burger

250 248-5412
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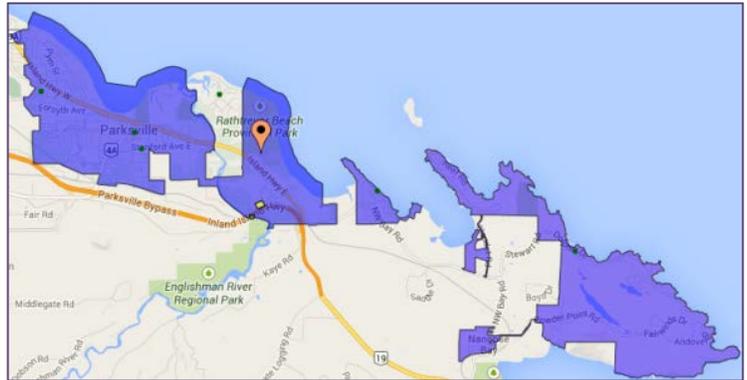
How to connect to PlaceSpeak:

PlaceSpeak website	www.placespeak.com/englishmanriver
ERWS website	www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca
City of Parksville website	www.parksville.ca

How to use PlaceSpeak:

1. Visit the PlaceSpeak website
2. Click on the “Connect to Topic” button near the top right of the page (using the icon)
3. Register with PlaceSpeak to verify your location
4. Participate in the survey
5. Join the discussion and start contributing your views.

Anyone can connect to the topic to find out more about the project. However, to participate in the discussion forums and survey you must be a resident or business owner in the area served by the Englishman River Water Service located within the City of Parksville and Regional District of Nanaimo (Nanoose) as indicated by the shaded areas shown on the accompanying map.



Twitter: #ERWS

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About Parksville — Located on Vancouver Island’s sheltered east coast, 12,000 residents call Parksville their home. Parksville offers a quality lifestyle with many activities. We are committed to being the city of choice for ourselves and future generations in a clean, safe, friendly, economically viable and sustainable environment.