

Alberta Conservation Association 2015/16 Program Summary Report

Project Name: Fisheries Access Site Management

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Primary ACA staff on project:

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Partnerships

Alberta Environment and Parks – Fish and Wildlife Division, and Lands and Range Division
Alberta Fish & Game Association
Alberta Lottery Fund – Community Facility Enhancement Program
Clearwater County
County of Newell
Devon Canada Corporation
Municipal District of Greenview
Municipal District of Northern Lights
Municipal District of Rocky View
North Raven River Working Group
Peace County Flyfishers
Shell Canada Energy
Trout Unlimited Canada – Central and Yellowhead Chapters
Wetaskiwin County

Key Findings

- Inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned 15 maintenance contracts provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at two fisheries access sites in our Southern Region, including improvements to a boat launch and two parking lots.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at 3 rivers and 23 lakes (18 stocked and 5 stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- Engaged 16 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2015/16 to support management of our fisheries access sites.

Introduction

The focus of Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Land Management Program (LMP) is to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, as well as increase sustainable recreational opportunities, including angling and hunting. One facet of the LMP is the management of ACA fisheries access sites.

The Fisheries Access Site Management Program is delivered throughout the province and provides sites for anglers to access key streams, stocked ponds and lakes thereby increasing recreational opportunities for the public. Our specific objectives in 2015/16 were to deliver the project in an efficient and timely manner; to complete inspections and necessary maintenance on all fisheries access sites; to deliver infrastructure improvement projects at priority sites; and to establish and maintain collaborative partnerships with industry, government, municipalities and other organizations to discuss management issues and sustainable recreational access opportunities.

Methods

The Fisheries Access Site Management Program is a provincial program that is delivered regionally to maximize partnership opportunities. Regions ensure provincial standards and protocols are followed when managing and maintaining fisheries access sites. We completed field inspections on access sites throughout the province, which involved a visual survey of a site to assess any damages to infrastructure, identify concerns (e.g., weeds), ensure contractor compliance and identify a course of action if required, and identify other enhancement opportunities. We generally completed two to three field inspections of each site per year or monthly if required.

We hired private individuals and companies as contractors or engaged volunteer stewards whenever possible to complete routine maintenance, such as grass cutting, fence repairs, garbage removal, septic services and weed control. Infrastructure upgrades and replacements are necessary because of the age of structures. We also installed ACA Conservation Site signage for fisheries access sites, as needed, generally at the main access points of each site.

Results

We inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We commissioned 15 maintenance contracts provincially in 2015/16. We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at two sites to improve our fisheries access sites and enhance anglers' experiences at these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities inspected and maintained at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2015/16.

ACA region	Site	Site type	Facilities
Central	Beaver Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fences
Central	Birch Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, fences
Central	Boehlke Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Bow Vista	River access	Parking lot
Central	Dickson Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, wheelchair-accessible dock
Central	Fiesta Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses
Central	Hansen Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish cleaning stand, fences
Central	Ironside Pond	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, fences
Central	Kerbes Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Kramer Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish cleaning stand, fences
Central	Mirror Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Mitchell Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, casting platforms/docks, outhouses*, garbage bins*
Central	North Raven River	River access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Nuggent Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, fences, wheelchair-friendly outhouses, trail and casting platform
Central	Shuster Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot
Central	Windsor Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fish cleaning stand, fences
Northwest	East Dollar Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish cleaning stand
Northwest	Weberville Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins
Southern	Bathing Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins
Southern	Burmis Lake	Stocked waterbody and river access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Heninger Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch
Southern	Kenex Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, fences
Southern	Lees Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fences
Southern	McVinnie Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Waldron Falls	River access	Parking lot, outhouses

*Operated by provincial recreation area

Table 2. Enhancements completed at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2015/16.

ACA region	Site	Enhancement
Southern	Lees Lake	Graveled and graded parking area
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct	Installed one additional garbage can and graded parking area and boat launch

We maintained 16 collaborative partnerships in 2015/16. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted us with site maintenance and enhancements at various fish access sites.

Conclusions

We successfully inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites across the province and commissioned 15 maintenance contracts to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 23 lakes and 3 rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at two sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address concerns over aging infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We maintained 16 partnerships to assist with the delivery of this program. We continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA fisheries access sites and to pursue additional funding to enhance facilities in the future.

Communications

- Met with Municipal District of Greenview to discuss the potential expansion and development of East Dollar Lake to include West Dollar Lake.
- Met with Northern Sunrise County to develop a fisheries access site at Joker Lake.
- Posted fisheries access site locations and descriptions on our website and listed them in our *Discover Alberta's Wild Side: Annual Outdoor Adventure Guide*.
- Continued negotiations with Alberta Environment and Parks to determine long-term roles and responsibilities at fisheries access sites across the province.

Photos



Overlooking Bathing Lake Fisheries Access Site. Photo: Tyler Johns



Project sign at entrance to Burmis Lake Fisheries Access Site. Photo: Tyler Johns



View of Weberville Pond in the autumn. Photo: Garret Mcken



Recreational users preparing to enjoy Beaver Lake. Photo: John Hallett



Overlooking Boehlke Pond. Photo: Andy Murphy