

Surfers for Wetlands



What's Threatening Whistler's Alpha & Millar Creek Wetlands?



What and Where are the Alpha-Millar Creek Wetlands?

In Whistler, British Columbia, over 70 percent of original wetlands have been lost to development and draining. The Millar Creek and Alpha Creek wetlands represent the largest wetlands within Whistler's developed boundaries. These wetlands provide crucial benefits, from filtration and flood protection to habitat for wildlife.

What is Threatening Whistler's Wetlands?

One of the biggest threats to these wetlands is being under private ownership. Since the 1980's, the Zen family has owned a 77 acre site, now Whistler's largest intact upland wetland ecosystem. And since the 1980's, the landowners have sought means of upzoning the land, despite the wetlands being part of the Protected Areas Network since 2001. The owner's most recent plan has been to build a campus to house 1,500 students.

What is the Status of Whistler International Campus?

The university would have been called Whistler International Campus (WIC). In 2013, the City Council stopped the wetlands from being rezoned and WIC from being built, despite the fact that site tours, and leveraging funds of up to 300 million dollars, had already begun. The wetlands are safe for now, but may face future threats yet to come.

What Can You Do to Help?

Get involved with or donate to the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (awarewhistler.org), a member driven charity that works to protect the natural environment in Whistler and the Sea to Sky.



For more information visit www.surfersforwetlands.org



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