

# About the: Millstream Creek Fishway Project

Prepared by Peninsula Streams Society (contact info below)

## What is the Project?

Design and construction of a fishway<sup>1</sup> on the downstream end of the Atkins Road culvert. This “perched” culvert (12 foot diameter) is a barrier to Coho salmon trying to swim upstream. A fishway would allow Coho salmon returning to Millstream Creek to access an additional 8+ km of stream habitat, and allow resident cutthroat more freedom to move up- and downstream. In Fall 2016, Goldstream Hatchery counted 700+ Coho salmon adults returning to Millstream Creek to spawn, but these salmon could not get past the Atkins Road culvert to access this additional habitat.

<sup>1</sup> What is a Fishway? A fishway is a structure on or around artificial and natural barriers (such as culverts, dams and waterfalls) to facilitate fishes' natural migration. There are many types of fishway designs. This fishway will likely be a ‘step pool’ design.

**Project Location:** the downstream end of Atkins Road culvert, which is located in Mill Hill Regional Park. The culvert is located under Atkins Road by the entrances to Mill Hill Regional Park and CRD Headquarters (490 Atkins Road).

## Who's Involved?

- Peninsula Streams Society (PSS), a non-profit environmental organization – Project management, fund-raising, partnership-building, education/stewardship initiatives, including interpretive signage, tours, Streamkeepers training
- Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, engineering firm - Site assessment, fishway design and installation
- Capital Regional District – the Project site is completely within Mill Hill Regional Park, which is managed by CRD.
- Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association (Goldstream Hatchery) – Project concept, fund-raising, volunteers.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – Major project funder (\$245,000 over 2017-19)
- Other Project Funders – Pacific Salmon Foundation, EcoAsis/Bear Mountain Resort, City of Langford, Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association, Town of View Royal
- Other Project Partners – City of Colwood, District of Highlands

## What's the Time Frame?

June 2017 – Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) applied for and received multi-year funding from DFO for:

2017-18 -- \$40,000 for planning phase

2018-19 -- \$205,000 for construction phase

Sep. 30, 2017 – PSS held an Open House/Project Tours in Mill Hill Regional Park

Starting Oct. 2017 – Contractors onsite to survey and undertake culvert and site assessments

Oct. 2017 to March 2018 – Planning phase, fishway design created

August 2018 – Fishway Installation

Fall 2018 to Mar. 2019 – Interpretive signage installation, Streamkeepers Training

## Will Project activities affect Mill Hill Park or surrounding area?

- During the construction phase (August 2018), there may be temporary interruptions to vehicle traffic on Atkins Road at this location due to movement of large machinery and trucks. Appropriate traffic safety measures, including signage and flag people, will be implemented.
- The area of Mill Hill Regional Park below Atkins Road will be closed to visitors during the construction phase.
- Some trees may need to be removed to improve access for machinery. However replanting of trees and shrubs in the riparian zone will be undertaken with community volunteers after fishway installation.
- Stream restoration activities upstream of the culvert are planned for the future.

## To Find out more about the Project / For Info. Re: Streamkeepers training + Volunteer opportunities

Contact Peninsula Streams Society at: 250-888-2191 (cell), 250-363-6596 (office) or [PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com](mailto:PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com)

Visit our website for information, including media coverage: <http://peninsulastreams.ca/millstream-fishway-project>