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CDNS 4403-5403

Sustainable Heritage Case Study
Class Presentation
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The heritage in environmental sustainability: The rehabilitation of Still Creek, Vancouver, British Columbia

Heritage and Still Creek Rehabilitation

Renfrew Ravine, Still Creek, Vancouver. Credit
photo by Mychaylo Prystupa for Evergreen BC



The Sawmill River in Yonkers NY, looking downstream at new public space and pedestrian bridge. Credit to ses7 on Flickr, 2012.

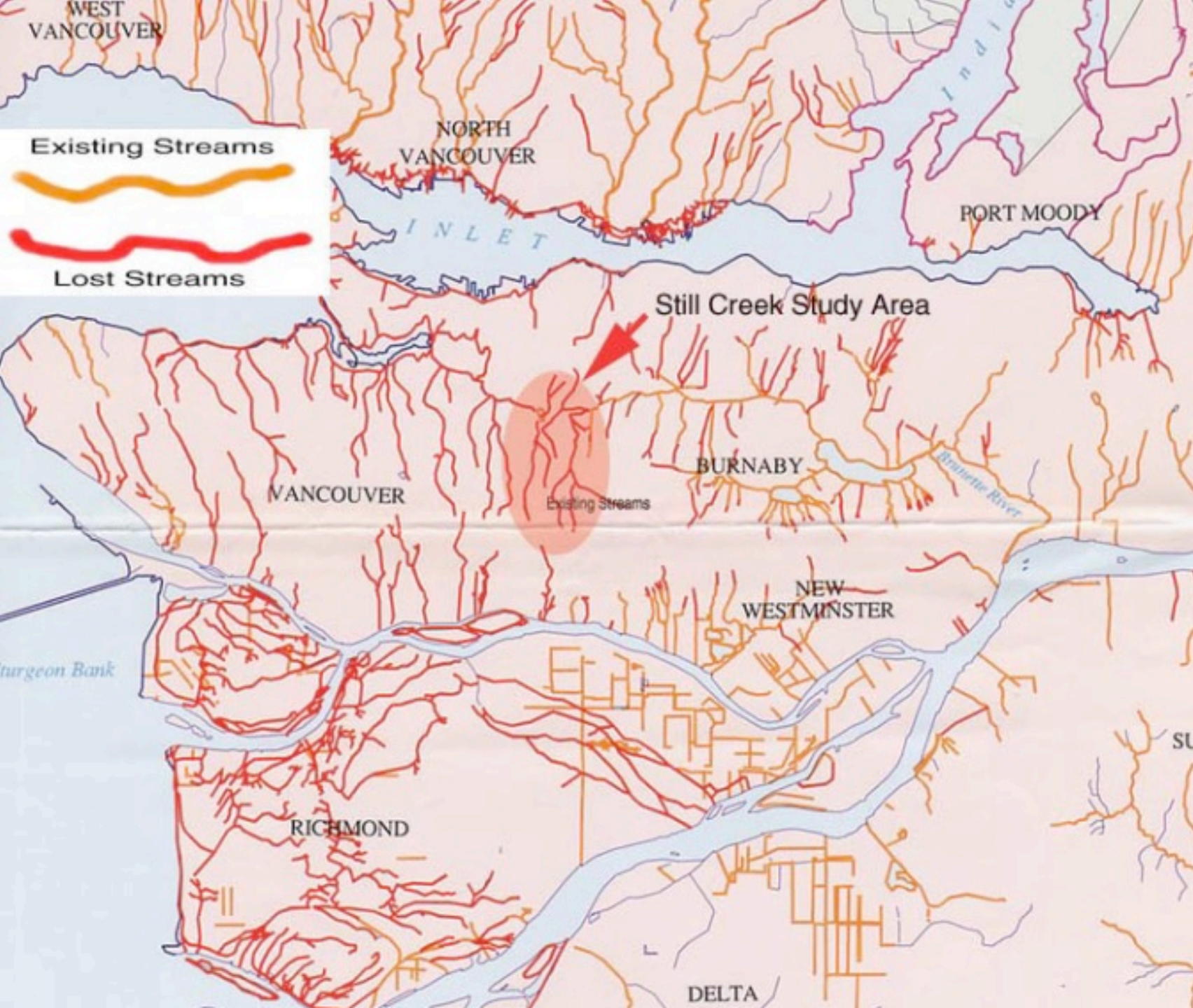
Lessons

What I Learned

- Expense, Size
- Link between linear landscape features and transportation
- The difference between daylighting and rehabilitation

Lessons from the project/what could be better

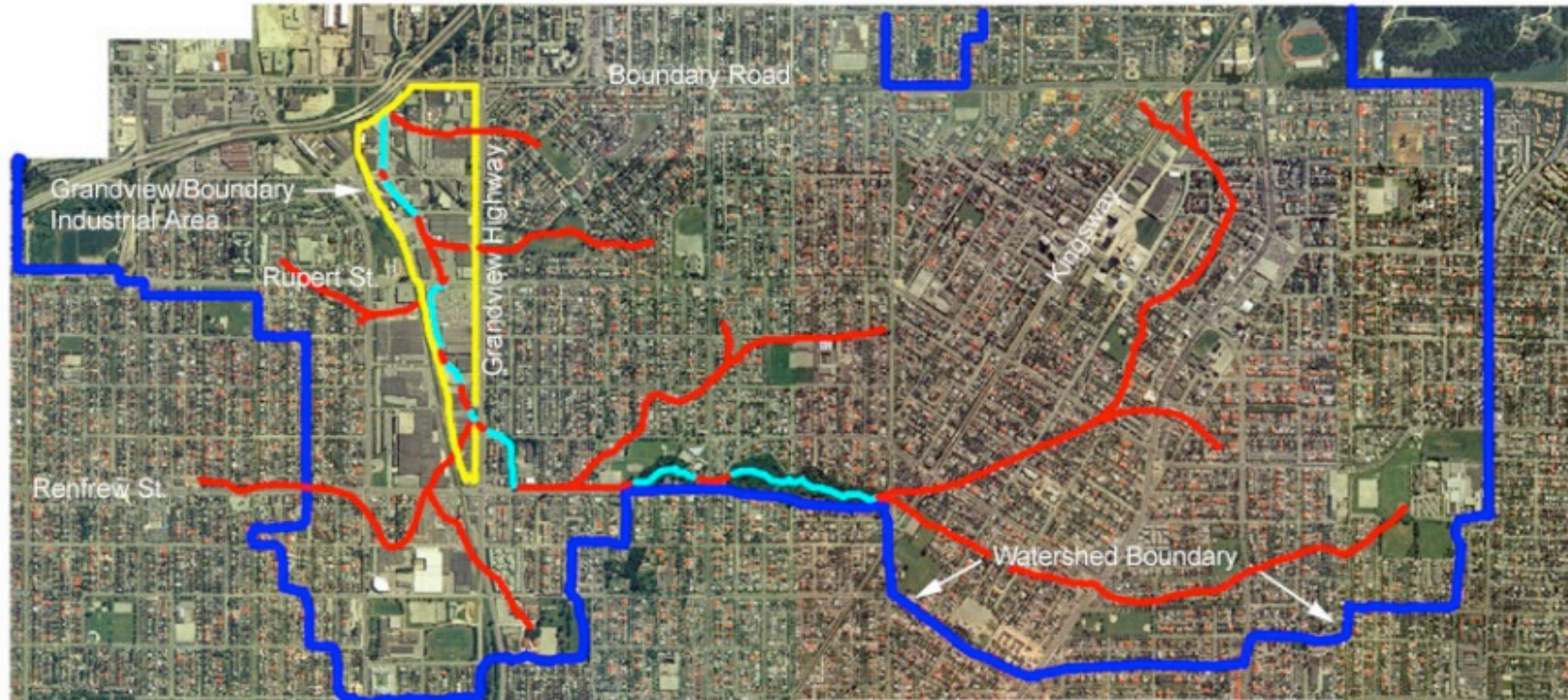
- Engagement with First Nation communities
- Engage more with businesses on the economic benefits



Greater Vancouver's Lost and Existing Streams, credit to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, (1998)



Still Creek above ground
Culverted and historical tributaries of Still Creek



Still Creek Watershed in Vancouver



Not to scale



Lees + Associates Karen Hurley + Associates Dayton + Knight Engineers Hadema Consulting Group

Map of Still Creek Watershed within the City of Vancouver, the blue line indicates the watershed boundary, while the yellow line indicates the Grandview Boundary Industrial Area in which most of the rehabilitation has taken place. Credit Still Creek Rehabilitation Enhancement Plan, 2002.

Description

What has been done so far? Note that the protect is ongoing with 10 and 50 year planning goals identified in 2002.

- “Enhancement project at 3003 Grandview Highway (2005);
- Enhancement of Falaise Park, wetland feature constructed (2005);
- Enhancement project at 3400 Cornett Road (2007);
- Daylighting of approximately 75 meters of the creek and extension of 3300 Cornett Road, as part of 2820 Bentall Street rezoning (2009);
- Enhancement at 2900 Nootka, which included a new path and a pedestrian bridge over the creek (2011);
- Public Art installations at key locations; and
- Interpretive signage at strategic locations along Still Creek.”

(City of Vancouver, 2018)

Stakeholders

- City of Vancouver, City of Burnaby
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
- Still Moon Arts Society, Evergreen, Silva Forest Foundation, Collingwood Neighborhood House, Friends of Renfrew Park, the Renfrew Ravine, and the Friends of Falaise Park
- British Columbia Institute of Technology and Simon Frazer University, UBC
- Numerous Coastal Salish peoples including the Musqueam, Tsliel-waututh and Squamish First Nations
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Timeline

- 1914 –Still Creek designated for storm run off
- 1929 –The Creek is envisioned as part of a Parks and Pleasure Drive between Vancouver and Burnaby, this does not happen and over the next decades much of the creek is culverted.
- 1932 –The last remembered salmon run to upper Still Creek
- 1950s-60s –Pollution, culvertisation and urbanization increase
- 1980s –with shifting values no more of the creek is put underground
- 1996 –Community groups begin to participate in community activities, such as cleaning Renfrew Ravine
- 2002 –Still Creek Rehabilitation Enhancement Study is endorsed by Greater Vancouver Council
- 2005-2011 –Major rehabilitation work carried out
- 2012 –Chum Salmon return to the upper reaches of Still Creek

Natural/Cultural Heritage

- The creek has a long history of an urban and sub-urban recreation area
- Salmon fishing was an important source of food and sport for settlers, fishing derby in the City until 1980s
- Intangible identification of the city with Salmon
- Last (and most problematic) there is the Indigenous relationship to the land and Salmon in particular—which unfortunately, the project ignores completely.



Still Creek in Burnaby in 1935. Credit to Heritage Burnaby, taken from TheTye, 2019.



An open section of Still Creek before restoration, note the engineered Banks and riparian zone completely overgrown with a single invasive Species. Credit to Uytae Lee and the CBC, 2019.

Sustainability

- Indicators –how to tell if it is sustainable
- Environmental –This is the one category with solid metrics – community lead scientific studies –return of the Salmon
- Social –Connection to non-motorized transport, education opportunity, urban rewilding
- Economic –Sawmill River, Yonkers, NY
- SDGs –This project can apply to many -14 Life Below Water, there is also strong connections to 6, 11, and 15.



Above: A section of Still Creek next to the Grandview Highway demonstrating the change between the original concrete banks and new naturalized banks. Credit to Bob Kronbauer, 2012

Below: Salmon return to Grandview Boundary Industrial area to spawn in 2015. Credit to the CBC.



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