

New Brighton Park Habitat Restoration Project

Construction Progress Update Fall 2016

The New Brighton Park salt marsh has seen significant developments since September despite the challenges of a very wet fall. Most of the wetland is now excavated, with final grading and soil placement underway. Some key components of the construction progress to-date are noted below.

Work Completed in October and November

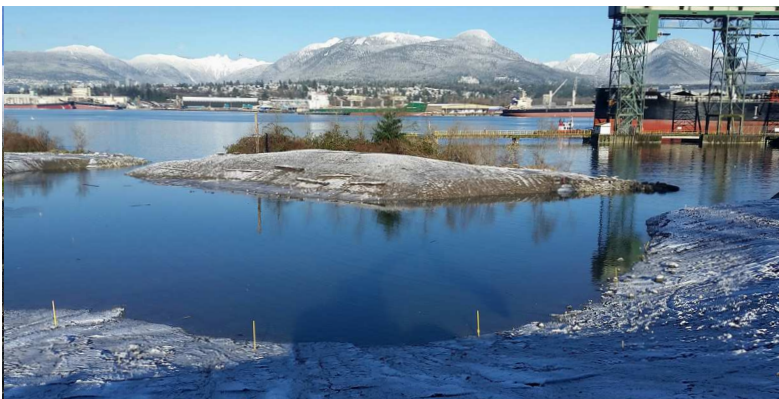
- Wilco Civil Inc., the Prime Contractor, has focused on excavation of the main wetland channels that will provide for aquatic habitat, and shaping of the riparian berms alongside the wetland.
- Most of the excavated soil has been used in berms at the east and west sides of New Brighton Park, while other material was trucked to off-site disposal facilities.
- Crews have been limited to working on the driest days to ensure the site remains stable, and to reduce erosion and mitigate any environmental effects due to construction. Numerous erosion and sediment control measures are in place, and construction has been monitored and audited regularly for environmental compliance.

Milestones

- Between November 21 and 25, 2016, at suitable night-time low tides, Wilco successfully opened the wetland's east and west outlets to Burrard Inlet.
- This work is a major milestone for the Project as it is the first time since the mid-1960's that this area has been opened back up (restored) to tidal influence. Canada geese and gulls were the first wildlife to visit the new wetland.

Work to Come

- The contractor is currently focused on finishing all of the earthworks grading and placing topsoil on all berms in preparation for over-wintering the site, including implementation of additional erosion and sediment control measures where required.
- Concurrently, the contractor will be finishing the park feature installation on the west side of the wetland (dog off-leash area, viewing decks, and gravel pathways).



A high tide at the site after the two outlets to Burrard Inlet were opened in late November, thus restoring the site to tidal conditions for the first time in 40+ years.



Close up of the east outlet after being opened up to Burrard Inlet.

Project Features

The tidal wetland at New Brighton Park is anticipated to provide critical habitat for juvenile salmon that migrate along the Burrard Inlet shoreline as they head out to sea. Once planted in spring 2017, this wetland is also anticipated to provide resting and feeding habitat for local shorebirds.

A habitat snag (wildlife tree) has been installed on the habitat island, and two more wildlife trees will be installed upon the large east berm anticipated for completion later this month. These habitat features are meant to complement the native riparian planting planned for that area.



A habitat snag (wildlife tree) has been installed on the habitat island.



Aerial shot of the construction site at New Brighton Park.



New dog off-leash fencing installed on the west side of the park.

For More Information:

For more information about the project, please visit vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh or portvancouver.com/new-brighton-park-shoreline-habitat-restoration-project/.

For more information about the Habitat Enhancement Program, please visit portvancouver.com/habitatenhancement.