**Introduction**

The size, height, central location and natural amenities make Knox Mountain Park a landmark that is a highly desirable destination for residents and tourists alike.

The park supports numerous activities including but not limited to walking, running, hiking, pedal biking (road, cross country and downhill), tennis, disc golf, birding, nature appreciation, sightseeing, winter recreation and dogs on-leash.

The Knox Mountain Park Management Plan, endorsed by City Council in 2011, (see park projects at kelowna.ca/cityprojects), guides City staff in decisions affecting the park and informs the public on how they can help to achieve the park’s strategic goals.

**Park Vision:**

“Knox Mountain Park reveals the wonder and diversity of the Okanagan landscape. It is a symbol of Kelowna, a place of unique and remarkable natural beauty within our city's park system, a place where nature is able to flourish and evolve. Residents and visitors participate in the life of the park, establishing healthy and sustainable relationships between themselves and the natural environment.”

**Recent Park History**

- **1874** Scottish immigrant Arthur Booth Knox acquires cattle range via crown grant. Knox, in turn, sells the land to the Okanagan Fruit and Land Company.
- **1906** Land subsequently subdivided and resold into smaller parcels.
- **1910** A family vault is constructed by Remberl Paul on the portion of parkland now known as Paul’s Tomb.
- **1912** Dr. Benjamin deFurfurong Boyce, first doctor of Kelowna, purchases 190.82 acres that encompasses the mountain.
- **1939** Dr. Boyce donates the land to the City for park for $1.00.
- **1953** First Knox Mountain Hill Climb event hosted.
- **1967** Stanley M. Simpson establishes a trust fund for capital improvements in the park. Improvements include construction of a paved road and the first Pioneer Pavilion.
- **1989** The City acquires Paul’s Tomb properties.
- **1990-92** Park expands to include the summit of Knox Mountain with development of the Magic Estates Subdivision.
- **1999** The park advocacy group known as the Friends of Knox Mountain Park is formed.
- **2002** The Simpson Trust Fund, in partnership with the City, provides funding to replace the original pavilion, and to construct a washroom building and caretaker's residence.
- **2006** Park expands with the City purchase of the lands around the Kathleen Lake area.
- **2010** Two City-owned parcels east of Grainger Road are dedicated as park by City Council to form Knox Mountain East.

**Flora and Fauna**

Knox Mountain Park contains several representative Okanagan ecosystems as it transitions from lakeshore to mountain top. These include riparian wetland, Ponderosa Pine Bunch Grass, and dry Interior Douglas Firs. These ecosystems are fragile, dry and highly susceptible to erosion and degradation; therefore park visitors are encouraged to stay on designated trails.

Knox Mountain Park is home to Kelowna’s official flower, the Arrowleaf Balsamroot or Okanagan Sunflower (Balsamorhiza sagittata). The bright yellow flowers carpet the south-facing park slopes in late April or early May. First Nations used nearly all parts of this plant for food by steaming the roots and eating the young shoots and seeds.

Commonly encountered wildlife species include mammals such as mule deer, coyotes, marmots, chipmunks and occasionally moose and bear.

Several flora and fauna species which are listed on BC’s rare or endangered species list can be found in the park including:

- **Plants**
  - Richardson’s Penstemon
  - Freckled Milk-vetch
  - Western Yellow-bellied Racer
  - Western Garter Snake
  - Western Rattlesnake

- **Reptiles**
  - Olive-sided Fly Catcher
  - Lewis’ Woodpecker
  - Great Blue Heron
  - Flammulated Owl
  - Swainson’s Hawk
  - Barn Swallow
  - Olive-sided Fly Catcher

- **Mammals**
  - Townsend’s Big-eared Bat
  - American Badger

**Interesting Facts**

- **Knox Mountain Park including Knox Mountain East is 310 ha (766 acres) in size.**
- **The main body of the park is the largest contiguous Natural Area Park within the City.**
- **The Knox Mountain summit rises 646 m above sea level and approximately 300 m above the level of Okanagan Lake.**
- **The park contains approximately 1365 lineal metres of waterfront most of which has been designated as high to critical Kokanee spawning habitat.**
- **“Levels”, a public art piece by Judson Beaumont, was installed in 1986 approximately 50 m northwest of the lower parking area at the base of the silt bluffs. It was inspired by the popular song “Bridge Over Troubled Water” by Simon and Garfunkel.**
- **If park visitors look closely they will see that Paul’s Tomb still exists. All but the very crest of the tomb has been concealed with earthen fill.**
- **Kathleen Lake is approximately 2 ha (5 acres) and is fed by underground and overland runoff. It provides critical nesting and foraging habitat for many invertebrates and mammals.**

**Park Etiquette**

To reduce conflict, all official trails have been designated for specific user groups. Bikes are permitted only on trails designated for biking or shared use. Hikers are permitted only on trails designated for hiking or shared use. (See park map on reverse.)

Park users must stay on designated trails. Unsanctioned trails contribute to the overall degradation from which the park is slow to recover.

**Trail Etiquette:**

- **Heavy Rain = Don’t Ride or Hike – refrain from using until the trails dry out.**
- **Stay on designated trails - don’t go around water bars, stairs or other structures as they help stabilize trails and minimize erosion.**
- **Cycle only on designated single use biking trails or shared use trails. Hike only on designated hiking trails or shared use trails.**
- **Enter the park only from sanctioned access points.**
- **Cyclists yield to hikers and dismount when approaching groups.**
- **Respect the environment.**
- **Ride...don’t slide – control your bicycle to avoid eroding trails.**
- **Don’t make new trails or technical trail features – it degrades the park and is prohibited.**
- **Take only photographs leave only footprints.**
- **Cyclists on road must obey posted speed limit.**

**Dog Etiquette:**

**On-leash:**

- **Pick up after your dog.**
- **Keep your dog under control at all times.**
- **Keep your dog on a leash of two metres or less in length.**
- **Stay on designated trails.**

**Off-leash Dog Park:**

- **Pick up after your dog.**
- **Keep your dogs under control at all times.**
- **Remove your dog at the first sign of aggression.**
- **Make sure your dog wears a current dog license.**
- **Keep sick dogs at home.**
- **Keep dogs on-leash when entering and exiting the dog park.**
- **Keep leash length to a maximum of 2 m.**
- **Maximum of two dogs per handler.**

**Dogs**

Dogs are permitted in Knox Mountain Park if they are on-leash, on trail and have a current dog license. The only exception is the designated off-leash dog park south of Knox Mountain Drive.

Keeping dogs on-leash and on trails helps to avoid injury to wildlife, impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and damage to Kokanee spawning habitat. It also helps to protect public health and safety.