

**Alberta Conservation Association**  
**2019/20 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

Alberta Transportation

Camrose County

Clearwater County

County of Greenview

County of Newell

County Northern Lights

Devon Canada Corporation

Lacombe County

Municipal District of Rocky View

North Raven River Working Group

Northern Sunrise County

Saddle Hills County

Shell Canada Energy

Stettler County

Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter

## **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned 13 maintenance contracts for services at 20 sites provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at four fisheries access sites provincially, including access road and footpath improvements, outhouse repairs, and the installation of vehicle barriers.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at two rivers and 21 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs (17 stocked and four stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- We continued to work with partners to pursue next steps for new fisheries access site development projects at two additional waterbodies.
- Recognized 19 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2019/20 to support management of our fisheries access sites.

## **Abstract**

ACA's Land Management Program encompasses activities intended to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and to increase sustainable recreational opportunities including angling and hunting. One of the activities of the program is the delivery of the Fisheries Access Site Management Program, which provides angling access to key streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the province. We inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites and commissioned 13 contracts to maintain 20 sites in 2019/20. We upgraded four sites with improvements to access roads and a footpath, outhouse repairs, and the installation of vehicle barriers. We continued to work with partners to identify next steps for access development projects at two additional waterbodies in the Central Region. We recognized 19 partners in 2019/20 who generously contributed financially or with in-kind assistance. We continued to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA fisheries access sites across the province.

## **Introduction**

The focus of Alberta Conservation Association's (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 where anglers can access key streams, stocked ponds, and lakes, thereby increasing recreational opportunities for public use. Specific objectives in 2019/20 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; to 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 damage 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 24 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We commissioned 13 maintenance contracts to provide services at 20 sites provincially in 2019/20. We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at four 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 2019/20.

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, floating dock
Central	Boehlke Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fences
Central	Coulson	River access	Parking lot, outhouse, garbage bin, picnic table
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	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 with fish cleaning area, boat launch, 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, garbage bins, picnic tables, 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, floating dock, fences
Southern	McVinnie Trout Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, floating dock, fences
Southern	Waldron Falls	River access	Parking lot, outhouses

Table 2. Enhancements completed at existing ACA fisheries access sites in 2019/20.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Enhancement</b>
Central	Boehlke Pond	Repairs to existing outhouses.
Central	Coulson	Additional gravel added to access road.
Northwest	Dollar Lake	Installed a heavy-duty metal gate on the walking trail to prevent vehicle access.
Northwest	Shell True North Pond	Installed natural boulders as vehicle barricades between the parking lot and pond and improved foot access trail around the pond with the addition of a culvert and additional gravel.

We collaborated with ACA Fisheries Program – New Lakes Team to investigate the feasibility of establishing a publicly accessible fishpond at a potential land donation site near Blackfalds. We continued to work with Alberta Transportation and AEP on securing access to a potential fishpond and FAS development site in the Calgary area. We maintained 19 collaborative partnerships in 2019/20 and secured funding from Saddle Hills County Capital Grant for maintenance and improvements at Shell True North Pond in the Northwest region.

## **Conclusions**

We successfully inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites across the province to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 21 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs and two rivers. We commissioned 13 maintenance contracts to provide services at 20 sites provincially. We completed upgrades and enhancements at four sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address concerns over deteriorated infrastructure and access management. We maintained 19 partnerships providing generous financial and in-kind support, which assisted with site maintenance and enhancements at various sites. 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.
- Resumed discussions with Wheatland County to assess ACA's role in a potential future FAS development project on Eagle Lake.
- Presented a successful proposal to Saddle Hills County for annual, ongoing funding starting in 2020/21 through their Recreational Department.

## Photos



A quiet morning on Fiesta Lake near Rocky Mountain House. Photo: Marco Fontana





Additional gravel spread on the access road leading to the Coulson Conservation Site.  
Photo: John Hallett



Vehicle barriers installed in the parking lot at Shell True North Pond. Photo: Dave Jackson





ACA staff member Tyler Johns enjoying a successful day of fishing with his son, Cole, at McVinnie Trout Pond. Photo: Roger Johns