



## Arrowsmith Water Service and Englishman River Water Service Monthly Update – March 2026

### Purpose

This document is intended to provide board members of the Arrowsmith Water Service (AWS) and the Englishman River Water Service (ERWS) 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 m<sup>3</sup> 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. Following the Order set out by the Province of BC, when a flow release reduction from Arrowsmith Dam is allowed so that less than 1.6m<sup>3</sup>/s of flow is recorded at the flow gauge, water use conservation measures are enacted for users of the ERWS. The details of the Order can be found on the City of Parksville website within the AWS section.

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



## Englishman River Water Service

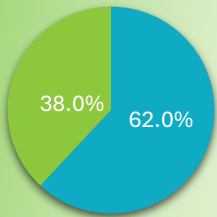
**March 2026**

**ERWS WTP  
Production**  
136,633 m<sup>3</sup>

**RDN Share of ERWS**  
51,973 m<sup>3</sup>

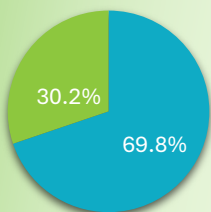
**Parksville Share of  
ERWS**  
84,660 m<sup>3</sup>

**March 2026 ERWS  
Consumption  
Percentages**



■ Parksville ■ RDN

**March 2025 ERWS  
Consumption  
Percentages**



■ Parksville ■ RDN

- March was focused on general cleanup and operational regrouping.
- The new sodium hydroxide storage tank was successfully placed into service. During commissioning, operators addressed several minor leaks, which were anticipated as part of the startup process.
- An increase in water demand was observed, likely due to distribution system watermain flushing and the Regional District of Nanaimo's pilot of their Aquifer Storage and Recovery system.
- The 5-year fish monitoring program report was finalized by EDI and submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on March 10.
- Biannual Cryptosporidium and Giardia sampling was completed at both the raw water intake and the plant, following the final stage of the treatment process.



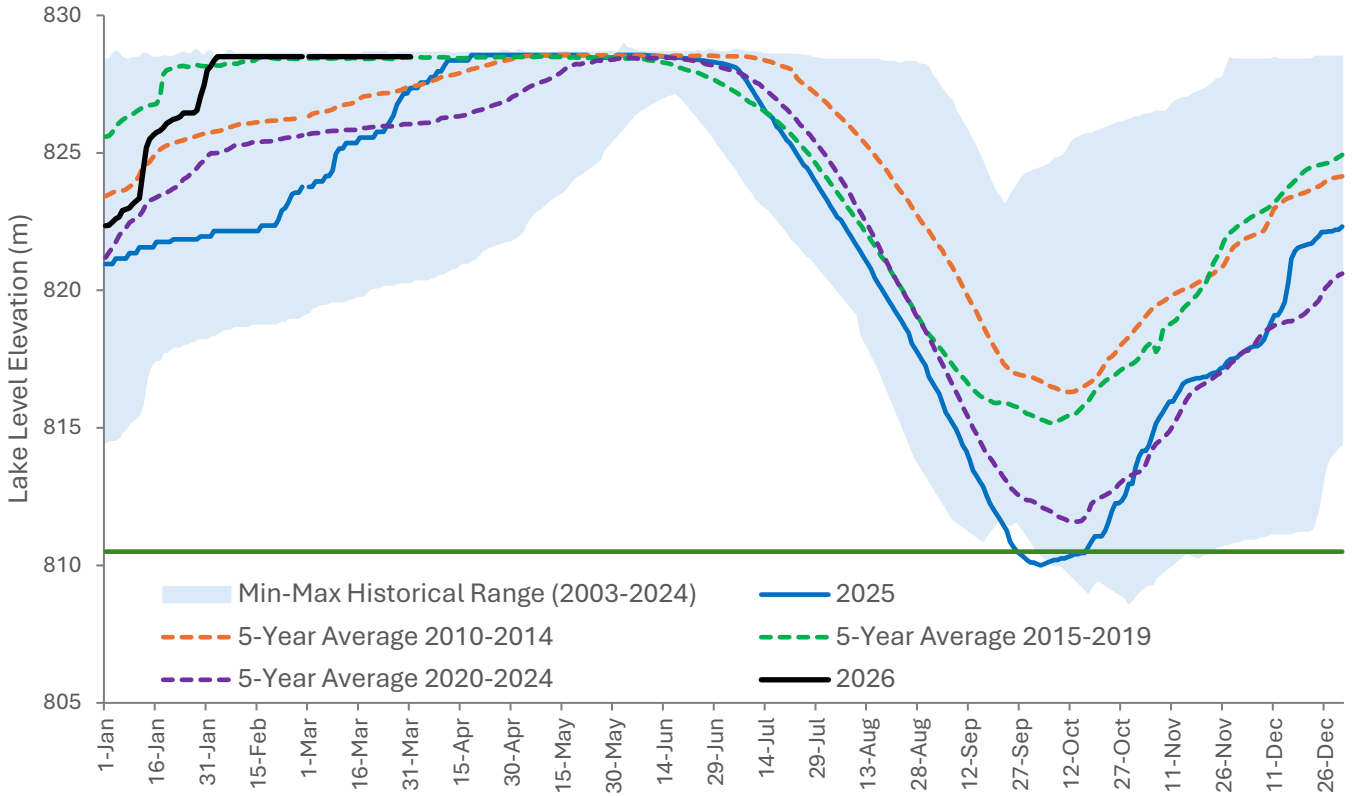
Lab equipment set up at the water treatment plant.

## Arrowsmith Water Service

- The Arrowsmith Reservoir was spilling continuously throughout the month of March (Figure 1).
- Snow Water Equivalent measurements collected near the dam reached record-low levels for the month (Figure 2).
- Operators drove to the dam to conduct an informal inspection.



**Figure 1. Arrowsmith Dam Lake Level**



**Figure 2. Snow Water Equivalent – Station 3B26P**

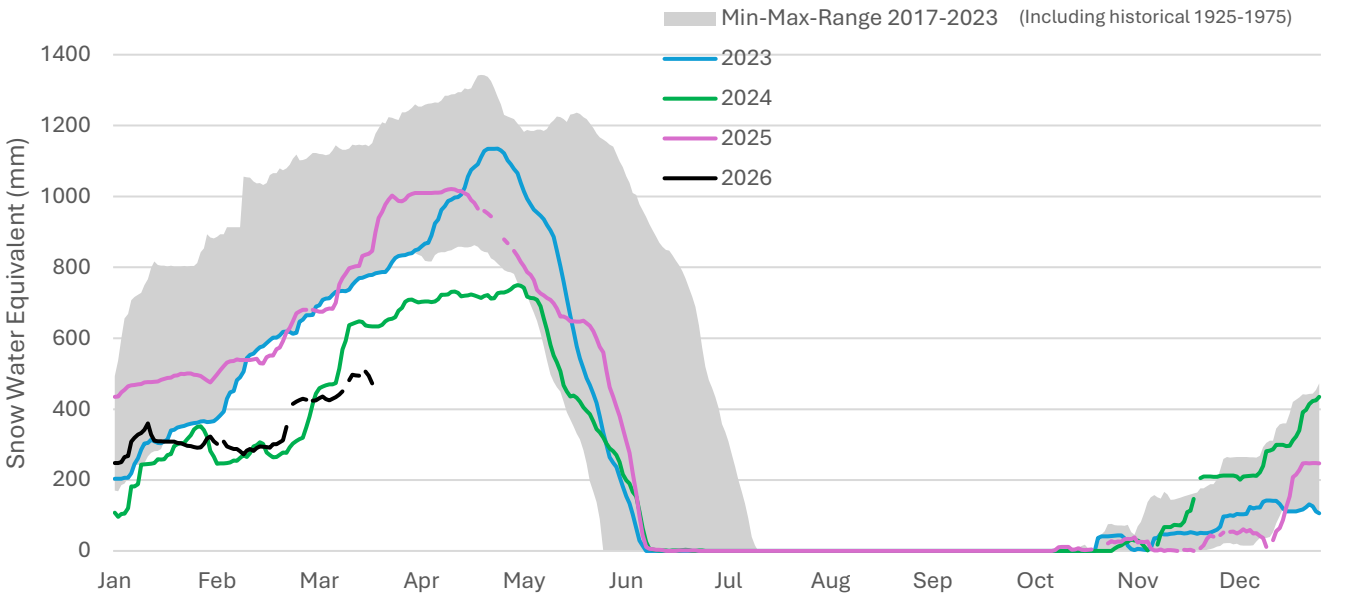
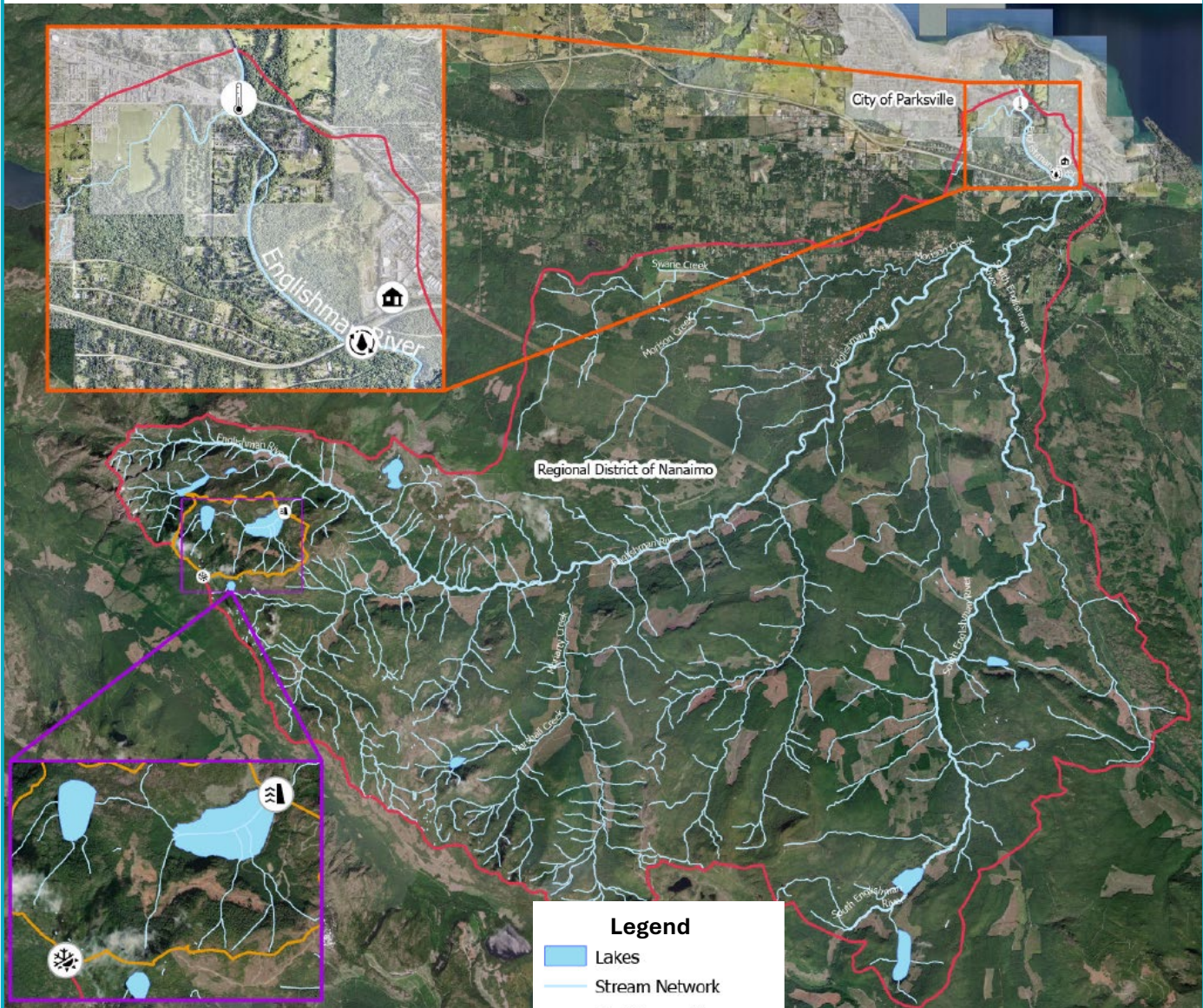













Figure 3. Englishman River Watershed



- Legend**
-  Lakes
  -  Stream Network
  -  Englishman River Watershed Boundary
  -  Arrowsmith Dam Catchment Area
  -  Arrowsmith Dam
  -  Water Treatment Plant
  -  River Intake
  -  Hydrometric Gauge 08HB002
  -  SnowGauge

0 1.5 3  
KM

Scale: 1:100,000

