

## **Alberta Conservation Association 2016/17 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** Fisheries Access Site Management

**Land Management Program Manager:** Darren Dorge

**Project Leader:** Marco Fontana

### **Primary ACA staff on this project:**

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### **Partnerships**

Alberta Environment and Parks – Fish and Wildlife and Lands and Range divisions  
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 Country Fly Fishers  
Shell Canada Energy  
Trout Unlimited Canada – Yellowhead and Central chapters  
Wetaskiwin County

### **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned 14 maintenance contracts provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at 7 fisheries access sites provincially, including improving an access road and parking lot, constructing a shoreline foot access trail, and installing 5 casting docks.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at 3 rivers and 23 lakes (18 stocked and 5 stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- Assessed 2 waterbodies as unsuitable for developing new fisheries access sites.
- Engaged 16 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2016/17 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, and increase sustainable recreational opportunities, including angling and hunting. One focus 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 2016/17 were to deliver the project in an efficient and timely manner; complete inspections and necessary maintenance on all fisheries access sites; deliver infrastructure improvement projects at priority sites; identify new fisheries access site development opportunities; and 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 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 due to the age of structures. We also installed ACA Conservation Site signage at 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 14 maintenance contracts provincially in 2016/17. We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at seven 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 2016/17.

ACA Region	Site Name	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-accessible 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 2016/17.

ACA Region	Site Name	Enhancement
Central	Birch Lake	Installed casting dock
Central	Fiesta Lake	Installed casting dock
Central	Mitchell Lake	Installed casting dock
Northwest	East Dollar Lake	Constructed a graveled walking trail partway around the lake with picnic table pads with spur trails to the water's edge and installed casting dock
Southern	Lees Lake	Graveled and graded parking area
Southern	Waldron Falls	Graveled and graded access road; installed new project sign
Southern	McVinnie Trout Pond	Installed casting dock

We explored the potential to develop new fisheries access sites at two waterbodies near Edmonton and one waterbody near Peace River. One site near Edmonton, located on the Parkland Conservation Site, was not feasible because of concerns about shoreline instability and negative impacts to sensitive wetland habitat. The access to the second site near Edmonton, located on private land, was suitable; however, the waterbody was too shallow to successfully establish a fishery, so a securement project was not pursued. The development of a fisheries access site at Joker Lake near Peace River was cancelled because a Crown disposition could not be obtained. We maintained 16 collaborative partnerships in 2016/17. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted with site maintenance and enhancements at various access sites.

## Conclusions

We successfully inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites across the province and commissioned 14 maintenance contracts to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 23 lakes and 3 rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at seven sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address concerns over access infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We assessed two waterbodies as unsuitable for developing new fisheries access sites. We maintained 16 partnerships to help deliver this program. 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

- Communication with County of Greenview continues to ensure we are achieving development goals at East Dollar Lake/West Dollar Lake.
- Worked with Alberta Environment and Parks to develop a management/development plan for Joker Lake (potential new fishery access site).
- Began First Nations consultation process for Joker Lake but did not receive support from First Nations in the area, so the project was cancelled.
- Posted fisheries access site locations and descriptions on our website and listed them in our *Alberta Discover Guide*.
- Continued negotiations with Alberta Environment and Parks to determine long-term roles and responsibilities at fisheries access sites provincially.

## Literature Cited

None

## Photos



New casting dock at McVinnie Trout Pond. Photo: Tyler Johns



Trail development at East Dollar Lake. Photo: Jon Van Dijk



Access infrastructure at Beaver Lake. Photo: Marco Fontana



A waterbody assessed for new site development. Photo: Marco Fontana