

DNS Box #3 – Kings Links Golf Course

Box #3 was constructed by the Cascade box builders, and installed in November 2017 using materials, labour, and equipment supplied by Kings Links Golf Course. The site is located along the eastern boundary of the golf course immediately adjacent to the fairway. It is unknown whether this close proximity to golfers will affect its success. This box features a wrap-around “balcony” designed by Jim Kneesch for the fledgling owls to perch before they can fly.

The box was attached to the 6x6 pole before transporting it to the installation site, although the balcony was left off until after the pole was erected. The hole was dug by hand, and the pole was erected manually with some help from the backhoe. The hole was backfilled with concrete. The balcony was attached once the pole was in place by standing in the raised backhoe bucket. DNS members at the installation were Tom Bearss, Jim Kneesch, Chris McVittie, Jack MacDonald, Roger Kenny, and Syd Barber.





DNS Box #72 – Kings Links Golf Course

Box #72 was installed in December 2015 along the south boundary of Kings Links Golf Course, using labour and materials supplied by Kings Links. The box is mounted on a 6x6 pole which was delivered to the site on the roof of a Peter Ward's car. Once the box was mounted to the pole, it was too heavy to carry by hand, and required a machine for transport to the installation site. The hole was dug by backhoe, the structure was raised manually, and then the hole was backfilled with concrete. Its perching platform is larger than the one on Box #13. It is located near some trees away from heavy traffic, although golfers may occasionally approach within 20-30 m. Video surveillance showed that this box has produced young owls. Tom Bearss, Peter Ward, and Terry Carr were involved with its installation.





DNS Box #28 – Boundary Bay Regional Park

Box #28 was installed in December 2013 in cooperation with Boundary Bay Regional Park. The box is mounted on a moveable device that provides ground-level access, however, its heavy weight requires a winch to raise and lower the box, which hinders casual checking. Furthermore, it is located behind a locked gate at the end of a remote road which requires Park permission for access. The remote location, elevator device, and extreme height were intended to minimize disturbance from the general public, but have actually made it difficult to check for owl activity. DNS is currently working with BBRP to relocate the box.

Equipment and supplies to install the box were provided by Metro Vancouver. Heavy equipment was required to install the box since it was mounted on a tall, large diameter pole. Tom Bearss, Peter Ward, and Terry Carr were involved with the installation.





DNS Box #13 – North 40 Park

Box #13 was originally intended for Boundary Bay Regional Park, but the Park’s management did not like its design, so the box was assigned to the North 40 location. It has a very small perching platform which provides limited space for fledgling owls before they can fly. The box is mounted on a 4x4 fence post and holder and is about 10 ft above the ground. The box was installed in October 2013.

Adult owls have been observed in this box and it has contained nesting materials, but there is no evidence it has produced any young owls that survived. Eagles often perch in nearby trees, and it is relatively close to a well-used dog-walk, which may reduce the young owls’ survival rate. Tom Bearss, Peter Ward, Roger Meyer, and Terry Carr were involved in its installation.



