

Friends of the South Slopes

March 2021



Feb 2021—View from Kelowna Crags

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Sandy Hilton: Financial Reporter/Grants

Jane Blamire: OCCP Representative for FOSS, KMRA Committee

Cam Kourany: FOSS Lead for Recruitment and Governance

Directors would like to thank Gord Detta who, because of other commitments, has stepped down from the Board.



Photo Credit: Brad Wright



A special Valentine's Day message on Lost Lake

FOSS welcomes our two newest sponsors to Its Adopt a Trail Program

Bill Knight at Shred Shed adopted upper Vapour Trail (from the KVR to Doc Savage).

Website: <http://shredshedkelowna.ca>

shredshedkelowna@gmail.com

Phone: (250) 300-3428



Kelowna General Hospital Emergency Department

Adopted Bullwinkle Trail

In

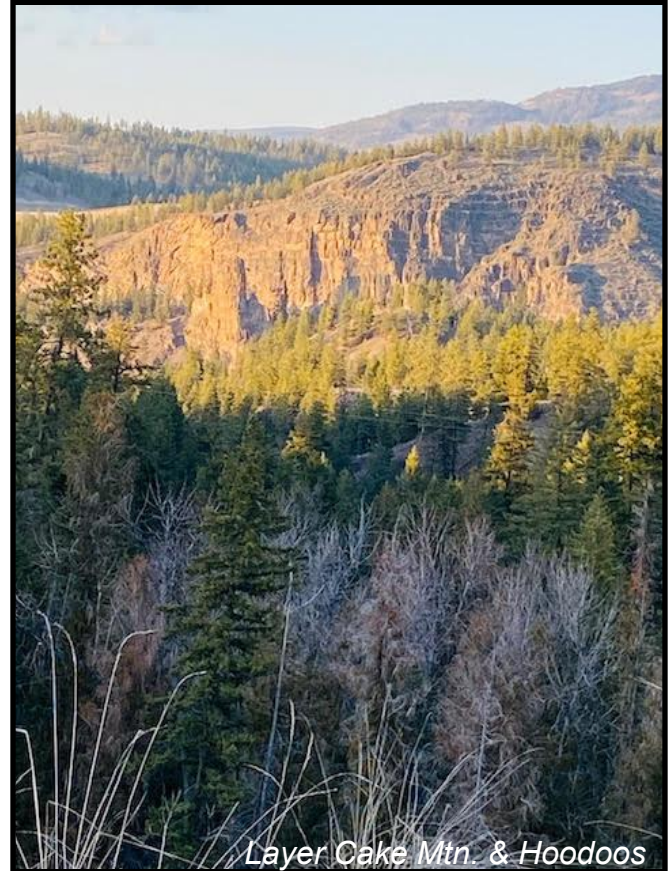
Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

Scenic Canyon Regional Park Expansion

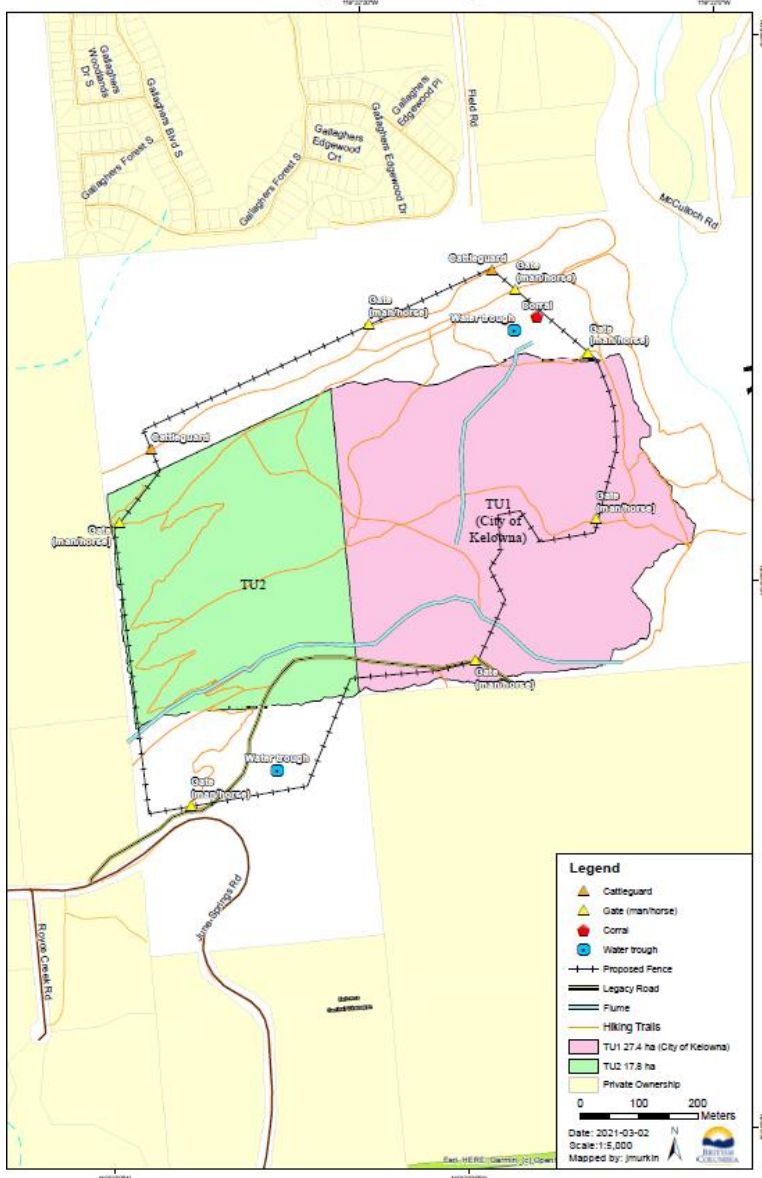
A recent land exchange between the RDCO and private property owners has resulted in the expansion of Scenic Canyon Regional Park to include land on the east side of Mission Creek - providing an ultimate connection of the Mission Creek Greenway to a continuous trail over the rim of the iconic Layer Cake Mountain, and connecting to the trail system in the Black Mountain-sntsk'il'nten Regional Park – more extraordinary hiking and biking opportunities – and protection for the significant wildlife habitat/corridor which extends from Kalamalka to Okanagan Mountain.

Looking at the 'big picture'.....it's all about connectivity.....

This is wonderful news, related to FOSS' overall vision for the South Slopes Green Belt – a continuous trail system that extends from the City Parks/Mission Creek Greenway all the way to Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. This is why the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area (KMRA) –



Field Road Proposed Range Features



which includes the City of Kelowna property south/above Field Road and Gallagher's Canyon – remains a key focus for FOSS – such a critical component of the vast trail network which needs to be preserved. During the pandemic these trails above the Gallagher's Canyon community have become even more popular and even more vital. FOSS, under contract to the former owner of the property, S.E.K.I.D., maintained these trails, and hopes to renew this agreement with the City; there will be lots of work to be done once the timber harvesting for wildfire mitigation is completed.

Related to this, please take a moment and give serious consideration to the recent notice FOSS e-mailed to you, outlining the proposed targeted grazing pilot project for this area where permanent fencing and gates would be constructed to contain livestock each spring as part of wildfire mitigation efforts. The full notice is posted on FOSS' website:

<https://foss-kelowna.org/>

We want to hear from **you!**



The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is an umbrella organization for the outdoor recreation community. The ORC works to encourage British Columbians to get outdoors and to improve opportunities and conditions for outdoor recreation and nature experiences while speaking up for the wild places we love.

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC works to ensure all British Columbians have opportunities to engage in enjoyable, quality outdoor recreation experiences. This is done through programs, advocacy and government relations, and by providing support for its broad membership of outdoor recreation organizations and groups.

The ORC is truly an 'umbrella' organization, representing all aspects of outdoor recreation.

Provincial Organization Members:

- Backcountry Horsemen of BC
- BC Cycling Coalition
- BC Federation of Drift Fishers
- BC Federation of Fly Fishers
- BC Lapidary Society
- BC Marine Trails Network Association
- BC Nature / Federation of BC Naturalists
- BC Off-Road Motorcycle Association
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Council of BC Yacht Clubs
- Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
- Hike BC
- Horse Council of BC
- Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
- Recreational Canoeing Association of BC
- Trails Society of BC

Regional Organization Members:

More than forty regional organizations support the ORCBC, including FOSS.

Learn more about the amazing work the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is undertaking by visiting its website:

[About ORC - Outdoor Recreation Council of BC \(orc.bc.ca\)](http://orc.bc.ca)

FOSS is proud to be a member of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC!



Rocky Screech Trail, MBPP

If Your Dog Poops in the Park....Does anyone care?

The answer is yes! Most of BC's Provincial Parks enforce 'on leash' regulations. We are very fortunate in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, because, except for the Myra Canyon (trestles) area of the Park, on-leash is not a posted regulation. However, MB regulations state: *"dogs must be kept under control at all times. Owners are responsible for their (dog's) behaviour and must dispose of their excrement."* And that excrement is what we're going to talk about now! There aren't any doggie-bag fairies that fly down and remove those green/blue/pink/yellow doggie bags from the trails & trailhead and miraculously make them disappear. Those bags stay there FOREVER. If you are bagging your dog's excrement—take it home and dispose of it how you would when you are walking your dog around your own neighbourhood.

When you drive to one of the MBPP trailheads, it is quite natural that the first thing your dog will do when it jumps out of your car is to leave it's mark. If this happens to be a poop—bag it and take it home with you.

It is timely for FOSS to re-print an article that a BC Parks Area Supervisor provided to FOSS in 2015:

Visitors to the park are reminded that the opportunity to enjoy off leash areas requires owners to be responsible for their pets. These responsibilities include:

- Insuring your pet is under control at all times. This means your pet is within arm's reach of you and will return when called in all circumstances.
- Picking up after your pet. At the very least "stick and flick" your pets waste off the trail.
- Not allowing your pets to harass wildlife. It is an offence under the *Wildlife Act* to allow your pet to chase and or harass wildlife.
- Not allowing your pet to harass other Park visitors. The Park is used by many user groups and if your pet is not well behaved around horses, cyclists, people or other dogs you should not allow your dog to be off leash in the Park.

Please help to ensure the Park continues to allow off leash recreating with our four legged friends by being a responsible pet owner.



Regarding BC Parks' instruction to "Stick and Flick", FOSS would like to add a further comment to that: When you 'flick', ***PLEASE*** flick it ***W-A-Y*** off the trail. We have had one of our stellar volunteers hit some 'stuff' with the power brusher as he was clearing the brush from alongside a trail - it wasn't pretty... Enough said!



Take it with you...don't leave it at the side of the trail or at the trailhead

Photo on left: An example of the amazing wildlife that lives in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park; *Photo Credit: Sharon Kourany,*



Please Don't Build Campfires!

In March there have been five separate campfires reported in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The one on the left was at Rose Lookout, the one below was on Middle Bench Trail and the 3rd one was in the Slick Rock area.

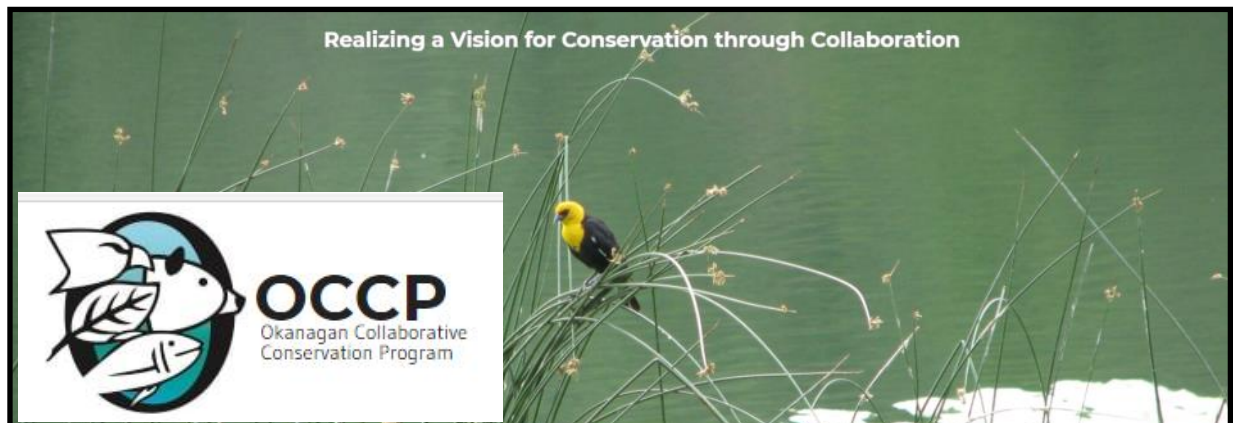
Campfires are NOT permitted in Myra-Bellevue at any time! If you come across a firepit, please decommission it and make it disappear.



Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP)

FOSS is very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP), participating with the Action Plan Team for Habitat Connectivity.

The OCCP is a partnership of organizations and government with shared goals, which include maintaining regional biodiversity, protecting Species at Risk, maintaining ecological connectivity throughout the Okanagan Basin, and balancing regional growth with conservation. Partners in the OCCP include local, regional, provincial and federal levels of government (Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), BC Ministry of Environment (BC MOE), regional districts, and municipalities, land trusts, stewardship and outreach organizations. The Habitat Connectivity project, a joint project of the OCCP and the Okanagan Native Alliance, supports and expands upon the RDCO (Regional District of the Central Okanagan) initiative to plan for Ecosystem Connectivity in the Central Okanagan. The Action Team has identified the protection of a 65km by 1km corridor between Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park as a priority for the region. In 2020, land use guidelines and mapping of the main corridor were incorporated into the draft City of Kelowna 2040 Official Community Plan. This draft document can be found on: [Official Community Plan \(OCP\) | City of Kelowna](#), go about half way down the page to the paragraph that reads: *Creating Kelowna's new Official Community Plan is a multi-year project, with multiple phases of public and stakeholder engagement and a variety of approaches intended to actively engage the community in a meaningful way to help to shape the future of Kelowna. The final phase of engagement will focus on refining the [draft 2040 OCP](#).* **Click on this link, and go to page 142, Map 14.1**



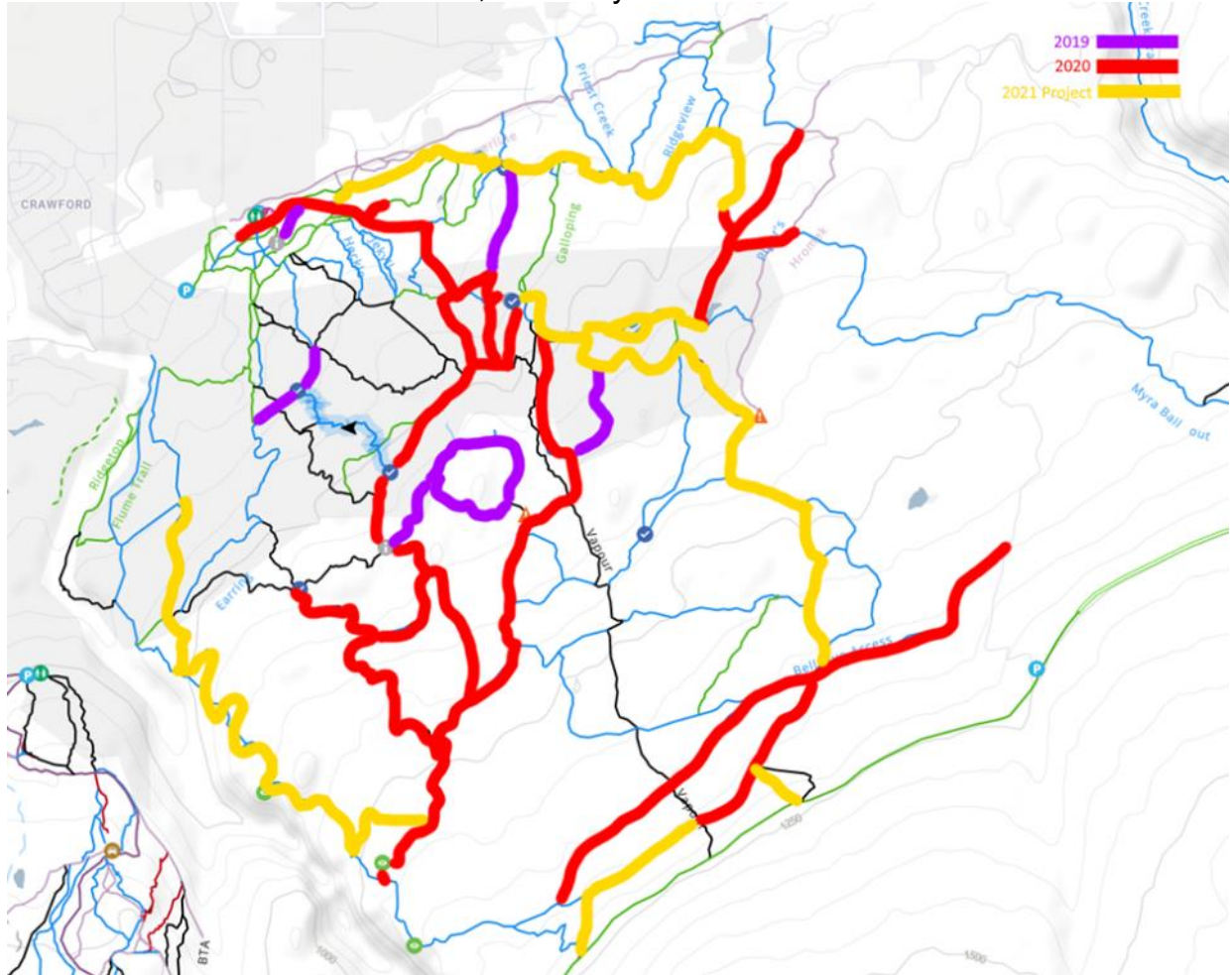
TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE

(Milt Stevenson, Chair of Trail Management Committee)

Spring has arrived! The FOSS crew is beginning to prepare equipment for the spring workload. Several blowdowns have been removed during the last couple of months – thank you to trail users for letting us know!

The FOSS Board created a Trail Management Committee at the March Board meeting: Milt Stevenson chairs the Committee, assisted by Alan Milnes, and Herb Blamire remains our equipment manager. FOSS wants to say a special thank you to Herb for his huge contribution as the FOSS Trail Maintenance Coordinator during the last few years – what a difference he has made!

The last 2 years our crews have cleared an impressive number of trails. We have concentrated on major arteries such as Lost Lake, Pink Highway and Bellevue Access. A helipad on the upper slopes of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park was added, with easy access from several directions.



Our plans for 2021 include:

- Increasing the number of trained trail volunteers: Currently we are training a group of around 15. This will allow for a high level of trail maintenance;
- Expanding the Adopt a Trail Program: Alan Milnes has been assigned to coordinate with Penny Gubbels on the **AAT program**, with the intent of attracting more sponsors and better supporting these volunteers;
- Relocation of 2 bridges from Priest Creek Linear Park (City of Kelowna): These will be relocated to Myra- Bellevue Provincial Park;
- Golden Mile entrance to Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park: Improving the entrance to assist trail crews in accessing the area.

If you would like to become involved in trail maintenance or the Adopt a Trail program, please contact us at FOSS info@foss-kelowna.org