

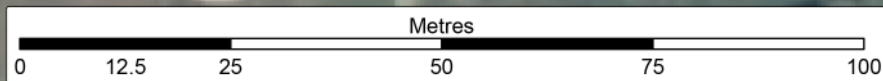
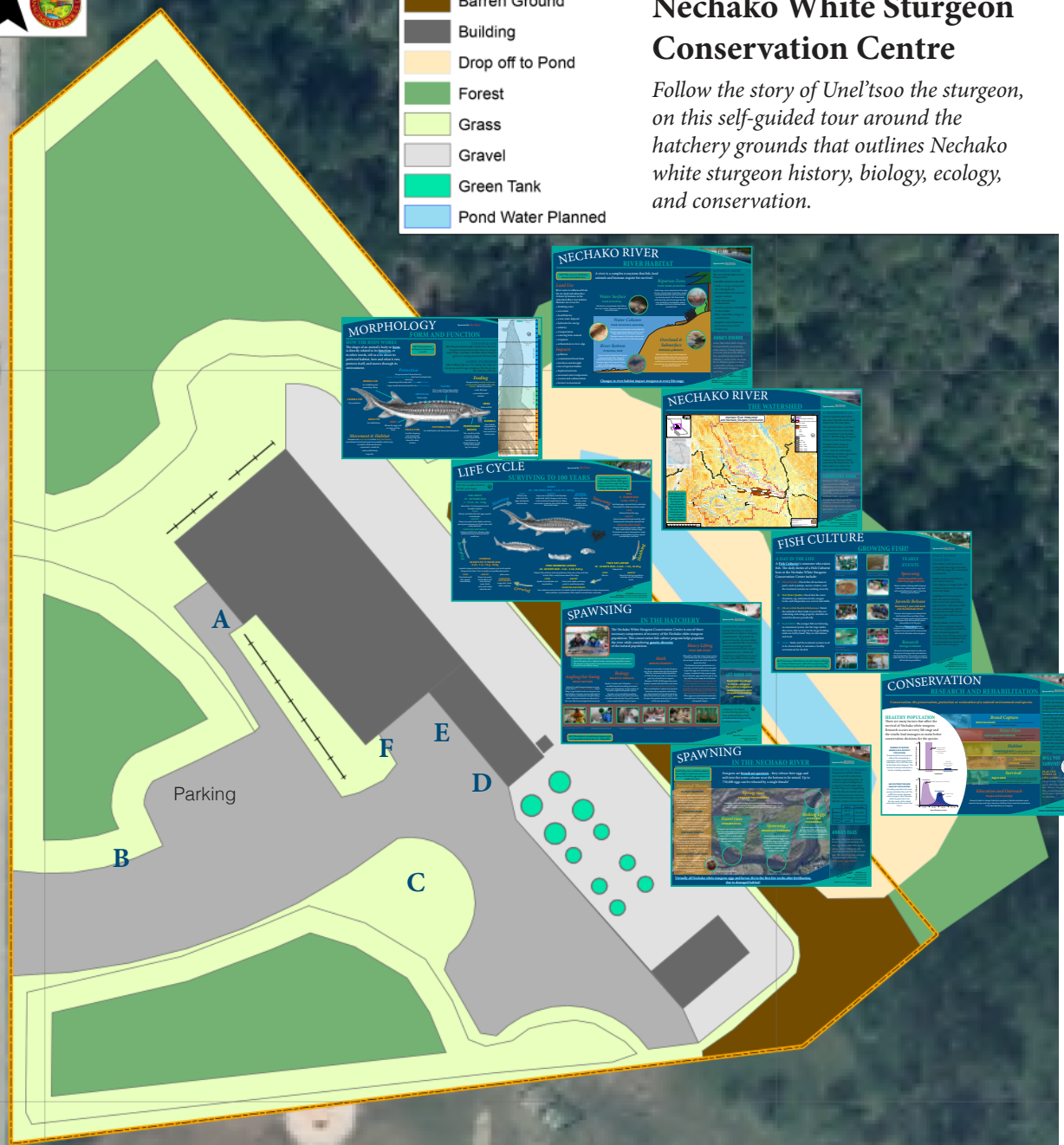


### Legend

- Asphalt
- Barren Ground
- Building
- Drop off to Pond
- Forest
- Grass
- Gravel
- Green Tank
- Pond Water Planned

## Self guided tour of the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre

Follow the story of *Unel'tsoo the sturgeon*, on this self-guided tour around the hatchery grounds that outlines Nechako white sturgeon history, biology, ecology, and conservation.



### A: History

Sturgeon are pre-historic animals, and Nechako white sturgeon have been in this watershed for at least 10,000 years. Over the past 200 years, the environment and pressures on Nechako white sturgeon habitat and population have resulted in the population becoming listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act. This sign introduces us to the Nechako white sturgeon.

### B: Sturgeon Carving

Created by Terrace carver Joerg Jung, this spruce carving shows the flow of a very large swimming Nechako white sturgeon. Looking from the tail, can you imagine swimming behind her and following her in her travels?

### C: Education Signs

The Nechako white sturgeon population is dangerously low and it is known that survival during the first 40 days of life up to the first year is low enough that the population cannot be sustained. This series of signs provides facts about Nechako white sturgeon habitat, biology, ecology and conservation, and how human actions within the Nechako watershed, from land-use to fish culture and conservation, impact sturgeon. What can you do to support recovery?

### D: Wheel of Life

Spin the Wheel of Life to see if you can live to 100 years old. This game is a fun and interactive way to learn about sturgeon survival and threats at each life stage.

### E: Measure Up Sturgeon

Sturgeon are huge fish. Stand next to this painting and see how you measure up - are you as tall as a 15 year old sturgeon? Learn the parts of a sturgeon and how its shape gives us clues as to how it eats, moves and lives.

### F: Life Cycle Carving

Sturgeon have a very different life cycle compared to more familiar species such as salmon. Sturgeon are long-lived and spawn multiple times in their lifetime. Follow the journey from egg to adult and around again, and the pressures as well as supports on this species at every life stage. Where do you fit in?

THIS IS UNEL'TSOO (GRANDMOTHER OF ALL).  
AT 100 YEARS OLD SHE IS 3 M IN LENGTH AND  
150 KG. LEARN THE STORY OF UNEL'TSOO, FROM  
HER ANCESTORS TO THE PRESENT DAY, AT THE  
CONSERVATION CENTRE.

# WELCOME!

Nechako White Sturgeon  
Conservation Centre

## CONSERVATION AT THE CENTRE

The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre hatchery program is dedicated to maintaining genetic diversity and rebuilding the Nechako white sturgeon population. It is recognized that the hatchery is not a permanent solution for white sturgeon recovery, however, it will aid in providing time to research, implement, and monitor the more permanent solution, which is to restore the function of spawning habitat. Restoration is required to achieve the ultimate goal of a self-sustaining population.

The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre opened its doors officially in 2014, however a pilot hatchery program ran from 2006-2010. Each spring adult sturgeon are caught and brought to the hatchery to be spawned, then returned back into the Nechako River. As in any wild population, genetic diversity is key to the success of the population, and this conservation focused hatchery program reflects that by creating as many mating pairs as possible.

The pilot program showed us that growing sturgeon to about a year old in the hatchery increases their chance of survival. School children from across the entire Nechako Valley participate in releasing the young sturgeon into the Nechako River. In roughly 30 years, it is expected these fish will become the first generation since the late 1960s to successfully spawn in the river. This contribution will form the basis of a self-sustaining population of Nechako white sturgeon in the Nechako River.

For more information about the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, or to book a tour inside the hatchery please contact us:

[info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org](mailto:info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org)

250-567-6673

[www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org](http://www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org)

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### BIOSECURITY

**Biosecurity protocols are in effect at the hatchery. Please obey all signs inside and outside the facility.**

## Self Guided Tour

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative would like to thank all our partners and supporters that have contributed to the planning, building and continuing operation of the conservation hatchery program. In particular, we would like to recognize Rio Tinto, the Province of BC, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the District of Vanderhoof, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON



RECOVERY INITIATIVE

RioTinto



Canada Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans Canada

Sponsored by RioTinto