

# Habitat Development: Habitat Boulders Lawson Pier Foreshore Enhancement



Opportunities

- Improve the existing habitat by stabilising beach sediments.
- Increase biodiversity by creating new habitats and colonisation opportunities.

2006





Loose cobble is unstable; only a few species are able to colonise it, such as green algae. Large, stable boulders provide habitat for a range of species. Subtidally, kelp was found wherever substrate was sufficiently large and stable.

### **Achievements**

• Boulders positioned along the shoreline provide attachment points and habitat for algae, invertebrates and fishes, and encourage the expansion of nearby kelp beds.

2010





Habitat boulders were placed along the intertidal zone to create habitat for various species including algae, barnacles, mussels. Subtidal boulders provide attachment opportunities for kelp, creating valuable habitat for fishes and invertebrates, who rely upon it kelp beds for feeding, breeding and refuge from predators.



# Habitat Development: Riparian Fringe 15th Street Foreshore Enhancement

#### BALANCED ENVIRONMENTAL

## **Opportunities**

• Improvement of the ecological and aesthetic value of the Seawalk by recreating natural habitat.

2009

• Connect the newly constructed trail and nearshore developed areas with the shoreline.





The riparian fringe is an important natural habitat, it acts as a protective buffer between the sea and the land, provides important habitat for many animals, traps terrestrial pollutants, stabilises sediments, and helps cycle nutrients into the intertidal zone. Riparian habitats are a key feature of a self-sustaining shoreline.

### **Achievements**

• Creation and expansion of riparian habitat along the upper shore to improve ecological value.

2010

• Physical connection of the trail to the shoreline and improved aesthetic value.





As the new shoreline path was built an intertidal bench was created, expanding the area available for the existing patchy riparian vegetation. Suitable habitat was increased by the addition of fine sediments and soils in which the dune grass and other riparian species already present, could grow. The riparian habitat attracts insects and birds and provides biological material to the shoreline.



# Public Amenity: Environmental Engagement BALANCED 15th Street Foreshore Enhancement



**Opportunities** 

• Encourage public interest in the local natural environment, especially the shoreline.

• Foster public stewardship of the coastline through engagement with their surroundings.

2009



Public access to the shoreline was restricted by various physical and visual barriers throughout the site that disconnected both the Seawalk and the public from the shoreline. By removing these barriers and restoring the connection between the Seawalk and the foreshore it is hoped that the public will have more opportunity to engage with the local environment.



### **Achievements**

- Improvement and creation of physical and visual access to the local environment.
- Development of space and opportunities for public engagement with the habitat.

2010





Physical and visual access to the shoreline was restored by the creation of the trail and riparian habitat between 16th and 15th, the provision of facilities such as the viewing deck at John Lawson park, and the creation of additional beach access points. Further enhancement works are planned for the future. It is hoped that these features will help foster an increased sense of public stewardship over the site and the shoreline.



# Public Amenity: Access 15th Street Foreshore Enhancement

#### BALANCED ENVIRONMENTAL

## **Opportunities**

Reconnect the public with the shoreline by providing improved public access to the beach.

• Improve the continuity of the Seawalk, and public amenities, between 15th and16th St.

2008





The Seawalk was cut off at Ambleside Millennium Park with a street detour through a busy parking lot, connecting to John Lawson Park. Properties backed directly onto the shoreline restricting access to the beach to entry points from the sea wall at the Millennium Park and the path at Lawson Pier.

## **Achievements**

• Creation of a trail along the upper shore, connected to the beach by riparian habitat.

• Improvement of public access to the beach, shoreline, piers and parks across the site.

2010





Construction of a new trail stretching from Millennium Park to John Lawson Park provides safer pedestrian access along the upper shore. The trail is bordered by a natural riparian habitat and sloping shoreline. The development of the trail allowed for the expansion of public spaces and amenities across the site.



## **Economic Benefits: Beach Stabilization**

BALANCED ENVIRONMENTAL

15th Street Foreshore Enhancement

## **Opportunities**

- Reduce beach erosion and the associated costs of ongoing infrastructure and habitat repair.
- Prevent the need for continuous, artificial beach nourishment while softening the shoreline.

2008





Certain areas of the beach between 15th Street and Ambleside have experienced heavy erosion of fine sediments leaving a pebble and cobble beach. Hard-faced concrete seawalls protecting shoreline developments are themselves compromised and damaged by wave action and erosion.

### **Achievements**

- Use of boulders to protect the shore and guide and trap sediments on the beach.
- Restoration of a self-sustaining and naturally protective shoreline.

2010



Boulders, tombolas and wave trips roughen the shoreline, providing protection from waves and trapping fine sediments on the upper shore.



By recreating a natural rocky shoreline these enhancement features provide long-term prevention of erosion and protection of the upper shore, with additional environmental benefits such as creation of valuable intertidal habitat and fish habitat.



## **Lawson Pier Foreshore Enhancement**

District of West Vancouver

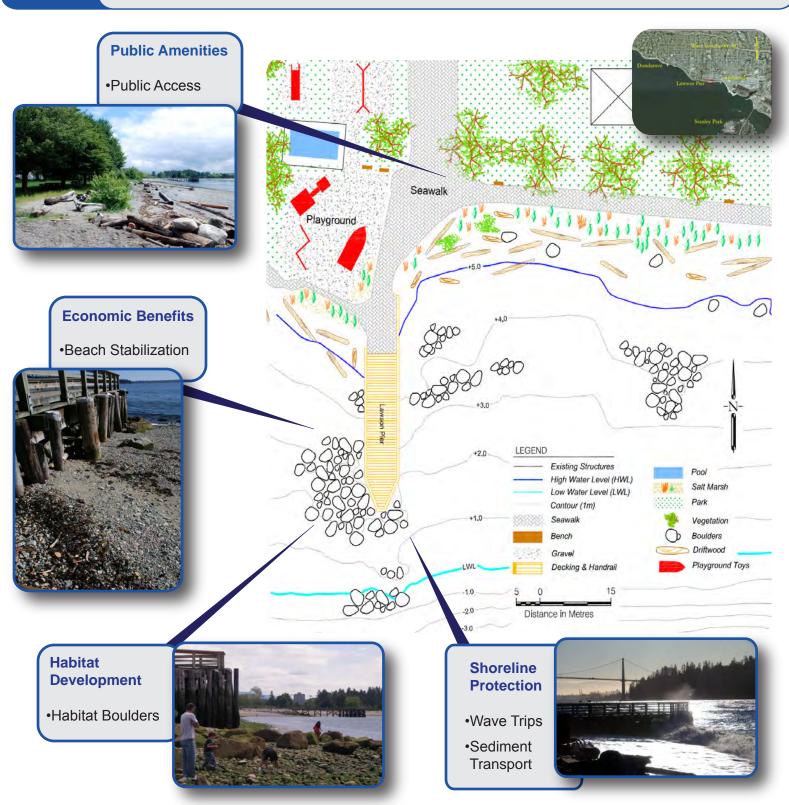


**Summary** 

There has been a high degree of erosion at Lawson Pier, as with Lawson Creek. The purpose of this project was to provide shoreline protection, enhance the biodiversity of the intertidal zone and stabilize the existing sediments for riparian habitat, algae and invertebrates.

**Status** 

Conceived 2006. Major works 2006-2010. There is ongoing habitat monitoring.



West Vancouver would like to thank the following organizations for their support:











# **Shoreline Protection: Sediment Transport**



Lawson Pier Foreshore Enhancement

## **Opportunities**

Prevent small, unstable substrate from being swept out to sea by waves and currents.

• Encourage natural deposition of sediments, replenishing and building the beach profile.

2006





As waves hit the beach at an angle sediments are not just moved back and forth, instead they are gradually swept laterally, to the end of the beach and out to sea. Preventing this erosion from occuring safeguards shoreline structures and developments, as well as the beach. Boulders can be used to control the flow of water and sediments along the shore.

### **Achievements**

• Patches of boulders create tombolas, which guide and trap sediments on the beach.

• By trapping sediments, tombolas increase the beach profile and provide long term benefits.

2010





Tombolas are patches of boulders which guide and trap fine sediments carried by waves and currents. By retaining and stabilizing sediments in this way, we are able to use tombolas to increase the beach profile using natural coastal processes and provide long term prevention of beach erosion. Tombolas also act as wave trips and create intertidal habitat for rockweed, barnacles and mussels.



# Shoreline Protection: Wave Trips Lawson Pier Foreshore Enhancement



## **Opportunities**

• Prevent erosion by reducing the power and suction load of waves reaching the beach.

• Implement natural sea defences that will have long term benefit.

2006





A low-profile, cobble beach offers little resistence to waves. Travelling up the beach, only gravity reduces the force of the wave until it breaks on an object or loses momentum. Waves that meet with a hard-faced object are reflected back down the beach at full-force, gravity increases their momentum as they retreat, amplifying beach erosion.

### **Achievements**

- Boulders positioned along the lower shore trigger waves and diffuse their energy.
- These 'wave trips' act like a natural rocky shore and provide long-term protection.

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Boulders partially buried along the lower shore 'trip' waves, triggering them to break and their energy to dissipate before they reach the upper shore. Wave trips act like a natural rocky shore line, reducing the power of waves at the lower shore and protecting the sediments on the beach. They provide a long term, natural solution to erosion.



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# Public Amenity: Access Lawson Pier Foreshore Enhancement

### BALANCED ENVIRONMENTAL

## **Opportunities**

- Reconnect the public with the shoreline and creek habitat by providing better access.
- Improve the continuity of the West Vancouver by providing access through the site.

2006





Reconnecting the seawalk to the shore by replacing the existing hard-faced sea wall with a natural sloping shoreline improve public access to the beach. Creating pedestrian access through the site, to the playground, pier and beach improve the public facilities and increase the continuity of the seawalk.

## **Achievements**

- Creation of a new pedestrian trail connecting the site to Lawson Creek and Ambleside
- Elevation of the upper shore to the level of the new trail improves access to the shoreline.

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A new trail was constructed connecting Millenium Park, Lawson Park, Lawson Creek and the Seawalk. The trail created safe pedestrian access throughout the site and improved the continuity of the seawalk, allowing the public to avoid the existing street detour. The trail also improved access to the shoreline at the site.



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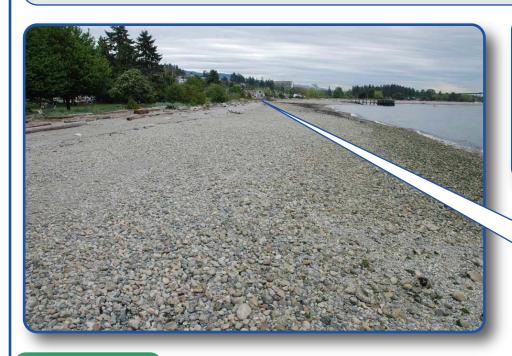
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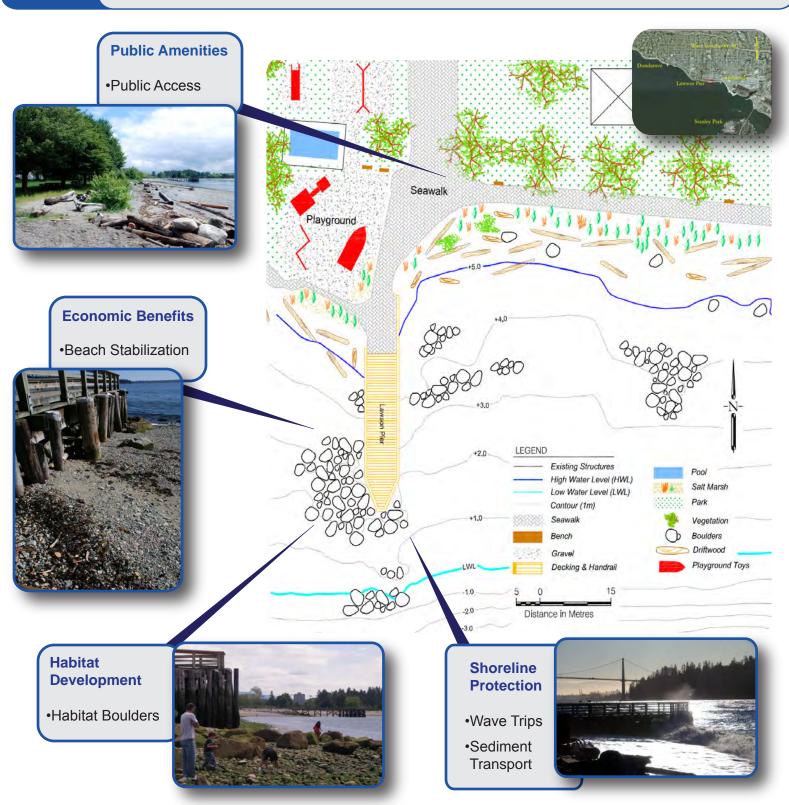


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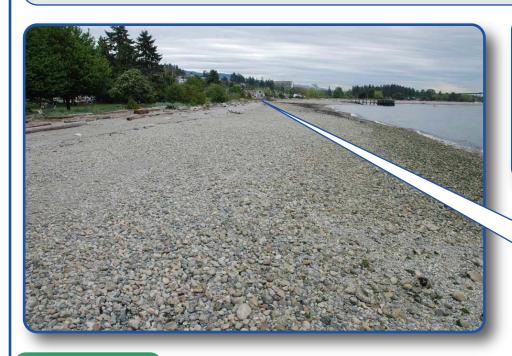
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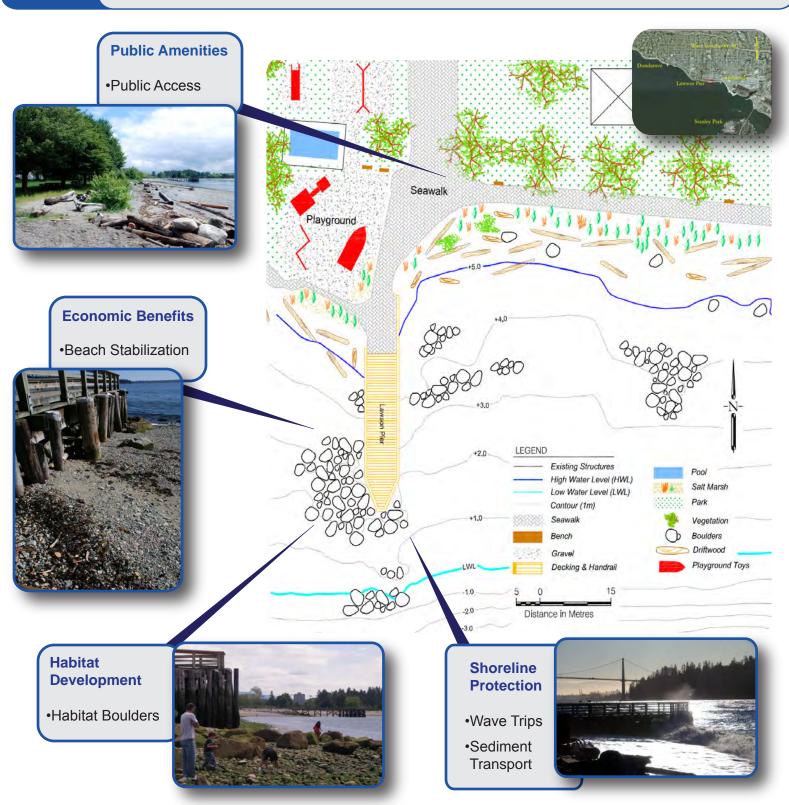


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