

# 2022 Regional Park Visitor Services Program Update

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

February 2, 2023

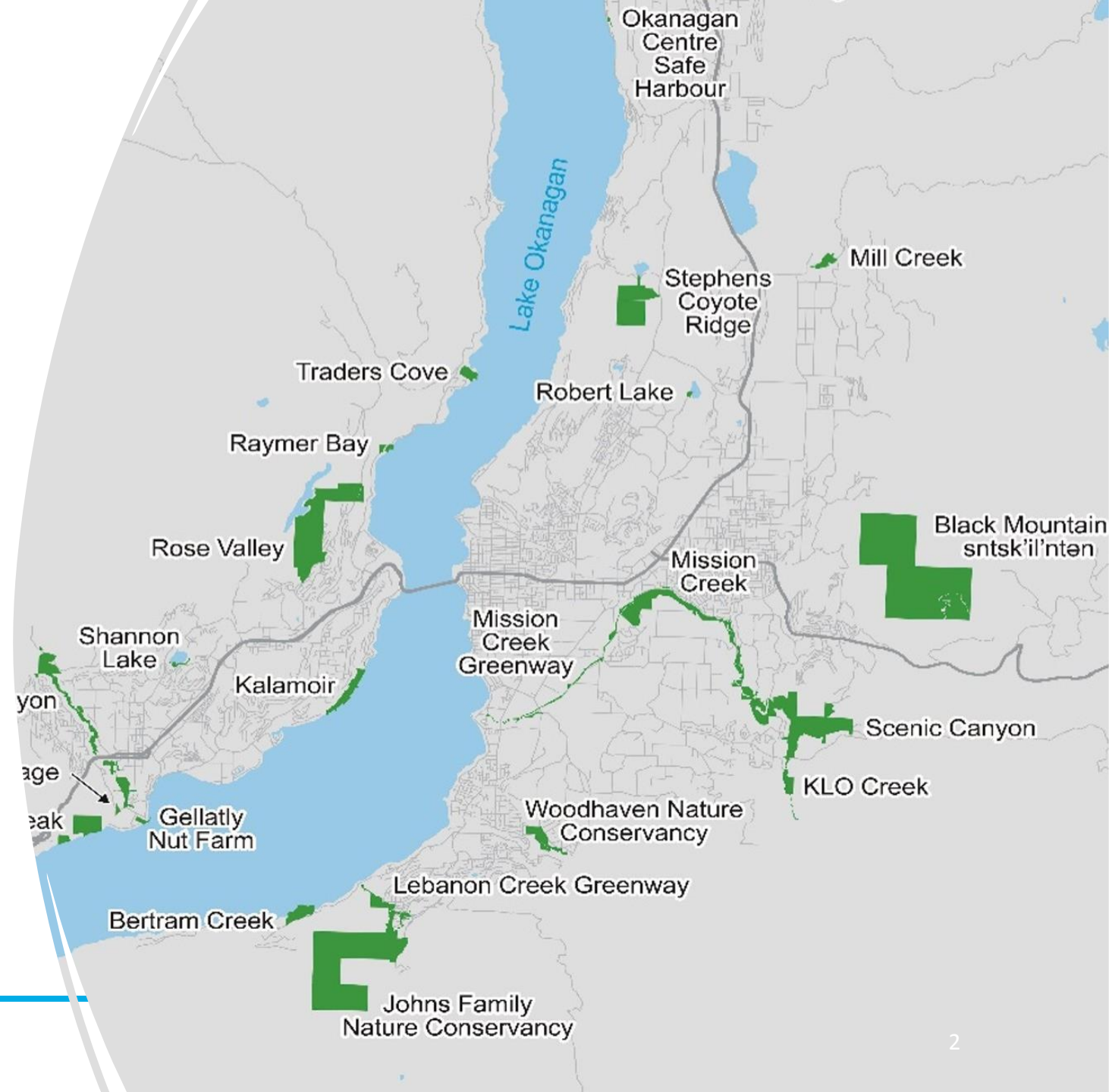
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rdco.com



# Overall Regional Parks Stats

- 30 Regional Parks
- 2,100 hectares of parkland
- 4 classifications of parks
  - Conservation, Natural, Trails/Greenways, Recreation / Waterfront / Cultural
- 74 kilometers of trails



# Park contacts made in 2022: **36,068**

- Environmental Education: 11,794
- Roving and Point Duties: 5,870
- Events: 7,286
- Outreach Events: 856
- Recurring Programs: 7,868
- Pop-up Programs: 2,304
- EECO Visitors: 8,806
- Spring + Summer Camps: 90
- Volunteers in Parks: 1,000+ hours





# Environmental education

- 11,794 participants reached in 2022 (472 programs)
  - 5,211 children reached in 2021 (136 programs)
  - 1,054 children reached in 2020 (COVID)
  - 9,970 children reached in 2019
  - 8,781 children reached in 2018
- Environmental Education Centre for the Central Okanagan (EECO)
- In-person (99%) and virtual programs (1%)
- NEW! French language options





# Events

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- Family Day Fiesta
- Canada's Parks Day
- Spooktacular
- Welcome the Kokanee
- kicinee Festival
- Music in the Park
- Kalamoir Pancake Breakfast





# Public programs

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- Guided hikes
- Nature Journaling, Nature Cards
- Tracks Walking Program
- Roll and Stroll (parents and tots)
- A Walk and a Wreath
- Pop-up Programs: bugs, butterflies, art, wild water critters, backyard games
- Winter Wonder Night Walks
- Mysterious Moths and Owl Prowls
- NEW! Spanish language programs







# Outreach and partnerships

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- Live! In Lake Country music nights
- Fintry Days Fair
- UBCO “Let’s Talk Science” STEM partnership
- Meet Me on Bernard
- Parks Canada / KCR Learn to Camp event
- Inspired Word Café Fireweed Fest: LGBTQ2+ literacy programming
- Great Canadian Trivia Challenge in the Park with Local Care Homes
- “Nature Nuggets” programming in care homes
- Care homes in parks: Birdwatching at Robert Lake RP, Watercolours at Shannon Lake RP
- Kelowna Community Resources Community Hub: connect with low income and immigrant families
- Okanagan Young Professionals partnership



# Indigenous-led programming

- Dual language guide to flora and fauna of Okanagan
- Rose Valley Land Tour
- Goats Peak Syilx Land Tour
- kikinee Festival booth and performances
- syilx Drum Circle programs
- KAIROS Blanket Exercise
- Metis summer camp





# Volunteers and Friends of Parks

## Volunteer Projects:

- Lake Country winter dog pilot projects (40 hrs)
- Scotty Creek Ice Rink in Ellison (500 hours)

## Friends of Mission Creek:

- Grand Opening of Phase 3A of Mission Creek Greenway
- Restoration of greenway kiosks and repurposing into meeting places

## Gellatly Nut Farm Society:

- Over \$20,000 raised through nut sales
- 400+ volunteer hours

## Friends of Woodhaven:

- Fire fuel mitigation project
- 100 volunteers over 2 days
- 3.5 tons of material removed

## Friends of Black Mountain:

- Trail maintenance

## Friends of Kalamoior:

- Pancake breakfast fundraiser
- FireSmart project (2.7 tons material removed)





# Recommendation

*All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – (LGA s.208)*

**THAT** the Regional Board receive the 2022 Regional Parks Visitor Services Program update as attached to the report from the Manager, Parks Services dated February 2, 2023 for information.