

What is a Community Forest?

- A community forest is a forestry operation managed by a local government, First Nation, or community-held organization for the benefit of the entire community. At its core, community forestry is about local control over the benefits offered by local forests (www.bccfa.ca).
- A Community Forest Agreement (CFA) in BC is a long-term agreement to manage a specific area of public forest land.
- CFAs are granted only to legal entities representing community interests.
- CFAs give the holder exclusive rights to harvest timber on a specific land base (area based).
- Community Forests are managed to reflect local community values and priorities.
- There are currently 61 Community Forests Agreements operating across British Columbia.



About Squamish Community Forest

- Is a partnership between Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and the District of Squamish
- Is a Community Forest Agreement licence issued by the Province of British Columbia.
- An exciting opportunity to jointly and sustainably manage the forest lands surrounding our community to reflect shared local values.
- Spans 11,303 hectares on the hillsides east and south of Squamish, including portions of the watersheds of Shannon Creek, Raffuse Creek, Stawamus River, Cheekye River, Mashiter Creek, Ring Creek and the lower Mamquam River.



Squamish Community Forest Governance

- Squamish Community Forest CFA is held by the **Squamish Community Forest Limited Partnership** – a collaboration between Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and District of Squamish
- The General Partner for the LP is Squamish Community Forest Corporation
- The Board of Squamish Community Forest Corporation is to be comprised of an equal number of nominees of Squamish Nation and the District of Squamish. An initial interim board has been appointed.
- Any profits from the Community Forest will be shared equally between Squamish Nation and the District of Squamish.



Squamish Community Forest Initial Guiding Principles

- Forest planning and operations will respect the land use plans and the cultural, recreational, educational and aesthetic values/objectives of both the Squamish Nation and the District of Squamish, including management of viewscales, recreational trails and riparian values;
- Forest planning and operations will follow sustainable forestry practices;
- Forest planning and operations will be conducted to maximize long-term security of employment and contracting opportunities in preference for Squamish Nation members and local residents;
- Forestry operations will be operated to show a profit, and demonstrate the value and viability of forestry to the District of Squamish and the Squamish Nation; and
- Decisions will be made by consensus where possible, recognizing both cultural and sustainability interests of the Partners.



Squamish Community Forest Mission Statement

To steward the Squamish Community Forest in a manner reflecting and sustaining environmental and cultural values while providing social and economic benefits to its member communities for generations to come.



Squamish Community Forest Values

- Balance (between environmental, social and economic goals)
- Environmental sustainability
- Squamish Nation cultural values
- Other cultural values
- Financial sustainability
- Community engagement and social licence
- Respect for all interests and resource values
- Outdoor recreation opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Cooperation
- Innovation



Squamish Community Forest Goals

Social Goals:

- Strengthen and grow relationships and partnerships among the District of Squamish, Squamish Nation and community members
- Practice strong community engagement and communication
- Facilitate cultural use
- Support training and capacity building
- Respect and consider all land users and other tenure holders
- Integrate safety in all aspects of operations, for forest workers and the public
- Provide education and research opportunities

Economic Goals:

- Provide economic benefits/revenue for Squamish Nation and District of Squamish
- Provide employment opportunities for local community members
- Support local secondary manufacturing



Squamish Community Forest Goals

Resource Management Goals:

- Managed and conserve biodiversity, ecosystem function and integrity
- Protect cultural and heritage values and sites
- Manage and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Maintain an appropriate level of old growth
- Protect fish habitat and riparian areas
- Support a well-managed outdoor recreation network of trails/features in balance with other values
- Minimize wildfire risk and manage for a wildfire resilient forest
- Protect and maintain community water supply quality and quantity
- Maintain visual quality and viewscales
- Grow and harvest timber at a rate that is socially and ecologically appropriate and in balance with all other values



Squamish Community Forest Management Plan

Purposes of the Management Plan:

- To provide the broad direction and general management approach
- To link the community and their values to management of the community forest
- To establish an annual allowable cut.

Elements of the Management Plan:

- Mission and values
- Social, economic and resource management goals
- Inventories and management approach for non-timber and timber resource values
- Allowable Annual Cut proposal and rationale
- Measures to Identify and Consult with all land users and stakeholders in the community forest area
- Measures to Consult with First Nations
- A plan for annual reporting to the community



Squamish Community Forest Management Plan Elements cont'd

- Inventories and management approach for non-timber and timber resource values, including:

Soils	Forest Health Factors
Biogeoclimatic Zones	Wildfire Risk Management
Biodiversity	Silviculture
Old Growth	Terrain
Wildlife	Roads
Species at Risk	Recreation
Water, Riparian Areas and Fish Habitat	Visual Quality and Scenic Areas
Cultural and Archaeological Values	Other tenure holders and land users



Squamish Community Forest Landbase Overview

	Area (hectares)	Percentage
Total area	11, 303ha	100%
Non-forested (rock, ice, etc)	2969ha	
Other (transmission lines, pipeline right of ways, roads etc.)	163ha	
Total forested area	8171ha	72% of total area
Inoperable, unmerchantable, non-commercial species	1762ha	
Reserves (Cultural sites, Wildland, Old Growth Management Areas, Ungulate Winter Range, Wildlife Habitat Areas, WTRAs)	1461ha	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (steep slopes, sensitive soils)	522ha	
Visual Quality netdown for Shannon Basin	608ha	
Riparian reserve zones	180ha	
Recreation netdown	42ha	
Timber harvesting landbase	3596ha	32% of total area 44% of forested



Squamish Community Forest

Forest Age Classes and Tree Species

Forest Age Class	Area (hectares)	Percentage
Logged (Sufficiently restocked and Not yet sufficiently restocked)	253ha	2%
Greenup/Free to Grow	3482ha	36%
Immature Forest (61-120 yrs)	2278ha	24%
Mature Forest (121-249 yrs)	354ha	4%
Old Growth (250 yrs+)	3282ha	34%
Total	9649ha	100%

Tree species	Douglas Fir	Cedar	Hemlock	Balsam	Other Conifer	Deciduous
Percentage of THLB growing stock	33%	11%	35%	19%	1%	2%



Squamish Community Forest Ecosystem Classification

Biogeoclimatic zone/subzone/variant	Area (hectares)
CWHdm Coastal Western Hemlock – Dry Maritime	3470ha
CWHvm1 Coastal Western Hemlock – Submontane Very Wet Maritime	584ha
CWHvm2 Coastal Western Hemlock – Montane Very Wet Maritime	2626ha
MHmm1 Mountain Hemlock – Windward Moist Maritime	3207ha
MHmmp Mountain Hemlock – Windward Moist Maritime parkland	1342ha



Benefits of Community Forests

- This innovative form of forest management generates economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits for local communities, the province, and the environment.
- Greater local control of forest stewardship and timber harvest decisions including consideration of community values such as recreation, wildlife, watersheds, viewscales, cultural and spiritual sites.
- Support for local economies and livelihoods. Profits remain local.
- Harvesting operations can provide a source of revenue for local priorities and community initiatives.
- Strengthening relationships between the community of Squamish and Squamish Nation.
- Greater awareness of forest management among members of the public.
- Local-level decision making that leads to locally appropriate decisions and improves the incentives to consider the long-term benefits of sustainable forest management.



Community Forest Indicators Report

- The Annual Community Forest Indicators Report is a window into community forestry in BC.
- Since 2014 the BC Community Forest Association has conducted an annual survey of its members to measure the benefits that community forests generate. Eighteen indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of community forests.

