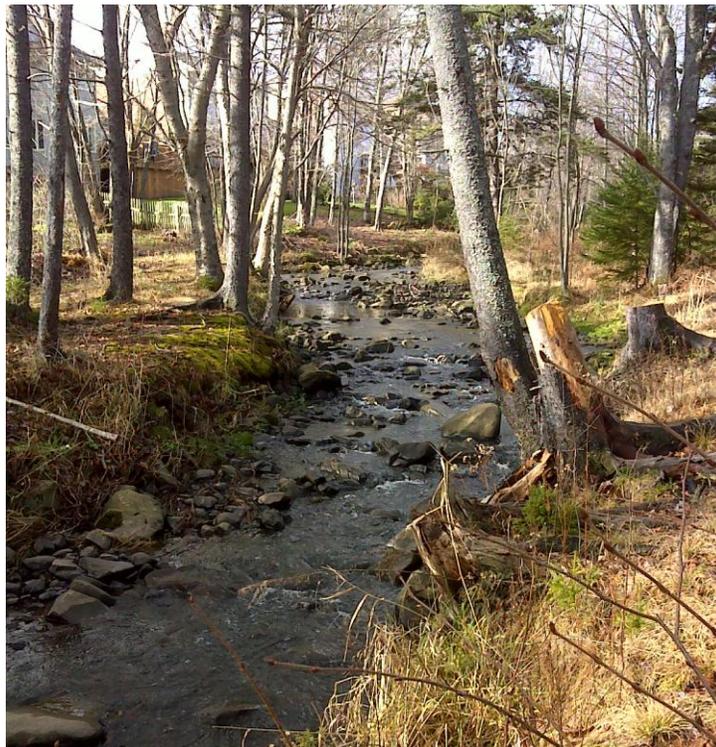


# Clean Nova Scotia

*inspiring environmental change*

## Settle Run Restoration Plan



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## **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. The organization has made part of its mandate the protection and conservation of waterways in Nova Scotia. In working towards this goal, Clean Nova Scotia 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. Restoration plans produced by the SSRDP 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 (also known as Tobin Brook) in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was the first project undertaken by Clean Nova Scotia's SSRDP. Surveying and habitat assessment of Ellenvale Run began in September of 2009 and finished in June of 2010, while the installation of in-stream structures took place in the summers of 2009 and 2010 and will continue in the summer of 2011.

### **1.1 Why Settle Run?**

Settle Run is located in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. The stream flows from Settle Lake and through the communities of Bel Ayr Park and Colby Village before emptying into Bissett Lake. The watercourse is of special interest to Clean Nova Scotia because it flows through an extremely urban area. Any industrial, residential, or commercial development that occurs near Settle Lake or Settle Run could negatively affect the water quality in these areas and could reduce the quality of the water that is delivered downstream to Bissett Lake.

As part of its commitment to restoring degraded streams in urban areas of HRM, Clean Nova Scotia identified Settle Run as a potential stream restoration project. In the fall of 2010, the SSRDP staff initiated a survey of the stream to examine water quality and to explore opportunities to improve fish habitat and passage through physical restoration activities and public education. What made a survey of Settle Run particularly appealing is the fact that successful restoration of the stream would require intensive community outreach and environmental education for the residents of Bel Ayr Park and Colby Village. Restoring Settle Run would help Clean Nova Scotia work towards its mission of creating "a cleaner, healthier environment by informing, enabling, and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect and consider the environment in all their choices."

Upon completion of the survey, the following detailed restoration plan was generated. The information provided in this restoration plan is meant to serve as the basis for subsequent discussions about actions or management strategies to improve the Settle Run ecosystem. It is hoped that this restoration plan will teach a dedicated community group how the installation of instream structures and the enhancement of riparian areas will improve the overall health of the stream and enrich the habitat for fish and other wildlife, invertebrates and plants.

### **1.2 Goals**

Before tackling restoration work on Settle Run, the SSRDP 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:

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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.