

Peninsula Streams Society
9860 West Saanich Road
North Saanich BC, V8L 4B2

Charitable Status # 865001457RR0001

Further project information in media release below.

Media Release For immediate release: August 6 - 2019

The Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) is partnering with the District of Saanich to restore and enhance habitat in the Colquitz Watershed. Colquitz River is home to both Cutthroat and Coho Salmon. In recent years, the number of coho spawners migrating upstream has been declining. However, the presence of even a few spawning salmon shows their incredible resilience and gives us hope that with proper restoration, these fish can recover and succeed in an urban watershed with a long history of human impacts.

From August 12th-26th 2019, we will restore a 120 m section of the Colquitz River, north of Copley Park East. The Colquitz River Trail runs along this section of the river, and as a result has been impacted by heavy use over the decades. We have canvassed door-to-door to inform the local community members about the project and opportunities to help out with the project after initial machine work is completed. In-stream work will consist of constructing three 'riffles' with pools and spawning platforms to provide important habitat and improve water quality. Large woody debris and rocks will be anchored into the stream to protect against erosion and enhance fish habitat. Along the banks, compacted soils will be loosened, covered with mulch and replanted with appropriate native plants. Newly restored areas will be protected by installing split-rail fencing between the stream and trail, with a lead-in trail for viewing access. During the construction period starting on August 12th, public access to this area of the park will be restricted from 7 AM to 6 PM. The area consists of the trail between Copley East Park and Mann Ave.

In addition to serving as spawning habitat, these new spawning platforms will improve opportunities for salmon viewing as a means to connect the general public with their natural environment. The proposed viewing area could host small school groups for environmental education programs and will include interpretive signage with information on salmon, stream habitat and restoration. This project will help

promote public awareness of the threats facing urban salmon streams and facilitate community-based stewardship and engagement. Ultimately, project success will help contribute to the recovery of Cutthroat and Coho Salmon in the Colquitz River.

Following the 2019 in-stream work, the Friends of Colquitz Mainstem group will participate in stream monitoring, riparian planting and maintenance, and adult salmon counting activities to ensure the long-term success of the project. We believe this project will promote future restoration projects in the Colquitz River. Project funders and supporters include the District of Saanich, Pacific Salmon Foundation, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Friends of Colquitz Mainstem, Victoria Fish and Game Protective Society and the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association.

For more information on the project or to donate, visit peninsulastreams.ca/watersheds/colquitz-watershed or contact the Society at PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com; tax receipts issued for donations.

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