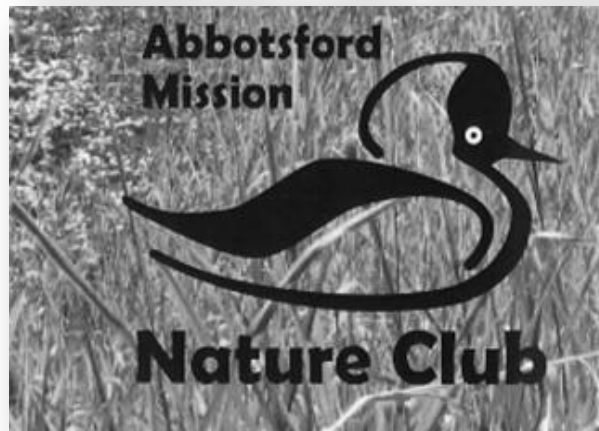


Abbotsford/Mission Nature Club and the City of Abbotsford Partnership Project

PROVISION OF OSPREY (*PANDION HALIAETUS*) NESTING HABITAT IN WILLBAND CREEK PARK



April 20, 2021

Prepared by: Shawn Gurney, Urban Forester

During the summer of 2020, Hank Roos and Herman Venema, of the Abbotsford/Mission Nature Club (AMNC), approached the City's Urban Forestry Section to propose fabricating and installing an osprey nesting platform in Willband Creek Park.

Although osprey are not currently listed as threatened or endangered, it is known that suitable nesting habitat is scarce in the urban setting. Willband Creek Park provides many habitat elements required by osprey but lacks large trees for nesting.

AMNC offered to manufacture the nesting platform and indicated that BC Hydro may donate a wooden pole. The City supported the concept but suggested an all metal and concrete structure for durability.

Roughly 90% of the materials used to build the structure were salvaged and re-purposed from scrap metal and an old lamp post and concrete base. The only new materials purchased were the guy wires and anchor blocks.

AMNC fabricated an all metal nesting platform, roughly 4' in diameter and 1' deep, weighing in at roughly 300lbs. This platform mounted to the top of a 30' tall, re-purposed lamp post which was fastened to a 3500lb. recycled lamp post base.

Three steel guy wires, each anchored to a 400 lb concrete block, stabilize the structure. All fasteners are tack welded for to eliminate tampering and the structure will be lightning grounded in the next few weeks.



On April 16, 2021, the structure was erected roughly 30m from the main trail in the south east corner of Willband Creek Park. The positioning is surrounded by trees but is open enough to provide clear flyways in and out of the nest with fast access to fishing sites.

Arbor Pro Tree Services used a mid-sized, rubber tracked excavator with fully articulated grapple, to pick up and place the assembled post and platform structure onto its base.

We plan to make and install interpretive signage to explain the structure and educate the public about ospreys.

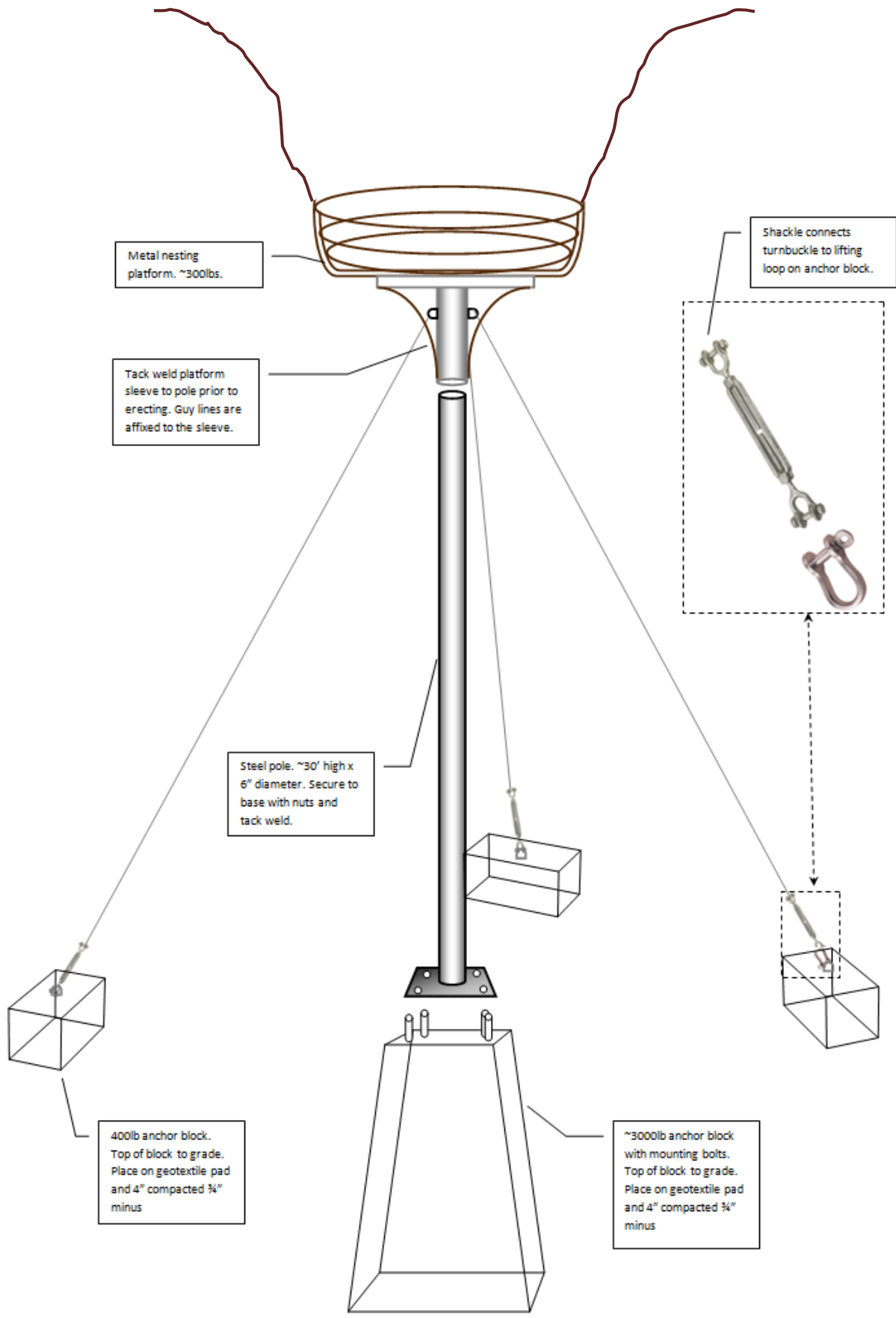
The platform will be captured in our natural asset inventory along with other existing and future artificial habitat elements. Maintenance should include an annual inspection for structural integrity of fasteners and attachment points. The lightning protection system should also be inspected annually.

An occasional coat of paint on the platform mounting sleeve and post may be required to deter rust. The platform itself does not require painting or any maintenance.

If the platform is occupied, future plans could include the installation of a nest camera.



Osprey nesting platform installation plan



Osprey nesting platform researched and fabricated by AMNC.
Made from reclaimed and donated metal with new steel guy wires.



Post and base reclaimed after sitting for years in the Operations Yard material storage area



Installation day with AMNC, Arbor Pro and City of Abbotsford



Arbor Pro with grapple on protective wooden transport sleeve



Moving the structure to the buried base



Installed and ready for guying

