



REGIONAL PARKS

Visits, Visitor Services, and Volunteers
by the numbers 2018/2019



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Park Visits 2018



845,000
park visits



2,100
hectares of parkland

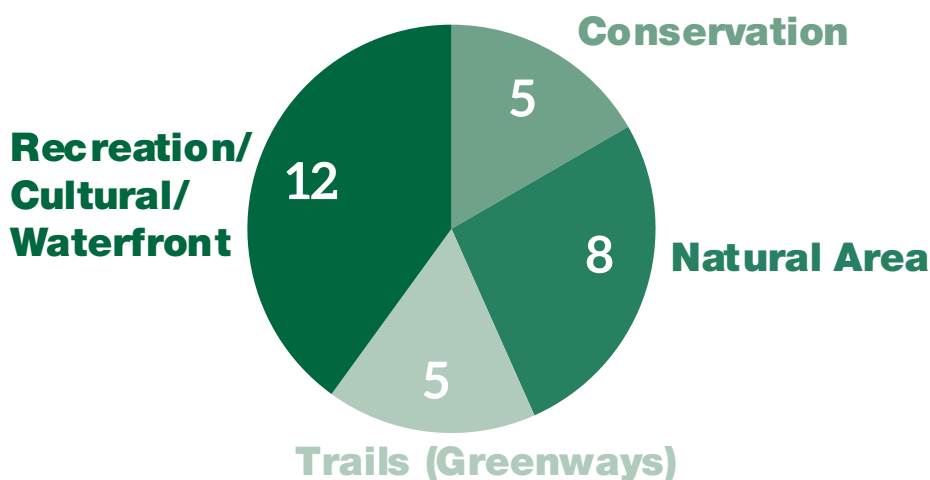


63,000
meters of formal trails

BACKGROUND

RDCO Parks compiled data and extrapolation figures for park visits at 30 Regional Parks. There are 23 Trail Counters located in 17 Regional Parks at park entrances and key trail locations. Counter data is collected 3 times per year and at the end of the year a final visitation estimate is determined for each park, based on knowledge of the parks and similar use levels.

30 Regional Parks:



2018 Challenges to Park Visitation

- 2017 Okanagan Lake and Creek Flooding caused significant damage to some parks, either closing or restricting public access.
- Newly acquired parks were currently in the process of being developed.
- Smoky Okanagan skies restricted public usage as residents stayed indoors and away from smoke.
- Construction in some parks may have impacted enjoyment of those parks and kept users away.

FACTS

To put the park visit counts in perspective, the number of people using Regional Parks (845,000) is equivalent to filling the Kelowna Community Theatre 3 times each day.

The Mission Creek Greenway is the most used Regional Park, hosting 140,000 visits from walkers, runners, cyclists, and horseback riders.

The heaviest use in all Regional Parks occurs in April, May, June, August, September, and October.

PARK	2018 ESTIMATED VISITS	COMMENTS
Antlers Beach	10,333	
Bertram Creek	52,252	
Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən	7,032	Not developed
Coldham	0	Not developed
Gellatly Heritage Park	13,062	
Gellatly Nut Farm	52,250	
Glen Canyon	31,261	
Goats Peak	6,717	Not developed
Hardy Falls	3,016	Closed due to flood damage
Johns Family Nature Conservancy	8,820	
Kalamoior	39,476	
Kaloya	23,327	
KLO Creek	27,299	
Kopje	20,994	
Lebanon Creek	28,151	
McCulloch Station	0	Not developed
Mill Creek	9,608	Closed due to flood damage
Mission Creek	104,505	
Mission Creek Greenway	141,567	
Okanagan Centre Safe Harbour	39,189	Restricted due to flood damage
Raymer Bay	26,126	
Reiswig	23,327	
Robert Lake	3,500	Public portion of park flooded
Rose Valley	10,884	
Scenic Canyon	45,498	
Shannon Lake	41,025	
Stephens Coyote	6,495	Not developed
Traders Cove	26,126	
Trepanier Creek Greenway	36,399	
Woodhaven Nature Conservancy	7,283	
TOTAL	845,522	(overall conservative estimate)



Visitor Services 2019



43,200
points of contact



25 of 30
parks hosted programs

BACKGROUND

In 2019, Parks Services adapted programming to increase engagement with park users and encourage the community to get outside and connect with nature. We offered a number of programs for children and families (e.g. Story Time in the Park, Roll and Stroll, Go Fish) as well as a number of programs for adults young and old (e.g. Tracks, Wild Walks, Forest Bathing, Art in the Park).

Programs/Event Participants	
School programs	9,970
Recurring programs	3,898
Nature Camps	322
Families in Parks	877
Events	4517
Pop-up Programs	810
Meet Your Wild Neighbours	112
Point Duties	1520
EECO & Gibson House visitors	21,189
Total:	43,215

In addition to our programming and events, Parks Services offers:

- **Geocaching** – Visitors can borrow a GPS and seek out hidden geocaches.
- **Nature Power Hour** – A drop-in program for all ages to learn about the natural world. New topic each month.
- **Discovery Backpacks** – Park visitors can check out a backpack of equipment and information to go on a self-guided interpretation tour.
- **Scheduled Exhibits** – Selected topics to inform and educate the visitor in a more formal setting.
- **Volunteer in Parks** – A way for those inclined to give back to the community through volunteering in Regional Parks.



Volunteering 2019



2,145
hours logged this year



273
new volunteers

BACKGROUND

Although our volunteer program is still in its infancy, it is robust enough to engage residents who want to volunteer. Our total number of volunteers is 358. We provide opportunities for residents to become trail ambassadors, to assist with programming, maintain trails, collect GPS data, and more.



Volunteers in Parks (VIPs):

- Nature Assistants
- Trail Ambassadors
- Event Assistants
- Food Forest Volunteer Group
- Stewardship Partnerships with schools
- Friends of Parks Groups
- Student Trail Building Partnerships

Event

Hours

OKM Stewardship in Woodhaven	350
Peachland Sportsmen Association Go Fish Programs at Shannon Lake	466
Black Mountain / sntsk'ilntən Regional Park trail building	1,242
GBTAPS Trail Upgrades in Glen Canyon Regional Park	81
Food Forest Weeding Event	10
Friends of Kalamoior Wildfire Prevention Project and Pancake Breakfast	104
Ricoh Canada Volunteer Clean-up at Mission Creek	22
Glaxo Smith Kline Fence Painting at Rose Valley	32

Total: 2,145