

## **Alberta Conservation Association 2017/18 Project Summary Report**

**Project name:** Fisheries Access Site Management

**Land Management Program Manager:** Darren Dorge

**Project leader:** Marco Fontana

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### **Partnerships:**

Alberta Environment and Parks  
Alberta Fish & Game Association  
Clearwater County  
County of Greenview  
County of Newell  
County Northern Lights  
Devon Canada Corporation  
Municipal District of Rocky View  
North Raven River Working Group  
Northern Sunrise County  
Shell Canada Energy  
Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter  
Trout Unlimited Canada – Yellowhead Chapter  
Wetaskiwin County

### **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 26 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned 14 maintenance contracts provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at six fisheries access sites provincially, including one sign installation, improvements to two vehicle barriers, and the construction of five floating docks.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at three rivers and 23 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs (18 stocked and five stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- We developed one new fisheries access site and pursued access development projects at two additional waterbodies.
- Engaged 14 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2017/18 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 increasing sustainable recreational opportunities, including angling and hunting. One facet of the LMP is the management of ACA Fisheries Access Sites (FAS).

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 2017/18 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; identify new fisheries access site development opportunities; 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. The LMP Manager and FAS Project Lead are responsible for the provincial organization and direction of this project, while the FAS Project Coordinators and project staff are responsible for the delivery of each region's annual management and maintenance component.

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, in addition to identifying 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 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 14 maintenance contracts provincially in 2017-18. We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at six 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 2017/18.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Site Type</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Central	Beaver Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fences
Central	Birch Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, fences, floating dock
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, floating dock
Central	Hansen Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish cleaning stand, fences, floating docks
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, floating 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 floating dock
Central	Shuster Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot
Central	Windsor Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, fish cleaning stand, fences, floating dock
North West	East Dollar Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, gravel walking trail, floating docks, picnic tables
North West	Shell True North Pond	Stocked Waterbody	Access road, parking lot, floating dock
North West	Weberville Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, picnic tables
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 existing Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2017/18.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Enhancement</b>
Central	Birch Lake	Installed metal gate to limit vehicle access
Central	Hansen Lake	Installed two floating docks
Central	Nuggent Lake	Installed gate to limit vehicle access
Central	Windsor Lake	Installed floating dock
Northwest	East Dollar Lake	Installed two floating docks, two picnic tables and two wildlife proof garbage cans
Southern	Kenex	Installed new project sign

We completed road and parking area construction, brush mulching, and floating dock installation at one new fisheries access site, the Shell True North Pond. Future improvements planned for next fiscal year include installation of garbage cans and site signage. We engaged Wheatland County to investigate two potential access development projects at waterbodies in the Calgary area. Further assessment of feasibility is required before next steps can be pursued in the following fiscal year. We maintained 14 collaborative partnerships in 2017/18. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted 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 14 maintenance contracts to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 23 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs and three rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at six sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address concerns over access infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We developed one new fisheries access site on an existing conservation site and investigated the development of new sites at two additional waterbodies in the Calgary area. We maintained 14 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 we continually pursue additional funding to enhance facilities in the future.

### **Communications**

- Communication with Wheatland County to assess potential FAS development projects on a number of waterbodies
- 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.

## Photos



A young angler enjoying amenities at McVinnie Reservoir. Photo: Tyler Johns



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





Parking area developed at the new Shell True North Pond Fisheries Access Site. Photo: Jon Van Dijk



New floating dock installed at Hansen's Reservoir. Photo: Marco Fontana