

Restoration of Bowker Creek Beside Oak Bay High – Photo Essay



July 2015: First the creek flow was moved into a pipe, definitely a challenge in a ‘flashy’ urban creek during rain events



August 2015: Creek channel construction, including “islands” against concrete wall. North bank reconfigured with gentler slope for riparian planting and accessible pathways

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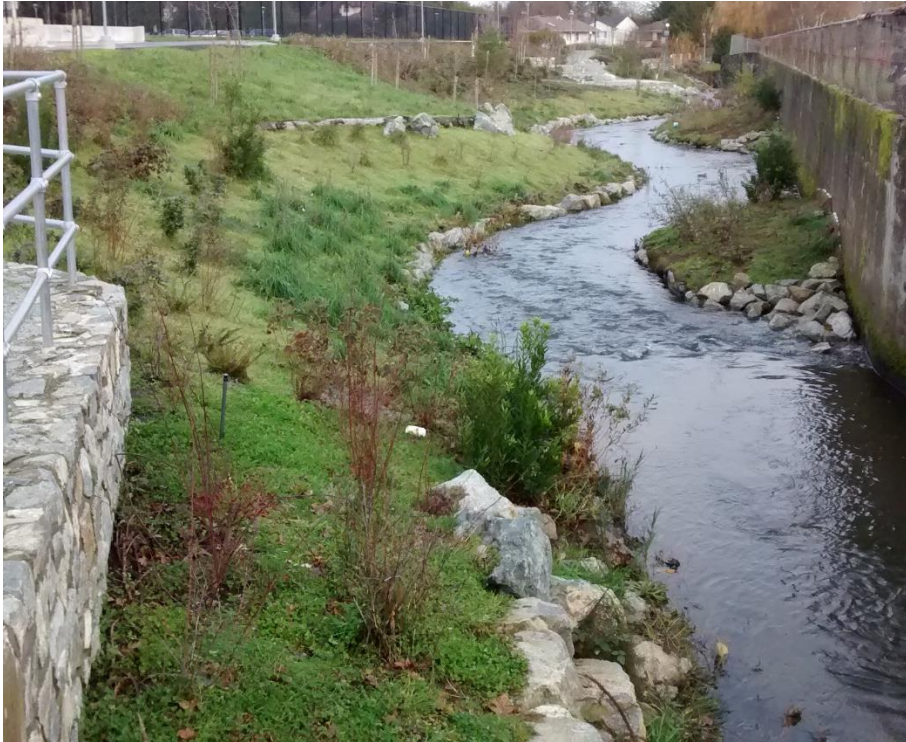


January 2016: Outdoor classroom and surrounding plantings, showing coir matting to hold soil in place as native plants get established



July 2016

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December 2016: Native plants are doing well, but some invasive weeds started to take over the site.



June 2017: BCI volunteers and Oak Bay High students were recruited to help weed the site and replant with more native plants

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August 2017: Islands in the creek are becoming well vegetated, especially on the downstream side where sediments in the creek settle out



September 2017: Invasive Golden Willow pulled from creek banks. Root fragments and branches are carried downstream and take root throughout the creek. Volunteers and municipal staff are now working to remove Golden Willow from Bowker Creek and other urban waterways

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April 2018: Insect trap set by Oak Bay High science classes. The restoration site is well used by many classes at the high school, as well as the general public walking and cycling through the community



April 2019: A celebration was held to recognize the official handover of the maintenance of the restoration site from BCI to School District #61, marking the completion of the Bowker Creek restoration project.