

Millstream Fishway Project 2017-2019

Project Objective:

Construct a fishway that will allow recreational fish a means to ascend past Atkins Road and access 8+ kilometers of fish habitat.

Executive Summary

Currently fish passage is impeded by the presence of a 4 m. high 'perched' culvert located on Millstream Creek at Atkins Road. If fish were able to ascend past this culvert, an additional 8+ kilometers of fish habitat would be available to fish returning from the sea. Constructing a fishway would allow fish a means to ascend past Atkins Road and access this habitat indefinitely. Multiple groups including the Goldstream Volunteer Salmon Enhancement Society (GVSEA) volunteers, the City of Langford, the Town of View Royal, the Town of Colwood and many others have spent over 20 years improving fish access upstream from tidewater to Atkins Road culvert with 2016 returns of 700+ coho adults. If the fish can ascend past Atkins Road, an additional 8+ kilometers of fish habitat will be available to fish returning from the sea.

Project description:

The Millstream watershed consists of all the land that drains into Millstream Creek, which subsequently flows into Esquimalt Harbour, near the city of Victoria B.C. A large portion of the watershed is located along the eastern flanks of the Gowlland-Tod Range in the Highlands, and also includes urbanized areas in Langford and Colwood.

The 2017-18 phase of the project will involve engineering study and design, as well as partnership development. PSS has 15 years' experience in assembling partnerships and sees this as a 'natural' with multiple 'wins'. This partnership would potentially include the City of Langford, the Town of Colwood, the District of Highlands, CRD Parks, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, GVSEA and other volunteer groups that may be initiated to support salmon stocks. As well, private companies such as Ecoasis Developments and others are invited to participate in the project as sponsors and as a source of volunteers. Activities involved in the 2017-18 phase include a background data review, a hydrologic assessment, a hydraulic assessment, a topographic survey, a culvert conditions assessment, fishway concept development and design selection. The construction of the fishway is scheduled for 2018-19.

Organization description:

Peninsula Streams Society helps coordinate stream restoration and habitat conservation on the Saanich Peninsula. We provide our associated groups with the technical expertise and resources to help achieve their goals. Our goal is to achieve healthy aquatic habitat that supports self-sustaining populations of native species in both freshwater and marine environments. We accomplish this objective through research, restoration, innovative projects, public education and private land stewardship.

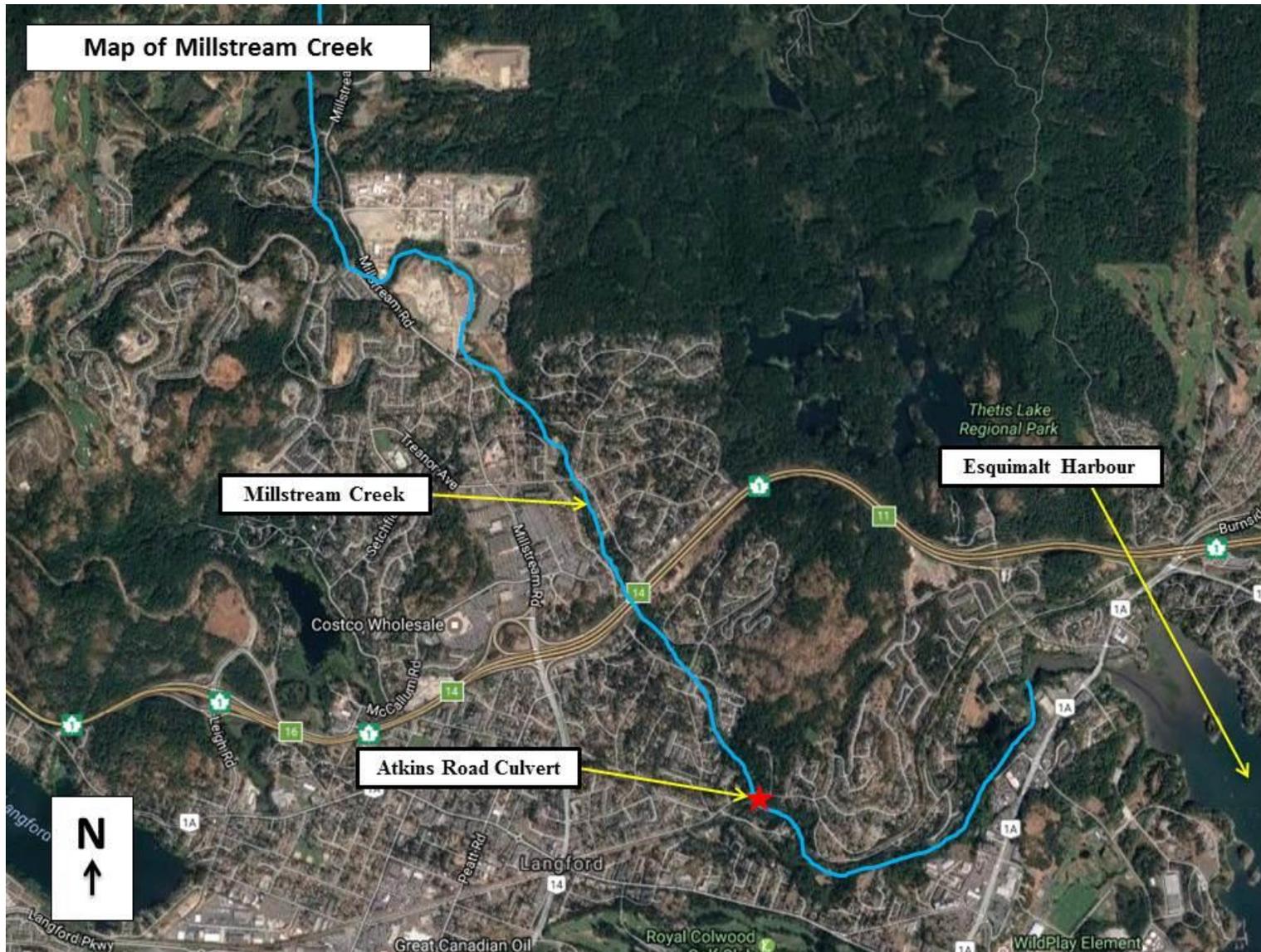


Figure 1. Map of Millstream Creek showing location of Atkins Road culvert where fishway will be constructed.

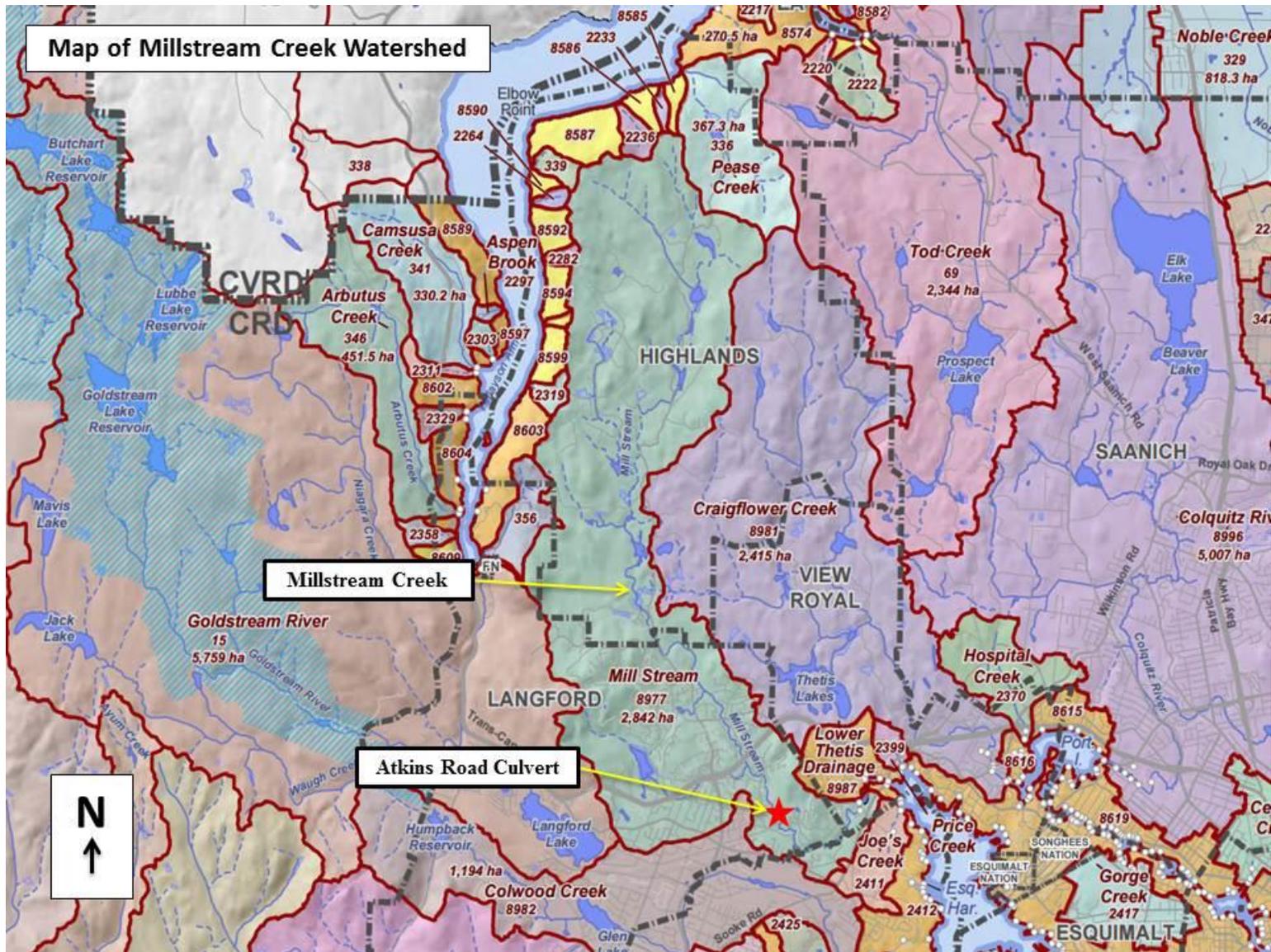


Figure 2. Map of Millstream Creek Watershed.



Figure 3. Millstream Creek at the Atkins Road culvert, the barrier to fish migration.