

Work Plan 2013 Results

Introduction

The following is a summary of projects completed in 2013 and the carry-over of projects into 2014.

The creeks are listed from west to east with the Creek Coordinators identified.

Larson Creek - Marshall Bauman, Bruce McArthur, Elizabeth Hardy

A survey of the creek ecosystem was conducted by Dan Heneger, WVSS Directors and Alex Sartori. Recommendations and observation are being compiled for next years proposed creek projects and the Audubon classification of Gleneagles Golf Club.

Seaview Trail Rearing Pond - The rearing pond was not working effectively this summer due to lack of water flow, warm temperatures and competition for oxygen from iron oxide leaching into the pond. The flow to the rearing pond was improved this fall by the DWV placing a water restrictor in the overflow culvert that now diverts water to the pond. The restrictor needs to be sealed in the summer of 2014 to further augment the flow into the pond.

Nelson Creek - Elizabeth Hardy

The Plexiglas weir barrier on upstream side of Marine Drive has been removed. A few baffles in the open box culvert at Telegraph Trail were reworked to ensure all but high flow was directed to the baffled side of the culvert. Several boulders were placed downstream of the road crossing to create a pool at the start of the culvert. Both projects were conducted by the DWV.

In early November through December dredging and pile driving by Thunderbird Marina occurred in the harbour at the creek mouth. The possible detrimental effects on returning adult salmon are unknown. John Barker did a tour with marina management in late November and changes in the work window for future dredging are expected.

Eagle Creek - Elizabeth Hardy

Engineering studies in 2012 and 2013 analyzed the culvert at the mouth of Eagle Creek. The 2013 study determined that the metal culvert was corroded and in need of repair or replacement in the next few years. Several meetings with DVW were held to determine best solution. Investigative work will continue in 2014.

Wood Creek - Elizabeth Hardy

The major project of the year was the installation of baffles in the 120 metre long culvert under Keith Road in September in time for the salmon spawning season. This will allow returning adult salmon to access the excellent spawning and rearing habitat in Parc Verdun. Both pinks and coho were observed upstream of the culvert this fall.

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Caufeild Creek - Celia Utley

Concrete Obstruction . Most of the obstruction has been removed. However, there is a small man-made fall which still remains and, if removed, could open more upstream habitat. The creek has had evidence of returning coho for several years.

Dogwood Creek - Ray Bradbury

Normal monitoring activities performed.

Claymore Creek - Celia Utley

DWV indicated that there has been flooding along Ross Crescent caused by construction up the hill. The effect on salmon habitat is being reviewed.

Willow Creek - Celia Utley

The silt blockage of the culvert near the creek mouth and creek bottom will be reviewed by DWV and suggestions presented to WVSS next year.

Cypress Creek - Noel Murphy, Celia Utley

The installation of the fish ladder to assist returning pink salmon was delayed due to lack of DFO personnel to assist. The ladder was finally installed by Streamkeepers and the CAER resident manager. Evidence of pink salmon was found upstream of the weir, but unfortunately some were lost to river otters.

Pipe, Westmount, Cave and Turner Creeks - Hugh Hamilton, Sigrid Bailey

Regular salmon monitoring performed.

Rodgers Creek - Hugh Hamilton, Sigrid Bailey

Improving the estuary is under consideration and will be addressed after the McDonald Creek estuary project has been completed and the effectiveness evaluated in the fall of 2014.

No work on baffles undertaken - carry forward to 2014.

Spring fry and smolts trapping were successfully undertaken in the pond below Marine Drive.

McDonald Creek - Jim Torry, Mike Akerly, Dave Martin

Hay and Memorial (Centennial) Park Pond inlet pipe screens were modified resulting in reduced blockage and stronger flows. Further improvements are planned for the Hay Park Pond intake. A team of Streamkeepers continue to monitor and clean the intake pipes as required.

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The first over-wintering coho fry departed the Centennial Rearing Pond for the ocean this May.

A submission for funding from the federal government Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program was submitted on December 18 with the objective of improving the McDonald Creek estuary. This would allow returning salmon to access the creek at a broader range of tide levels. Total project cost is estimated to be \$125,000.

The Hay Park weir, Fulton Avenue ladder and Sinclair Street dam modification projects will be carried forward to 2014.

Lawson Creek - Peter Gaskill, John Barker

One new baffle under Bellevue Avenue was installed. Chum and coho were found from the mouth to Bellevue Avenue.

The ladder at The Legion continues to function only at high water flows which were few this comparatively dry fall.

The need to modify the restrictive culvert-weir on the north side of Fulton Avenue will be carried forward to 2014.

Brothers Creek - Sherry Parrot, Leslie Pomeroy

The successful EPN program included 71 high school students working with Streamkeepers to perform spawner salmon surveys. Over 1,300 pink, chum and coho were observed, primarily in Brothers and Hadden Creeks.

West Brothers Creek

DVW repaired an older, collapsing culvert at Wildwood Place by installing a liner inside the old culvert and baffles added to assist the movement upstream of returning salmon. Several pink salmon were observed upstream of this culvert following the repair.

Hadden Creek - Jamie Robb - Upper Hadden, Greg Harder - Lower

Hadden

Increased numbers of pinks, chum and coho were surveyed in Hadden Creek.

Macbeth Creek - Hugh Hamilton

Salmon continue to use the spawning habitat now available since the small dam on private property was removed several years ago. Pink, chum and coho salmon were observed at separate times this fall in this small tributary of Brothers Creek.

New Yellow Fish/Creek Road Side Signs

New signs or upgraded (single side to double side) signs were placed at road crossings of the following creeks. Larson, Nelson, Caulfeild, Claymore, Cypress, Turner and Cave. In the Upper Lands, two signs were installed on Rodgers Creek East and one on Rodgers Creek Main.

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More small creek signs (blue background with yellow fish) are being installed on foot bridges that cross over creeks in public places . Wood Creek, McDonald Creek, etc.

DWV Invasive Plant Species Strategy Working Group

Eight citizens form this Working Group including Streamkeepers Bill McAllister, Hugh Hamilton, Michael Evison and District Councillor, Nora Gambioli. The most challenging species are Japanese Knotweed and Giant Knotweed.

Storm Drain Marking Program - Sherry Parrott

Storm drain marking events were successfully completed with elementary students at Ridgeview, Cedardale, Gleneagles and Hollyburn Schools as well as a marking event with a team of Girl Guides. The total marked storm drains in 2013 was 387 bring the total marked for the seven years of this program to 1620.

Nelson Creek Hatchery - Elizabeth Hardy

190,000 chum and 60,000 coho were raised from eyed-egg to fry at the hatchery. They were released to creeks across West Vancouver in the spring of 2013.

The DWV assisted the hatchery by replacing a valve on the water intake system with one that will automatically respond to demand from the hatchery and better regulate water drawn from Nelson Creek. A sign frame was recovered from another location and erected at the hatchery by the DWV to become a place where displays can be provided for public interest.

The DWV also lent the hatchery a fire hose to make filling the DFO tank truck for fry releases much quicker and easier.

Submitted by Dave Reid, Coordinator, Work Plan
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