

2014 BCRPA Regional District Parks Workshop

Kelowna, BC / April 22 and 23





Program Day 1

Tuesday, April 22

Rotary Centre for the Arts / 421 Cawston Avenue

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Welcome, Networking and Coffee
Opening Remarks

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 1: National Parks - Public Safety Plan
Introduction to the Parks Canada Visitor Safety Planning Process. Risk management model for parks and development of public safety plans. Case study: *Torn gat Mountains National Park- People or Polar Bears?*

Guest Presenter: Ross Cloutier, Thompson Rivers University

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Field Tour by Bus

- Regional Parks Legacy Acquisition Program and the site of future Goats Peak Regional Park
- Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park- *oldest working nut farm in BC*

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch (Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Field Tour by Bike (weather dependent)

An easy 9 kilometre bike ride along the Mission Creek Greenway with stops at Mission Creek Regional Park.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Field Tour by Bus

Bertram Creek Regional Park- *damaged in the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park fire; recovery and reclamation efforts made it possible to reopen this park in the spring of 2004.*

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Dinner

In the Atrium at the Rotary Centre for the Arts. Opportunity to network with colleagues and learn more about tenure agreements, regional parks programs, experiences and delivery across BC with **guest speaker Allan Neilson** of Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. Allan will speak on the topic of *Regional Parks Service Delivery in BC - Common Ground.*



Program Day 2

Wednesday, April 23 **Rotary Centre for the Arts / 421 Cawston Avenue**

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Welcome, Networking and Coffee

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session 2: Comprehensive Trail Guides and App

Metro Vancouver's experience with development of the iParks Navigator App, including launch, success, new integration with social platforms, and opportunities for a region wide delivery.

Guest Presenter: Stephen Suddes, Metro Vancouver

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Session 3: Public Engagement

Learn more about public engagement- how to engage the public and communities with inclusion of staff members, committees and elected officials in the process.

Guest Presenter: Brian Johnston, PERC

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch (Rotary Centre for the Arts)

2:30 pm - 2:50 pm

BCRPA 2014 Symposium - Official Opening (Delta Grand)

2:50 pm

Opening Keynote

4:15 pm - 5:45 pm

Dialogue Sessions

- Session 6: Parks and Open Spaces
(Participants in the Regional District Parks Workshop will automatically be registered for this session.)



Ross Cloutier - Thompson Rivers University

Ross Cloutier is the founder of the Adventure Studies Department at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia. He is also the Principal of Bhudak Consultants Ltd. a full-service consulting firm to governments, parks, school districts, businesses, insurers, and law firms in the area of outdoor recreation and adventure product development, risk management, and legal liability. He has written dozens of consulting reports, manuals, and books on these topics.



Ross is a professional mountain guide and has studied Outdoor Recreation, Outdoor Pursuits, and has an MBA in International Business. He was the Climbing Leader for the Mt. Everest Canada expedition in 1991 and is the President and Board Chair of the Canadian Avalanche Centre.

Ross has completed numerous visitor safety plans for Parks Canada, including Jasper, Gros Morne, Signal Hill, Cape Spear, and Torngat Mountains National Park.

Ross' presentation at this workshop will include: *An introduction to the Parks Canada Visitor Safety Planning Process*; *Case Study- Torngat Mountains National Park: People or Polar Bears?*; ideas toward risk management models for parks; the process of developing public safety plans; open discussion & questions.

Stephen Suddes - Metro Vancouver

Stephen Suddes is the Division Manager Public Programs & Community Development, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks for Metro Vancouver. Stephen's career in the field of parks, heritage and outdoor recreation spans more than 30 years, with experience at the federal, provincial and regional levels. He worked as an interpreter, planner, and project management specialist before taking on a number of challenging management roles including the establishment of new park areas and international work in parks and protected areas. He joined Metro Vancouver in 2003 with primary responsibilities in visitor services, interpretation and education, communications marketing and partnerships. He is an advocate for developing new, innovative ways of providing park visitors with the information they need using mobile devices and social media initiatives. Stephen also volunteers as a Natural Capital Ambassador for the David Suzuki Foundation. His hobbies and interests include photography and the outdoors.



Brian Johnston - PERC

Brian Johnston founded Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) in 1975 and is currently a partner in the firm which is based in Surrey, British Columbia.

Since 1975, Brian has personally worked in more than one hundred communities in Canada and over two hundred consulting projects.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Brian obtained a Bachelor of Physical Education degree from the University of Manitoba and a Master of Science degree in Recreation Management from Loughborough University before working as a consultant with Loughborough Recreation Planning Ltd. in England. He then returned to Canada to work for the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs in Manitoba as Recreation Facilities Consultant and then as Regional Recreation Consultant before establishing PERC.

Brian's presentation at this workshop will include a discussion on public engagement and inclusion of internal staff, committees, and officials as well as time for questions and comments.



Allan Neilson - Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc.

Allan Neilson is Principal of Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc., a local government consultancy based in Kelowna, British Columbia. Allan assists managers, councils and regional boards in the development of policy and program approaches designed to address needs and challenges in a variety of local government service areas. Regional district service reviews are a particular focus of his firm's work. In the past few years, Allan has conducted reviews of regional parks services, as well as regional district recreation services.

Allan began working as a consultant to government in 1992 after graduating with his Master of Public Administration from Queen's University.



Goats Peak Regional Park

We'll begin our field tour on Day 1 at Whitworth Road in West Kelowna and view the future site of Goats Peak Regional Park. The Regional Parks Legacy Acquisition Program began in 2007 and has earmarked \$11,000,000.00 in funding towards new regional park land acquisitions. The acquisition of the future Goats Peak Regional Park was made possible through this program and will create important linkages to adjacent regional parks – Gellatly Heritage, Gellatly Nut Farm and Glen Canyon. Panoramic views across Okanagan Lake at the Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park, Bertram Creek Regional Park and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park.



Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park

Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park in West Kelowna became a regional park in 2005, after several years of community campaigns to save the land from development. The park land was purchased by the RDCO with financial support from private individuals and societies such as the Gellatly Nut Farm Society and the Central Okanagan Land Trust. Today, this park has the oldest working nut farm in British Columbia. Regional Parks works very closely with the Gellatly Nut Farm Society to manage the orchard and the annual nut harvest.



Mission Creek Greenway

Weather permitting, this portion of the field tour will be done by bike down the Mission Creek Greenway in Kelowna. We'll begin the bike tour at Scenic Canyon Regional Park and travel approximately 9 kilometres towards Okanagan Lake. Along the way, we'll pass the City of Kelowna Mountain Bike Skills Park and Gerstmar Park, a City of Kelowna park located on Regional Parks land. The next stop along the bike tour will be the Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO), the visitor services centre in Mission Creek Regional Park. The EECO is the hub for Regional Parks interpretive programs and seasonal exhibitions. Adjacent to the EECO is the Food Forest, a new initiative in partnership with the Central Okanagan Food Policy Council. We'll also discuss the Cottonwood Bridge Project and the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative. The Mission Creek Greenway is the result of a partnership between the RDCO and the Friends of Mission Creek Society, a group of dedicated volunteers who diligently fundraised for Phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 is currently in the planning process.



Bertram Creek Regional Park

At the final stop on our field tour, we'll visit Bertram Creek Regional Park in Kelowna. This is a beautiful waterfront park enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Although the park was seriously damaged by the Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park forest fire in the summer of 2003, recovery and reclamation efforts were conducted and the park reopened in the spring of 2004.



Rotary Centre for the Arts

The Rotary Centre for the Arts is located at 421 Cawston Avenue in downtown Kelowna, just half a block away from the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference Centre where the BCRPA 2014 Symposium is being held. All sessions in the Regional District Parks Workshop will be held at the RCA as well as the Tuesday evening dinner. Our field tour will begin and end at this location.



Fees

Regional District Parks Workshop (BCRPA Members)..... **\$200.00**
Members already registered for the BCRPA 2014 Symposium (April 23-25)..... **\$150.00**

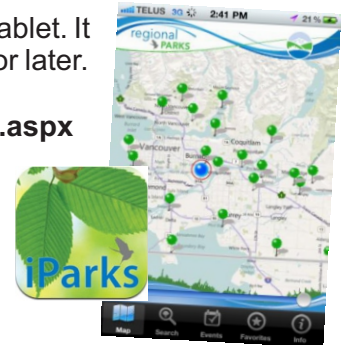
Regional District Parks Workshop (BCRPA Non-members)..... **\$215.00**
Non-members already registered for the BCRPA 2014 Symposium (April 23-25)..... **\$165.00**

The reduced fee (\$150.00/members and \$165.00/non-members) only applies to those who have already paid for a full conference or a Wednesday only registration.

Special Instructions

- Bring appropriate clothing and footwear for the field tour and bike tour including a rain jacket.
- Bikes, bike helmets, and bottles of water will be provided for the bike tour.
- Please download the free iParks Navigator app on your smartphone or tablet. It is available for iPhone, iPad, Samsung Galaxy 3 or later and HTC One or later. For instructions on how to download the app visit:

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks_lscr/Pages/iParks.aspx



Contact

Register for the Regional District Parks Workshop through the BCRPA website, www.bcrpa.bc.ca/rdpworkshop.

For further information on the 2014 BCRPA Regional District Parks Workshop please contact Regional District of Central Okanagan Parks Services at **250-469-6232** or parks@cord.bc.ca.

www.regionaldistrict.com/parks  **40 Years**
REGIONAL PARKS 

