

Clean Nova Scotia

inspiring environmental change

Robinson Brook Restoration Plan



Clean Nova Scotia
126 Portland Street
Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 1H8
Phone: 420-3474
Fax: 424-5334

Contact
Patrick Scott
Phone: (902) 420-3474
pscott@clean.ns.ca

1.0 Introduction

Clean Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization established in 1988. Clean Nova Scotia's mission is to inspire environmental change through education and action. Clean Nova Scotia administers a number of programs related to climate change, transportation, energy, and water. Clean Nova Scotia has made part of its mandate the protection and conservation of waterways in Nova Scotia. In working towards this goal, the organization has carried out restoration work on a number of streams in the Halifax Regional Municipality, including Parker's Brook in Bedford and Grassy Brook in Dartmouth.

In August of 2009, Clean Nova Scotia initiated the Stream Survey and Restoration Development Program (SSRDP) with the help of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-a-Stream Program. The purpose of the SSRDP is to identify water systems of environmental concern, complete detailed surveys of the selected systems and develop easy-to-follow restoration plans aimed at improving fish passage and habitat quality in the surveyed systems. SSRDP restoration plans are designed to be implemented by small- to moderately-sized community group crews that may have limited experience with stream restoration activities. The watercourse of Ellenvale Run in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was the first project undertaken by Clean Nova Scotia's SSRDP, with surveying and habitat assessment starting in September 2009 and finishing in June 2010. Installation of in-stream structures took place in the summer of 2009 and 2010 and will continue in the summer of 2011.

1.1 Why Robinson Brook?

Robinson Brook is located in a newly developed residential area of Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia. The brook originates from its headwaters at Robinson Lake which is fed from multiple catchment streams and wetlands in the Preston area. It then flows south through an area that is under active development. This includes the clear cutting of the land east of the brook, installing culverts to cross over the waterway and the construction of new homes. It then dispenses into the Cole Harbour Salt Marsh which flushes daily with the tide.

Increasing the amount of human influence in and around a stream can be extremely harmful in a number of ways, the most obvious being the complete destruction of the surrounding natural habitat.

It was clear that there were a few unanswered questions about the habitat quality and future of the watercourse. In hopes of answering some of these questions, the SSRDP staff initiated a survey to determine the water quality of Robinson Brook and to explore opportunities for improving fish habitat through physical restoration activities and public education. Upon completion of the survey, the following detailed restoration plan was generated. The information provided in this restoration plan is to serve as the basis for subsequent discussions about actions or management strategies to improve habitat quality for plant and animal species in and around Robinson Brook.

1.2 Goals

Before tackling further restoration work on Robinson Brook, the Stream Survey and Restoration Development Program staff identified broad, far-reaching goals that must be met if any future restoration work is to have enduring success. The goals are long term because keeping an urban stream in good condition requires vigilant work.

The following goals have been recognized:

- Develop a full understanding of Robinson Brook, its limitations, biological potential, and impact on the surrounding community
- Prepare a comprehensive action plan that is easy for most people to understand, full in scope, yet focused in step by step procedures on smaller scales



For more information about the watercourse in your area or the remainder of the report, visit our website [www.clean.ns.ca/content/Water Stream Restoration](http://www.clean.ns.ca/content/Water_Stream_Restoration), contact us by phone at (902) 420-3474 or drop by the Clean Nova Scotia office on 126 Portland Street, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 1H8.