

Territorial Acknowledgement

"We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is within the traditional territories of all Coast Salish Nations on the South Island, especially the Lək̓ʷəŋən People of the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum People of the Esquimalt Nation. "

(Red = key language to be included in the acknowledgement.)

Historical information

West Shore Parks & Recreation is claimed by 8 Nations. These the lands were "pass through" lands to the Royal Roads site which was a trading centre.

The 8 Nations that claim West Shore Parks & Recreation as Traditional Territory are:

Please note Songhees and Esquimalt don't use the word "first" in their names.)

Lekwungen (Songhees Nation)	pronounced: (lekwun-gen) (song-eez)
Xwsepsum (Esquimalt Nation)	pronounced: (ko-sap-sum) (es-kwai-malt)
Scia'new (Beecher Bay First Nation)	pronounced: (chee-a-new)
Malahat Nation	pronounced: (mal-a-hat)
Pauquachin First Nation	pronounced: (paw-kwi-chin)
Tseycum First Nation	pronounced: (say-come)
Tsawout First Nation	pronounced: (say-out)
Tsartlip First Nation	pronounced: (sart-lip)

We say and share the acknowledgement as a sign of reconciliation and cultural revitalization.



The Sea Otter

The Coast Salish Sea Otter Symbol has always been a highly valued animal and symbol. In the past only tribal nobility wore its fur. Native legends describe the Otter as a giver of great fortunes. The otter symbolizes friendship, peace and family, as well as being kind, social and mischievous. It is also a symbol of grace, empathy as well as happiness and never ending curiosity.

~ SPIRITS OF THE WEST COAST ART GALLERY

