

Appendix G. Trails and Signage

TRAIL AND SIGN MAINTENANCE

The trails and roads of the Kimberley Nature Park are maintained by volunteers. The following section will guide volunteer efforts to ensure a high standard of maintenance.

1. CONSIDERATIONS

- a) Safety for all Park users: remember children, cyclists, etc.
- b) Maintain integrity of the Park:
 - i) Leave worked areas as undisturbed as possible.
 - ii) Do not pile cut brush but spread it out to help with the natural decomposition.
 - iii) Any trail should ultimately look like it has never been worked on.
- c) When clearing downed trees from roads, leave firewood on road edge for pickup by firewood salvage program but disperse the branches. On single track trails, disperse everything.
- d) Prune shrubs aggressively to extend the time between prunings. Prune flush to ground if removing entire shrub. Remove small conifers within 1.5 metres of trails.
- e) Clean drainage ditches each spring and after major rainstorms.
- f) Rake trails each spring and after major storms to remove branches, twigs, loose rock and dog poop.

2. CLEARANCES

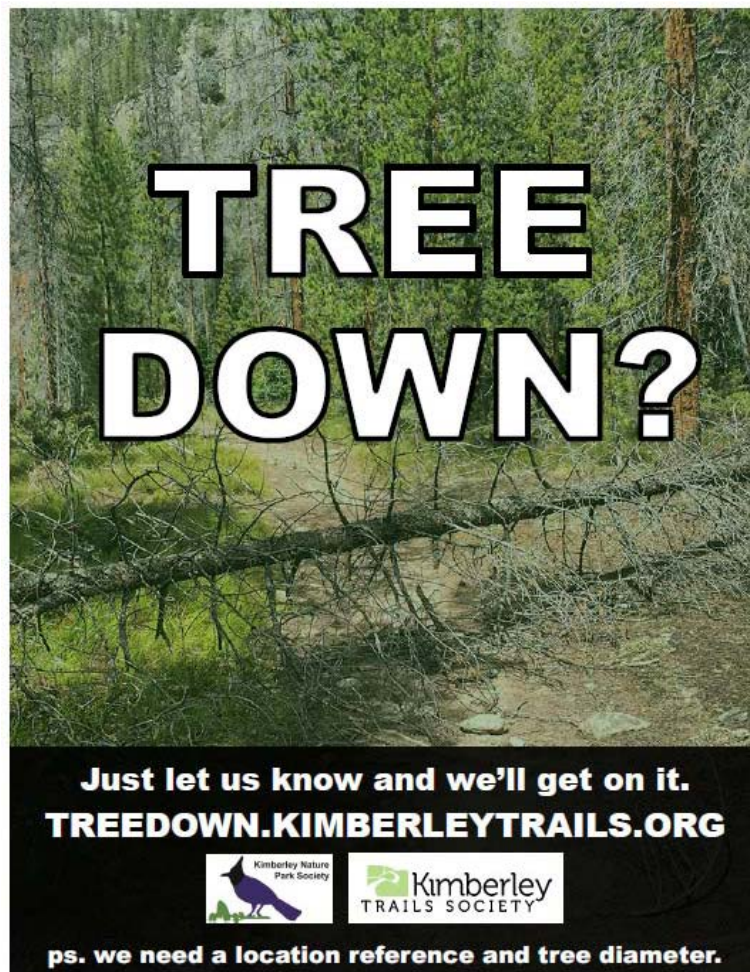
- a) TRAILS
 - i) Tread width .3-.6 metre (1-2 feet).
 - ii) 1 metres (3 feet) back for windfalls.
 - iii) Clear height 2.5 (8 feet) metres.
- b) ROADS
 - i) Tread width 3 metres (10 feet).
 - ii) 1.2 metres (4 feet) back for windfalls.
 - iii) Clear height 2.5 – 3 metres (8 – 10 feet).

3. SIGN MAINTENANCE

Every 3-4 years all trail signs that are bolted to trees should have the bolts loosened to prevent damage caused by the trees expansion. Severely weathered signs should be taken down and refinished or replaced with new signs.

PUBLIC REPORTING SYSTEM FOR TRAIL PROBLEMS

In 2015 the KNPS, in cooperation with the Kimberley Trails Society, instituted a new reporting system to identify trail problems and mobilize volunteers to deal with them. Park users that notice a tree down or other trail problem can click on a link on the KNPS website homepage <http://treedown.kimberleytrails.org> which will open a simple online form for reporting a problem. A message is automatically sent to our list of volunteer trail maintainers and the problem is corrected as soon as possible.



We also use an app called Trailforks that can be downloaded to your smart phone and used while exploring the trails. By selecting a given trail, you can see its condition and status, with the latter having a date stamp. These aspects may be updated by users, as well as by KNPS volunteers. Park users are encouraged to use the Trailforks app to report trees down, problem erosion, or significant areas of mud or snow cover. The more precise you can be with tree size and location, the better our park volunteers will be able to deal promptly with problems.

Trail Etiquette Signage

In 2011 the KNPS installed 10 trail etiquette signs near entrances and major intersections in the Park. The signs remind hikers and bikers to respect wildlife, the trails and other Park users. The signs will be maintained, replaced and updated as needed.



KNPS Trail Committee Planning Process for New Trail Proposals

1. Assess the need for any proposed new trail.

e.g. - to bypass a logged area

- to make a new loop
- to provide access to a new, unique area
- to replace a trail which has been closed for some reason
- to convert a hiking trail into a multi-use biking/hiking trail

2. Consider the following:

- will the trail or presence of trail users have a substantial negative impact on wildlife in the area (e.g. nesting sites, denning areas, riparian areas, unique or special flora, etc)? Conduct review of route with KNPS Natural History Committee and consult with Fish and Wildlife Branch if needed.

- are there any seepage or surface water issues that will cause ongoing problems?
- are the soil conditions appropriate for trail building (e.g. too sandy, too rocky)?
- does the proposed trail route follow the topography appropriately?
- does the trail route minimize the need to cut down mature trees?
- does the trail route make use of existing, abandoned roads or trails to avoid unnecessary ground disturbance?
- will the trail be maintainable by volunteers? How quickly will vegetation encroach on the trail?
- is the trail route designed in an aesthetically pleasing manner and does it include all of the positive visual elements in the area it is proposed. (e.g. viewpoints)?

3. Redesign if necessary

If the considerations above reveal significant problems with the trail proposal, determine if changes to the trail route will eliminate those problems. Reassess the new route.

4. Proceed with or abandon the trail proposal

The decision to proceed with or abandon a trail proposal should be made by the KNPS membership at a regular monthly or special meeting. If the decision is made to proceed with the trail construction, permission must first be obtained from the City of Kimberley and Province of BC, which oversees the License of Occupation.