



Arrowsmith Water Service and Englishman River Water Service Monthly Update – April 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 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. Following the Order set out by the Province of BC, when a flow release reduction from Arrowsmith Dam is allowed so that less than 1.6m³/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



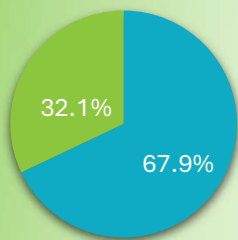
April 2026

**ERWS WTP
Production**
137,187 m³

RDN Share of ERWS
43,990 m³

**Parksville Share of
ERWS**
93,197 m³

April 2026 ERWS Consumption Percentages



■ Parksville ■ RDN

Englishman River Water Service

April marked a return to stable plant operations, allowing staff to fully re-engage with core responsibilities such as routine operations, inspections, and maintenance.

This followed several high-demand months during which staff worked beyond their typical roles to support concurrent projects.

Key activities completed in April included:

- **Update of the intake procedures:** Intake screen cleaning procedures and the associated hazard assessment were updated.
- **CO₂ system servicing:** A contractor completed a full service of the CO₂ gas system.
- **Operator refresher training:** Operators received refresher training to reinforce routine checks and maintain safe, consistent operations.
- **Fish monitoring observations:** Observation of fish at or near the intake began for the 2026 season, the final year of the 5-year fish monitoring program.
- **Probe repair:** The temperature and turbidity probe installed downstream of the intake (from June-October) was sent to a specialist for repair.
- **Annual fire drill:** The annual fire drill was conducted, including alarm activation and muster point verification.
- **Regulatory inspection:** The Vancouver Island Health Authority carried out a routine inspection of the Water Treatment Plant.

Arrowsmith Water Service

- The Arrowsmith Reservoir was spilling continuously throughout the month of April (Figure 1).
- Snow Water Equivalent measurements collected near the dam continue to show record-low levels (Figure 2).
- Operators conduct a visual inspection of the dam.



Figure 1. Arrowsmith Dam Lake Level

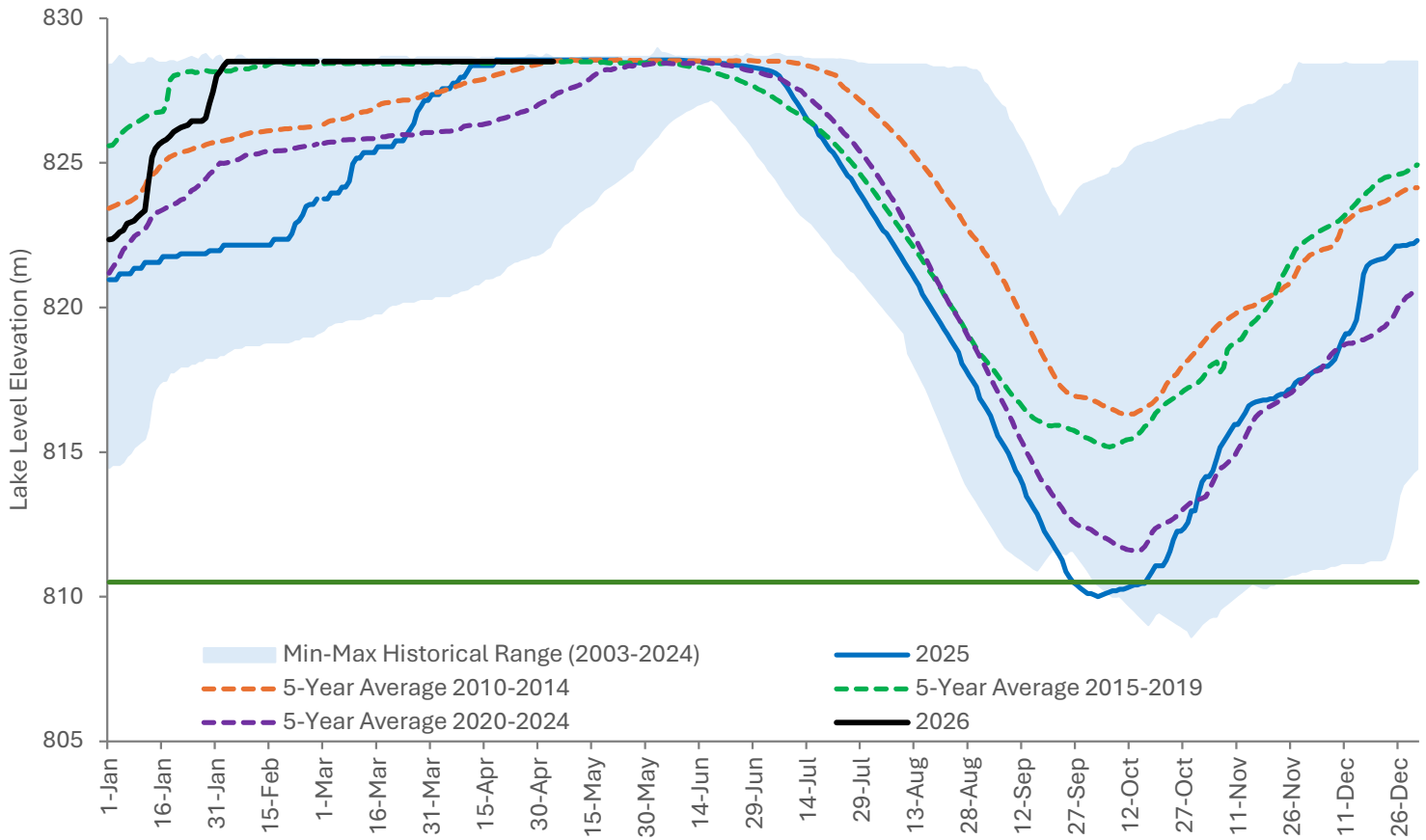


Figure 2. Snow Water Equivalent – Station 3B26P

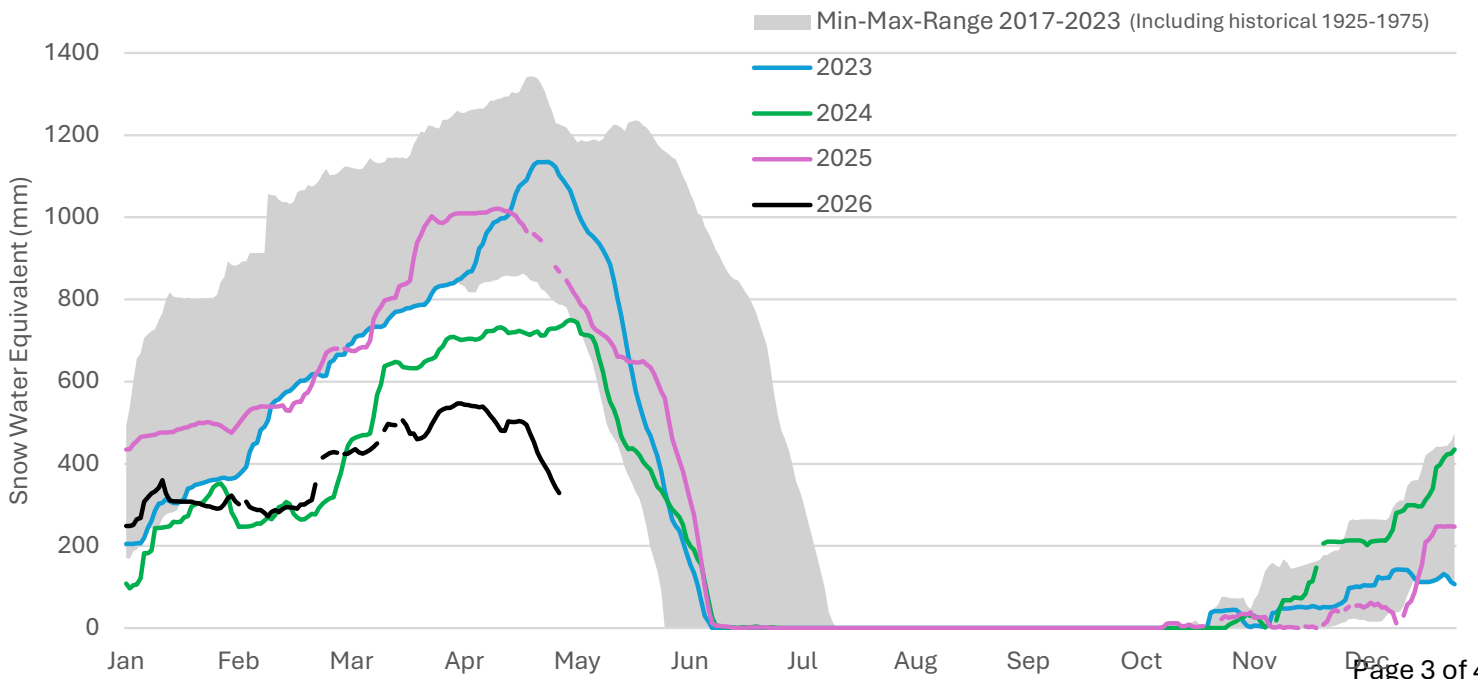
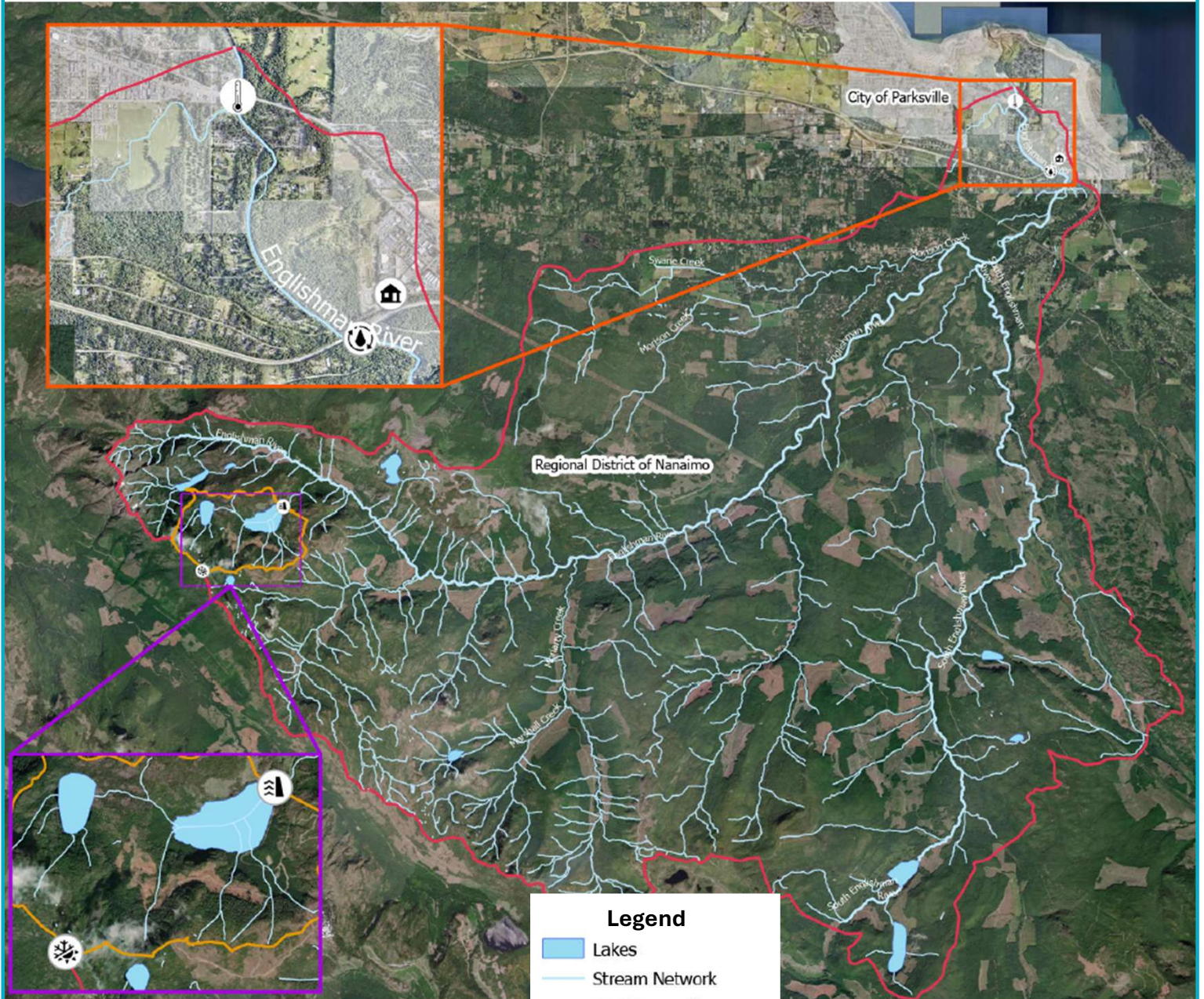




Figure 3. Englishman River Watershed



0 1.5 3
KM

Scale: 1:100,000



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