

Instream Works and Watercourse Maintenance

I'm interested in conducting work on a watercourse on my property.

What do I need to know?

If you are seeking information on how working on watercourses (such as streams, ditches, ponds, etc.) are regulated and conducted in the Township of Langley, please see key information below.

Why is instream works or watercourse maintenance needed?

Completing instream works (such as channel maintenance, culvert works, vegetation removal, etc.) in and around watercourses is sometimes necessary to convey flow efficiently, reduce flooding potential, and/or ensure bank stability and safety.

What are the government regulations involved?

Several provincial and federal regulations and acts, as well as local bylaws, exist to protect watercourses, fish and wildlife species, and riparian habitat. This means that government approvals and/or permits are generally required to conduct instream works.

What is the Township of Langley's approach?

Various Township policies dictate how, when, why, and where instream works are conducted by municipal staff on public lands or in statutory right-of-ways (SRWs). The Township follows all local, provincial, and federal regulations and best practices when conducting instream works.

Who is responsible for instream works on private lands?

The relevant landowner is responsible for all works and maintenance activities, costs, and applicable regulatory agency contacts prior to works. Notable contacts include the BC Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

What are some instream works procedures landowners must follow?

Landowners must determine if the watercourse and the scope of works are regulated under provincial or federal acts/regulations or local bylaws, as well as obtain all applicable approvals/permits well before conducting the works.

Landowners may also work with local stewardship groups or engage qualified environmental/engineering professionals to assess the situation, provide advice on options for works, and detail any required regulatory approvals.

Additional Information, Contacts, and Resources:

See the [Township of Langley's Instream Work Information package](#).