

Naturally Yours



Bat-themed Guided Hike.



Virtual Pond Study



Regional Park Interpreter.

REGIONAL PARKS

Visitor Services and Volunteers by the Numbers Summary Report 2020

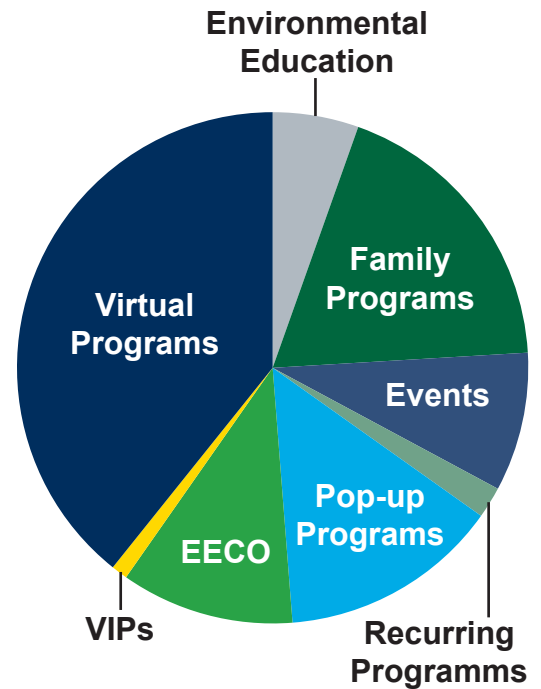
Parks Services
250-469-6140 | eeeco@rdco.com
rdco.com/parks



Over 19,500 points of contact (to date) in 2020!

Environmental Education	1,054
Family Programs	3,610
Events	1,704
Recurring Programs	385
Pop-up Programs	2,701
EECO	2,323
Volunteers in Parks (VIP)	200
Virtual Programs	7,610

Total: 19,587





In-Person Programs

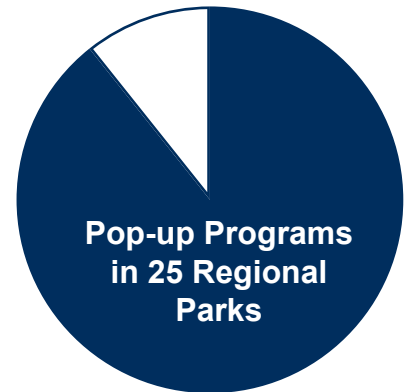
Visitor Services continue to offer ever-evolving programs:

- Marvels of the Magnified World
- Winter Fun Day
- Meet Your Wild Neighbours
- Art in the Park
- Story Time at the EECO (and moved to virtual)

Park Interpreters hosted programs and events with physical distancing, offered more dates and times, and required registration to prevent crowding, for example:

- Perseid Meteor Shower (2 evenings, max. 40 people)
- Forest Fairy Gathering (5 events, max. 40 people, split into groups)

Newly released online registration was key to making these changes for the safety of public and staff.



Virtual Programs

As COVID restrictions rolled out, our team quickly learned to be “virtual” experts, using Instagram, YouTube, and Zoom.

Staff were broadcasting live on Instagram three times per week. Those videos are then uploaded to the RDCO YouTube channel on the “Regional Parks Live” playlist.

Park Interpreters developed virtual field trips for our most popular spring programs to reach students: Pollinators, Pond Study, and Owls.

Virtual events through Instagram Live, provided substitutes for events planned before COVID:

- Earth Day Trivia (54 people on 18 teams)
- Teddy Bear Picnic (169 views)

Total views for all platforms:
7,610



Instagram
@regionalparks

before: 900 followers
currently: 1300 followers



YouTube
youtube.com/regionaldistrict

before: 35 subscribers
currently: 133 subscribers



Public Stewardship Weed Pulling Event

Volunteer in Parks

While larger group programs have been postponed, over 500 hours of volunteer time have been logged:

- GBAPS: trail construction and improvement projects (216 hours)
- FOBM: rock clearing for mower maintenance and bluebird boxes (160 hours)
- Food Forest: maintenance (24 hours)
- Glenn Canyon: clearing forest fuels and tree pruning (54 hours)
- Public Stewardship, four events: pulling weeds along Mission Creek Greenway (70 hours)

Public Stewardship events were created this year to offer low commitment VIP opportunities.

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, we challenged our volunteers to send us their selfies and their reasons for volunteering. We used those images and responses to highlight these diverse individuals on our Instagram (@regionalparks). Those posts are now on the Volunteer tab on Instagram.



Tonger volunteering in Black Mountain/ rock trail Regional Park because I love spending time in it, and clearing and having about the soil level of a mountain and grassland hills. I also love hiking with the mountain and working together to try and save Mother Nature who is getting a heating.



Jasmine has been a volunteer Nature Assistant and Trail Ambassador since 2018.



Inside the ECCO

The ECCO

After being closed for renovations, the ECCO re-opened January 25. The new space has been reduced in size and moves away from providing a children's playspace and towards being a community resource centre for Regional Parks. **Inspiration for Outdoor Exploration.**

The ECCO re-opened with COVID modifications:

- Limit of 5 people at a time.
- One-way traffic; one entry door and one exit door.
- Bear pawprint floor stickers to help with physical distancing.
- Removed hands-on activities.
- Daily surface sanitation.

While we expect visitor numbers to increase in 2021, we do not anticipate meeting pre-pandemic and pre-renovation levels.

January (renos, closed 1-24)	186
February	698
March (closed 16-31)	379
April (closed)	n/a
May (closed)	n/a
June (closed 1 - 22)	115
July	401
August	358
September (to date)	186
Total:	2,323