

New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Description, location and size

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, along with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, worked together to restore habitat in New Brighton Park. The project supports the Park Board's Strategic Plan, Rewilding Action Plan, and Biodiversity Strategy, and implements the vision of the 2010 Hastings Park/Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) Master Plan and the 1997 New Brighton Park Master Plan.

New Brighton Park presented a significant opportunity to restore coastal wetland habitat on the south shore of Burrard Inlet. Juvenile fish from Indian and Seymour rivers have been known to experience high mortality as they migrate through Burrard Inlet. A restored salt marsh is anticipated to provide productive habitat for juvenile fish and wildlife, including shorebirds, songbirds and waterfowl.



Pre-construction (September 2016)

The New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project is situated within New Brighton Park along the south side of Burrard Inlet, west of the Second Narrows Bridge in Vancouver, B.C. The project has resulted in the restoration and enhancement of approximately two hectares of intertidal, subtidal, instream and riparian habitat.



Post-construction (September 2017)



Inlailawatash crews planting native trees and coastal shrubs in the wetland (June 2017)



Looking north at the newly constructed tidal wetland (September 2017)

Rationale

The site was selected based on its potential to benefit a broad range of fish and wildlife species and increase the overall ecological function. The project has restored and enhanced a historically filled foreshore and upland area by providing high-value habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

The creation of a tidal wetland provides critical habitat for juvenile salmon that migrate along the Burrard Inlet shoreline as they head out to sea. This wetland also provides resting and feeding habitat for local shorebirds.



Juvenile salmon using the newly created wetland during the first spring season after connection to Burrard Inlet (April 2017)

Status and next steps

Project construction was completed in summer 2017. This included an extensive planting program within the newly constructed wetland, including approximately 25,000 salt marsh plugs, 200 native trees and 4,000 coastal shrubs.

During the first spring that the wetland was connected to Burrard Inlet, juvenile chum and Chinook salmon were observed using the tidal wetland as a stopover on their way through Burrard Inlet.

As is the case with all Habitat Enhancement Program projects, annual monitoring will be completed by biologists and coastal engineers to ensure the wetland habitat meets its biophysical objectives. Orange fencing is anticipated to remain in place for the first few growing seasons to deter Canada geese from feeding on the salt marsh plantings, and to allow the vegetation to successfully establish within the wetland.