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Oak Bay News

Bowker Creek project in spotlight - Time to get a move on, biologist says.

By [Vivian Moreau - Oak Bay News](#)

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Bowker Creek Brush-up offers more than simply a chance for artists to get out of their studios and mingle with the masses.

This Saturday's event is a chance to remember Bowker Creek and the work being done to revitalize the eight-kilometre waterway that meanders from the University of Victoria through mostly underground culverts to the open waters of Oak Bay.

After five years of planning, a collaboration of environmentalists and government organizations – the Bowker Creek Initiative – is ready to move to the next stage in bringing the polluted creek back to life.

As spokesperson for the group, biologist Tanis Douglas says it's time to start "actually doing things to the creek."

One such project will be widening the creek bed that runs through the Oak Bay secondary property, something that can be included in the school's rebuild. That widening will allow the creek to disperse runoff more easily during rainy seasons.

Oak Bay encourages rainwater management in the Uplands, but Douglas would like the municipality to be more proactive with its planning policies.

An example would be to encourage permeable paving that allows rainwater to seep into the ground, rather than flooding street drainage systems.

“Policy planning and land-use work – that determines the health of the creek more than anything,” Douglas said.

Members of the Bowker Creek Initiative will be staffing an information booth at the Brush-up.

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