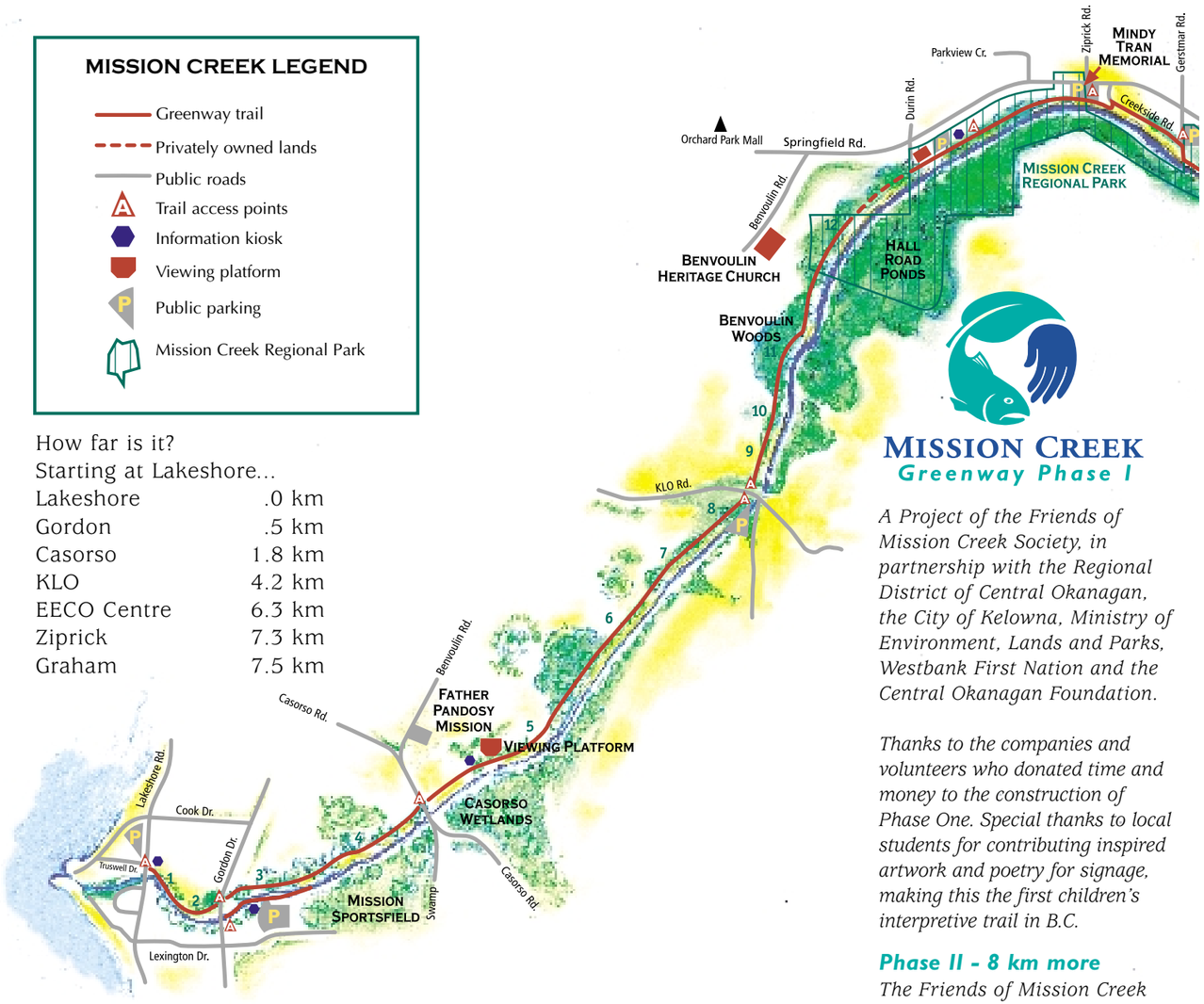
The Mission Creek Trail Map

MISSION CREEK LEGEND

- Greenway trail
- Privately owned lands
- Public roads
- Trail access points
- Information kiosk
- Viewing platform
- Public parking
- Mission Creek Regional Park

How far is it?
Starting at Lakeshore...

Lakeshore	.0 km
Gordon	.5 km
Casorso	1.8 km
KLO	4.2 km
EECO Centre	6.3 km
Ziprick	7.3 km
Graham	7.5 km



MISSION CREEK
Greenway Phase I

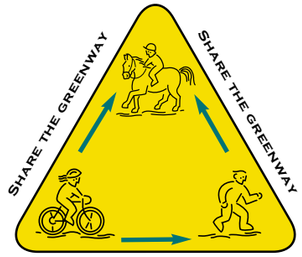
A Project of the Friends of Mission Creek Society, in partnership with the Regional District of Central Okanagan, the City of Kelowna, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Westbank First Nation and the Central Okanagan Foundation.

Thanks to the companies and volunteers who donated time and money to the construction of Phase One. Special thanks to local students for contributing inspired artwork and poetry for signage, making this the first children's interpretive trail in B.C.

Phase II - 8 km more

The Friends of Mission Creek are hard at work on plans and fundraising for Phase Two of the Greenway. Visit www.greenway.kelowna.bc.ca *for an update.*

Trail Etiquette



- Bicycle speed limit 10 km/hr.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Pick up your dog's waste.
  Plastic bags are provided in dispensers along the trail.
- Deposit litter in receptacles provided.
- Please stay on the trail at all times.
  You may disturb wildlife, damage fish eggs or impact water quality.
  The creek may be very dangerous during run-off.
- Unauthorized motorized vehicles are prohibited on the Greenway.

Special thanks to Sun-Rype for their contribution to the Mission Creek Greenway and the production of this Trail Guide.

SUN-RYPE

Enjoy the Greenway

Open from 6 am to dusk.
Operated and maintained by the Regional District of Central Okanagan. For more information call
Regional Parks at 868-5232
or visit
www.regionaldistrict.com

RDCO Regional District of Central Okanagan

Mission Creek Trail Guide

Christine Henderson

MISSION CREEK
Greenway Phase I

1. Flooding & Dyking

Before dyking and straightening began in the 1950's, Mission Creek meandered through the valley frequently changing its course and flooding its banks according to how much water was running and what obstacles it encountered. Settlers began farming close to the creek on the floodplain where rich soil was deposited by the floodwaters from Mission Creek. Dykes were built to limit the damage to fields and homes during spring run-off.

Graham Foster

2. Mission Creek

Mission Creek is one of Kelowna's most important natural features. It travels more than 70 kilometres from its source in the Greystoke Mountains through natural forests, farmlands and urban development to Okanagan Lake. Mission Creek serves many functions and plays a major role in shaping and supporting our community. Rich in nutrients, it is the largest supplier of water to Okanagan Lake, a major spawning area for kokanee and rainbow trout, and the source of household water to many homes in the Kelowna area. The path Mission Creek follows is known as the creek corridor and includes the creek itself, the habitat immediately surrounding it and the adjacent flood plain.

Leeanna

3. Ponds

A pond is commonly described as a quiet body of water so shallow that rooted plants grow completely across it. The shoreline is also surrounded by plants. The temperature of pond water from top to bottom is fairly uniform. Ponds are habitats for numerous species of water fowl, reptiles and amphibians. The wet soil around a pond is a breeding site for insects and fungi which in turn, are food sources for birds, frogs and turtles.

Jenica Phillips

4. Woodpeckers

Stefan Reindl

These strong-billed birds are usually spotted chipping away at the bark on tree trunks in search of insects. All have stiff tails which act like props as they forage. In the spring, woodpeckers establish their territory by drumming their beaks on dead limbs, garbage cans, drainpipes and other resonant objects. The Northern flicker, found in open woodlands, is the most common woodpecker in the province but you may also see Downy or Pileated Woodpeckers along the creek.

5. Cottonwoods

Cottonwoods, Poplars and Aspens are all members of the Genus Populus family. The leaves are toothed and somewhat triangular. In dry country, cottonwoods indicate the presence of underground water near the surface.
Cottonwood seeds, buds and twigs are important food for numerous birds, squirrels and deer. In the spring, cottonwoods along Mission Creek are alive with the songs and sounds of nesting birds.

Jason Low

6. Animals Drinking

Mission Creek is the main source of water for many large and small animals. Some of these animals are:

- Yellow Bellied Marmot
- Mink
- Skunk
- Beaver
- Deer
- Coyote

Jen Lamberton

7. Black Knight Mountain

66 million years ago Black Knight Mountain also known as Black Mountain, and Layer Cake Mountain were active volcanos. Black Knight Mountain has since been molded by a glacier into the form of a whale's back.

The Black Mountain area is noted for landforms called eskers and kames. These are deposits of material left by retreating glaciers, some of these deposits are now being mined for gravel.

Nathan

8. Irrigation

The Okanagan Valley, Canada's most productive fruit growing region could not grow domestic crops without irrigation. Because our valley lies in the rain shadow of the Coast Mountains it receives the lowest amount of precipitation in Southern Canada. Low rainfall and long hot summers make irrigation essential.
Every year Kelowna's irrigation districts withdraw billions of litres of water from Mission Creek and its tributaries for farm, domestic and commercial irrigation. Rutland Water Works as well as South East Kelowna and Black Mountain Irrigation Districts all have water works along Mission Creek. Irrigation ditches from the early 1900's can be seen just below KLO bridge near the Mission Creek Golf Course. Irrigation districts still control the distribution of water for Kelowna residents.

9. Creekside Vegetation

The riparian zone, the band of vegetation along both sides of a creek, is rich in moist soils and a complex variety of herbaceous and woody vegetation that is adapted to moist conditions. Riparian Zones support the aquatic- and land-based food webs for fish and wildlife by:

- reducing erosion by stabilizing creek banks with their roots.
- providing shelter and protection.
- regulating water tem perature.
- providing a buffer from pollution.
- retaining water in the soil during droughts.

Kyla Jones

10. Beavers

The beaver is the largest rodent in North America and second largest in the world next to the South American Capybara. Their diet consists primarily of the bark and twigs of Aspen, Birch and Poplar trees.
Beavers are most at home in the water. Their broad flat tails make them strong swimmers and they can hold their breath underwater for a long time.
On land, the beaver's compact rotund body is slow and awkward. Beavers are nature's own conservationists. In no time, they can fell large trees with their long sharp incisors. The dams they build with these trees prevent stream bed erosion and improve the habitat for many forms of wildlife. Beavers are nocturnal. Watch for them at dusk, skimming along Mission Creek.

Alexandra Finch

11. Benvoulin Woods

The Benvoulin Woods are located along the west bank of Mission Creek about one kilometre downstream from the Benvoulin Heritage Church and old town site. The woods now grow on abandoned farmland on the Mission Creek floodplain. The woods are dense with Cottonwood, Birch, Willow, and Hawthorn trees as well as flowering plants such as Mountain Lady's Slipper, White Clematis and Wild Roses. The Woods are also a natural corridor for white tail deer, coyote and many small mammals such as bats, squirrels and skunks.

12. Rotting Logs

Rotting logs are very important to wildlife. All sorts of animals depend on rotting logs for shelter, food production and breeding. Rotting logs support the fungi that decomposes the wood, the insects that breed within the rotting structure and the animals that feed on those insects.

Rebecca Sterling