

The Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park Trail Map Is Now Available!

It's here! The Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park Trail map can be purchased at the following locations:

Kelowna Cycle	103-2949 Pandosy St.
Gerrick Cycle & Sport	1969 Harvey Ave.
Cyclepath	2169 Springfield Rd.
Fresh Air Experience	18-2070 Harvey Ave.
Venture Gear	2000 Spall Rd.
Outdoor Adventure Gear	1967 Harvey Ave.
Diamond H. Tack	1953 Kirschner Rd.
Mosaic Books	411 Bernard Ave.
Tourism Kelowna	544 Harvey Ave.

Watch for a trail map at the Stewart Road East Trailhead information kiosk in early spring of 2006.

“You are here” Maps will also be erected at ‘junctions’ in the park in late spring of 2006.

Happy Trails in 2006!

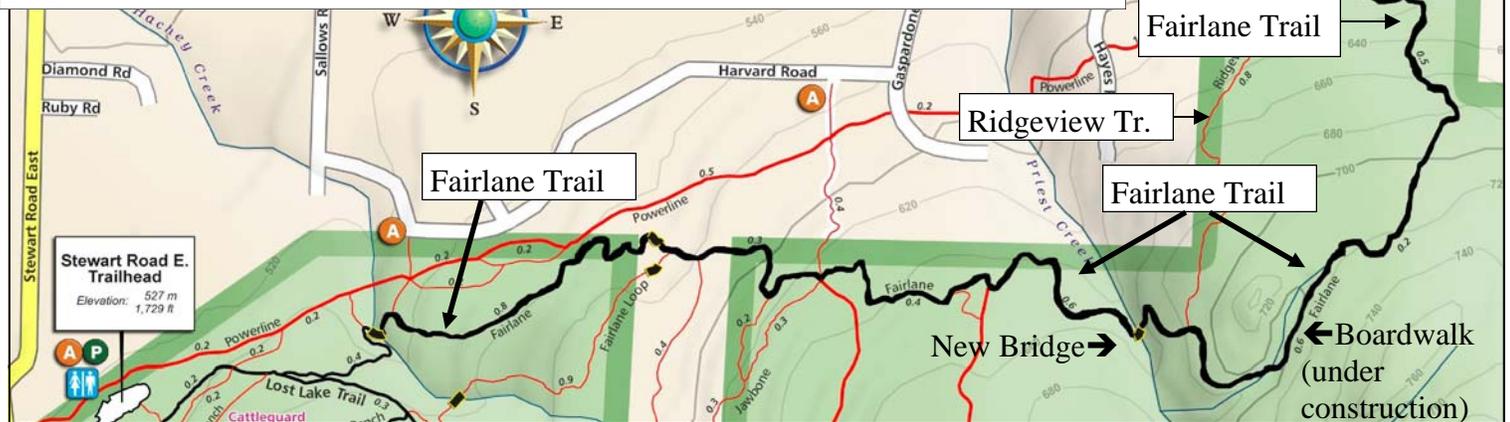
Fairlane Trail—Now Open!

Over the past 5-6 years, F.O.S.S. directors have had a dream to have a low elevation east-west trail in MBPP that would provide a link between the SRE Trailhead and Luxmoore Rd./ June Springs. Using existing trails, F.O.S.S. developed this corridor and named it “Fairlane” (a section of trail used was known as Fairlane).

Developing Fairlane Trail was a challenge because it was poorly defined east of Priest Creek, and a bridge was needed over the creek. With funding from the Interior Savings Community Development Fund, the bridge is now complete, the trail is established, signs are posted, and it is becoming a popular trail. Currently, Ridgeview Trail is not clearly marked. This will be a spring project for the F.O.S.S. F.O.S.S. has contracted with Katim Enterprises to construct a boardwalk near the pond east of Priest Creek. This project will commence as soon as the weather is suitable.



Opening of the Priest Creek Bridge on Fairlane Trail, October 5, 2005
L-R Doug & Cameron (Rutland Sr. Forestry Program), Mark Hecht (Katim), Penny Gubbels & Peter Thompson (F.O.S.S.) and Doug Findlater (Board of Directors/Interior Savings Credit Union)



Long-Time Director Peter Thompson Resigns from F.O.S.S. Board

Peter Thompson, who was first elected to the F.O.S.S.’s Board of Directors in April 1998, has resigned to focus on his volunteer work with Yoga House. Peter has been a F.O.S.S. director, treasurer and most recently—President.

F.O.S.S. directors thank Peter for all his work on our behalf, and especially for his skills as a highly successful fund-raiser. Peter guided F.O.S.S. through the hectic post-fire period, when the scope and magnitude of the projects needed to re-establish the trails in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks were often overwhelming.

Thanks Peter, and Good Luck!

2005 AGM Update:

F.O.S.S. had a very successful AGM, with 64 people in attendance. Members of the new Board of Directors are:

Sharon Adams	Nick Fiorante
Penny Gubbels	Anne Mackay
Herb Blamire	Isabel Pritchard
Grant Rice	Daphne Richard
Cathy Richards	Dan Wood
Dan Hobson (elected at the Jan. 12 directors meeting)	

Officers elected at the Dec. 8/05 Directors Meeting:

President & Treasurer	Grant Rice
Vice-President	Dan Wood
Secretary	Penny Gubbels

Board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 pm at the EECO Centre.

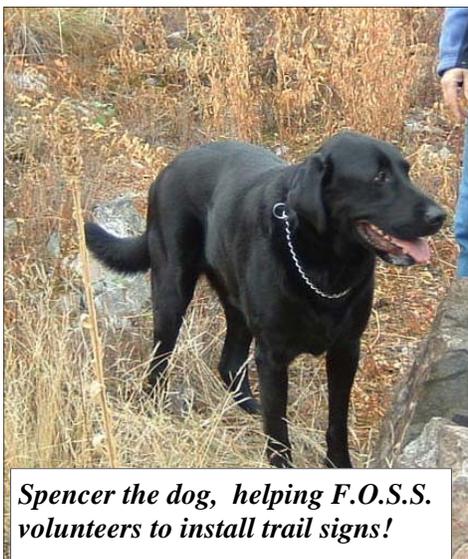
It's a Dog's Life in MBPP— Please Be a Responsible Dog Owner

At the F.O.S.S. AGM in November, President Peter Thompson spoke about being a responsible dog owner when you walk your dog in MBPP. Provincial Parks are generally not “off-leash” areas, and we are in fact privileged that BC Parks has not posted Myra-Bellevue as an on-leash park. Staff have told us that this privilege is contingent upon no conflicts between dogs and people and wildlife. It is up to each of us who walk our dog, or take it along when we cycle or ride our horses, to be **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER**.

Here are some ideas for dog etiquette in the park:

- ◆ Always have your dog under control when you are at the Trailhead or in any other areas of the park where you encounter people or animals. Allowing your dog to run loose at the parking lot is not a responsible action. Please leash your dog at the Trailhead. Remember—not everyone is comfortable around dogs, and some people are afraid of them—especially large dogs. Your ‘best friend’ may terrify someone else.
- ◆ If you meet up with horseback riders or cyclists, restrain your dog while they pass.
- ◆ Clean up after your dog! Encountering dog feces on the trails or at the Trailhead is an unpleasant experience. **PLEASE MOVE IT OFF THE TRAIL**, or bag it and remove it from the park and dispose of it at home. There is no garbage pick up at the Trailhead, so please don't leave your doggy-do bags at the Trailhead or anywhere in the park.
- ◆ MBPP is home to a variety of wildlife—**DO NOT** let your dog harass any of the park's critters, and do not let them chase deer, elk or moose.

....Let's ensure that we can continue to enjoy Myra-Bellevue P.P. with our dogs! **“Leave No Trace”** recreation applies to man's best friend too!



Spencer the dog, helping F.O.S.S. volunteers to install trail signs!



Trixie— one of MBPP's regular canine visitors

We Can All Help To Prevent Trail Erosion

(This article was submitted by Eric Rayson, who has been assessing, monitoring and making recommendations to F.O.S.S. on preventing post-fire run-off and erosion to the trails in Okanagan Mtn. & Myra-Bellevue Provincial Parks).

During a short hike on the Fairlane Trail on a damp Christmas day, I was quite surprised to see deep horse tracks and skid marks on the trail, which appeared to have been caused by one horse. I was reminded on how fragile the earth is when damp, and I got to thinking that horse traffic can in certain situations cause more damage than bikes because of the concentrated weight impact as opposed to the rolling nature of wheels. We all to a certain degree have a negative impact on the environment, and each of us needs to be aware of this, and take responsibility for our actions. Trails with surface moisture and running water should be avoided, pools of water on trails should not be skirted (This only creates a larger pool) but jumped, walked or biked through in the center of the pool. As a final thought we have to remember that the South Slopes is a gem in our own backyard, and the nature of the area is that at certain times some of the trails may not be suitable for travel due to spring runoff, or periods of heavy rain. Boggy areas after all have a critical role to play. Nor should we assume that all trails should be negotiable to everyone and be smooth and rock free, and devoid of any danger.

Practice erosion-free, low impact recreation

City of Kelowna Graffiti Eradication and Prevention Program

Graffiti vandalism is a problem in our area. The negative image that graffiti projects on our community and the cost for repairing the damage it causes is substantial. Here is how you can help!

Recognize

Graffiti is a crime!

Report

Any and all graffiti vandalism by calling the City of Kelowna Graffiti Hotline at 469-8600 or by email: graffiti@kelowna.ca

Remove

If your property becomes a target of graffiti, remove the graffiti as soon as possible

Adopt-A-Spot

Volunteer to maintain a graffiti free area in your neighbourhood or place of work

Sign up to be a volunteer for **G.E.T.**—the **G**raffiti **E**radication **T**eam

Organize a clean up day in your neighbourhood



Lock-Post Installed on Lost Lake Trail

In November, 2005, F.O.S.S. installed a lock-post at the junction of Hromek and Lost Lake Trail.

Major work was undertaken during the summer on a badly eroded section of this trail. Once it was improved, unauthorized motorized vehicles started to access the MBPP trail system and Lost Lake.

Because access for authorized work and for safety (search & rescue) are needed, F.O.S.S. hired contractor Blake Garrett to install a security post. He was assisted by Eric Rayson who has been managing the erosion mitigation projects on F.O.S.S.' behalf.

Kelowna Steel Fabricators built the lock-post. Owner Jake Warkentin donated the labour, and we were only charged for the materials. **Thanks for your support, Jake!**



How to Contact your F.O.S.S. Directors:

Mailing Address: Box 28011 RPO
East Kelowna, Kelowna BC, V1W 4A6
e-mail: info@foss-kelowna.org
Website: foss-kelowna.org



**Middle Bench Trail, MBPP
December, 2005**