

Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park Ecosystem Maintenance and Wildfire Mitigation Project

- BC Parks in partnership with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), the Okanagan Indian Band and the District of Coldstream will be conducting an ecosystem maintenance/wildfire mitigation project in Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park. The project will begin the week of February 24 and run until the end of March.
- The project focus is ecosystem maintenance that will have an additional benefit of wildfire risk reduction. The project will focus on removing forest ingrowth. The Kalamalka Lake Park ecosystem has historically been an open forest grassland that relied on frequent low intensity wildfires to maintain healthy flora and fauna. With the Park's proximity to urban interface this natural fire regime has been suppressed. The treatment will replicate the effects of historical wildfire on the area by removing forest ingrowth and opening the forest canopy, which will benefit grassland species. Removing ingrowth and opening the canopy will also benefit wildfire risk reduction. By removing these fuels, we will be reducing the risk of a high intensity wildfire.
- The project area is comprised of two treatment units, located in the Red Gate and Twin Bays area, totaling 5 hectares of land.
- Project methodology will follow a developed prescription for the two units and primarily involve hand treatment activities. Crews will cut and remove small diameter conifer ingrowth and prune and limb larger diameter trees. Slash and debris will be chipped and removed off site.
- This is the first phase of a multi-year project. Other treatment units will be identified, and project plans developed in the Spring/Summer of 2020 for potential implementation in the winter of 2020/21. Further information will be made available to the public once those projects have been developed.
- For safety purposes, the public can expect temporary trail and area closures associated with the work.
- BC Parks wants to remind our neighbors and communities that these projects are only one step in reducing wildfire risk to our communities and we encourage our neighbours to explore what can be done on their respective properties to increase their resiliency to wildfire events. Please visit the BC Fire Smart website for more information:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/firesmart>

If you have any questions or comments regarding this upcoming project, please contact BC Parks at 250-490-8250 or email ryan.elphick@gov.bc.ca