

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)

Date: 2014-2015

Project Name: Fisheries Access Site Management

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Primary ACA staff on project:

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Partnerships

- Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development – Fish and Wildlife and Lands and Range Divisions
- Alberta Fish & Game Association
- Alberta Lottery Fund – Community Facility Enhancement Program
- Clearwater County
- County of Newell
- County of Warner
- Devon Canada Corporation
- EZ Dock
- 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 27 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at one fisheries access site in our Central Region and one in our Northwest Region, including improving wheelchair access; installing floating casting platforms, outhouses, garbage cans and recycling cans; and removing vegetation to improve shoreline access.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at 3 rivers and 24 lakes (19 stocked and 5 stocked and aerated) throughout the province.

- Engaged 18 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2014/15 and used an additional \$15,230 in external funds to support improvement projects.

Introduction

The focus of Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Land Management Program (LMP) is to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat, as well as to 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 public use. Specific objectives in 2014/15 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 successful 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 damage to infrastructure, identify concerns (e.g., weeds), ensure contractor compliance and identify a course of action if required. The inspection was also used to identify enhancement opportunities. We generally completed two to three field inspections 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 due to 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 27 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at two sites to improve these sites and enhance anglers' experiences at these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities inspected and maintained at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2014/15.

Region	Site Name	Site Type	Facilities
Northwest	East Dollar Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish-cleaning stand
Northwest	Weberville Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins
Central	Birch Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, fences
Central	Bow Vista	River access	Parking lot
Central	North Raven River	River access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Ironside Pond	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, fences
Central	Mitchell Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, casting platforms/docks, outhouses*, garbage bins*
Central	Beaver Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fences
Central	Fiesta Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses
Central	Boehlke Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Dickson Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, wheelchair-accessible dock
Central	Hansen Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish-cleaning stand, 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	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
Southern	Lees Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fences

Southern	Burmis Lake	Stocked waterbody and river access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Waldron Falls	River access	Parking lot, outhouses
Southern	Bathing Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Heninger Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch
Southern	Tyrrell Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, boat launch, fences
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins
Southern	Kenex Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, fences
Southern	McVinnie Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences

*Operated by Provincial Recreation Area

Table 2. Enhancements completed at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2014/15.

Region	Site Name	Enhancement
Northwest	Weberville Pond	Removed aquatic vegetation to improve angler access along sections of shoreline; added a recycling container and a vehicle barrier
Central	Nuggent Pond	Mobility-impaired access improvement project included gravelled and graded parking lot; installed wheelchair-friendly outhouse, asphalt path, floating casting platform, new garbage can, directional road signs and a new gate; reshaped shoreline

We maintained 18 collaborative partnerships in 2014/15 and used \$15,230 in external grant funding for site improvements. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted with site maintenance, upgrades and enhancements at various fisheries access sites.

Conclusions

We successfully inspected and maintained 27 fisheries access sites across the province to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 24 lakes and 3 rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at two sites to improve recreational access, specifically for people with impaired mobility, to address concerns over aging infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We maintained 18 partnerships to assist with the delivery of this program and used \$15,230 in external funding. We continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA fisheries access sites, and we continually pursue additional funding to enhance facilities in the future.

Communications

- 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 Sustainable Resource Development to determine long-term roles and responsibilities at fisheries access sites.

Literature Cited

N/A

Photos



Alberta Conservation Association staff member Dave Jackson inspecting the new recycling container at Weberville Pond. Photo: Garret Mcken



Contractor removing aquatic vegetation from along shoreline to improve angler access at Weberville Pond. Photo: Garret Mcken



Floating casting platform being installed at Nuggent Pond. Photo: Diana Rung



Wheelchair-friendly path and outhouse installed at Nuggent Pond. Photo: Diana Rung



A young angler enjoying McVinnie Trout Pond. Photo: Brad Taylor