

2017 Regional Parks Workshop Post-Event Summary

General Event Details

Date and Location

September 21 and 22, 2017 (Thursday and Friday)

Four Points by Sheraton, Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park, Mill Creek Regional Park, and Sunset Ranch Golf Course Clubhouse.

Event Planning Team

Murray Kopp, Sandy Mah, Keegan Mabbutt, Cathy MacKenzie, Kelly Penner, Wayne Darlington, Brad Ackerman

Background

For the last ten years, Parks Departments from various Regional Districts in British Columbia have rotated the responsibility of organizing a workshop/networking event on a yearly basis in conjunction with the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) symposium.

The intent of these yearly events is to provide an opportunity for members of the Regional Parks sector to get together to share ideas and experiences, and take part in various regional parks' focused educational sessions and field tours.

In previous years, the workshop was held immediately before or following the BCRPA symposium; however, after discussions following the 2016 workshop, it was decided to hold the 2017 workshop as a standalone event in the fall.

*Indigenous
Voices
in Parks*

Collaborate

Connect

Conserve

Lead



Theme

Mirroring the Canadian Parks Council's draft document "*Parks For All – An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community*", the 2017 Regional Parks Workshop was built around five central themes: **Indigenous Voices in Parks, Collaborate, Connect, Conserve, and Lead**. Educational sessions and field tours reflected one or more of each of these themes.

Registration

Invitations

An invitation and registration package was emailed mid-August to the following Regional District's Parks Departments:

Alberni-Clayoquot, Bulkley-Nechako, Capital Cariboo, Central Kootenay, Central Okanagan, Columbia Shuswap, Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley, Fraser Valley, Kootenay Boundary, Metro Vancouver, Mount Waddington, Nanaimo, North Okanagan, Northern Rockies, Okanagan Similkameen, Peace River, Squamish-Lillooet, Strathcona, Sunshine Coast, and Thompson Nicola. (No contact info: Powell River, Skeena-Queen Charlotte)

Registration

Registration and payment was done through Parks Services' Visitor Services section using their booking software, Class. Registrants emailed eeeco@cord.bc.ca with their registration and contact details and the Booking Clerk contacted them to arrange online payment.

A total of **21** individuals from nine Regional Districts registered for the 2017 Regional Parks Workshop.

The majority of the workshop was held in the Meritage C/D meeting room at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel located at 5505 Airport Way in Kelowna, BC. Forty hotel rooms were blocked-off and set aside at a group rate of \$149 for a standard, traditional guestroom. Four Points also set up a dedicated hotel website that was available from August 18th until September 1, 2017 for registrants to make online hotel reservations (at their cost).

Workshop Fees

Workshop registration fee was **\$262.50/person** and included breakfasts, lunches, dinner on Thursday, bus transportation, and all educational sessions. **Total revenue was \$5,512.50.**

Event Agenda

Thursday, September 21, 2017 / 7:30am - 8:00pm

Four Points by Sheraton | Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park | Sunset Ranch Golf Club

7:30am – 8:30am	Registration and Breakfast Buffet
8:30am – 9:00am	Welcome and Traditional First Nations Dance
9:00am – 10:30am	Educational Session #1 – Theme: Collaborate
10:30am – 10:45am	Break
10:45am – 12:15pm	Educational Session #2 – Theme: Connect
12:15pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Buffet
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Educational Session #3 – Theme: Conserve
2:30pm – 2:50pm	Break / Free time
2:50pm – 3:30pm	Shuttle to Black Mountain
3:30pm – 5:30pm	Black Mountain/sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park Announcement
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Shuttle to Sunset Ranch Club House
6:15pm – 6:45pm	Catered Dinner
6:45pm – 7:30pm	Educational Session #4 – Theme: Indigenous Voices in Parks
8:00pm – 8:20pm	Shuttle bus back to Four Points Sheraton

Friday, September 22, 2017 / 8:00am - 3:30pm

Four Points by Sheraton | Mill Creek Regional Park

8:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30am- 10:00am	Educational Session #5 – Theme: Lead
10:00am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 12:45pm	Field Tour – Mill Creek Regional Park
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Buffet
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Educational Session #6 – Theme: Collaborate

Educational Sessions

Session 1: Collaborate

Nature-based Schools and Learning Opportunities in Parks: The Importance of Increasing Children's Outdoor Play

Guest Speakers

Caroline Noga, Executive Director, The Clubhouse Child Care Center

Audrey Hystad, MSc, Clubhouse Farm Manager, The Clubhouse Child Care Center

Dr. Beverlie Dietze, Director of Learning and Teaching, Okanagan College

Session 2: Connect

Ways of Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Culture into the Park Environment

Guest Speakers

Jordan Coble, Cultural and Operations Administrator, Westbank First Nation

Krystal Lezard, Curatorial and Heritage Researcher, Westbank First Nation

Session 3: Conserve

Pathway to Canada Target 1 - Local Government Parks and Other Effective Conservation Measures

Guest Speaker

Dr. Laura Cristine, PhD, 2016-2018 Liber Ero Fellow

Dr. Mike Walton, Senior Manager – Regional Parks, Capital Regional District

Session 4: Indigenous Voices in Parks

The Emergence of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in British Columbia
Guest Speaker

Eli Enns, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, Research Associate, Polis Project on Ecological Governance Center for Global Studies, University of Victoria

Session 5: Lead

The Next 50 Years – Building Resiliency in Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks

Guest Speakers

Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, Regional Parks West Area, Metro Vancouver Reg. District

Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Regional Parks Central Area, Metro Vancouver Regional District

Field Tour

Mill Creek Regional Park – Flood Recovery and Asset Management

Guest Speakers

Brad Ackerman, Manager, Parks & Resource Operations, Regional District of Central Okanagan

Wayne Darlington, Manager, Park Planning/Capital Projects/Visitor Services, Regional District of Central Okanagan

Session 6: Collaborate

Parks & Forest Fires- Fire Prevention Strategies, Visitor Safety and Parks Closures

Guest Speakers

John Cathro, RPF, Cathro Consulting

Mark Weston, Parks and Protected Areas Section Head, Okanagan, BC Parks

Travis Whiting, Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department



Budget

<i>Item</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Total</i>
Transportation	A1 Bus Ltd.	1,076.25
Venue and Meals	Four Points By Sheraton	3,538.08
Dinner and Presentation	Sunset Ranch Golf Course	505.91
Swag - Gifts	EECO & Safeway	39.12
Speaker Expenses	Various	2,386.52
Admin Supplies /Snacks	Staples and Nesters	53.60
Grand Total		\$7,599.48

Revenue from Workshop Fee \$262.50 x 21 participants = \$5,512.50

Note: Grand Total includes all expenses – including the cost to provide meals for several speakers and various Regional Park staff members that attended the workshop. The total cost of the workshop without included additional staff/speaker meals is **\$5,998.92**.



What Worked / What Didn't

What Worked Well

- **Venue** – The Four Points by Sheraton was situated just across the street from Kelowna International Airport. This worked well as there were several participants and speakers who were flying into Kelowna. In addition, the hotel offered 24/7 shuttle services included in the cost of accommodation. It was also nice for participants of the workshop to be staying in the same location as where the workshop took place. The hotel was able to take care of all meeting needs such as meeting room, projector, screen, speakers, tables, chairs, etc
- **Meals** – Overall, the meals were good and used fresh, quality ingredients. We included two breakfasts, two lunches, and one dinner in the cost of the workshop. Both meal providers (Sunset Ranch GC and Four Points by Sheraton) were able to provide gluten-free and vegetarian dishes on request.
- **Transportation** - A1Bus offered a nice, 24-seat bus at a lower cost in comparison to other larger bus companies. A 24-seat bus accommodated all of the registrants and a couple staff members. Additional staff used RDCO vehicles for transport.
- **Theme** – Building the event around the themes: **Indigenous Voices in Parks, Collaborate, Connect, Conserve, and Lead** gave direction when finding speakers and helped tie the event together so it was presented in a cohesive manner.
- **Speakers** – We allotted 1.5 hours of speaking time for each educational session – Most presenters used approximately 45 minutes for their presentation followed by 45 minutes for a Question & Answer period. The Q&A period was very beneficial as it allowed for continued dialogue and the sharing of experiences among the various parks sectors.
- **Workshop Format** – Combining educational sessions with field tours worked well in the past and for this workshop. The logistics of transporting the participants and locations of the field tour sites will determine the number of sessions and field tours per day or if an entire day would of field tours works better.
- **Field Tours** – We included two field tours. The first was a Parkland Acquisition Announcement at the top of Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park followed by dinner at Sunset Ranch Golf Course and a presentation by Eli Enns, co-founder of the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park in Clayoquot Sound. The second was a tour on day two of Mill Creek Regional Park. This park was significantly damaged in the spring's flooding event and Parks' managers – Brad and Wayne – led the tour and presented on the challenges of this crisis and opportunities for moving forward in the aftermath. The field tours were a great way to get outdoors, break-up the indoor/meeting setting, and experience the regional parks firsthand.
- **Registration** – The Class booking system worked well for registration and payment. By having the registration booked through the Regional District instead of through the BCRPA, there were no administrative fees to be paid to the BCRPA. This also helped in keeping the registration fee per person low. The BCRPA and staff were very helpful and

had set up a workshop link on the BCRPA website to get the information out to their membership. BCRPA Contact: Janet Rerecich, Programs and Initiatives Manager, at jrerecich@bcrpa.bc.ca

- **Snacks** – Additional snacks (fruit and granola bars) were purchases at the last minute to bring on the field tour – this was a nice addition and workshop participants appreciated a snack between meals.

What We Would Do Differently Next Time

- **Meals** – Breakfast was a selection of muffins, pastries, fruit, and smoothies – this was not filling and was too ‘carb-heavy’ to be sustaining until the next meal. It would have been better to pick a menu that included some proteins such as eggs, bacon, or sausage. OR consider not including breakfast (in favour of participants taking care of their own breakfast prior to arriving in the morning) and providing a muffin/coffee break mid-morning instead.
- **Agenda** – Day 1 was a very long day beginning at 7:30am and ending at 8:00pm. It was scheduled this way because we were piggy-backing off of another event that was taking place – Parkland Acquisition Announcement – which was a great addition to the workshop; however, it made for a very long day for workshop participants.
- **Speaker Agreements** – not used for this workshop but would be advantageous to use for next one. Agreement form saved in 2014 Pre-Symposium workshop folder – helps to secure commitment from speaker, clarify payment, and outline expectations and equipment requirements.
- **Workshop Dates** – Consideration should be given to the timing of the workshop and availability of speakers to attend. Several potential session speakers/professors were not available due to teaching and scheduling conflicts with the start of university/college classes in September.
- **Workshop Planning** – Start as early as possible in the planning process to get session speakers lined up, workshop program development, contact lists for regional districts staff, registration setup, arrangements for group rate hotel accommodations and secure venue bookings.

Comments from Workshop Participants

“Also please pass on my thanks to you and your team for an amazing and timely workshop. You have a great crew setting an amazing bar for others to emulate”. ~ Tom Osborne, RDN

“This was the best conference I have ever attended” ~ Dr. Laura Coristine

“Thank you for putting on such a wonderful conference, the speakers and topics were outstanding” ~Metro Vancouver staff

“Fantastic job – well done and I thoroughly enjoyed myself” ~Dr. Mike Walton