



Parks Services
1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Telephone: (250) 469-6232
rdco.com

Frequently asked questions

SUBJECT: Regional Park Closures Due to McDougall Creek Wildfire Damage

Background

Four Regional Parks (Raymer Bay, Rose Valley, Stephen's Coyote Ridge, Trader's Cove) remain closed and are awaiting assessments for danger trees, slope stability and other hazards. Mitigation work will need to occur before they are deemed safe to reopen to visitors.

Why can't the parks reopen?

The closed parks contain a number of dangers including fire-damaged trees and potential geotechnical hazards (rockfall, ash pits, land movement). To ensure the safety of staff and park visitors full hazard assessments are required. Staff are in the process of assessing wildfire damage, but access is limited due to hazards. A full hazard assessment in those parks with extensive fire damage and mitigation measures to remove hazard trees must first occur.

Why is this taking so long?

Establishing funding for assessment takes time. We are working with the province to establish funding through the Disaster Financial Assistance for communities' program to remove danger trees and assess geotechnical hazards such as slope deterioration.

What is the process for assessment?

Once the danger trees are removed a complete hazard assessment can take place and planning for rebuilding and restoration will follow.

When will the parks reopen?

We don't have a firm timeline for re-opening as we need to follow the process for removing hazards and recovering these areas. Due to natural area damage in Stephens Coyote and Rose Valley, we anticipate those will take longer to reopen fully versus Traders Cove and Raymer Bay which we expect will reopen in April 2024.

What type of damage occurred in the parks?

We have confirmed that the damage was mostly to natural areas and trails. Fortunately, we did not lose infrastructure like washrooms, playgrounds and picnic shelters.

How can I learn about volunteer opportunities in the closed parks (i.e. tree planting)?

Prospective volunteers can email parks.volunteers@rdco.com for more information and to request updates on volunteer opportunities in these parks.

What is being done to mitigate for wildfires in the regional parks?

In 2020 the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan was completed which took into account all 30 Regional Parks and ranked the wildfire risk. This plan was assessed and approved by BC Wildfire Service. The document is available here: <https://www.rdco.com/en/living-here/community-wildfire-protection-plan.aspx>. RDCO Parks Services is working on mitigation by order of priority as funding is made available via provincial grants.



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What should I do if I see someone enter a closed park?

You can report an issue with any of our parks through an online service request available at requests.rdco.com or by calling Parks Services at 250-469-6232.