



Arrowsmith Water Service and Englishman River Water Service Monthly Update - October 2025

Purpose

This document is intended to provide board members of the Arrowsmith Water Service and the Englishman River Water Service with an update on the status of the joint ventures. This document is also publicly accessible through the City of Parksville's website.

Background

Arrowsmith Water Service (AWS) was established as a joint venture between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), City of Parksville (Parksville), and the Town of Qualicum Beach to develop a regional water supply system. In 1996, AWS applied for a water licence to construct the Arrowsmith Dam. A conditional licence was granted in March 1997, authorizing the Dam to store 9,000,000 m³ of water for community supply and conservation.

Each year, from June 1 to October 31 — defined as the 'operating season' — water is released from Arrowsmith Dam to augment baseflow in the Englishman River. A Water Survey of Canada (WSC) hydrometric flow gauge (08HB002) is installed in the river near the City of Parksville to monitor flow levels and ensure operational requirements are met. When river flow drops below 1.6 m³/s during the operating season, watering restrictions are enacted for users of the Englishman River Water Service (ERWS).

In 2011, the ERWS was established, as a joint venture between Parksville and the RDN, to enable year-round water withdrawal from the Englishman River. Parksville received a Permit to Operate the Englishman River Water Treatment Plant on November 8, 2019.



Arrowsmith Dam



Ultrafiltration Membranes at the water
treatment plant



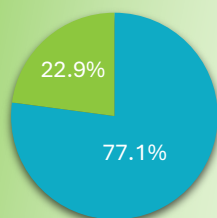
October 2025

**ERWS WTP
Production**
76,170 m³

RDN Share of ERWS
22,624 m³

**Parksville Share of
ERWS**
53,546 m³

**ERWS Consumption
Percentages**



■ Parksville ■ RDN

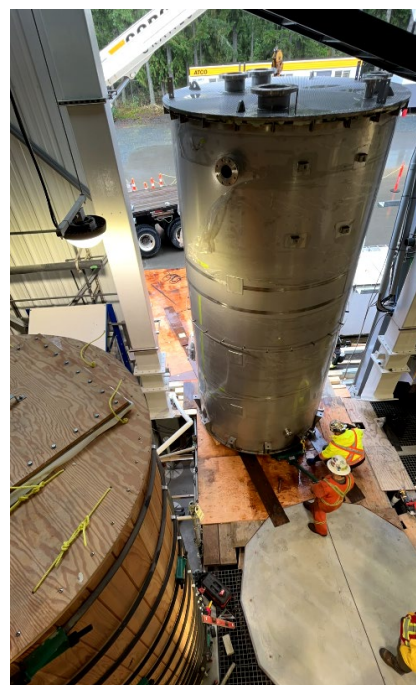
Englishman River Water Service

- During key stages of the chemical tank replacement project, October 20 onward, the plant operated on reduced hours and limited days.
- By the end of October, a section of the chemical room outer wall was removed, and two chemical skids were temporarily relocated. The new sodium hydroxide tank was placed onto its pedestal.
- A service technician was on site for the bi-annual service and inspection of the UV system.
- The heating system was serviced mid-October.



Photos:

New Sodium Hydroxide tank being unloaded and moved onto its pedestal.



Arrowsmith Water Service

- Weekly dam inspections are ongoing.
- Wood piles were burned.
- The dam flow release valves were shut down on October 4 due to observed increase in flow at the WSC Hydrometric Gauge 08HB002 (see figure 3). This increase in flow was due to rainfall events that took place at the end of September and early October. The valves have been shut off since as rainfall was somewhat frequent during the month of October. This has led to a lake level increase of 3.5m (see figure 2) . The flow release valve system was not winterized to ensure flow could be made available for the whole month of October.
- Water restrictions ended on October 31st.

Figure 1. Englishman River Watershed.

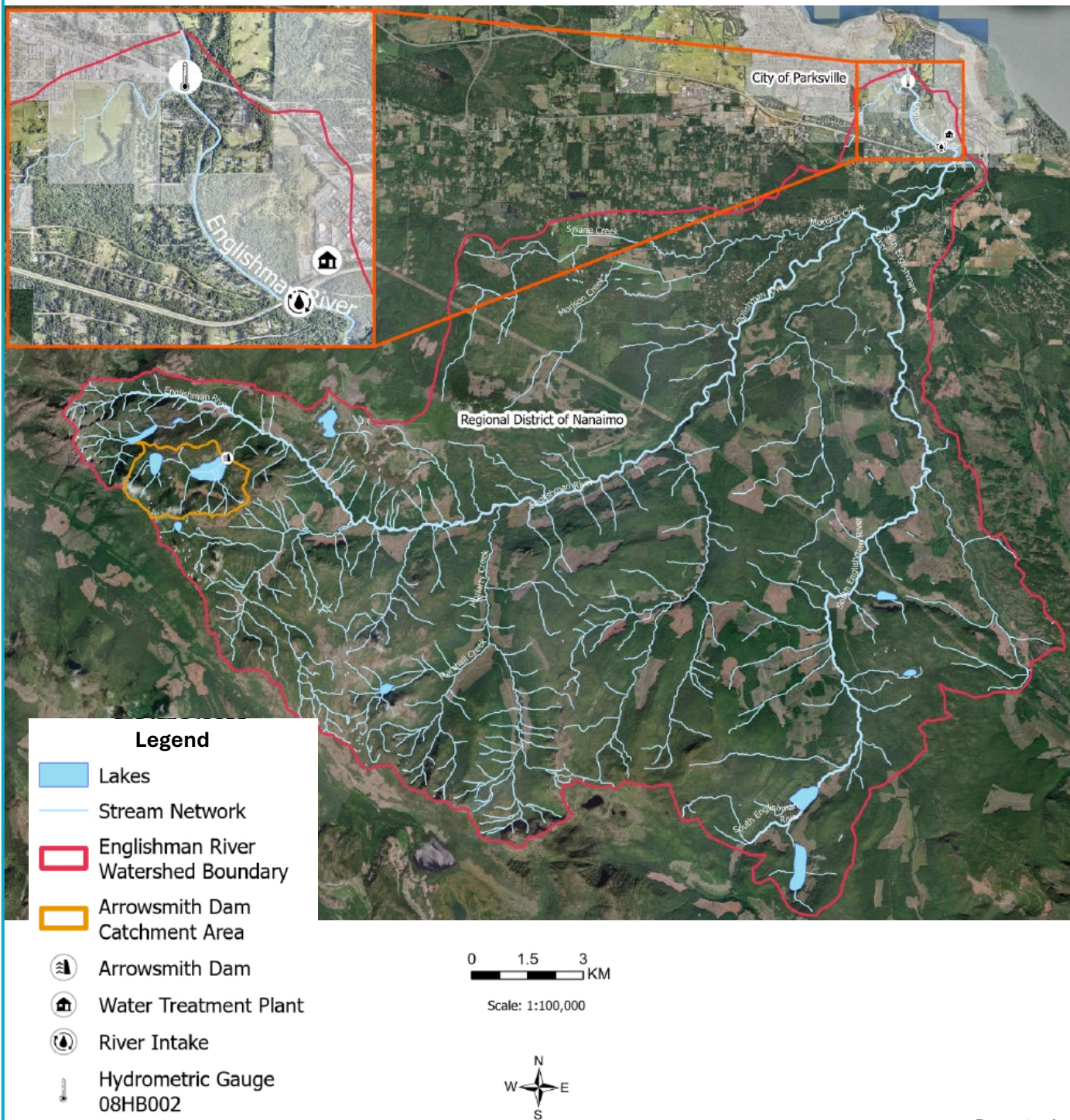




Figure 2. Arrowsmith Lake Level at the Dam.

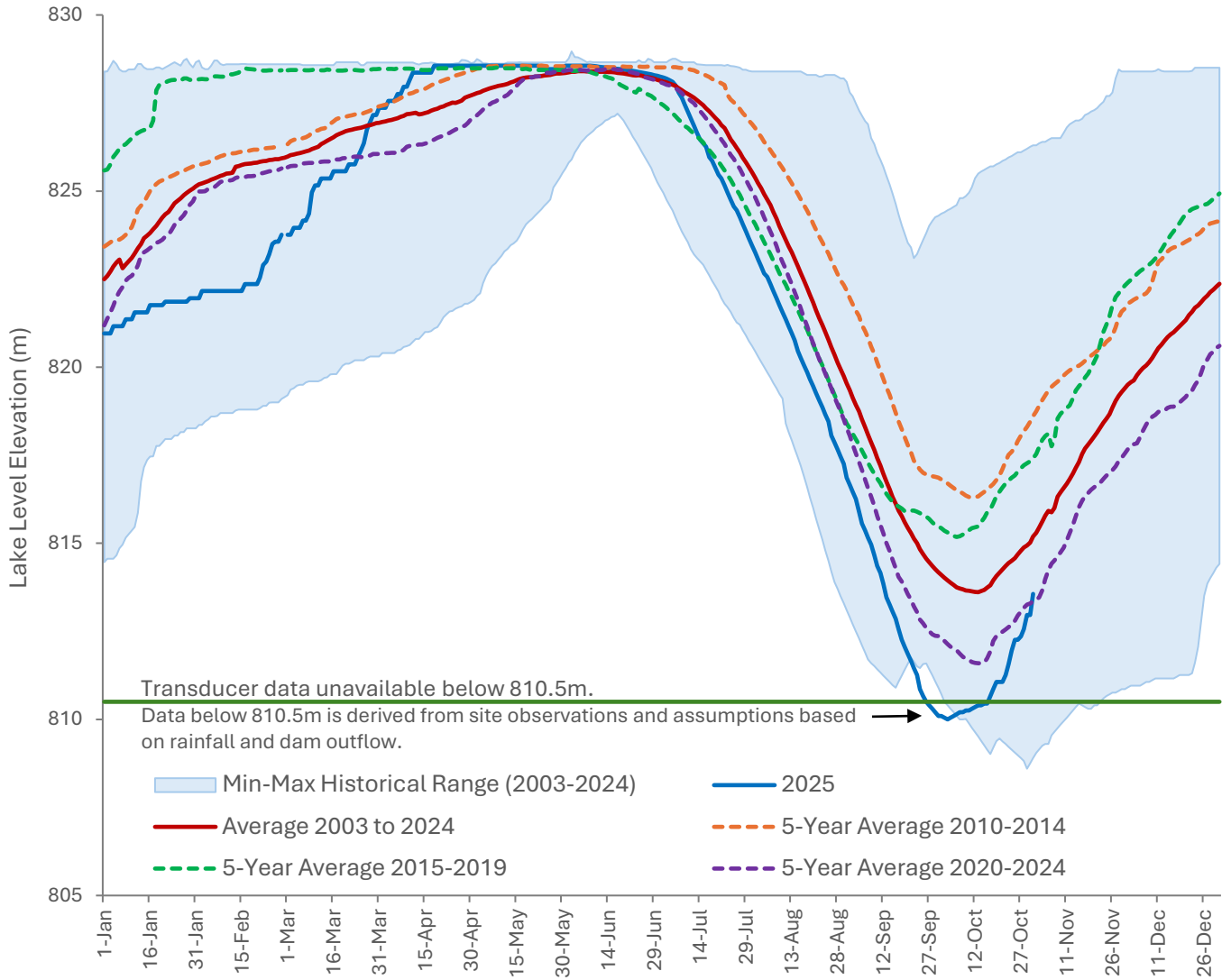




Figure 3. Volumetric flow rates and rainfall.

