

Notes on visits to KLO School's Fascieux Creek Aug 20+23, 2019
(Peter Courtney and Helene Schock Sept 9, 2019)

Helene Schock and I visited the site briefly on August 20, 2019. I revisited the school on August 23 to take photos. These were my first visits back since participating in the rehab in 2015. Ian Walker from CONC toured the site on October 21, 2017 (email dated Oct 22, 2017). Our overall impression was that the rehab was successful and that the result should be stable under most foreseeable circumstances. There were no unvegetated areas visible and the area was dominated by grasses. During the 2015 rehab there were 687 trees and shrubs planted as well as grass and sedges, as follows:

Phase 1: May 2015 downstream end	Phase 2: Sept-Oct 2015 upstream end
Douglas Maple – 5	Douglas fir – 20
Saskatoon – 5	Trembling aspen – 30
Scouler's willow – 15	Black Cottonwood – 10
Nootka rose – 50	Scouler's willow - 90
Red-osier dogwood 25	Nootka rose – 150
Common snowberry – 10	Common snowberry – 75
Oregon grape – 7	Red-osier dogwood – 75
Sedges (carex spp) – 100 plugs	Oregon grape – 100
Pacific willow (cuttings) – 20	Grasses: Rocky Mountain fescue, hair bentgrass, annual ryegrass, alsike clover

Planted trees and shrubs that were visibly doing well were Pacific and Scouler's willow, rose, Red-osier dogwood, snowberry, and Oregon grape. Also present but few in number were Cottonwood, Douglas fir (1 only?) and Trembling aspen. At the downstream end small volunteer Cottonwood plants were seen near the water's edge. We didn't see any Saskatoon or Douglas maple but only a few were planted and whatever survived may have been hidden by the tall underbrush consisting of reed canarygrass, sweet clover, Oregon grape, snowberry, rose, red osier dogwood, etc. Grasses dominate the area with reed canarygrass flourishing on the the lower creek bank areas (see photos). Bullrushes transplanted from the upstream to downstream end of the creek were doing very well and have moved upstream significantly from their transplant location. I was unable to locate the sedges that were planted but that may have been due to thick grasses obscuring or outcompeting them.

Several Siberian elms at the upstream/Gordon Ave end were supposed to have been removed in 2015 but weren't (see photos). The seeds from these trees and the numerous Siberian elm seedlings at various growth stages throughout the area will be an ongoing problem and should be removed.

The turtle nesting area at the downstream end was moderately overgrown with vegetation and part of the fence restricting access was not present. We saw no turtle egg shells or other evidence of recent nesting or hatching. There were lots of gulls and Canada geese on the playing field and a few ducks in the creek but otherwise things were quiet wildlife-wise (not surprising at 11 AM on a very hot day).

KLO Middle School staff say students do extensive weeding through the fall and early spring and that the area has been widely used as an outdoor classroom, including local visits from indigenous educators, and as a silent reading area on warmer days. They have not observed any turtles or turtle nesting activity recently.



Midstream looking upstream towards Gordon Drive



Midstream looking downstream



Reed canarygrass encroaching on creek freeboard



Older Siberian elms not removed during 2015 rehab operations



Duck pond with cattails, bulrushes, willow, reed canarygrass, etc



Turtle nesting area (foreground) with Duck Pond in background



Outdoor classroom (foreground) fenced turtle nesting (background)



Incompletely fenced turtle nesting partly overgrown with weeds