



'Something fishy' is happening downtown this weekend

Sept. 11, 2017

Penticton – Like the kokanee that are now spawning in its waters, the Penticton Creek Master Plan is nearing the end of its journey. This month, the community is invited to review the plan and provide feedback before it returns to Council for final approval this fall.

"We are very excited to be at a point where we can share the plan with the community," says Bryn White, Chair of the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee. "We hope there is a lot of interest as this work is extremely important for the health of the native fish populations that inhabit the creek as well as for the residents and businesses along its banks that rely on the channel for flood protection."

Penticton Creek was channelized in the 1950s in response to flooding that devastated Penticton's downtown. While the concrete channel helped with flood management, native fish species struggled with the loss of natural creek habitat and populations dropped. Over time, the concrete channel deteriorated and in 2012, the community identified the restoration of the creek as a priority for the Downtown Plan.

The Penticton Creek Restoration Committee was established in 2015 to guide the creation of a master plan for the work. The proposed plan recommends replacing the deteriorating concrete channel with works that include riffles, river rock and natural pools to provide a more natural habitat for native fish populations while meeting today's standards for flood infrastructure. The work would be performed in several phases over many years at an estimated cost of \$30 million.

The committee's confidence in the plan is high following the success of a pilot project in 2015 that restored a section of the creek upstream from the Ellis St. Bridge. "The result of the Showcase Project exceeded our expectations," says White. "We saw more fish in that section after the restoration and were able to accommodate the high waters this spring. It confirmed this is the right approach for the Penticton Creek."

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the Penticton Creek Master Plan kick off this weekend.

Date	Time	Activity
Sept. 16	9 am	Watch the Fish Count in Penticton Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop by the fish fence in Okanagan Lake Park next to the Art Gallery to see volunteers counting kokanee• Join a Walking Tour from the fish fence to the Ellis Street Bridge to view the restoration work
Sept. 16	9 am to 12 pm	Drop by the Community Market <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View the Penticton Creek Master Plan display at the Community Market• Speak with committee members and share your feedback

Residents can also visit shapeyourcitypenticton.ca to review the plan, watch a video about the Showcase Project, and share feedback about the work before the end of the month.

-30-

Contact:

JoAnne Kleb

Community Engagement Specialist

250-490-2586

JoAnne.Kleb@penticton.ca

Picture of deterioration of Penticton Creek channel



Picture of restored section of Penticton Creek Channel



Picture of flooding in Penticton

