



Please help the BC Parks Foundation to acquire this property!

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

We Need Your Help!

Our community has a unique opportunity to support the **BC Parks Foundation (BCPF)** to acquire an 80-acre private property inholding in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. This land provides wildlife habitat and is part of the Priest Creek watershed and is part of the last remaining functioning low-elevation wildlife corridors in the region. On July 8th, 2026 the BCPF launched a fundraiser to purchase this property. The Wilson 5 Foundation has generously committed to matching every dollar that is donated to the BC Parks Foundation for this acquisition, leaving \$800,000 to be raised through the public campaign.

What can YOU do to make this acquisition happen?

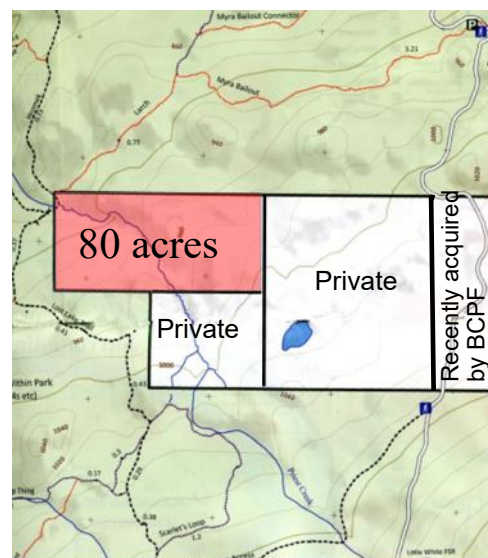
You have the opportunity to help protect one of the last privately owned properties within Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. You can donate through the BC Parks Foundation website: <https://bcparksfoundation.ca/campaigns/myra-bellevue-park-2/>

Please consider making a donation today and sharing the campaign with people and organizations that you know will benefit from protecting this land in perpetuity.

So where is this amazing 80-acre property?

- East of Hromek Rd. The N/W corner is near the junction of Hromek and Larch Trail (near the Priest Creek culvert).
- The S/W corner of the property is east of Outhouse Trail.
- The eastern boundary is a private inholding, as is the property to the south east, as identified on the map.

PLEASE respect that this will remain private property until the fund raising campaign ends and it is (hopefully!!) acquired by the BC Parks Foundation.



The deadline to raise \$800,000 is August 14, 2026. Remember, every dollar donated to the BC Parks Foundation for the Myra-Bellevue campaign is matched by the Wilson 5 Foundation.

FOSS is extremely grateful to the Wilson 5 Foundation who have made this 'matching funds' opportunity possible. The Wilson 5 Foundation supports land conservancy and parkland acquisition and has pledged \$100 Million to the BC Parks Foundation to protect British Columbia's natural spaces. It's the largest private donation in Canadian conservation history. It is the charitable foundation of Chip and Summer Wilson, founders of Lululemon and partners in other sporting brands.

Let's Go!



Two photos taken on this incredible property



Is it worth protecting—you bet!

And We're Still Celebrating the BC Parks Foundation's December, 2025 Acquisition

In FOSS' February newsletter, we reported that in December, 2025, BC Parks Foundation (BCPF) purchased a 64 hectare (158 acre) private land holding in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park (MBPP).

On June 11, 2026, the Foundation marked this incredible acquisition with a celebratory luncheon at Kelowna's Hotel Eldorado, followed by a formal announcement at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead in MBPP. Hon. Tamara Davidson (BC's Minister of Environment and Parks), Jennie McCaffrey (BC Parks Foundation VP Health and Education) and Scott Boswell (Program Manager/Okanagan Conservation Collaborative Program) spoke about the value of this parkland addition.

Securing this property ensures that it remains wild forever. It was untouched by the 2003 Okanagan



L-R Hon. Tamara Davidson, five School District #23 students, Paul & Cynthia Rodgers, Jennie McCaffrey (BCPF) and Karin & Joe Bauer.

Mtn. Provincial Park wildfire and provides a vital refuge for elk, moose, lynx and the at-risk American badger (see photo to the right). The property was purchased from the Bauer family who lovingly stewarded it for three decades and who appreciate that this sale guarantees its permanent protection.

Special guests at the luncheon included Joe and Karin Bauer (whose father owned the property), local MLA;s Gavin Dew and Kristina Loewen, students from School District #23, FOSS' Strategic Relations Committee (Rick Ellery, Daphne Richard & Penny Gubbels) and Cynthia and Paul Rodgers, who's generous financial support to the BCPF helped to make this purchase possible.



Photo Credit:
Mark Filatow



This rare sighting of American Badger kits was seen on Pink Highway Trail in Myra-Bellevue in June, 2026

Campfire Ban in Effect

Effective 12 pm Friday July 7, 2026, a Category 1 campfire ban is in effect throughout the Kamloops Fire Centre, which spans from the northern border of Wells Gray Park to the U.S. border in the south, and from Bridge River in the west to the Monashee Mountains in the east, including the Southern Okanagan.

Full details are available at:

[Category 1 Campfire Prohibition for the Kamloops Fire Centre – BC Wildfire Service](#)



Thank you to the FOSS Trail Crew Volunteers

On June 13, FOSS fired up the grill to celebrate our incredible volunteers who keep the trails brushed, cleared and in top notch shape and repair the bridges, install the signage and keep the trails safe so we can all enjoy them.

The two photos on the right were taken July 11, 2026, during an overnight hiking trip through Wildhorse Canyon to Commando Bay in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park. Feedback from the hikers is that the trail was in much better condition than when they last did it in 2022.

Thank you to the FOSS Trail Crew who have put so much time and effort into maintaining Golden Mile and Wildhorse Canyon Trail.



Photo Credits:
Abby Gubbels



May 2026: Volunteers repaired fencing and replaced damaged fencing along the boundary between Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and the neighbouring Arthon Quarry. A huge shoutout to the awesome crew from **FortisBC** who worked alongside FOSS' trail maintenance crew to decommission a rogue trail that led into the neighbouring Arthon Quarry.

Respect Neighbouring Private Property



The boundaries are very clear! Please remember - the Arthon Quarry is private property! There is NO public access to the Crawford trails through the quarry. Your access to Myra-Bellevue from the west/Bellevue Creek side of the park is at the Stewart Rd. West parking area (along the South Perimeter Rd.) or the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead.

The Arthon Quarry is a proud supporter of FOSS, donating crush/rock for our projects and funding FOSS 2025 trail map.

FOSS Makes Improvements to Angel Springs Parking Lot

In June, a FOSS crew cleared and enlarged the parking area at the Angel Springs Trailhead. There is now plenty of room for rigs pulling horse trailers to maneuver around and park.



Lost Lake is 'Lost Lake'

(Let's hope that it's temporary)

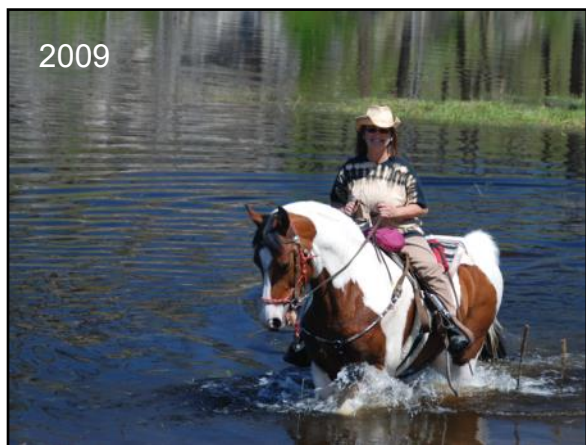
Okanagan is experiencing unprecedented drought conditions following a winter with a low snowpack and below average precipitation. And it's not just in 2025/2026, there's been a multi-year drought since 2022.

For hikers, cyclists and equestrians who enjoy the trails of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, we are witnessing first hand the impacts of this drought. For the 3rd consecutive year, Hachey Creek has not flowed through the Myra Wetlands, and Priest Creek was just a trickle this spring. Over the past few years we've seen Long Pond dry up and now, for the first time in most of our memories, Lost Lake is dry. Not just low but completely dried up.

Below is a collage of photos taken of Lost Lake over the years - if a picture is worth a thousand words, these ones tell a chilling story.



June 5, 2011, Long Pond, MBPP



June 11,
2026



Myra Canyon Trestles Trail

FOSS volunteer crews continue to put in some serious hours maintaining and improving the Myra Canyon Trestle Trail. In the picture to the right, they are taking a break to have a 'photo-op' in front of the iconic rock oven (which you can learn all about when you download FOSS' Myra Canyon Explorer).



We've Grown!

A new-to-FOSS 40' sea can was delivered on May 27th, a much needed addition to storage space at FOSS' Trail Maintenance Depot.

On the left is FOSS' long-time volunteer Herb Blamire, planning the reno's to make the sea can useable. Herb has been the brains (and brawn) behind the design and creation of the tool and equipment racks for FOSS' UTV's.

FOSS Trail Maintenance Crews have continued to do their magic on the trails. If you 'follow' FOSS' social media pages you'll know all about the many trail projects, as our social media guru Sarah posts articles and photos regularly.

One of the projects completed in June was a new bridge on Natasha Trail. This will allow FOSS' trail maintenance crews and COSAR (Central Okanagan Search & Rescue) to access Boris, Bullwinkle and other trails north of Pink Hwy Trail.

Trail Maintenance Manager Milt Stevenson reports that in May, FOSS crews logged 537 volunteer hours working in the parks, and exceeded that tally in June when they volunteered 592 hours.



Update on the FOSS Adopt-a-Trail Sponsorship Program

The FOSS Trail Maintenance crews have been busy installing the new trail plaques for the Adopt a Trail Sponsors.

To the sponsors...**thank you so much** for your support! Maintaining and improving the trails in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, the Wild Horse Canyon & Golden Mile Trails in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and the Kettle Valley Rail Trail (Myra-Canyon section) requires tremendous effort from our stellar trail maintenance volunteers and it costs a lot of money. Please let our sponsors know that you appreciate their support.

As of July 9, 2026, this is a list of FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsors.

SPONSOR:

Crowe Mackay

Core Performance Massage
Therapy

Turbo Slugs

Cabin Operations Ltd.

PACE Sports Fitness

Kelowna Cycle

Friends of Ross Halperin

Elevation Outdoors

Inter-Mtn. Signs &
Specialty Products

Steve Hall

Central Okanagan Search
& Rescue

Cyclepath

Sarah Murdoch Black

DMC Engineering

Chevy's Source for Sports

Cathy Richards

Cindy Auchincloss (Kelowna
Pelvic Health)

Michelle Daneliuk

FOSS-Elles

TRAIL/LOOKOUT:

Myra Bailout Trail to Angel Springs

Bellevue Access Trail

Big Drops Trail

Boris

Captain Nemo & Sandy Knoll Lookout

Connector Trail (Pink Hwy to Upper Bench)

Connector Lookout

Crawford Trail (Bellevue Access Lookout to the KVR)

Lower Crawford Trail (Bellevue Lookout to Race Classic Trail)

Doc Savage

Earring Trail

Fairlane Trail (Stewart Rd. E Trailhead to Salamander Trail Jct.),
Lower Vapour Trail & Heckle Trail

Fairlane Trail (Salamander Trail to Myra Bailout/Luxmoore)

Fairlane Loop

Galloping Trail

Hillbilly & Grassy

Hyde Trail

Jeckle Trail

Larch Trail & Little White Forest Service Rd. Connector



***We're showcasing our adopt
a trail sponsors on our
social media platforms - are
you 'following' us?
FOSS-Kelowna***



Pushor Mitchell Lawyers

Nicola Wealth

Worman Homes

Daphne Richard

The Mueller Family

Aura Wealth Management

FortisBC

Fast Lines Consulting
(Zawislak Family)

Reuter Kotler Real Estate Team

Back Country Horsemen of BC

Big White Ski Resort

Ross Halperin

Kourany/Varette Family

Thompson Family

Wave Physiotherapy

G & T Cycling

Milt Stevenson

Dirty Feet Trail Series

Fresh Air Experience

Ben Smit

Rick Ellery

Ortho Design

Keith Inman

Lookout Trail (Lone Pine Jct. to Obelisk)

Lost Lake Trail (Teddy Bear Jct. to Bellevue Access)

Lost Lake Trail (Stewart Rd. E parking lot to Teddy Bear Jct.)

Lost Lake Lookout

Lost Lake Loop (including Spring Bypass section)

Middle Bench Trail, Natasha Trail & Spring By-Pass Trail

Myra Bailout (Hromek Rd. to Fairlane Trail)

Pink Highway Trail (Flamingo Flats to Obelisk Jct.)

Pink Highway (Teddy Bear Jct. to Flamingo Flats)

Piper's Trail

Race Classic (Crawford Trail to Flamingo Flats)

Race Classic (Lone Pine Jct. to Lost Lake Trail)

Rock Garden & Rocky Screech

Windfall Trail (including spur to Lost Lake Trail)

Salamander Trail

Surf & Turf (Myra-Bellevue Park section)

Swamp Thing

Upper Bench Trail

Stewart Rd. West Trail

Wooley's Revenge

Bellevue Lookout

Crawford Lookout

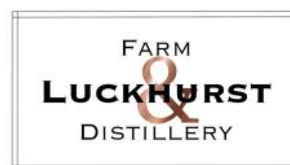
Astrid Trail



Update on FOSS' Myra Canyon Explorer - there have been over 3,000 downloads to date, with 10% of them from Europe. The Myra Canyon Explorer is now available in English, French & German and can be downloaded from FOSS' website: <https://foss-kelowna.org/explorer>

Did you know that you can add your brand to this free downloadable interpretive guide? By sponsoring a **POINT OF INTEREST** (there are 21 of them) your organization can become part of the story. And your sponsorship fee goes back into FOSS projects that enhance and improve visitor experiences, like signage, fencing and trail improvement projects. More information on sponsorship is at: info@myraexplorer.com

Thank you to Big White Ski Resort, The View Winery & Vineyard, Myra Canyon Bike Rentals & Tours and Luckhurst Farm & Distillery for sponsoring 'Points of Interest' in the Myra Canyon Explorer.



June 6, 2026, FOSS celebrated BC Trails Day by setting up an information tent and display at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

The BC Trails Day initiative is championed by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC and is all about encouraging responsible recreation, environmental stewardship and celebrating access to our incredible outdoor spaces in BC.

FOSS volunteers celebrating BC Trails Day

Welcome! Introducing FOSS' New Newsletter Editor!

After publishing FOSS' newsletter since 1999, I am passing the torch to FOSS Director Cathy Richards. Cathy was a member of FOSS' Board of Directors from 2001-2008 and in 2026 she has returned to serve as a director. Cathy cycles and hikes on the South Slopes and has had a life-long passion for the outdoors. When she's not on the trails, she enjoys gardening, yoga, bridge and singing with the Okanagan Festival Singers.

Penny Gubbels

