

**Alberta Conservation Association**  
**2018/19 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:** Mandy Couve, Marco Fontana, Jeff Forsyth, Joe Hopkins, David Jackson, Tyler Johns, Ed Kolodychuk, Nikita Lebydinski, Garret McKen, Andy Murphy, Diana Rung, Roy Schmelzeisen, Scott Seward, Dan Sturgess, and Jon Van Dijk

**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

Saddle Hills County

Shell Canada Energy

Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter

Trout Unlimited Canada – Yellowhead Chapter

Wetaskiwin County

## **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 27 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned 12 maintenance contracts provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at three fisheries access sites provincially, including boat launch improvements, installation of a picnic table and garbage/recycling container, site landscaping, and the planting of 160 trees/shrubs.
- 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 along the Raven River and continued to work with partners to identify next steps for access development projects at two additional waterbodies.
- Engaged 15 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2018/19 to support management of our fisheries access sites.

## **Introduction**

The focus of ACA's 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 2018/19 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 27 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We commissioned 12 maintenance contracts provincially in 2018/19. We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at three sites to improve our fisheries access sites and enhance anglers' experiences at these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities inspected and maintained at ACA fisheries access sites in 2018/19.

<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	Coulson	River access	Parking lot, outhouse, garbage bin, picnic table
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
Northwest	Dollar Lakes	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, gravel walking trail, floating docks, picnic tables
Northwest	Shell True North Pond	Stocked Waterbody	Access road, parking lot, floating dock
Northwest	Weberville Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, picnic tables, floating docks
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, boat launch
Southern	Burmis Lake	Stocked waterbody and river access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Southern	Heninger Reservoir	Previously 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 ACA fisheries access sites in 2017/18.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Enhancement</b>
Northwest	Shell True North Pond	Installed a concrete picnic table and a garbage/recycling container, completed landscaping and grass seeding around the pond, raised grade of gravel walking trails at floating dock access points.
Southern	Lees Lake	Installed new project sign, and large boulders along boat launch to reduce vehicle rutting and erosion.
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct Pond	Planted 160 trees/shrubs around the parking area in partnership with TD Tree days and the County of Newell.

We completed brush clearing, road and parking area construction, installation of signs, outhouse, and concrete picnic table at one new fisheries access site along the North Raven River, Coulson Conservation Site. Land Management staff collaborated with ACA Fisheries Program – New Lakes Team to investigate access conditions at Blue Lake in the High Prairie area to assess the feasibility of re-developing the site into a stocked trout sport fishery and FAS. We identified next steps required to pursue development of two sites at waterbodies in the Calgary area in partnership with Wheatland County. We continued to investigate new site development opportunities as they arose including a small pond east of Innisfail. We maintained 15 collaborative partnerships in 2018/19. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted with site maintenance and enhancements at various fish access sites.

## **Conclusions**

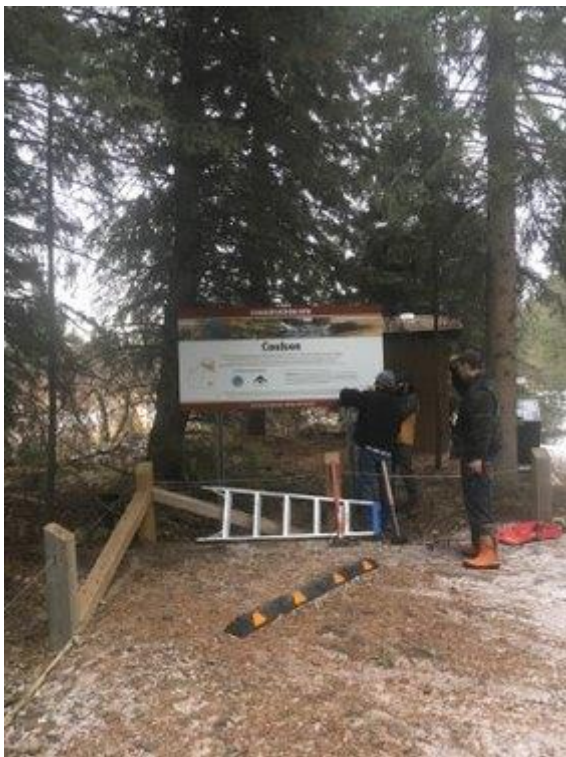
We successfully inspected and maintained 27 fisheries access sites across the province and commissioned 12 maintenance contracts to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 23 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs and three rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at three sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address concerns over access infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We developed one new fisheries access site on a recently acquired conservation site and identified next steps for the development of two new sites at waterbodies in the Calgary area. We maintained 15 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

- Posted fisheries access site locations and descriptions on our website and in our *Alberta Discover Guide*.
- Continued negotiations with Alberta Environment and Parks to determine long-term roles and responsibilities at Fisheries Access Sites provincially.
- Provided information to County of Saddle Hills Communications Coordinator for County News highlighting the Shell True North Pond.

## Photos



John Hallett and Joe Hopkins installing project sign in the parking area of the newly developed FAS at Coulson Conservation Site. Photo: Marco Fontana



A new outhouse and bearproof garbage can installed at Coulson Conservation Site. Photo: Marco Fontana



Trail improvements leading to floating casting platforms at Dollar Lakes. Photo: Jon Van Dijk





Members of the public enjoying fishing from the floating casting platform at Lee Lake. Photo: Tyler Johns