

Regional Parks Partnership Program and Friends of Regional Parks Capacity Building Grant Funding Proposal

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

February 22, 2021

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Regional Parks Friends Group Handbook

A Guide to Resources and Requirements



Volunteers from Friends of Black Mountain and Rutland Senior Secondary assisting with trailing building at Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park.

What are Friends Groups

Regional Parks Services has partnerships with over ten Friends groups. Friends Groups are volunteer groups that play a vital role in areas such as:

- **Land acquisition**
- **Fundraising**
- **Clean-up projects**
- **Park improvements**
- **Trail building**
- **and more**



Why the Need for a Friends Group Handbook?

The formation of more Friends groups in recent years has highlighted the need to:

- 1. Complete MOUs with multiple Friends groups;**
- 2. Formalize and guide the annual planning and reporting of ongoing Friends group activities;**
- 3. Identify priority park projects;**
- 4. Identify fundraising initiatives.**



Friends Groups in Action



Gellatly Nut Farm Society volunteers harvested, cleaned, dried and sold over \$27,000 of nuts in 2019.

What will a Handbook accomplish?

- **Guide the formation of Friends groups by providing a framework for operating as a non-profit organization.**
- **Establish an application process to guide new groups as they form.**
- **Introduce annual planning and reporting procedures.**
- **Support and grow Friends groups which in turn enhance Regional Parks.**



Capacity Building Funding Grant

- **Matching funds available from RDCO.**
 - **Applications based on annual planning exercises.**
 - **Applications assessed based on value of project to a specific park, benefit to public, and equal distribution among Regional Parks, using the evaluation rubric.**
 - **Grants amounts dependent on applications received and funds available. Initially grants will be limited to \$2,000 per Friends group per year.**
 - **Larger projects could be supported through capital project funding.**
-

Friends Groups in Action



Friends of Kalamoior Society volunteers assist with the Annual Kalamoior Pancake Breakfast.

Recommendation

THAT the Regional Board approve the Friends of Regional Parks Partnership Program.



Thank you!

