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Work Plan 2018

For information on creeks and to view maps, check the website (www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca) and look under Our Creeks.

Larson Creek Rearing Pond

The rearing pond adjacent to Marine Drive continues to gather sediment that reduces the rearing habitat. We will work with the District to investigate ways to reduce this sediment capture and improve the water quality of this pond.

Eagle Creek

The plunge pool at the lower end of the upgraded culvert was disturbed and the size reduced considerably during the culvert repair in 2017. This pool provides rearing habitat for juvenile coho, cutthroat trout and is a point of transition for returning adult salmon that must make it through the 50 metre baffled culvert to natural stream habitat. The objective is to enlarge the pool, reconfigure the larger boulders to improve creek access, remove the newly placed crushed rock from the banks and add native soil and vegetation to restore this pool and adjacent habitat.

Cave Creek

There may be an opportunity to naturalize the creek in West Bay Park. Before entering the ocean, the creek flows through a 25 metre concrete box culvert.

The objective would be to remove the culvert, stabilize the creek path and add gravel, large woody debris and boulder clusters to create spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. The creek would then have native vegetation added and a new pedestrian bridge for public access through the park.

Rodgers Creek

The culvert at Marine Drive has baffles, and on the south side, a concrete fish ladder - both of which assist returning salmon to reach upstream habitat. Boulders continue to block the baffles and enter the fish ladder annually.

A proposal by Streamkeepers, in an attempt to limit these blockages, would see the installation of a trash rack above Marine Drive that would divert large boulders to the sides of the creek and not through the culvert.

An on-site meeting with the District resulted in support for this recommendation which is currently under review.

Restoration of lower Lawson Creek

The proposal to naturalize the lowest section of Lawson Creek, below Argyle Avenue, involves diverting creek water from the concrete culvert through a newly constructed natural stream path. This creek path will flow through the small park to the west of the proposed Navy Jack Nature Centre. Water quality testing was completed in 2017.

The next step is the detailed design of the new creek path, the cost estimate of this work and raising the funds for this project.

The construction would occur at the same time as modifications and possible movement of Navy Jack House in this location.

Lawson Creek Fish Ladder

The fish ladder in Lawson Creek adjacent to The Legion continues to experience gravel build-up during heavy rain events.

A proposal has been received that recommends removing a three-foot section of the concrete pony wall that diverts stream flow to the fish ladder. This notch would remain open during medium to high flows to carry gravel and boulders past the fish ladder. However, during mid-to-low flows this notch would be blocked with a removable plate to ensure creek flow to the ladder. In these conditions, the flow is not expected to carry the volume of gravel and small rock that is delivered during high flow events.

West Brothers Creek

There may be an opportunity to naturalize a section of West Brothers Creek, beside Wildwood Lane, for a distance of approximately 100 metres. This would be from the fish ladder where West Brothers Creek joins Brothers Creek, and continue upstream to Wildwood Court.

In this section the creek travels in a concrete flume with rock imbedded on the sides and bottom. For this distance there is no spawning or rearing habitat.

The objective would be to remove the existing concrete and rock, stabilize the creek path and add gravel, boulder clusters and large woody debris to create spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.

West Brothers Creek, in this area, runs on municipal land. An on-site meeting was held in late 2017 with representatives of the District's Engineering and Environment departments to review this recommendation.

Brothers Creek

One of the oldest baffle installations in the community are those in the Brothers Creek culvert under the Upper Levels Highway near Taylor Way. Many of the baffles are badly damaged or missing. Working with the District, it is hoped that the estimated 15 baffles can be repaired or new ones installed to assist the movement of salmon in Brothers Creek.

Hadden Creek

The fish ladder on Hadden Creek on the south side of Stevens Drive is at risk of collapse. The supporting structure at the top of the ladder has suffered serious undermining from a combination of ground water movement and excessive creek flow. The objective, working with the District, is to bring in material that will provide structure to hold the heavy aluminum "Alaska Steep" fish ladder in place.

Prior to the installation of this fish ladder about 10 years ago, there was no passage of salmon beyond this point. Since the installation was completed four species of salmon have now been observed upstream from Steven Drive.

Herring Spawn Enhancement Program

Now in its second year, the program has been expanded. In addition to Thunderbird Marina and West Vancouver Yacht Club located in Fisherman's Cove, we will have nets at Sewell's Marina in Horseshoe Bay.

There will be a total of 24 nets awaiting the arrival of spawning herring this winter – 12 in Fisherman's Cove and 12 in Horseshoe Bay.

Nets will be checked weekly, by a team of volunteers, looking for evidence of herring eggs.