Regional District of Central Kootenay

NELSON, SALMO, E, F, AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION

Open Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Time: 9:00 am

Location: RDCK Board Room, 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. **ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO**

   To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

   Meeting Time:

   9:00 am PST

   10:00 am MST

   Join by Video:

   https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/94689831356?pwd=Zp1UfnY6wVRO9Zk4fVci6iheDw1mCv.1

   Join by Phone:

   1 833 958 1164 Canada Toll-free

   *6 to unmute or mute
   *9 to raise or lower your hand

   Meeting ID: 946 8983 1356
   Meeting Password: 672792

   In-Person Location: RDCK Head Office - Board Room: 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

   Chair [Name] called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m./p.m.

3. ORIENTATIONS

3.1 Commission and Committee Orientation 5 - 14

3.2 Nelson, Salmo, E, F, G Parks Commission Overview 15 - 24

4. ELECTION

4.1 Call for Nominations (3 Times)

[Director/Member] [Last Name] nominated [Director/Member] [Last Name].

[Director/Member] [Last Name] nominated [Director/Member] [Last Name].

[Director/Member] [Last Name] nominated [Director/Member] [Last Name].

4.2 Opportunity for Candidates to Address the Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission

Two minutes per address

4.3 Vote by Secret Ballot (Will Include Electronic Voting - RDCK Procedure Bylaw No. 2898, 2024)

4.4 Destroy Ballots

RECOMMENDATION:

That the email votes used in the elections of the November 25, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be destroyed.

5. CHAIRS' ADDRESS

6. COMMENCEMENT OF REGULAR NELSON, SALMO, E, F and G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION

6.1 TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

6.2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

The Agenda for the November 25, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

6.3 RECEIPT OF MINUTES 25 - 28

The September 9, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes, have been received.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 S202 2027 DRAFT Financial Plan

29 - 31

The Commission Report dated November 25, 2026 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager of Operations and Asset Management, re: S202 2027 DRAFT Financial Plan, has been received.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2027 Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission Meeting Schedule

RECOMMENDATION:
That the 2027 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting dates be set as follows:

- January 13;
- March 24;
- April 21;
- June 9;
- July 28;
- September 8;
- November 10;

And that the meetings be held at 9:00 am (PDT)

9. CORRESPONDENCE

32 - 62

the document dated October 29, 2027 from Joanne Siderius, Ph.D from the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre giving an activity report on programs offered through the region, has been received.

10. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at _____ a.m./p.m.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2027 at 9:00 am.

12. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION:
The Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned

at [Time].

RDCK Commissions/Committees

General Orientation

Presented by: Mike Morrison,
Senior Manager of Corporate Administration & Corporate Officer

Outline

1. Governance Overview
2. Roles and Responsibilities
3. Closed Meetings
4. Recommendations
5. Meeting Resources

Governance



Commissions /Committees are governed by:

- ***Local Government Act (LGA)/Community Charter (CC)***
  - Legislation enables authority to be delegated by the Board to subordinate bodies

- ***Governance Bylaws for each committee or commission***
  - Delegates authority and scope of committee or commission,
  - Defines membership
  - Meeting requirements
  - New template – defines what Commission **cannot** do

- **Other Bylaws Relevant to commission Business**
  - Service Establishment – establish maximum taxation, define service boundary
  - Regulatory Bylaws – to regulate services overseen by each Commission (e.g Parks)
  - RDCK Procedure Bylaw- applies to Commissions, reference to Roberts Rules of Order

- ***Important Policies***
  - 100-01-18 Receiving Delegations at Board Meetings
  - 100-03-08 Letters of Support

RDCK Governance Framework

- Board has sole authority for decision making unless that authority is delegated
- Purpose of delegated governance bodies is to enable detailed discussions and recommendations from service participant stakeholders regarding RDCK business
- 26 active commissions (e.g. Parks, Recreation, Water, Economic Development, Advisory Planning and Heritage)
- 17 committees of the Board - most consider service-related matters (e.g. Resource Recovery, Sustainability, Water Services)
- 15 Advisory committees- mostly related to RDCK water systems
- Not all committees and commissions are active or meet quorum



Sub-Regional Governance Committees

- Currently enabled in Slocan Valley, Kaslo and Area D, and Creston Valley
- RDCK Board has directed staff to investigate expanding this governance model in Nelson, Castlegar and Nakusp
- Opportunity for streamlining governance:
    - a single forum for discussion of sub-regional issues
    - Sub-regional governance committees may augment or replace existing committees and commissions
    - Advisory Committees enabled to ensure community input
- Overview and roadmap to be presented to Board in quarter two (Q2) 2027

Roles and Responsibilities



Corporate Administration:

- Corporate standards and processes
- Advise on In Camera eligibility
- Legislative and procedural rule interpretation
- Board agendas
- Tracking systems.

Managers:

- Primary meeting support and technical expertise
- Coordinate staff subject matter experts or external resources to support Commission discussions
- Understand and interpret RDCK guidelines, policy and standards

Committee/Commission Chair:

- agenda review and approval
- keeping order at meetings
- minutes review and approval

Meeting Coordinator:

- Coordinate agenda items and prepare agendas for approval
- Coordinate delegations
- Ensure accurate minutes are recorded stored appropriately, and moved along to the Board agenda
- The ‘information hub ’ that holds it all together

Closed Meetings (aka In Camera)



- A closed meeting deprives the public of the right to see and hear the debate about RDCK business, and therefore should only occur where it is truly required and permissible
- A meeting can only be closed to the public if the subject matter realistically relates to one or more of the 21 sections listed in Community Charter Section 90
- CAO, Corporate Officer, or Deputy Corporate Officer must approve the CC 90 grounds for a scheduled closed meeting
- Only committees and commissions comprised solely of elected officials are permitted to hold closed meetings
- A commission or committee holding a closed meeting must have a RDCK manager present.
- Commission and committees cannot move their closed meeting items to open session. Only the RDCK Board can do that.
- Restrictions on other people attending meeting (CC 91) and sharing closed meeting information with municipal councils (Procedures Bylaw 16 (11))

Recommendations

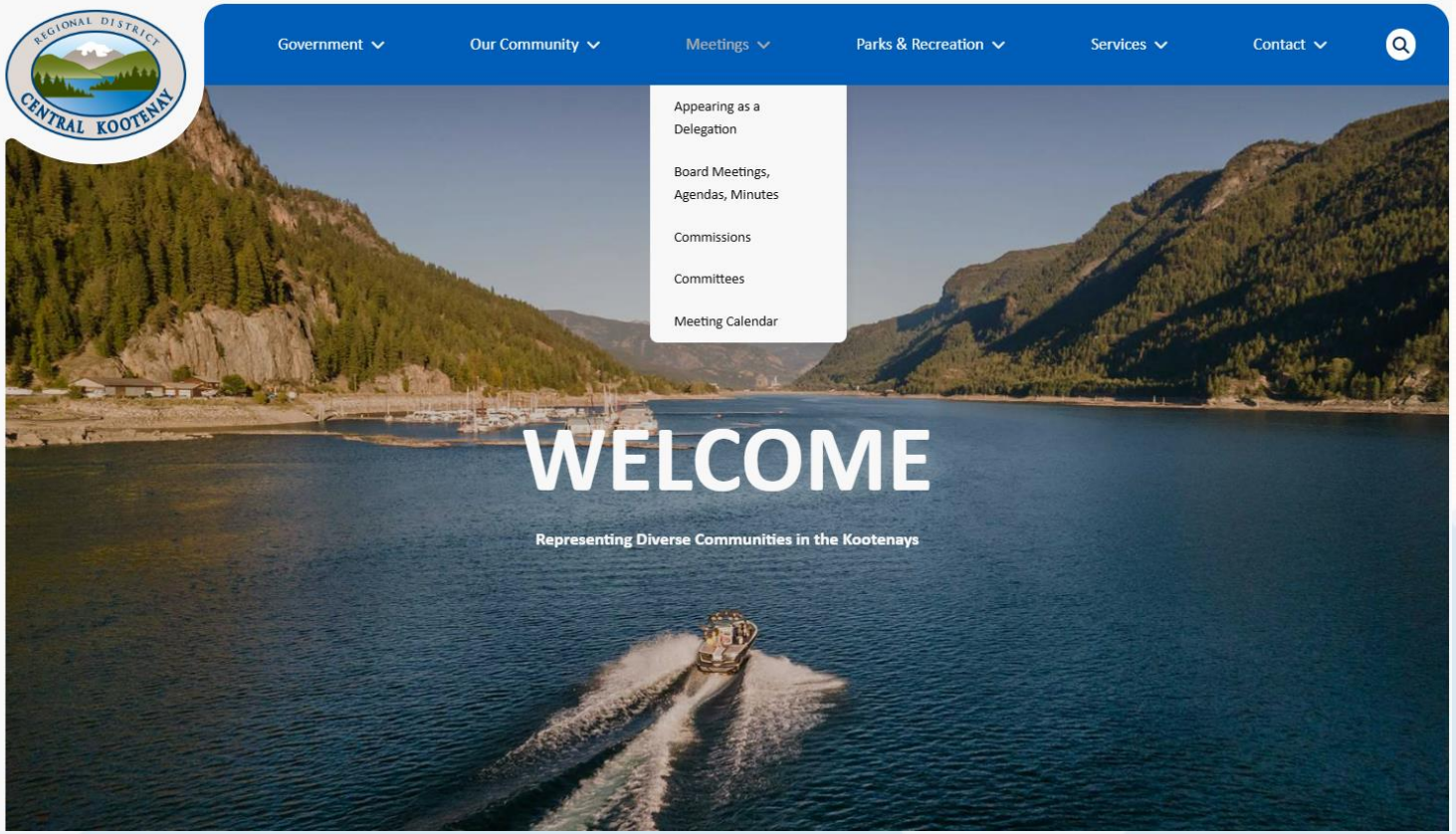
What goes to the Board?



- Financial Plan recommendations
- Amendments to the **adopted** Financial Plan
- Operation Hours Eg: Resource Recovery or Recreation
- Bylaws
- Policies
- Appointments to Commissions or Committees
- Feasibility Studies
- Service Case Analysis
- Alternative Approval Process/Assent Voting/Petitions
- Contracts and Agreements
- Documents that are legally binding
- Award of a project
- Acquisition or disposition of land
- Grant awards
- Borrowing
- Planning applications and exemptions
- Building Bylaw Contraventions
- Additions to work plans
- Stipend and expenses
- Letters of Support – **refer to policy**

RDCK Website

Commissions and Committees



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RDCK Website

Commissions and Committees

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Area A Economic Development Commission
- Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission
- New Denver, Silverton, Slocan & Area H Economic Development Commission

PARKS

- Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Park Commission
- Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission
- Sunshine Bay Regional Park Commission
- Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission

RECREATION

- Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K & Village of Nakusp

RDCK COMMITTEES

- Joint Resource Recovery Committee
- Central Resource Recovery Committee
- East Resource Recovery Committee
- West Resource Recovery Committee
- Water Services Committee
- Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee
- Local Conservation Fund Committee
- Rural Mobility Community Advisory Committee
- Emergency Program Executive Committee
- All Recreation Committee

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Nelson, Salmo, Area E, F, G Parks Commission

Overview

Presented by: Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services
Date: November 25, 2026

Agenda

1. **Meet the Team**
2. **About the Commission**
   Purpose, Bylaws and Delegations
3. **2026 Budget Overview**
   Revenue vs Expenses
4. **Current Projects**

Meet the Team

Meet the staff who will attend Commission meetings to present project updates, share information and provide reports on their areas of responsibility.



Cary Gaynor
Regional Parks Manager



Craig Stanley
Regional Manager - Operations & Asset Management



Trisha Davison
General Manager of Community Services



Kristi Calder
Regional Manager - Recreation & Client Services



Mark Crowe
Parks Planner

Who to Contact

Commission members are asked to direct inquiries, requests and follow-up to the staff contacts listed on the right. This helps ensure communication is coordinated and the appropriate General Manager or Regional Manager is aware and involved as needed.

Trisha Davison
General Manager of Community Services

- Governance matters, staffing issues or concerns, in-camera items, policy inquiries, connection to RDCK administration

778.460.5238 tdavison@rdck.bc.ca

Craig Stanley
Regional Manager of Operations & Asset Management

- Operational matters or concerns related to maintenance, facility closures, infrastructure, or asset management for all recreation facilities and parks

236.532.2030 cstanley@rdck.bc.ca

Kristi Calder
Regional Manager of Recreation & Client Services

- Customer Service, programming, planning, client relations related to contracts, user groups, and partnerships

250.354.8972 kcalder@rdck.bc.ca

About the Commission

The Commission provides governance oversight for the regional parks and recreation services delivered through *Service 202 – Regional Parks – Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F and G*.

Service 202

- Bylaw No. 2329, 2013
- The service includes 11 regional parks within the boundaries of Nelson, Salmo and Electoral Areas E, F and G.
- This service, is responsible for:
  - Park operations and maintenance
  - Capital works and improvements
  - Land acquisition for regional parks
  - Park development and design plans



About the Commission Cont.

Commission Details

- **Representatives:** limited to the RDCK Directors for the City of Nelson, the Village of Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F, and G.
- **Quorum:** Majority of all appointed members
- **Voting:** Each member has one vote.
- **Meetings:** Occur approximately every two months.
- **Delegations:** At the approval of the Chair, no more than two per meeting.
- **Recommendations:** Make recommendations to the Board for consideration

RDCK Area Directors

- Landon Veregin - Area E
- Tom Newell - Area F
- Anna Bundschuh - Area G

City of Nelson

- Keith Page - Councillor

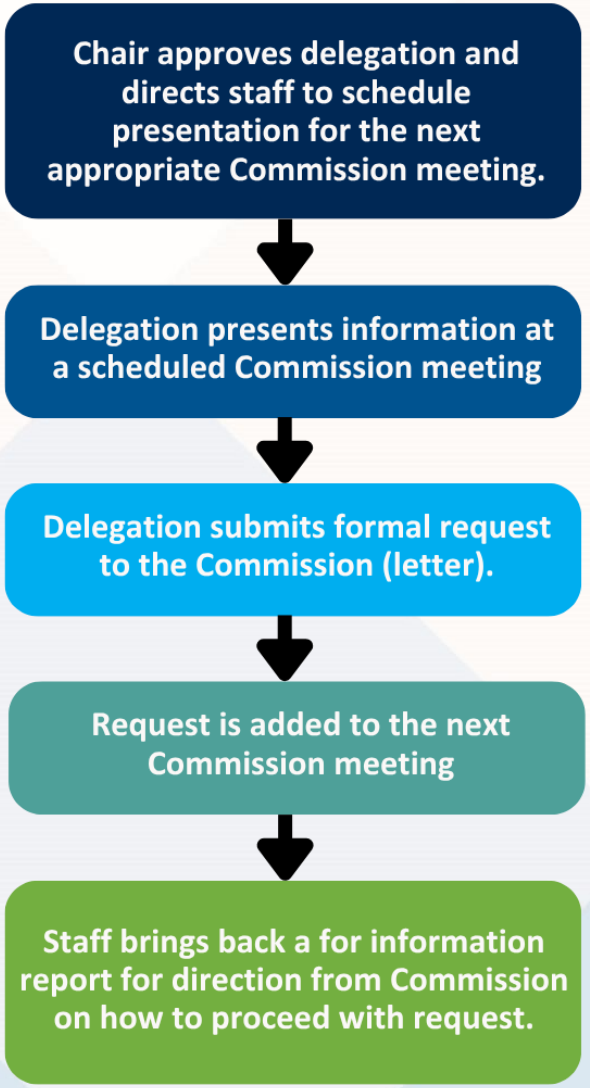
Village of Salmo

- Payton McKellar - Mayor

Delegations

Delegations provide an opportunity for the Commission to connect with community groups and organizations delivering services related to the purpose of the Commission.

- Aligned with the RDCK Delegation Procedures Bylaw and Policy
- At the discretion of the Chair, up to two(2) delegations can be approved for each meeting
- No decisions are made at the time of the delegation
- If there is an "ask" of the Commission by the Delegation, it must be received in writing to be considered.
- At the following Commission meeting, the "ask" will be brought forward as an agenda item with a staff information report asking if:
    - The commission wishes to direct staff to take action on the "ask"; or,
    - Receive the report as information and take no further action.



2026 High Level Budget Overview

A high-level overview of the budget, outlining projected revenues and expenses.

Revenue Summary

Requisition $1,193,962	**Grants** $90,000
Rentals $2000	**Community Works Funds*** $100,000
Reserve Interest $13,000	**Prior Year Surplus** $365,000

*Community Works Funds are for Taghum Beach

Expense Summary

Salaries $74,855	**Insurance** $10,969
Contracted Services $149,500	**Consulting** $105,000
Repairs & Maintenance $107,500	**Equipment & Supplies** $27,500
Grants $462,890	**Capital** $305,000
Transfer to Other RDCK Departments $317,035	

Current Projects & Objectives

A list of current projects and objectives to provide Commission with an overview of the work currently underway and key areas of focus.

1. Columbia Basin Trust Funding
   Improving accessibility in parks
2. Stewardship agreements
3. Partnerships/User agreements
4. Event facilitation and support
5. Prioritization of projects, initiatives with available resources
6. Incorporating the PTWAS* into administrative processes

*Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy


Questions?
Together we connect, play & thrive.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

NELSON, SALMO, AREAS E, F AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES

9:00 a.m.
September 9, 2026

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner K. Page	City of Nelson
Commissioner D. Lockwood	Village of Salmo
Commissioner C. Graham	Area E
Commissioner T. Newell	Area F

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner H. Cunningham	Area G

STAFF

Craig Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
Cary Gaynor	Regional Parks Manager
Mark Crowe	Regional Parks Planner
Alana Jenkins	Meeting Coordinator

4 out of 5 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Page called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT
We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the September 9, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The July 22, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATE

There are no Delegates scheduled for this Commission meeting.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Blewett Community Society Delegation Follow Up

The Commission Report dated July 22, 2026 from from Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services, re: Blewett Community Society Delegation Follow Up, has been received.

Key discussion items included:

- The expected timeline and contents of a potential staff review.
- Potential conflicts related to different users preferred use of the space.
- Asset management planning and analysis.

STAFF DIRECTION: The Commission directs staff to undertake a preliminary review of the Blewett Community Society proposal regarding the Morning Mountain rink site and report back to the Commission with analysis and options for consideration at a future meeting.

6.2 TAWKROC – CIC Bluffs Request

The Commission Report dated September 9, 2026 from Mark Crowe, Regional Park Planner, re: The Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers - CIC Bluffs Request, has been received.

Key discussion items included:

- Staff are continuing to work toward an agreement with the Association.
- A letter of support was received from the Kootenay Climbing Association.
- A review of the maps included in the report.
- The history of the acquisition and designation of the property.
- Considerations for staff to include in the agreement.

6.3 Nelson Cycling Club – Morning Mountain Project

The Commission Report dated September 9, 2026 from Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services, re: Nelson Cycling Club - Morning Mountain Project: Community Works Funding Ineligibility Determination has been received.

Key Discussion items included:

- Efforts to clarify the eligibility requirements for Community Works funding.
- How to prevent this situation from occurring again.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

THAT the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan from the Nelson, Salmo and Electoral Areas E, F and G Recreation Commission S202 to increase Grants by $5,719.20 and increase transfer from reserves by $5,719.20 for a grant to the Nelson Cycling Club; and,

THAT the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan from the Nelson, Salmo and Electoral Areas E, F and G Recreation Commission S202 to increase Transfer to Other Service by $8,578.80 and increase transfer from reserves by $8,578.80 to repay Community Works Funds for the Nelson Cycling Club project.

Carried

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Morning Mountain Skating Rink Letter of Support

The e-mail dated August 24, 2026 from Erin Raqqett re: Morning Mountain Skating Rink Letter of Support has been received.

7.2 Morning Mountain Skating Rink Letter of Support

The e-mail dated August 24, 2026 from Shannon Lythgoe re: Morning Mountain Skating Rink Letter of Support has been received.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Nelson Nordic Ski Club Project

Craig Stanley, Regional Manager of Operations & Asset Management to provide the Commission with a verbal update, re: Nelson Nordic Ski Club Project.

Key discussion points included:

- A service agreement has been created.
- Staff has worked with the Nelson Nordic Ski Club and MOTT to coordinate permissions, and the requested improvements are starting next week.

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 9:45 a.m.
No questions received.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,

AND Resolved:

The Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Carried

Digitally Approved

K. Page, Chair

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. *THAT the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan from the Nelson, Salmo and Electoral Areas E, F and G Recreation Commission S202 to increase Grants by $5,719.20 and increase transfer from reserves by $5,719.20 for a grant to the Nelson Cycling Club; and,*

   THAT the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan from the Nelson, Salmo and Electoral Areas E, F and G Recreation Commission S202 to increase Transfer to Other Service by $8,578.80 and increase transfer from reserves by $8,578.80 to repay Community Works Funds for the Nelson Cycling Club project.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS APPROPRIATE MEETING AS STATED.

Future Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission Meetings

1. *The Commission directs staff to undertake a preliminary review of the Blewett Community Society proposal regarding the Morning Mountain rink site and report back to the Commission with analysis and options for consideration at a future meeting.*

Commission Report – For Information

November 25, 2026

Service S202 2027 Draft Financial Plan

Author:	Craig Stanley – Regional Manager, Operations and Asset Management
File Reference:	
Electoral Area/Municipality:	City of Nelson, Village of Salmo, Areas E, F, G
Services Impacted	Service S202 Regional Parks, Nelson, Salmo E,F,G

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides a high-level explanation of the 2027 Draft Financial Plan for Service S202.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UDPATE

Attachment A shows the 2027 Draft Financial Plan for Service S202. This plan is in development and will depend on year-end actuals for revenue and expenses prior to finalizing in early 2027. This budget will support the ongoing delivery of services comparable to 2026 – there will be no change to service levels. Financial drivers for 2027 include:

- CPI calculated to be 2.2%
- Conservative revenue estimates
- Surplus estimated to be $340,000
- Large grant funding from CBT for parks projects
- Expenses increase close to CPI with some market adjustments
- Contracted services increase due to market factors
- Capital plan in development $491,000

The draft financial plan by highlighted accounts is described in more detail below:

41010 Requisitions - $1,276,615 – this is the amount from the 2026 five-year plan. This is currently held as is and may be revised in future drafts.

43025 Grants Specified $265,000 – from CBT for parks projects.

49100 Prior Year Surplus - $340,000 this includes a carryforward from accumulated operating surplus from 2026 of $79,761.

51010 Salaries- $67,733 this is 2.2% higher than in 2026.

54030 Contracted Services - $174,000 this is $24,500 more than in 2026 due a long-term service contract coming to an end and staff anticipating that new procurement will result higher market valuation of the services.

54040 Consulting Fees - $95,000 – this includes $70,000 for a management plan for the Great Northern Trail and $25,000 carried forward from previous years for access to water funds.

57010 Grants - $446,489 this is lower than in 2026 due to the Nelson Cycling Club one time $20,000 additional contribution in 2026. A summary of the grants is shown below:

City of Nelson (+ 2.5% from 2025)	$	409,805.61
Nelson Cycling Club	$	20,000.00
Kokanee info centre	$	10,000.00
KP Park Salmo (+ 2.5% from 2025)	$	4,684.31
Ymir Park	$	2,000.00
	$	446,489.93

59000 Contribution to Reserves - $145,740 this is to build reserves for future needs including capital assets and parks planning projects.

60000 – Capital Expenditures $491,000 as shown below:

PRK- CLRP - TCT Accessibility Project	95,000.00
PRK-TAG Beach Parking Lot Redesign and Construction	81,000.00
PRK-Rosebud Lake Dam - Required Upgrades & Reporting	50,000.00
PRK - Balfour Beach Regional Park - Trail Surfacing	40,000.00
PRK - Bonnington Regional Park - Playground Replacement	110,000.00
PRK - Cottonwood Lake Regional Park - Trail Improvements	50,000.00
PRK - James Johnstone Regional Park - Washrooms	50,000.00
PRK - Sunshine Bay Regional Park - Trail Enhancement	15,000.00
	491,000.00

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

Staff will amend this draft budget based on feedback from the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Stanley, Regional Manager Operations and Asset Management

CONCURRENCE

Regional Manager – Recreation and Client Services – Kristi Calder
General Manager Community Services – Trisha Davison
General Manager Finance, IT, and Economic Development – Yev Malloff

Attachment A – S226 2027 Draft Financial Plan

Attachment A - S202 2027 Draft Financial Plan

Service	Account	Account (T)	2026 Budget	2027 Budget
S202	41010	Requisitions	-1,193,962.00	-1,276,615.00
S202	41020	Grants in lieu of Taxes	-10,000.00	-10,230.00
S202	42040	Rental Income	0.00	0.00
S202	42045	Rental Income - Specified	-2,000.00	-2,546.00
S202	43020	Grants	-40,000.00	-40,000.00
S202	43025	Grants - Specified	-50,000.00	-265,000.00
S202	43035	Community Works Grants - Specified	-100,000.00	-50,000.00
S202	44020	Investment Income & Interest	-13,000.00	-13,000.00
S202	45000	Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00
S202	45500	Transfer from Other Service	0.00	0.00
S202	49100	Prior Year Surplus	-365,000.00	-340,000.00
S202	51010	Salaries	66,250.00	67,773.00
S202	51020	Overtime	0.00	1,000.00
S202	51030	Benefits	8,605.50	8,825.81
S202	51050	Employee Health & Safety	0.00	0.00
S202	52010	Travel	0.00	0.00
S202	53020	Admin, Office Supplies & Postage	200.00	204.60
S202	53040	Advertising	500.00	511.50
S202	53050	Insurance	10,969.00	11,248.07
S202	53080	Licence & Permits	850.00	700.00
S202	54030	Contracted Services	149,500.00	174,000.00
S202	54040	Consulting Fees	105,000.00	95,000.00
S202	55010	Repairs & Maintenance	107,500.00	84,000.00
S202	55020	Operating Supplies	15,505.28	13,369.81
S202	55030	Equipment	12,000.00	12,000.00
S202	55040	Utilities	3,200.00	3,200.00
S202	55050	Vehicles	1,200.00	1,200.00
S202	55060	Rentals	1,750.00	1,000.00
S202	56010	Debenture Interest	8,902.00	8,902.00
S202	56020	Debenture Principal	23,064.00	23,064.00
S202	57010	Grants	457,171.00	446,489.93
S202	59000	Contribution to Reserve	100,000.00	145,740.00
S202	59100	Accumulated Operating Surplus	79,761.00	79,761.00
S202	59500	Transfer to Other Service	0.00	0.00
S202	59510	Transfer to Other Service - General Admin. Fee	25,917.00	22,515.00
S202	59520	Transfer to Other Service - IT Fee	3,475.00	0.00
S202	59530	Transfer to Other Service - Community Services Fee	0.00	0.00
S202	59704	Transfer to Park Services - A104	210,111.00	223,253.00
S202	59709	Transfer to Community Services - A109	70,581.00	73,887.00
S202	59712	Transfer to Project Management - A112	0.00	0.00
S202	59722	Transfer to Asset Management - A122	6,950.00	8,747.00
S202	60000	Capital Expenditures	305,000.00	491,000.00
S202			-0.22	0.71
			-0.22	0.71



Kokanee Creek Nature Centre
2026 Activity Report

J. A. Siderius, Ph.D.

October 29, 2026.

KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

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Summary

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre is operated by the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society, a non-profit that strives to offer professional outdoor education to park visitors and the surrounding communities. We were open from May 17 to September 27 in 2026. We hired eight staff: a Centre Coordinator/naturalist, a Head Naturalist, a Senior Naturalist, two Junior Naturalists and three baristas (Bearistas!) and Visitor Services staff. A WKTEP student (West Kootenay Teachers Environmental Program) spent two weeks as a naturalist with us.

This year, 2026, was the 50th anniversary of outdoor education at the Nature Centre. We took every opportunity to celebrate: making a video of the history of the Nature Centre (50th Anniversary Video), enjoying the music of The Joni Project at their benefit concert for the Centre (July 4, 250 visitors) and sharing birthday cake and playing games on our anniversary (July 1,162 visitors) (our original opening day) and at Parks Day (July 18,167 visitors).

Overall, we welcomed an estimated 34,300 visitors to the sixteen outdoor education programs offered. In addition, the Channel Guardian program recorded an estimated 2,1815 visits to the spawning channel and the Kokanee Salmon School Programs delivered programs to about 1,412 kids and adults. Program highlights include: offering Jerry's Rangers to over 1,400 kids and their families; hosting an estimated 1,100 visitors to evening naturalist talks; and hosting a summer speaker series featuring sixteen guest speakers speaking to over 600 people. Our annual raffle featured a Hellman Kootenay Canoe donated by the Nelson Credit Union and Friends of West Kootenay Parks and a helicopter tour donated by Purcell Helicopters. The raffle raised over $7,000.00 for our outdoor programs.

Storytellers told stories to over 300 visitors and our naturalists led walks that included Early Bird Saturday morning walks, walks to the Busk estate and daily afternoon walks to over 300 visitors.

We collaborated with various organizations including: BC Parks Foundation, BC Fisheries, BC Parks, CKISS, WKTEP, and the Kokanee Salmon School Programs.

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre was honoured by the Sinixt Confederated Tribes with a Truth and Reconciliation award for opening our doors to their stories and facilitating their canoe trips on Kootenay Lake and camping at Kokanee.

Introduction

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre is operated by the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society, a non-profit that strives to offer professional outdoor education to park visitors

and the surrounding communities. We were open from May 17 to September 27, 2026, and hired eight staff: a Centre Coordinator/naturalist, a Head Naturalist, a Senior Naturalist, two Junior Naturalists and four baristas (Bearistas!) and Visitor Services staff.

Overall, we welcomed an estimated 34,300 visitors to the sixteen outdoor education programs offered.

This report gives the details of our activities during the 2026 season.

Visitor Attendance

We recorded 34,300 visits and offered sixteen outdoor education programs. Program highlights include: offering Jerry's Rangers to over 1,400 kids and their families, hosting 1,100 visitors to evening naturalist talks and offering a summer speaker series that featured sixteen guest speakers who spoke to over 600 people. Our annual raffle featured a Hellman Kootenay Canoe donated by the Nelson Credit Union and the Friends of West Kootenay Parks and a helicopter tour donated by Purcell Helicopters that raised over $7,000.00 for our outdoor programs. (figure 1). Program descriptions follow.

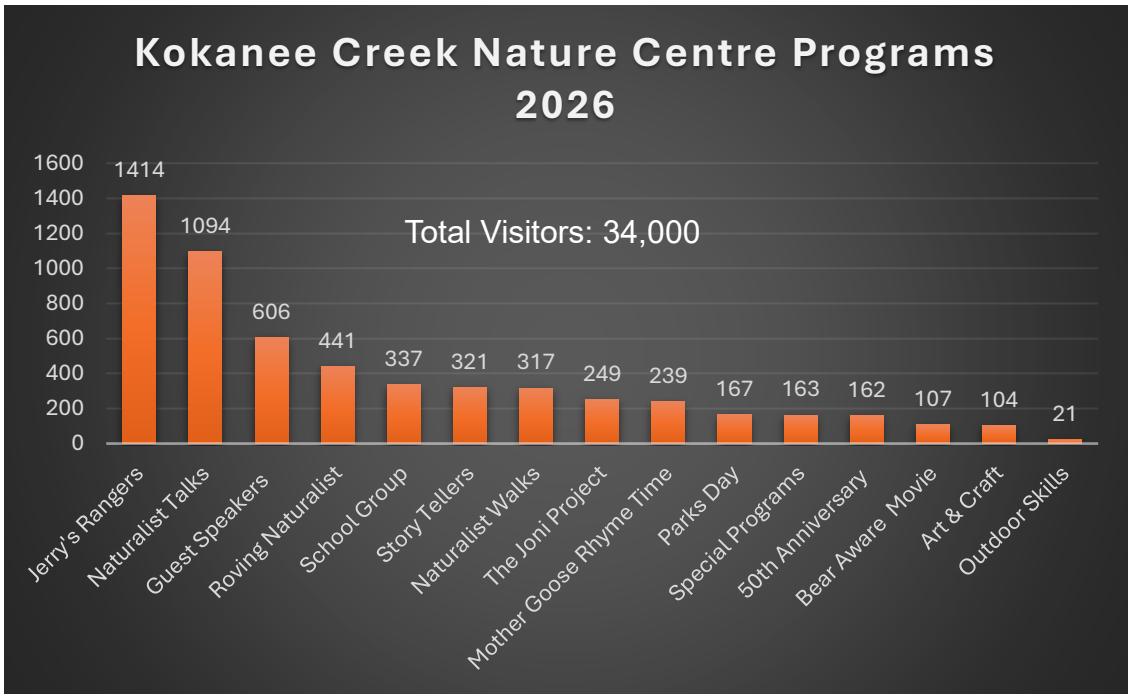

Figure 1 Program Attendance in 2026

KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

Program Descriptions

Jerry's Rangers: Jerry's Rangers is a BC Parks program that offers outdoor activities to 6-to 9-year-olds. They play games, go on walks, and take part in crafts and other outdoor activities (figure 2). Activities included orientation and maps, river dynamics, bugs, trees, beavers and other topics. We are often told how grandparents and parents who took part in Jerry's Ranger programs are bringing their kids and grandkids back to our Jerry's programs.



Figure 2 Jerry's Rangers

Naturalist Talks: Over the season we offered evening naturalist talks in the centre's Suzy Hamilton Theatre. Topics included: "Owls, What a Hoot", "Howdy Neighbour" (wildlife trail cam videos and stories), "Redfish!", "Bears, Bears, Bears", "Kokanee Creek Wildlife Babies", "Kokanee Creek Botany", "Curious Corvids", "Winter…brrrr", "Nature's Engineers", "Bats!", "Sturgeon and Burbot: Creatures of the Deep", "Otters, Cougars

and Coyotes Oh My!" "The Disappearing Amphibians – Ribbet!!", "Ospreys and Eagles" and more.

Guest Speaker Series: During July and August evenings sixteen speakers spoke in the Suzy Hamilton Theatre on topics including Bats, Grizzly Bear Management, Lego Robotics, Cougar Management, Kootenay Geology, "The King of Sandon", Sinixt Archaeology, Butterflies, Fish of Kootenay Lake, Forest Ecology and more! (figure 3). And we owe a big thank you to our guest speakers: E. Khunert, G. Mowat, G. MacHutcheon, A and C Fraser, J Baxter, G. Nesteroff, H. Hammond, C. Zinkan, The Nelson Nerds, CKISS, J. Arndt, J. Inglis, The Friends of Kootenay Lake, B. Brown, R. Lacombe, and J. Dulisse. Our speaker series has become a favourite with the local community who look forward to spending an interesting evening in their neighbourhood.

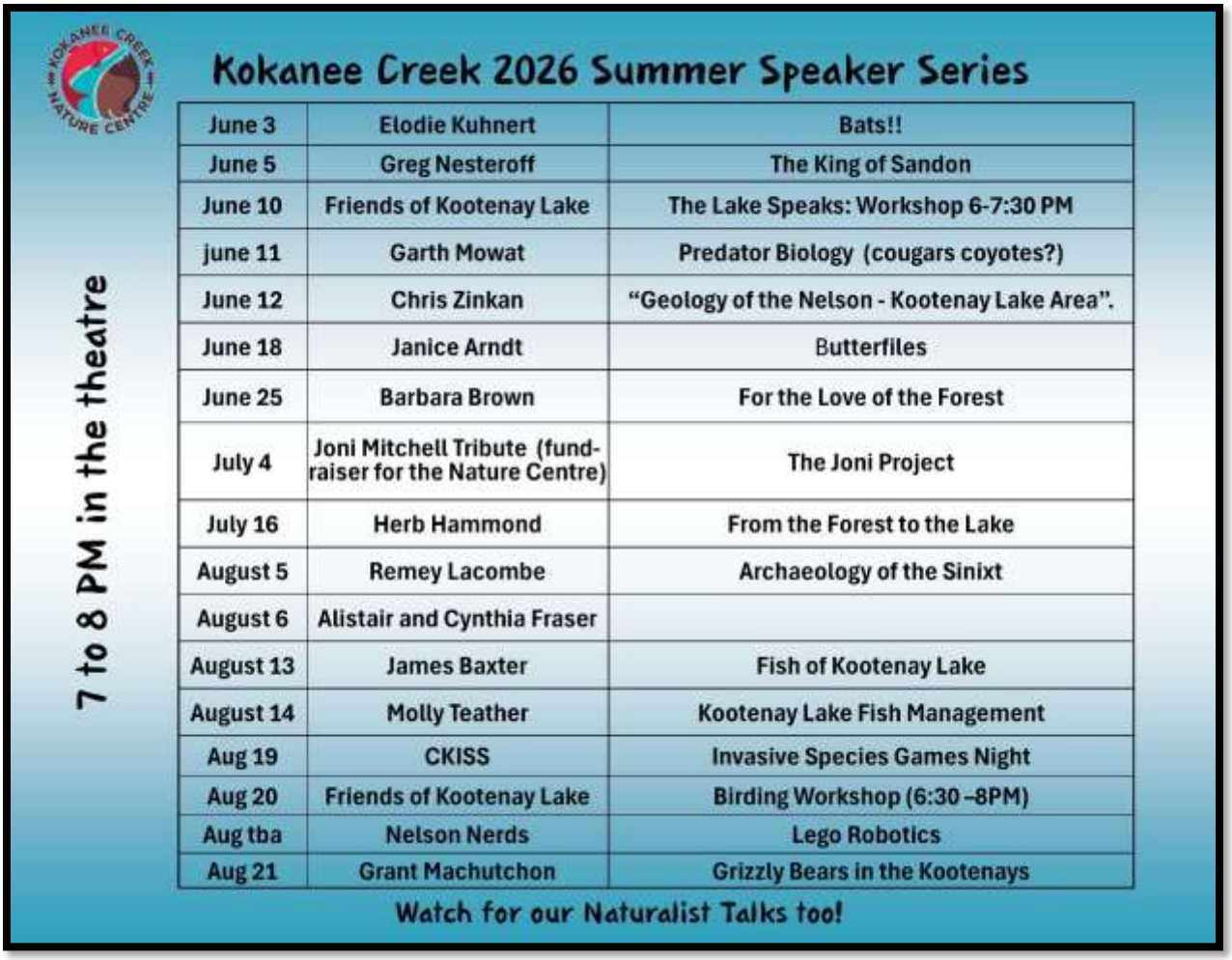

Figure 3 Thank you to our guest speakers!

Roving Naturalist: Our naturalists head out onto the trails to chat with visitors about the park, our programs and the area. They also learn what is happening in the park and can share that natural history with visitors.

Storytellers: Every Saturday night the Nelson Storytellers guild offers stories in the theatre to all ages. Thanks to storytellers B Gray, R Stothers and L Dragone. This program is immensely popular with our centre visitors.

Mother Moose Rhyme Time: Songs and rhymes for pre-schoolers, aka Mother Moose! A very popular program!

Naturalist Walks: Saturday 'Early Bird Walks', daily Afternoon Walks and weekly walks to the Busk Estate offer visitors the chance to explore the park trails with a naturalist.

Kokanee Salmon Dissections: Popup dissections of Kokanee Salmon out on the front lawn for everyone! The spawning salmon die after spawning and we have permission to borrow the dead fish for dissection. We put the dissected salmon back in Kokanee Creek to become part of the ecosystem when we are done with the fish.



Figure 4 Nature Centre Activities: top left: Drawing in Nature, the Activity Room; on the trails, watching the fish and Mother Goose Rhyme Time

Staying Safe in Bear County (Bear Awareness Video): We play this 20min video about human-bear safety in the theatre upon request. The video by bear biologists educates people about bear safety.

50th Anniversary Celebrations: This year, 2026, was the 50th anniversary of outdoor education at the Nature Centre. We took every opportunity to celebrate: making a video of the history of the Nature Centre (50th Anniversary Video), enjoying the music of The Joni Project at their benefit concert for the Centre (July 4) and sharing birthday cake and playing games on our anniversary (July 1) (our original opening day) and at Parks Day (July 18) (figures 5, 6 and 7).



Figure 5 First Season Visitor Book



Figure 6 50th Anniversary Video

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Figure 7 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Parks Day: On the 18 of July, 127 people joined us to celebrate BC Parks and to play games, visit displays, and to eat cake! A great day was had by everyone! (figure 8).



Figure 8 Parks Day Activities

Nature's Art: We invited people to come and take part in Nature's Art and Drawing in Nature on the trails. All ages were welcome (youngsters accompanied by and adult).

The Joni Project Benefit: The Joni Project played Joni Mitchell music in a benefit concert for the nature centre (figure 9). About 245 people gathered to enjoy the music on the front lawn and donated over $1,300.00 for our outdoor education programs. Thank you!!



Figure 9 The Joni Project benefit for the Nature Centre

Movies: Rainy Day movies played in the Suzy Hamilton Theatre when it was pouring outside – mostly for the kids.

Groups: Senior groups, Scouts, School Groups, The Kootenay Art Institute and other community groups enjoyed customized outdoor programs. They walked on the trails, enjoyed naturalist led walks, learned about the Kokanee Salmon, and walked to the Busk Estate.

Outdoor Skills: From using compasses and maps to learning how to tie knots and how to use a tarp to make a shelter, 9–13-year-olds learn outdoor skills.

Social Media

Facebook Kokanee Creek Nature Centre: Our Facebook page currently has 5,700 followers overall and 268,000 views. We post our schedules, events, speaker posters and trail cam and Go Pro videos on Facebook.

Vimeo.com/kokaneecreeknaturecentre : Our Vimeo page highlights over 750 trail cam, camera and go pro videos. We have 107 followers and 7,300 views over the past year with 4,125 unique viewers. (figure 10).
https://vimeo.com/1225675486?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci is a link to the video of an Osprey catching a Kokanee Salmon. Pretty cool video!



Figure 10 Trail Cam and Go Pro videos show Kokanee Creek Wildlife

Instagram: We have 2,492 Instagram followers and 200 posts, including innovative posts of schedules, our trail cam and go-pro videos and events by our junior naturalists.

Nature Centre Projects

Canoe and Helicopter Tour Raffle:

Our annual raffle featured a Hellman Kootenay Canoe generously donated by the Nelson Credit Union and Friends of West Kootenay Parks and a great helicopter tour of Kokanee Glacier donated by Purcell Helicopters. The raffle raised over $7,000.00 for our outdoor programs (figure 11).



Figure 11 The winners of the Hellman Kootenay canoe (donated by the Nelson and District Credit Union and the Friends of West Kootenay Park) and the Helicopter Tour donated by Purcell Helicopters. Thank you!

Boat Launch Kiosk: The Sturgeon-Burbot poster created during our Sturgeon Burbot Outreach Project in 2025 was posted in the kiosk by the dock this summer (figure 12).



Figure 12 The Sturgeon and Burbot Poster at the Kokanee Creek dock kiosk.

3-D Parks Map: In partnership with the Friends of West Kootenay Parks, we developed a 3-D map of the local area that includes Kokanee Glacier and Kokanee Creek Provincial Parks to highlight the topography of the area for visitors. The project

was funded by BC Parks Park Enhancement fund. (figure 13). Pink Dog Designs created the map. Visitors enjoy placing their location and hiking places in perspective in the mountains.



Figure 13 The 3-D topographical map of Kokanee Glacier and Kokanee Creek Provincial Parks

Kokanee Glacier and Kokanee Creek Visitor Map: The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society worked with the Friends of West Kootenay Parks and the Parks Enhancement Fund to produce a wall map that highlights the features of both Kokanee Glacier and Kokanee Creek Provincial Parks (figure 14). Pink Dog Designs created the map. Visitors use this map frequently to see the highlights of the hikes up at Kokanee Glacier and here at Kokanee Creek.



Figure 14 Kokanee Creek Glacier and Kokanee Creek Visitor Map

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Discovery Room: We have continued to add hands-on activities and displays to our very popular discovery room including a box of “Lincoln Logs”, floor puzzles, balancing toys and more animal plaster tracks and preserved wildlife sign. The puppets continue to be our most popular Discovery Room activity, along with the poo drawer!

Collaborations

Kokanee Salmon School Programs: The KSSP gave about 48 school presentations to over 1,400 people from local schools. Three naturalists delivered the program in 2026: G Lazier, A Spadafora and C Blunt. This well-loved program told the story of the Kokanee Salmon life cycle with a black light play, a fish dissection, scavenger hunt and a channel walk to watch the Kokanee Salmon (figure 15).



Figure 15 Dissecting a Kokanee Salmon

Bear Guardian Program (B.C. Parks) – Seventeen guardians and interpreters worked on the channel managing people on the viewing bridge. We hosted almost 22,000 people to the viewing bridge on the spawning channel in 2026 There were 11 bears on the channel eating the Kokanee Salmon. Kokanee Salmon numbers were very low.

BC Fisheries Sturgeon-Burbot Outreach – We offered Sturgeon-Burbot outreach education to 809 people as part of a contract with BC Fisheries. We offered four

evening talks to 86 people, five Rangers programs to 106 people, and one display to 160 people. During Champion Lakes Family Day (June 21) the Sturgeon/Burbot Info booth, attracted 51 visitors (figure 16 and 17). We produced a banner comparing



sturgeon size to other animals and a 3-D sturgeon display model.

Figure 16 Sturgeon-Burbot Games



Figure 17 Sturgeon Banner

Truth and Reconciliation Recognition

The Nature Centre was recognized for opening our doors to Sinixt stories and for facilitating the Sinixt Kootenay canoe trip and camping at Kokanee Creek (figure 18). Thank you. We are deeply honoured.



Figure 18 Truth and Reconciliation honour from the Sinixt Confederacy

KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

Acknowledgements

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre, born as the Kokanee Creek Nature House in 1976. We are so thankful to all who expressed their love of this place; to those who bring their grandkids because they brought their own kids to the programs; to those who were so generous in support of this little nature centre over the years. It is for you that we run these programs, and because of you that the centre still exists. Thank you!

Our wonderful sponsors and supporters showed their faith in what we do by donating funds, times and materials to the cause.

The BC Parks Foundation was a substantial financial donor and supported our staff with skills training.

The Friends of West Kootenay Parks have always had our backs. B. Bryce personally found sponsors for our programs. The Friends partnered with the Nature Centre Society and BC Parks Park Enhancement fund to produce a beautiful wall map of attractions on a Kokanee Glacier hike and a 3-D map of the mountains of the area. And they, along with the Nelson and District Credit Union donated the Hellman canoe for our raffle. Thank you. You are indeed friends!

Thanks in particular to the Nelson and District Credit Union who, along with the Friends of West Kootenay Parks again donated a Hellman Kootenay canoe to our raffle and to Purcell Helicopters who donated a helicopter tour of the glacier. That raffle raised over $7,000.00 for our programs.

The Joni Project are truly inspirational. They are a talented group of musicians who appreciate not only the music of Joni Mitchell, but the work we do here. Their benefit for the centre raised over $1,400.00. Your support means more than we can say. Together we can still keep paradise unpaved!

The Regional District of the Central Kootenay supports us with a much appreciated and substantial yearly grant for our outdoor education programs. Their support helps us strive to make our local communities a better place to live and to bring visitors to the area by offering our summer programs.

BC Parks is a steadfast supporter of our programs. Thanks in particular to N. Smith, to K. Wood and C. Browne. We appreciate your dedication. We have benefitted from your professionalism and your personal commitment to your work.

We have the best office in the world right here at Kokanee Creek. We owe the staff and managers of RAP Park Contracting a big vote of thanks for maintaining such a clean and well-managed park and keeping the trails accessible for all.

Thanks to Storytellers B Gray, R Stothers and L Dragone, to botanist U. Lowrey, and artists Romany Watt-Oseki and Genna Lazier for offering their skills and programs to our centre. And we owe a big thank you to our guest speakers: E. Khunert, G. Mowat, G. MacHutcheon, A and C Fraser, J Baxter, G. Nesteroff, H. Hammond, C. Zinkan, the Nelson Nerds, CKISS, J. Arndt, J. Inglis, The Friends of Kootenay Lake, CKISS, B. Brown, R. Lacombe, and J. Dulisse.

The Nature Centre worked with BC Parks to have channel guardians and interpreters on the spawning channel while the Kokanee Salmon were spawning. Thank you to G. Munro, M. Nelson, T. Roos, U. Lowrey, E. Sargent, R. McLeish, D. Frizzel, L. Murray, D, Van Rijn, L. Thomson, N. Clayton, H. Storos, M. Veale, A. Pigeon, J. Siderius, M.Smienk and S. Broom. You did a stellar job in an exceptional and sometimes challenging year. We would thank the bears for the entertainment they provided but they are probably far too busy to listen.

We are so very lucky. We come to work in one of the most beautiful places in B.C. We meet interesting people and share our love of this place and its plants and animals with them. Our naturalists this summer went the extra mile. Thank you to: K. Lesmeister (WKTEP), E. Stowell, M. Pastor, and L. Murray (senior naturalist and lead on the sturgeon project). Our bearistas and visitor staff made the centre a welcoming place: Thanks to H. Soros, M. Veale and T. Bracket. You made not only great hot chocolates and lattes but friends for the centre. G. Lintz managed the coffee bar, the merchandising, offered a crafts program and kept us all working together as a great team. She is such a hero for taking on the scheduling! J. Siderius was head naturalist, offering walks, running the trail cams, making videos, organizing evening programs, giving naturalist talks and trying to keep on top of Facebook and the paperwork!

It is easy to say thank you to A. Pigeon. Back when the centre was floundering, you stepped in with a business plan that went a long way to funding our education programs. Your ideas and management skills kept us afloat and enabled us to leave a legacy for the future. Because of you we can be proud of “the little nature centre that could” – and what we have accomplished. Thank you!

We owe so much to all our friends, supporters and sponsors. Here’s to the future!



Figure 19 Thank you to our wonderful Sponsors and Donors!



Figure 20 Thank you from all of us at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre!

KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

Appendix One: Naturalist Testimonials

Miguel Pastor 2025 and 2026 From May until August 2026 I had a wonderful time working as a naturalist at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre. I had the opportunity to develop multiple educational programs for children emphasizing ecological and cultural roles of sturgeon, burbot, salmon, and much more. I delivered educational programs to hundreds of children, and brought countless families outside the centre and into the nature surrounding the park. I worked on educational displays within the centre as well and liasoned with the public, interpreting wildlife and providing feedback on hikes and local activities available in the area. I also worked at the coffee bar, creating and serving a plethora of drinks and baked goods. I had the opportunity to develop my personal knowledge of wildlife and ecology while increasing my public speaking and interpersonal skills. I gained confidence leading, greeting, welcoming, boundary setting, and enthusiastically engaging with individuals from all ages and walks of life. The natural education and interpersonal (among other) skills I gained will help me going forward both inside and outside the workplace, I feel I have gained so much from this role. Thank you to the centre!

Linn Murray 2026 Event organizing was an unexpected new skill I developed this year. able to create event and crowd control plans for both the Joni Project concert which attracted 249 people,and the BC Parks Day/50th Anniversary celebrations which attracted 167 people. Furthermore, Ideveloped skills in coordinating people, ordering supplies, setup, and take-down.

One of my goals at the start of the year was to branch out in terms of evening talks I was successful in developing a talk titled “Water World,” I delivered this talk once,and my Sturgeon/Burbot talk 4 times over the summer. Water World also helped me realize a talk onmollusks of kokanee creek could be really epic, so hopefully I will launch that in the future.

Linn Murray 2025 Working at Kokanee Creek, fulfilling our mission to foster lifelong connections between visitors young and old and the beautiful nature around us, is deeply meaningful and immensely gratifying work. As Genna puts it, we should “look forward to coming to work.” This year I truly felt excited by each new day, and I look forward to continued involvement with the Nature Centre’s mission no matter what the future may hold.

Jessi Cherry, 2024 This year had many ups and downs. I learned how to overcome my anxiousness around public speaking and how to navigate working as a children’s educator. I enjoyed working in and with nature all summer and I loved meeting many people with different backgrounds who all taught me a variety of things. The best part of the day was constantly learning new things almost every day, either about the land I live on, plants, animals, or the people around me. Thanks for a great summer.

Sarah Town, 2023 As a somewhat discombobulated newcomer to the Kootenays, working at the Nature Centre has been grounding to say the least. There is a certain constant you can count on each day at Kokanee Creek: people at the park want to connect with nature. Although there is endless - at times overwhelming - learning to be done regarding the complex relations among all the inhabitants of Kokanee Creek and the greater Inland Temperate Rainforest ecosystem, the reliable presence of park visitor curiosity provides an excellent foundation for a naturalist to work with. It frames and highlights our job to act as one of the knowledge connectors between the natural world and our human community.
There is always something to ponder and talk about with other Kokanee Creek park-goers, whether that is the fluctuations of the Kokanee Salmon return, the happenings of the local bear population, or the identification of bird calls heard throughout the park. These connections may happens over an afternoon

Naturalist walk, the brewing of an Americano, a shared moment of appreciation at the spawning channel, or over a Jerry's Rangers arts and crafts session, while making mini Great-horned Owls out of toilet paper tubes. The diversity of tasks was certainly one of my favourite aspects of this job.
I am also grateful to my fellow parkies for sharing so much of their knowledge, especially on the Kokanee Salmon return, an event that is integral to supporting life here in the Kootenays. From egg development in the gravel substrate, to predator avoidance in the depths of Kootenay Lake, these creatures are steadfast in their mission to survive, thrive, and reproduce, all while providing sustenance to other beings and nutrients to the surrounding watershed. Observing this famous phenomenon reminds us of our responsibility to appreciate and steward the land, not as though we humans are a separate entity, but as though we are deeply interconnected beings. Thank you for the endless inspiration, connection, and free drip coffee, Kokanee Creek Nature Centre.

Nicole Sonnichsen 2023 Although this is not my first year working for my current employer, it takes place as one of the most memorable. As a Naturalist for a major BC Provincial Park, I receive valuable mentorship on the fauna and flora of the region, as well as experience in a position of leadership. In my opinion, one of the most valuable skills I have improved since starting in this position is the ability to research and compile information, for the purpose of educating others. These skills will directly transfer to my education when required to synthesize vast amounts of new information and also into my career as an engineering project manager.

Linn Murray 2021, 2023 & 2024 What an exceptional summer work experience! Working at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre lived up to all my initial expectations, and much more. The frequent times to experience, learn, and teach about nature make me look forward to going to work in the morning. I love helping kids and adults alike learn and grow in their connection with nature. This summer I have found environmental education one of the most fulfilling jobs I have ever worked.
Moving into the future, I think this job has equipped me with an abundance of skills. I have learned so much about Kokanee Creek's ecology, about communication, and about the labour involved in making parks a wonderful experience for visitors. Going into the future, I think my time here will have prepared me for employment in environmental fields, while also providing a valuable knowledge base for educating myself and others on nature. Ultimately, my long-term goals surround continued activism on the climate crisis, and moving into the planning of nature-based and policy-based solutions. Working here at Kokanee has opened my eyes to on-the-ground realities; both to how forests can be impacted negatively by anthropogenic change, and positively through people working to help ecosystems flourish.
Thank you to all the awesome people who make this park happen! You are unforgettable people and it was a privilege to work with such a proactive, uplifting team!

Jacqueline Van Horne 2021 This summer I had the opportunity to work at the Kokanee Creek Nature Center. It was a full summer creating educational programs for kids age 6-9 and 9-12, helping with the coffee shop and discovering all that the park has to offer for plants and animals. I enjoyed being able to teach people about the topics that I love, like compass work and tree identification, and sharing that excitement with other people. The most memorable days were going out with my fellow co-workers/naturalist and exploring the ecosystems that the park has to offer. I will take forward with me the skills for educating people and engaging with them in an educational situation. As well as barista work in a fast-paced coffee shop!

Reanna Donald: **2020 and 2021** My position working at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre as a Naturalist was an experience that I could never have dreamed of. As a first year student studying Recreational Fish and Wildlife I came into the position with a base level of knowledge regarding the local flora and fauna in the kootenays. I was very eager to learn and was met by mentors who were just as eager to converse, teach and guide me. Within weeks of working at the nature centre I was so enveloped in the nature of my job and how amazing it was that I was able to share the love of Kokanee creek, all of

its living/non-living residents and the centre with all of the children who attended our programs and all of the people who visited the centre. As I now attend my second and final year, I am able to converse with my professors about knowledge that I gained during my work term at Kokanee that many students would not be able to. I feel confidently that I acquired one of the greatest jobs for someone who is a student in my program. This job provided me with the opportunity to be creative in my lesson plans, learn continuously and feel confident in myself and my knowledge while in the outdoors. It was an incredible experience, one I hope to have again, and also an experience I hope is available for other students like myself for many years to come.

Kyra Burkart: **2020** I was lucky enough to spend this summer working as a Naturalist at Kokanee Creek Provincial Park.

I grew up in Nelson, so I attended salmon school and would always visit the spawning channel with my family. The park itself is magical, but the naturalist programming is what makes Kokanee Creek so special. Environmental education plays such an important role in connecting people with nature; especially, in the digital age. This summer, I am so thankful that I was able to experience the joy of watching kids explore and fall in love with nature.

I am also grateful for the skills and experience I gained in this position. I graduated with an environmental science degree in the Spring and began an education degree in the Fall, and so this was the perfect position for me. It allowed me to apply my knowledge of the environment in a way that also had me develop new skills I will need to be a teacher. I learned so much through mentorship but also through being given opportunity to try out my own ideas.

KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

Appendix Two: Visitor Book Comments

A Carter	Nelson	Amazing Discovery Room 😉
F Gardiner	Saskatchewan	Beautiful People
A & D	Slocan Valley	This place is magical
Bittners	Spokane	You take such good care of this place
Cadets	Trail & Castlegar	We love the Kokanee Creek NC
C & N	Nelson	Love the footprints in sand!
R Cruikshank	Vancouver	Sick!
L & M Allrich	Bavaria, Germany	Namsch Schai
J & A Arias	Mexico	Muchas Gracias for Todo
B & E	Victoria	Really fun and interesting
Mary G	Castlegar	Super awesome!
R&J White	N. Vancouver	A place to learn stuff!
S,K,&T	Victoria	Love the bear!
D Garndsing	Nelson	I love this centre
A	Edmonton	This place rocks!
Underwoods	Fruitvale	Great Place for all ages!
Johanne	Quebec	Wow!
G Beaudry	Nelson	I was here on opening day!
C & A	Castlegar	So fun!
S Patience	Haida Gwaii	Fantastic walk this morning w Joanne
E, I, L and C	Calgary	Had an amazing hike!
E, I G, R	Grand Forks	Been here a million times because it's So fun!
O & E	Kelowna	Mom used to camp here as a kid!
O Breman	Edmonton	I saw a skunk!
T, G, N,A &A	Yukon	Beautiful – we also saw the skunk
P, K, C Erm	Nelson Vernon	Love the goat with the glasses!
Heidary Family	Vancouver	LOVE the programs – all are great!

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A,	Castlegar	Mr Bear is no.1!
M & A Rist	London Ont.	Great Coffee
M Servant	Edmonton	Fantastic Centre and talks! Exceptional
R & P	Local	Enjoyed the Nature Walk Today
Cadman Family	Kelowna	Wonderful! Love the kid stuff
I and P	Fernie	I like the bird display
T C B & R	South Slocan	Loved the Story Time!
Brooks	Utah, USA	Thanky for teaching about Kokanee!
Alex (2 yr)	Fort Mac	Beavers!!
Sullivan Family	Victoria	Love the kids area Thank you!
Katy	Portland	I love learning the Kokanee life cycle
G & H Poling	Montrose	We've been here almost forever!
G	Alberta	Very anazing, good helpers
A	Calgary	I like the shop
K Pidcock	Kaslo	Thanks – beautifully welcoming
F Kayal	Hamilton Ont	Very interesting and natural
Groeneweg Family	Fernie	Favourite part of our summer (4yrs!)
The Loyd Family	West Kelowna	We love the nature centre
Nate	Edgewater	Cool taxidermy
River	Edgewater	The birds are cool!
Hayden	Calgary	Videos are so cool!
B, B, Cameron	Kelowna	Jerry's Rangers was great!
Yepes Family	Calgary	Yearly visit
Bessants	SLC Utah	friendly staff
I Barret	Calgary	That estate is so cool!
Georgiana	Calgary	So in touch with the flora and fauna
K & S	Calgary	so needed to help people connect with Nature
Family Ashrorh	Switzerland	Keep up the good work!

E Naisby, M Teschke	Squamish	Love the kids programs
N, G, C Harris	Calgary	Did the kids programs here as a kid 😊
R, K Griffin	Fernie	Kids loved it!
Jeff and Jonah	Okotoks	Jerry's Rangers
V Gruneert	Halifax NS	felt connected to nature
Whetfords	Montrose, Princeton	Great Exhibit
E Kurtz	Pennsylvania	awesome exhibits and information
Z Guevare	Venezuela	Loved the salmon!
S Heygren	Rotterdam Netherlands	Very beautiful – I saw a bear!
A Aris	Argentina	I felt at home
J Findlay	Nelson	A pretty special place
G & A	White Rock	Super interesting and lots of fun!
J & J	Vancouver	Wow! Bear hunting fish
T Voss	Slocan Valley	Alevins are Neato
Neil	Squamish	Been coming here for 30 years
Mathews	Toronto	Honour the salmon!
Wassink & Warren	Guelph Ont	Awesome – activities for everyone
Smyths	Cochrane AB	We saw a bear! Awesome!
Teresa	Toronto	Love the taxidermy very cool!
Greg	Kelowna	Saw a bear fishing
Gehrs	Nelson	Best Place Ever!
J & S Addie	Scotland	Discovery Room is awesome!
Fantomas	Czechia	2 A's!!!
Calemores	Kimberly BC	Love seeing interpretation in BC Parks
J Hetherington	Blewett	Great naturalist host, excellent displays
N & C	Nelson	Loved the sand bin and Moosey!
MacGregor	Kitchener-Waterloo	Enjoyed the storyteller evening
E	Slocan	caught a caterpillar that turned into a Cocoon

M, J, J, S	Kamloops	We loved seeing all the animals
Contantin	Germany	Poo drawer!
S Diggars	Vancouver	Beautiful and important work 😊
C and B	Squamish	Keep this amazing place going
L & J	Olive Alb	Joanne was great!
Pommiers	Kelowna	Everyone was great!
R & J	Edmonton	coming here my whole life
		Did every Jerry's Ranger program!
F & R	Salmon Arm	We fell in love here!