

# The Douglas Creek Watershed

The Douglas Creek watershed is a 5.5 km<sup>2</sup> urbanized watershed in the eastern part of the District of Saanich.

Historically, the Douglas Creek watershed was forested with Douglas Fir and Garry Oak meadows, and had about 7 km of stream channel draining the watershed. In the late 1800s, the land was cleared for agriculture. In the 1950s the watershed was developed for housing, and the majority of these remaining creek channels were in-filled and drainage was converted to a network of stormwater sewers.

Today, only about 800 m of the original stream channel remains within the lower reaches of the channel in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) and about 80 km of stormwater sewers draining the remaining watershed.

The combination of increased impervious area (~37%) and increased use of sewers for drainage in the watershed has significantly increased the speed with which rainfall is transferred to the stream. This has increased peak flows in the open channel downstream which has led to channel erosion and damage to stream habitat.

Source: Douglas Creek Study (Project No. 15/11) DRAFT - Report November 2011 | The Corporation of the District of Saanich

