



May 19, 2025
Arnica on Fairlane Trail

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We acknowledge that our community is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people

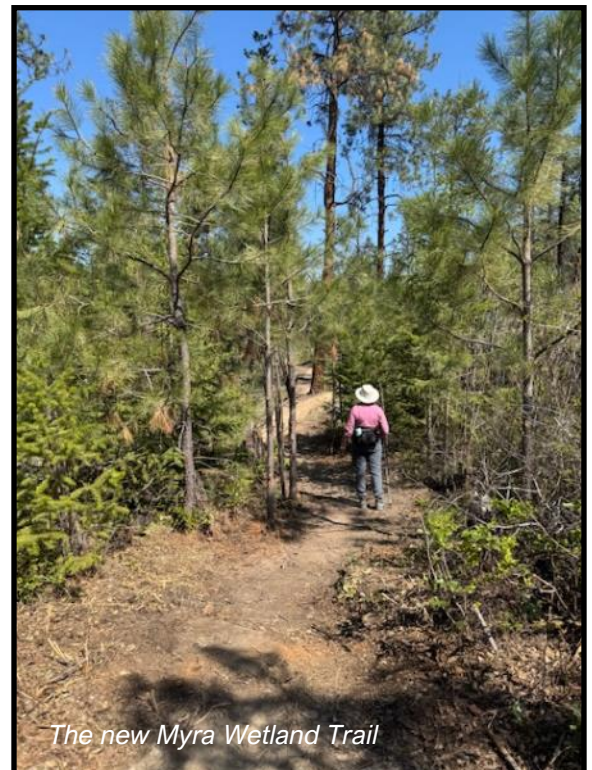
For Your Cycling, Hiking, Riding Pleasure.... FOSS Continues to Improve Trails!

FOSS' Trail Maintenance Crews have been BUSY this spring! Not only have they been brushing, raking, mitigating erosion and generally working their @%#&! off — they've rerouted one trail and constructed a by-pass trail in another area of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

Myra Wetlands Trail: First, a little 'history'.....the property known as *Myra Wetlands* was a 16.4 hectare (40 acre) privately owned inholding within the boundary of MBPP, located along the north boundary of the Park near Harvard Rd. For 14 years FOSS lobbied BC Parks to acquire this property—we were the annoying people who just didn't accept 'no'! FOSS pushed for this acquisition based on its recreational and ecological values.

In 2020, the Province purchased the Myra Wetlands property and it was added to the Park.

The Province's principal objective for supporting this acquisition was the environmental/ecological values of the land. Hachey Creek flows through it most years, creating a vibrant wetland and a meadow on the north west side of the property. When the Wetland property was purchased by the Province, it determined that the existing trail through the meadow would be decommissioned to protect the ecosystem and allow for it to naturally regenerate after



The new Myra Wetland Trail

decades of damage, notably from mud bogging and off-road vehicle damage from before the surrounding public land was designated park.

In support of BC Parks' values, FOSS submitted a proposal to reroute the Myra Wetlands Trail to a location east of the current trail, out of the meadow, to allow for recreational connectivity between Lost Lake Trail and Fairlane Trail. BC Parks approved the re-route and the 179 m. trail was constructed in April, 2025. This project followed a trail building seminar presented by Cam Sorensen of [@contour.trails](https://www.contourtrails.com). Cam led FOSS' 12+ volunteers in the construction of the new Myra Wetlands Trail. At the request of BC Parks, the old trail through the meadow has been decommissioned to allow for rehabilitation of the land. Enjoy the new trail and please respect the closure of the old trail, it's closed for a reason.



Photo Credits: Richard Ellery



Photo Credit: Penny Gubbels



Big Drops Trail Easy Out: The second project that was approved by BC Parks is a by-pass trail around the rock drop offs about half way along Big Drops Trail. This was another successful project undertaken by FOSS' Trail Maintenance Crew. It's purpose is to provide a walk-around to help mitigate potential user conflicts between bikes and hikers/equestrians. A 2nd walk-around is being proposed for farther up the trail.

Photo Credits: Alan Milnes



Myra Canyon Trail Improvements

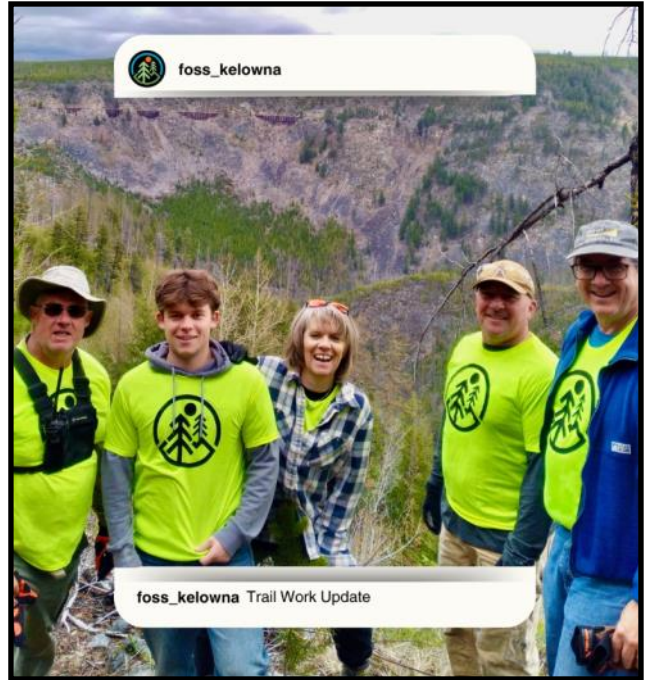
A BC Parks contractor has installed safety fencing at the ends of some of the KVR trestles.

FOSS volunteers continue to maintain and improve the KVR Rail Trail. Last month, a FOSS crew was at Camp Huissi Trail (west end of the Myra Canyon Trail) doing a clean-up.

Ongoing Trail Maintenance Projects

Every week FOSS' volunteer trail maintenance boss Milt Stevenson has crews out working throughout Myra-Bellevue (including the KVR Rail Trail in Myra Canyon).

For the latest up-to-date information on what trail work has been done, follow FOSS on Facebook and Instagram. FOSS' awesome Social Media guru, Amanda, posts "Trail Work Tuesday" updates weekly.



FOSS Celebrates BC Trails Day, June 7

If you were one of the first 100 people lucky enough to be at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead on Saturday, June 7 — you were in for a 'treat'! FOSS was celebrating BC Trails Day by giving away 100 cupcakes. The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC celebrates our Province's awesome trails annually by promoting events throughout BC.



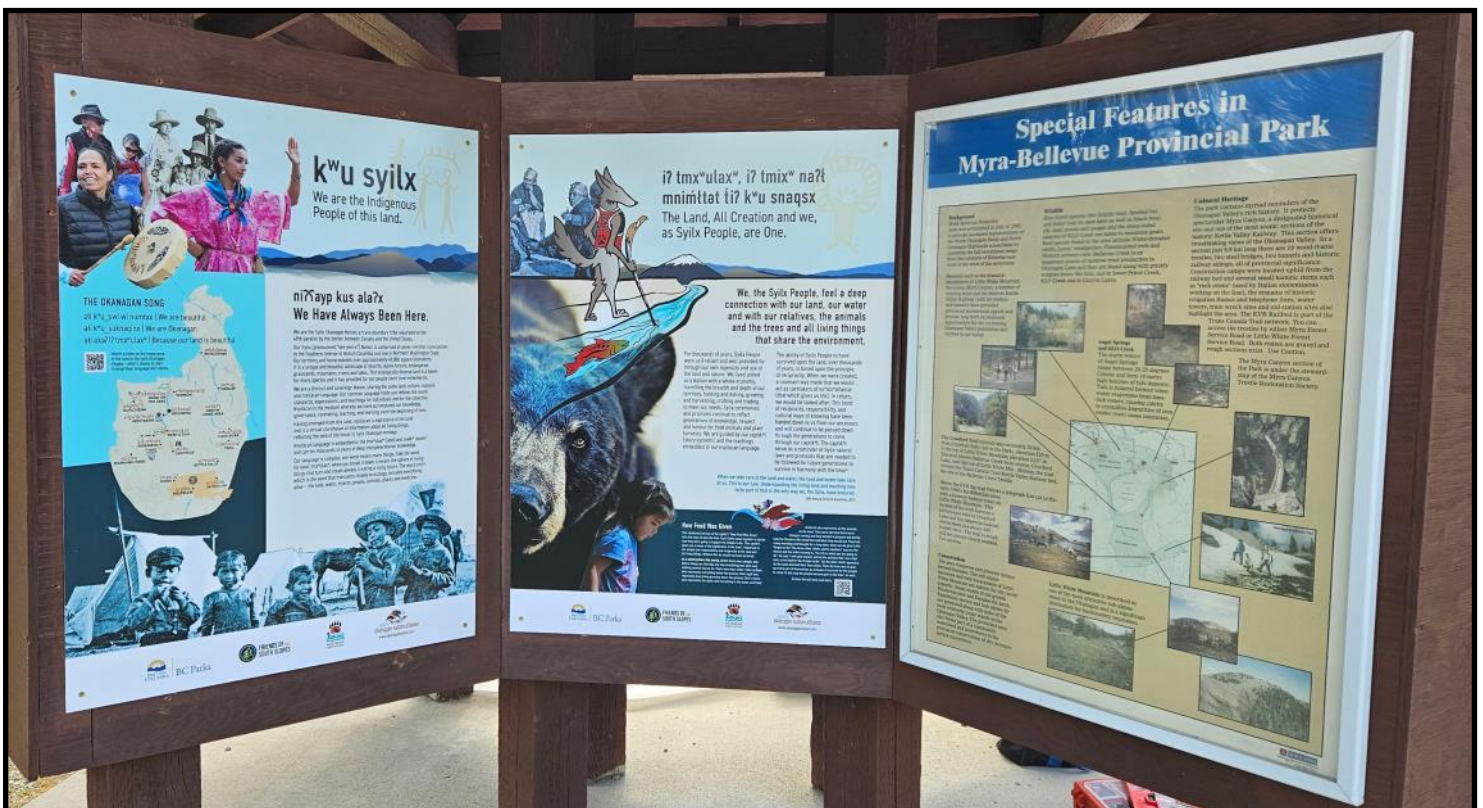
Electrons Are Flowing!!

The long awaited and much anticipated 'powering' of FOSS maintenance depot officially took place on April 29, 2025 when Alan Milnes & Milt Stevenson flipped the switch.



Updated Signage at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead, Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

For many years, FOSS has had a desire to recognize the historical significance of First Nations in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks. To this end, FOSS has had discussion with the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and explored several options. It was agreed that interpretive signs would be a worthy first step. BC Parks generously offered to fund the development of two pairs of signs—one set for the kiosk at the Stewart Road East Trailhead another pair will be installed at the kiosk on the KVR near trestle #18. On June 3, the two new signs were installed at the Trailhead, to acknowledge and recognize the first people of the Okanagan. These signs present both the history of the Syilx Nation and their deep connection to the land, water and all living things. FOSS thanks the ONA and BC Parks for their participation in this important initiative.



THANK YOU to FOSS' 2025 Adopt a Trail Sponsors!

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Ben Smit
Peter & Laurie Thompson
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Wave Physiotherapy
Worman Resources
ZEP MTB Camps

Photo on the Right: Milt & Alan, erecting signs acknowledging The Trans Canada Trail Society for its generous support of FOSS electrification Project. FOSS is proud to recognize one of the major funders of this game-changing project.

COSAR To the Rescue!

All of us who LOVE cycling, hiking, riding, running (or off roading where it's permitted) the vast trail systems on Kelowna's South Slopes, are eternally grateful that the Central Okanagan Search & Rescue volunteers are there if we run into trouble while we recreate.

COSAR'S 50+ highly trained and skilled volunteers are committed to helping those who need assistance both in the back country and in urban environments. Formed in 1954, COSAR volunteers devote over 20,000 hours annually responding to call-outs and for technical skill training such as advanced first aid, high angle rope rescue, wilderness and ground search, helicopter rescue and swift water rescue. And let's not forget their canine helper, Barrett, an important member of the team.



FOSS' Trail Maintenance Crews have partnered with COSAR to establish heli-landing sites in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, and to brush out and maintain major trails to facilitate rescues. Just last week COSAR was called out to rescue an injured hiker in the KLO Creek Canyon.

So have fun enjoying the trails, please stay safe but if you are injured or lost, don't hesitate to call 911. Some people still believe that a rescue incurs costs and this has led to dangerous delays where they avoided calling for help out of fear of being charged, or they attempted self-rescue or sought help from families or friends, adding complexity and danger to the situation. There is no charge! By calling 911, the dispatcher will assess the situation and call out COSAR if appropriate.

Spring on the South Slopes

Has anyone else noticed how exceptional the wildflowers are this year? Here is a collage of a few of them:



*Myra Canyon Trail
Photo Credit: Teresa MacKenzie*

*Shooting Stars on Big Drops
Trail (Milnes photo)*

Photo Credit: Daphne Richard