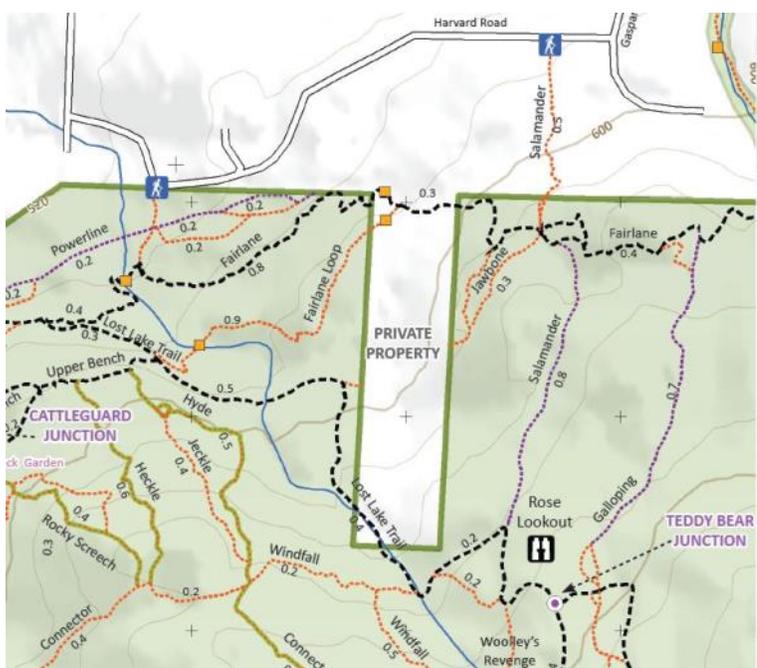


To: FOSS Members

## GREAT, FANTASTIC, EXCITING NEWS!!

The BC Ministry of Environment, Province of BC announced today that the Province has acquired the forty acre private in-holding in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

On behalf of FOSS members and all the mountain bikers, hikers, dog-walkers, trail runners, equestrians and other folks who love the trails in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, the Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank the Province of BC for purchasing the property we know as 'Myra Wetlands'. That big "Private Property" tag on the Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park (MBPP) trail map can now be changed to 'parkland'! This acquisition will protect the unique ecosystem that is Myra Wetlands - Hachey Creek, Peterson Brook, the in-tact wetland and the meadow. This addition to MBPP protects the sections of Fairlane Trail, Lost Lake Trail and Jawbone that traverse the property.



This 40 acre addition to the park has been an eighteen year journey – MBPP was announced in 2000, as part of the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan Process. As a result of urban development north of the new park and the establishment of the new park, the private inholding became landlocked.

The Myra Wetlands property (also known as 'The Meadow' and 'Thunder Meadow') was purchased in the 1960's and that owner passed away in 2006 at which time FOSS began the long process of lobbying for acquisition of the property. This involved dozens of meetings over the past twelve years with BC Parks planners and staff, local government, the new property owners, other non-profits, and anyone or any group that would meet with us! FOSS' objective was first and foremost to see the Myra Wetlands acquired as parkland. When that hit a roadblock and

the landowners applied to the province for a park boundary adjustment to construct a roadway access to their land, FOSS pressed for protection of Fairlane and Lost Lake Trails (which cross the private property) and for a driveway access to the property that would result in minimal disturbance to the park. In 2013, FOSS asked the Province to consider another option – a possible land exchange, and the BC Parks' planning department began to explore this option. Throughout this twelve year process of looking at all the options available, FOSS always looked upon the outright acquisition of the property as Goal #1.

We are grateful to BC Parks staff for working with FOSS over the years, to the owners of Myra Wetlands who patiently listened each time FOSS presented another option, and to the FOSS board members and supporters who patiently waited for this big day. FOSS formed as a trail advocacy group in April 1998 ---twenty years ago this month! What a twentieth birthday present this is for FOSS and all the people who love the South Slopes.

Sincerely, 2018 Board of Directors



The trail through the meadow.....  
This photo was taken in late spring  
after the spring run-off was finished

The beauty & diversity of the Wetland



Myra Wetlands—in the winter

Myra Wetlands, the source of a seasonal stream, Peterson Brook, that flows under the bridge located east of the Fairlane Loop/ Fairlane Trail junction. The Peterson Brook bridge was reconstructed in 2017 with funding through FOSS' Canada 150 grant.

