

Regulations & Legal Mechanisms Protecting Stoney Creek

Stoney Creek is a “fish-bearing watercourse” with documented presence of salmon. This places it under multiple layers of federal, provincial, and municipal protection.

1. Federal Protections

a. **Fisheries Act (Canada)**

The strongest protection comes from the federal Fisheries Act which prohibits harm to fish, destruction of fish habitat, and pollution entering fish-bearing waters.

b. **Species at Risk Act (SARA)**

As “*listed species*” use the creek, SARA protections apply to habitat and harmful activities.

c. **Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)**

Relevant for: toxic substance releases and environmental emergencies.

2. Provincial (B.C.) Protections

a. **Water Sustainability Act (WSA)**

Regulates: changes in and around a stream such as removal of water and disturbance of the riparian zone. Any work near Stoney Creek requires provincial authorization.

b. **Environmental Management Act (EMA)**

Protects: human health and the environment by preventing, controlling, and remediating pollution and environmental harm.

c. **Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR)**

Requires: qualified environmental assessments for development near streams, and protection of riparian setbacks.

d. **Wildlife Act**

Protects: fish and wildlife habitat, and nesting and breeding areas.

e. **Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Act**

Governs: spill reporting, response to emergencies. Residents and officials must report spills. Under B.C. law, the “responsible person” must clean up spills.

3. Municipal Protections

a. **Abbotsford Official Community Plan (OCP)**

Regulates: development setbacks, vegetation removal, stormwater management, and habitat protection.

b. **Abbotsford Zoning Bylaw**

Includes: streamside protection setbacks, restrictions on land use near watercourses.

c. **Streamside Protection Bylaws**

The city enforces: no-disturbance zones, erosion and sediment control requirements.