

Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2

Description, location and size

Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 is located along Roberts Bank on the south side of the Deltaport container terminal by Roberts Bank Way in Delta, B.C. The site covers a gross area of approximately 4,000 square metres (0.40 hectares).



Location of Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 along Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C.

Previous state

Prior to restoration works, the site was characterized by dense accumulations of historically deposited woody debris, mostly composed of saw-cut logs from the forestry sector. Based on aerial photo reviews, the vast majority of the woody debris had been present for 25 to 70 years before restoration works were undertaken. The debris was observed to be smothering underlying salt marsh vegetation and had compacted the sediments preventing the associated salt marsh from achieving its full productive capacity.

Overview of completed project

The restoration works were undertaken in January 2014 with support from the Tsawwassen First Nation and were completed through efforts from the Tsawwassen First Nation/Matcon Joint Venture. Work involved the careful removal of woody debris and litter. Wildlife snags were installed to provide enhanced wildlife habitat features, including perching and roosting habitat for raptors.

The target vegetation species for recolonization includes saltgrass, pickleweed, dunegrass, other halophytic grasses, orache and various salt tolerant herbaceous species (e.g., silver burweed, gumweed, aster and dock).

These salt marsh species provide an important source of primary production, nutrients and organic matter supporting a detritus-based food web utilized by diverse marine and estuarine species. The restored salt marsh is providing a number of other ecological functions such as wave dampening, carbon sequestration, photosynthesis and oxygen production. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority annually monitors the site to ensure that the project's biophysical objectives are met.



Pre-restoration site conditions, looking southeast (2012)



Site conditions, looking southeast (2021)

For more information

Project website: portvancouver.com/projects/habitat-restoration/salt-marsh-restoration-at-roberts-bank-and-boundary-bay/

Habitat enhancement program: portvancouver.com/projects/habitat-restoration/

Email: habitat.enhancement@portvancouver.com