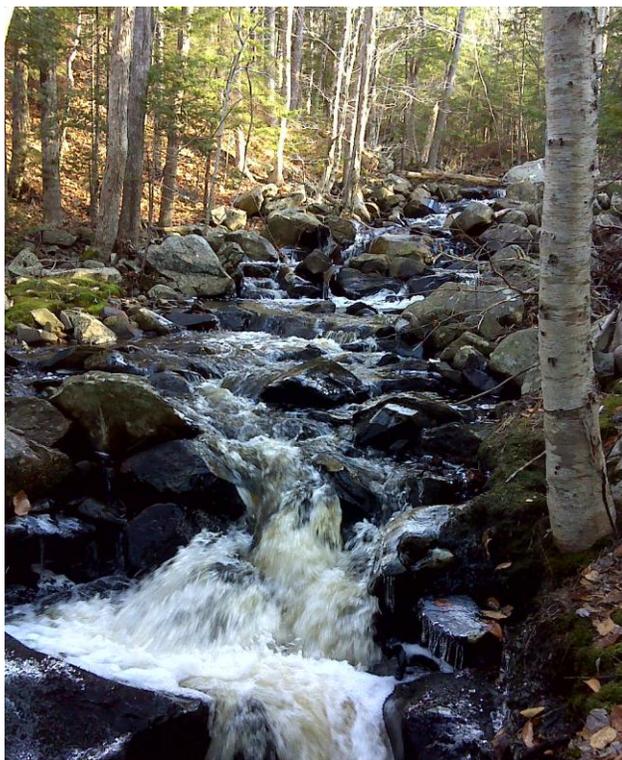


# Clean Nova Scotia

*inspiring environmental change*

## Skerry Brook 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 Skerry Brook?**

Skerry Brook is located in Waverley, Nova Scotia. The brook flows from Spriggs Lake, through a small pond surrounded by a large wetland, and into the northeastern side of Lake William. The lands surrounding the watercourse, particularly the upstream areas, are largely undeveloped. Both Spriggs Lake and the small pond through which the brook flows are bordered by significant wetland areas. Healthy wetlands serve many important ecological functions—including providing habitat for a variety of species of wildlife, controlling flooding, and filtering run-off—and thus it is essential that they are protected from harm. Substantial land clearing and new residential development are currently occurring on the northeastern side of Stone Hedges Lane, to the north of Skerry Brook. Therefore, the watercourse is of special interest to Clean Nova Scotia because any residential, recreational or commercial development that occurs near the brook could negatively affect the water quality in the immediate area as well as the quality of the water that is delivered downstream to Lake William.

In the fall of 2010, the SSRDP staff initiated a survey of Skerry Brook to examine water quality and to explore opportunities to improve fish habitat and passage through physical restoration activities. 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 Skerry Brook ecosystem. It is hoped that this report will inform residents of Waverley about how the installation of instream structures will improve the overall health of the brook and enrich the habitat for fish and other wildlife.

### **1.2 Goals**

Before tackling restoration work on Skerry 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 Skerry Brook, its limitations, biological potential, and impact on the surrounding community

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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.