



# **KIMBERLEY NATURE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Prepared By:*



**KIMBERLEY NATURE PARK**  
Gateway to Nature

**The Kimberley Nature Park Society**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1.1 THE VALUE OF THE PARK

The Kimberley Nature Park (see map in Appendix A & <http://www.kimberleynaturepark.ca>) is an important community asset that preserves valuable wildlife habitat while providing extensive educational and recreational opportunities.

The productive, mid-elevation ecosystems within the Park are not well represented in the provincial park system. They contain patches of old growth forest and provide a wildlife corridor from the bottomlands of the Rocky Mountain Trench into the higher reaches of the Purcell Mountains. The Park's diverse topography and extensive trail network provide great recreational opportunities for a wide variety of non-motorized outdoor pursuits. The Park is frequently used by local schools for educational outings and by local naturalists as a study area.

The Park has long been seen as a valuable lifestyle amenity for the community, and residential developments adjacent to its boundaries are now featuring the Park in their promotional materials. The value of the Park to Kimberley's tourism strategy is now recognized and is being promoted by tourism marketing agencies.

It is expected that, as areas surrounding Kimberley become increasingly modified by logging and development, the Park's value to the community as a "Gateway to Nature" will continue to grow. As the Park's value grows, so does the importance of Park stewardship.

### 1.1.2 THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Management Plan was created to ensure that the stewardship of the Kimberley Nature Park protects the flora and fauna that inhabit it, provides significant education and recreational opportunities for the community, and respects the wishes of residents of Kimberley and the Province of British Columbia. It provides a framework for ongoing planning, policy-making, bylaw creation and fieldwork to ensure that the Park remains an asset for the community in perpetuity.

The Plan identifies two overarching goals and fourteen major planning issues. Objectives have been written for each of these issues, together with specific action items. The Plan is a living document that will be reviewed as needed and updated every six years or as needed through an open, public consultation process. Efforts will be made to ensure that the Plan is substantially consistent with other City planning documents such as the Recreation Trails Master Plan and the Official Community Plan (OCP). The preparation of this document was required by the Province of BC under the terms of the City of Kimberley's License of Occupation # 403232 over the Nature Park land. One of the conditions of that License is that "this area be managed to minimize the impact on vegetation, wildlife populations and human safety." In 2019 this Management Plan was reviewed and updated as a condition of the renewal of the License of Occupation for a further 30 year period.

This document has been prepared for the City of Kimberley by the Kimberley Nature Park Society (KNPS) in consultation with a variety of government agencies, adjacent landowners, Park user groups and the general public. For a complete description of the consultation process see Appendix B.

The implementation of this Plan will be constrained by the fiscal realities facing the City. Many of the actions proposed are designed to be carried out by volunteers and funded by grants and donations. An attempt has been made to ensure that time frames for implementation are realistic and achievable.

### **1.1.3 THE ROLE OF THE KIMBERLEY NATURE PARK SOCIETY**

The KNPS has been actively promoting and stewarding this area since the mid-1980s. In March of 2002, the City of Kimberley signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the KNPS formally recognizing the special role this organization has played and continues to play in promoting, planning and stewarding the Park (see Appendix C).

It is expected that the KNPS will take the lead role in the implementation of this Management Plan and in its reviews and revisions. The Society will work to raise funds, coordinate volunteer effort and collaborate with user groups, tenure holders, government agencies, the Ktunaxa and Park neighbours in order to meet the goals of this Plan and the long-term interests of the Park. The KNPS will also address emerging issues, such as possible boundary changes and additions to the Park, (e.g., Horse Barn Valley, Musser's Plateau) not covered by the Plan.

The interests of the community will be ensured by a commitment to ongoing public consultation, open membership in the KNPS and continued liaison with the City of Kimberley and other interested organizations. The Society will also carry five million dollars of general liability insurance as required by the Province and the City.

The initial License of Occupation agreement between the City and the Province of BC expired on November 30, 2011 and in May of 2012 the Province offered the City a 30-year renewal. The KNPS may work towards extending the tenure of this agreement indefinitely. In addition, the KNPS may explore and assess legal and administrative arrangements other than a License of Occupation that might provide an enhanced level of protection for the Park.

## **1.2 PARK BACKGROUND**

### **1.2.1 PARK DESCRIPTION**

The Park consists of 840.29 hectares of largely undeveloped land lying south of Kimberley Alpine Resort, Trickle Creek Golf Course, and Swan residential subdivision; west of the residential areas of Kimberley and Forest Crowne; north of the St. Mary Lake road; and directly inside the city's western boundary. The land has a high point of 1625m on North Star Mountain, and slopes generally south and east to an elevation of 975m at the St. Mary Lake road. The Park's complicated topography, created by bedrock upheaval and post-glacial deposition and erosion, provides a great diversity of microclimates.

Previous studies of wildlife habitat in the area have identified a number of major biophysical units that support a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. Four-

hundred and fifty-nine plant, lichen and fungus species and 176 animal species have been identified. Some wildlife species use the land seasonally, many others reside year round, and yet others merely pass through. There are many small water bodies, bogs and creeks as well as two larger ponds that support aquatic communities. The relatively undisturbed nature of the area provides sanctuary and cover necessary to sustain these populations.

### **1.2.2 HUMAN ACTIVITY**

The Park area has been used by the Ktunaxa people for hunting, for food gathering, as a travel corridor, and as a source of raw material for tool making for thousands of years. Early European settlers used the Park area for timber harvesting and explored it extensively for mineral deposits. These industrial activities left a legacy of narrow roads that still exist, and over the years, volunteers have created numerous footpaths that link the roads.

A very basic ski hill with a large cabin was developed at Myrtle Mountain in the early 1930s, and in 1934 a small cabin was built for recreation at what was then known as Silver Lake (Dipper Lake). In the 1940s the local army militia used the old logging trails to access Myrtle Junction where they constructed a rifle range for target practice. A group of recreational pensioners maintained the bush trails in the 1960's. They snowshoed and hiked throughout the area and were also recruited to lead residents on weekly hikes.

### **1.2.3 PROGRESS TOWARDS PARK STATUS**

Efforts by individuals and groups to formally establish a wildlife sanctum or a nature park have been ongoing since the early 1970s. The KNPS was established and registered in 1987 to promote the creation of the Park and to steward the trail and sign network. Volunteers have maintained trails, improved signs, created maps, led guided walks, raised funds for research projects, led school groups, and promoted safe use of the Park. The City recognized the Park in the 1994 Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1846, and later zoned the Park land for “non-motorized activities”.

Early attempts to formally establish the Park were thwarted because of complications resulting from multiple ownership of the land and a perception that it already was a quasi-park and therefore required no special status or protection. Cooperative efforts by the Province, Cominco, the City, and KNPS in the 1990s resulted in the ownership of all the land passing to the Province with the understanding that it would be reserved for Park designation. In 2001 the City applied for and received a License of Occupation over the Park area from the Province of BC. This license was renewed in 2012 for a period of 30 years. This License is non-exclusive and does not supersede any existing rights granted to other tenure holders.

## 2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 CONSERVATION

#### **To conserve the natural and heritage values of the Park for their own sake and for the long-term benefit of the community.**

Conserving the Park's soils, water, flora and fauna is a top priority for this Management Plan. Understanding the ecology of the area and ensuring the continued function of its ecosystems provides a base upon which human activities will be planned and carried out. The impacts of human activity will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Changes to activities will be implemented if negative effects on the natural systems are identified. Particular attention will be given to recording and understanding historical use by the Ktunaxa people and to the protection of their cultural heritage.

The following action plans in this section will focus on this conservation goal.

#### 2.1.1 DEVELOPING A NATURAL HISTORY INVENTORY

##### **Objective:**

*To study the Park's geology, landforms, watercourses, flora and fauna to better meet the Park's conservation, education and recreational goals.*

Learning more about the natural systems of the Park will help in the better management of human activities in the area and meet conservation goals. A completed inventory will provide scientific information in order to gain stronger protection of the Park and also to provide a basis for educational objectives.

##### **Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	The KNPS Natural History committee will continue to design research activities, seek funding and carry out inventories.
	Continue the breeding bird survey and other selected long-term studies.
	Undertake a streams and wetland habitats inventory and map
	Continue to compile, manage and update natural history information on the Nature Park website. <a href="https://www.kimberleynaturepark.ca/">https://www.kimberleynaturepark.ca/</a> .
	Explore and develop ongoing relationships with post-secondary educational institutions and government agencies to do research.

### 2.1.2 PROTECTING SPECIAL HABITATS AND SPECIES

**Objective:**

*To design and implement special measures to protect rare, threatened or endangered habitats and species.*

As our inventory work progresses and we learn more about the species and habitats within the Park we may discover special areas or species that are in need of protection or management. The Ecosystem Restoration/Fire Management Plan (Appendix E) will consider and incorporate such measures.

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Work with the Provincial Government to monitor and regulate human activities in the Williamson Sapsucker Wildlife Habitat Area to protect nesting and feeding sites. (See Appendix E)
	Identify, mark, and protect significant wildlife refuge trees in areas of planned fuel treatment
	Continue to monitor the post-burn succession on Sunflower Hill.
	Work with the City of Kimberley and Provincial agencies to identify further sites which may require prescribed burning or other treatment to restore habitats.

### 2.1.3 PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Objective:**

*To foster knowledge of and appreciation for the human history of the Park area, and where appropriate, to record, protect and interpret these cultural resources.*

The Park area contains a number of interesting pre- and post-contact heritage sites. It has been used by the Ktunaxa people for quarrying and transitory hunting activities, and perhaps as a travel corridor. There are several post-European contact historical resources, including one of Kimberley’s former ski hills and a number of early mine and sawmill sites.

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Continue to collect, document and publish human history.
	Compile, archive and manage human history information on the Nature Park website. <a href="https://www.kimberleynaturepark.ca/about-the-knps">https://www.kimberleynaturepark.ca/about-the-knps</a>
	Consult with the Ktunaxa as needed to develop research, archival and interpretation projects which are of particular interest to them.
	Identify long term educational and research projects, identify sources of funding, and schedule these projects for implementation.

#### 2.1.4 CONTROLLING INVASIVE WEEDS

**Objective:**

*To control invasive, non-native plants while protecting native species and ecosystem functions from negative impacts.*

Non-native plants (invasive weeds) have begun to spread into the Kimberley Nature Park. These plants could potentially take over where native plant species usually thrive, upsetting the ecological balance of the area. It is important to find safe ways to prevent the spread of these weeds and, over time, to eradicate them.

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Continue to work with regional weed control officers to identify invasive weed species (e.g., knapweed, toadflax, blueweed) and assign priorities for their control.
	Determine methods and best practices for controlling high priority invasive species and infestations.
	Undertake an invasive weed inventory and develop map of known infestation locations. (see Appendix D)
	Identify and prioritize site-specific areas for immediate weed control and implement and make a record of control measures.(see Appendix D)
	Teach KNPS members and the public to recognize invasive plants and pull or report occurrences in the Park.
	Monitor management actions and evaluate the results with respect to the weed management goals.
	Modify and improve control priorities, methods and plans according to the information gained through monitoring. (see Appendix D)

#### 2.1.5 MANAGING FIRE

**Objective:**

*To collaborate with the City of Kimberley, the Province, and local communities concerning fire management activities in the Nature Park that will help to protect the community from potential wildfire while maintaining the ecological, aesthetic and recreational values of the area.*

The Nature Park is situated inside the Kimberley municipal boundary and adjacent to a number of existing and future neighbourhoods. Fires in the Park will be immediately controlled by the appropriate authorities, and existing emergency vehicle access will be maintained.



Access, fire suppression and fire prevention issues will be addressed as part of an Ecosystem Restoration /Fire Management plan for the Park (see Appendix E). Development of this plan will require ongoing consultation with Kimberley City Council and Fire Department, the community, adjacent tenure holders and relevant agencies. Human safety, City bylaws and provincial fire regulations will be given high priority when organized recreational and maintenance activities are being planned.

Fire has always played an important role in some natural ecosystems and the long-term ecological impact of fire suppression on habitat and forest health is an issue of concern. The use of prescribed burning for habitat restoration or risk reduction will be examined and discussed with provincial and community agencies.

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Continue discussions with Kimberley Fire Department and the Provincial Government regarding risk reduction and further refinement of a fire management plan.
	Using the planning framework developed by the KNPS ecosystem consultant and the City’s fire ecologist pursue opportunities to reduce fuels in the Park (See Appendix E)
	In consultation with the Kimberley Fire Department locate and clear emergency access routes and logical turnaround points for emergency vehicles.
	Prepare, with the help of the City, a map showing emergency vehicle routes, turnaround points and sources of water suitable for fire fighting. (See Appendix I)
	Incorporate “Campfires Prohibited” in entrance signage.
	Continue the volunteer firewood salvage program to remove downed trees from the major roads in the Park.
	Continue to pursue ecologically appropriate fuel reduction measures.

**2.1.6 UNDERSTANDING BEETLES, ROOT ROT AND OTHER AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**Objective:**

*To understand the role of pine beetle, mistletoe, root rot and other agents of change, and work to assess and manage the perceived risks to adjacent areas.*

Forests are dynamic ecosystems where thousands of species of plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms interact in complex ways to produce remarkable diversity.

In a park, where the focus is on recreation and conservation, native organisms that damage or kill trees (e.g., mountain pine beetle, Armillaria root rot and dwarf mistletoe) are viewed as essential parts of the ecosystem. The approach to management of these agents of change in the Park will therefore be different from the approach in forests where the primary human interest is timber extraction.

It is important to recognize and respond to concerns of Park neighbours about the potential impacts of these organisms on areas outside the Park.

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Together with neighbors, the public and experts, identify organisms of concern.
	Recommend that tree removal which is carried out as part of ecosystem restoration also focuses on removing pine beetle infested and susceptible trees.
	Work with the City and other agencies to develop an ecosystem-based forest management approach that would allow the retention of some mistletoe infested western larch.
	Develop KNPS webpage blog postings about the roles of agents of change in the forest.
	Assess the impacts of these organisms on the conservation and recreation goals to determine if intervention is necessary.
	Work with Park neighbors to address their concerns and determine if intervention is necessary in areas along Park boundaries.
	Take remedial action where necessary.

## 2.2 HUMAN USE

**To promote and support a variety of compatible, non-motorized recreational and educational experiences within the Nature Park without compromising public safety or the Park’s conservation goals.**

This Plan is committed to the encouragement, organization and promotion of a wide range of recreational and educational activities that are compatible with the Park’s conservation focus. The natural setting is ideal for year-round outdoor recreation, and provides an outdoor classroom in which visitors can be educated about the natural world. This Plan will ensure that these activities will be carried out safely, harmoniously, and without undue impact on the natural systems. Strong emphasis will be given to expanding the Park’s role in research and educational programming.

The following action plans in this section will focus on this recreational/educational goal.

### 2.2.1 PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**Objective:**

*To encourage individuals, groups and businesses to organize and promote events which are compatible with the conservation, education and recreation goals.*

Current public use of the Park is mostly informal, by individuals and small groups. A number of local organizations, including the Kimberley Nature Park Society, mountain bike groups, the Kimberley Scouts and some schools make larger organized visits to the area. Activities by organizations and businesses will be encouraged to prepare and offer activities that are compatible with the Park’s conservation goals and with existing public recreational and educational use.

A screening process will be developed to allow the City, in consultation with the KNPS, to review proposals for organized events and activities. Any commercial activity on Crown land must be authorized by a License of Occupation from the Province. As this area is within the municipal boundaries, a business license from the City is also required (see Appendix F).

**Actions**

<b>2019-2024</b>	Continue to periodically prepare and distribute a schedule of KNPS organized public events
	Maintain, update and utilize the criteria and screening process to ensure activities do not create unacceptable long-term impacts on the natural systems or on the enjoyment of other users (see Appendix F).
	Encourage individuals and organizations to submit proposals for events and programs.

	Explore options for revenue generation from special events to fund conservation and education
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## 2.2.2 DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Objective:

*To foster knowledge, understanding and respect for the natural world and the cultural history that is represented in the Park.*

The Park is a microcosm of the natural world. It is also a place of human activity both in the past and the present. As such, the Park serves as an outdoor classroom and a resource for studies and research.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Maintain a current and informative Park website.
	Liaise with the Ktunaxa as needed regarding educational activities.
	Encourage the general public and organizations to make use of the Park for educational activities.
	Maintain existing and develop new contacts and activities involving schools and other educational agencies.
	Continue to devise educational and interpretive activities and materials for Park users.
	Develop educational materials for self-directed and independent study.
	Ensure that a discussion of recreational impacts on trails and habitat are included in relevant, local school programs.

## 2.2.3 PROVIDING PARKING AND ACCESS

### Objective:

*To provide well marked, safe public access to the Park at a variety of points around its perimeter without inconveniencing adjacent residents.*

Given the size and diversity of the Park a number of entrances are required. Some existing entrances do not have adequate parking space and adjacent residents are being inconvenienced. Proposed development around Trickle Creek golf course and in Forest Crowne subdivision may offer future opportunities for access points.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Ensure that the OCP includes public access and adequate parking for Nature Park users in new developments in Forest Crowne, and above Trickle Creek Golf Course
	Investigate improvements of parking at designated access areas.
	Develop a plan for signage on main streets identifying selected entrances.

## 2.2.4 MAINTAINING THE TRAIL NETWORK

### Objective:

*To maintain a safe, clearly marked, environmentally sensitive network of trails in the Park which is suitable for year-round, non-motorized recreational activity.*

The extensive network of trails provides opportunities for a variety of non-motorized outdoor recreation activities. The trails and their use are also the greatest potential human impact on the ecology of the area. The Province has required that management of the area minimizes “the impact on vegetation, wildlife populations, and human safety”. Finding a balance between the human desire for more access and different uses, and the needs of the flora and fauna will be challenging.

Also challenging will be to ensure that the trails are maintained in an erosion-free and safe condition, while avoiding conflict between users. The Park is well used by both hikers and mountain bikers and levels of use are expected to increase. The trail system will be monitored carefully to record the impacts of current and emerging human recreational activities and trail improvements will be made as needed. The KNPS will also work to educate trail users about appropriate trail use and etiquette standards. There is very little horseback riding use of the Park and this activity will not be encouraged due to its negative impact on trail surfaces and the potential spread of non-native plant seeds.

Additions to the trail system will only be sanctioned if they are deemed necessary and are appropriately planned.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	In collaboration with the Kimberley Trails Society, the Kootenay Freewheelers and other user groups, ensure that the KNPS Trails Committee continues to oversee and carry out trail planning, building, maintenance and monitoring in accordance with the standards for Natural Surface Trails and Low-Impact Nature Trails and/or the International Mountain Bike Association trail standards. (See Appendix G)
	Review non-motorized policy with regards to e-bikes and other new technologies
	Develop an annual prioritized list of trail improvements with consideration of issues raised by the Fire Department, Search and Rescue, Provincial Government fire suppression officials and recreational users.
	Update as needed and utilize criteria that will assist with planning of new trails (see Appendix G).
	Continue to promote a public “Observe, Record, Report” system for trail conditions (see Appendix G).
	Install garbage containers at any new trail entrances.
	Assess the existing trail network in light of both conservation and recreation goals and determine whether changes are necessary.
	Revise and publish the Trail Guide as necessary.

## 2.2.5 PLANNING VISITOR AMENITIES

### Objective:

*To build and maintain only those structures necessary to ensure public safety and to support the recreational and educational goals of the Park without seriously reducing the naturalness of the area.*

In order to ensure that visitors have a safe and rewarding experience, certain structures such as footbridges and trail signs are necessary. However, human-made structures also detract from the naturalness of the setting, require ongoing repair and maintenance. It is necessary to find a balance between keeping the Park natural and providing amenities that will enhance visitor's Park experience.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Ensure that all trails are adequately signed.
	Inventory, monitor and maintain trail signs and other structures
	Continue to develop designs for Nature Park benches and determine where they should be located.
	Determine the need for and potential location of toilets. Examine legal and environmental criteria for siting and construction of toilets.

## 2.2.6 PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS USERS

### Objective:

*To provide access to visitors with special needs while recognizing this is a natural area with rugged terrain.*

The Kimberley Nature Park Society will work with interested parties to facilitate access for users with special needs where appropriate. We will identify suitable trails within the Nature Park that can be used for all-terrain wheelchair access.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Discuss internally, and with stakeholders as determined, issues concerning special needs access to the Park, and formulate policy, if needed.
	As development proceeds around the Park consider the requirements of special needs users in the location and design of new trailheads.

## 2.2.7 PROMOTING SAFETY AND MANAGING RISKS

### Objective:

*To promote human safety insofar as is reasonable within the context of the Nature Park.*

There are inherent risks associated with use of any natural area. These risks will be assessed and mitigated through education and other means which are compatible with the goals of the Park

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Continue to educate dog-walkers about the need to keep their animals under control, and trails free of excrement.
	Maintain signage which promotes appropriate trail use etiquette. (See Appendix G)
	Ensure that organizations that use the Park (including the KNPS) maintain adequate liability insurance.
	Maintain and utilize the reporting system for Park users in order to monitor and rectify unsafe conditions.
	Erect and maintain signage to notify users of City Bylaw 1850 (non-motorized vehicle status) and that they are entering the Park and do so at their own risk.
	Inform the public, through such means as Park trail guides, that there are risks inherent in engaging in outdoor activities in natural settings such as the Park.
	Assist Kimberley Search and Rescue with the maintenance of a search and rescue preparedness plan. (See Appendix H).
	Assist the Kimberley Fire Department with the preparation and maintenance of a forest fire preparedness plan. (See Appendix I)

## 2.2.8 ENHANCING COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Objective:

*To develop an appreciation of Kimberley Nature Park as a significant, integral component of the Kimberley lifestyle and economy.*

Broad community support will ensure the success of the Park. Developing and maintaining community support will require ongoing liaison with Park neighbours to identify and rectify any concerns they may have. It will also be important to continue outreach to tourism and lifestyle promotion agencies in the community.

### Actions

<b>2019-2024</b>	Meet with agencies and companies that promote tourism and real estate development in Kimberley to explain the role and value of the Park to the community.
	Ensure that all aspects of this Management Plan's implementation are communicated to the residents of Kimberley and that changes to the Plan are made with public consultation.

	Ensure that the Kimberley Nature Park is recognized and supported in future revisions of the Official Community Plan.
	Share knowledge and experience gained through management of the Park with other community groups.
	Revise and publish updated Trail Guide as needed.
	Continue to enhance community relations.

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## **3 PLANNING FOR UNIQUE AREAS**

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In addition to the Park-wide goals listed in this Plan, there are number of specific areas within the Park that have unique and important values which deserve special attention. As time and funding permit, site-specific plans will be developed for the following four areas, with further areas to be added in the future:

### **3.1 EIMERS LAKE**

This area contains a number of unique elements, including a sphagnum bog, a Labrador tea meadow and a trout population, found nowhere else in the Park. The area is easily accessible and provides some unique opportunities for nature interpretation. It is also very sensitive to disturbance and its protection may require special measures.

### **3.2 SUNFLOWER HILL**

The southern slopes of the Nature Park and the benches above them merit special consideration for their support of grassland ecosystems and ungulate winter range. The ongoing suppression of fire in this area is resulting in the unnatural expansion of forest and reduction of grassland.

### **3.3 MYRTLE JUNCTION**

This central meeting place contains some important heritage values as well as being a nexus for a variety of trails. It is adjacent to a riparian area and provides an excellent location for group interpretive activities.

### **3.4 WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER WHA**

A 72-hectare area of the Park has been designated by the Provincial Government as a Wildlife Habitat Area for the endangered Williamson's Sapsucker. The Provincial Government did some work on developing a treatment plan for the area to improve habitat and reduce forest fire risk and should that plan be finalized it will be reviewed and supported by the KNPS. Details of the plan will be added to Appendix E when they become available.

### **3.5 HORSE BARN VALLEY**

The Horse Barn Valley (HBV) Interpretive Forest is a 210-hectare area of Crown land adjacent to the Kimberley Nature Park just west of the municipal boundary bordering Dipper Lake. The Interpretive Forest was established in 2003 under an agreed partnership between the Province of British Columbia and the Kimberley Nature Park Society. While that designation allows for

normal forest management practices to continue, it also recognizes the area's important ecological, educational, recreational, and heritage values, and gives the Kimberley Nature Park Society a role in their management. Under the partnership agreement, the KNPS prepares an annual operations report and work plan for the area that includes maintenance of trails and signage, hosting interpretive walks, and stewardship of the Halfway Cabin. In 2014 a set of 13 interpretive panels was developed and installed throughout the HBV trail system to educate visitors about its human and natural history.

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## 4 APPENDICES

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Appendix A.	License of Occupation
Appendix B.	Consultation Process Summary
Appendix C.	Copy of City/KNPS Memorandum of Understanding
Appendix D.	Invasive Weed Control Plan
Appendix E.	Ecosystem Restoration and Fuel Management Plan
Appendix F.	Organized Activity Screening Process
Appendix G.	Trails and Signage
Appendix H.	Search and Rescue Preparedness Plan
Appendix I.	Fire Emergency Preparedness Plan