



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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The District of Summerland Contributes to Canada's National Conservation Network, Supporting Nature and Combating Climate Change

SUMMERLAND – The District of Summerland, with the support of BC Nature, has registered 330 hectares of their protected natural areas in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD). The Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database tracks Canada's progress toward the target of protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030 (30x30 commitment). The official recognition of the protected areas was achieved through the national Municipal Protected Areas Program (MPAP) coordinated by Nature Canada.

The protected natural areas within the District of Summerland that are registered in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database encompass dry forests, grasslands, and riparian habitats that support a diversity of wildlife. Located on municipally owned lands within the South Okanagan Valley, these areas play an important role in maintaining regional ecological connectivity. Summerland's natural areas included in the data base are Adam's Bird Sanctuary, Woodbridge Nature Preserve, Priest Camp Historical Park, Landry parkland, Giant's Head Mountain Park, Little Giant's Head Mountain Park, Mount Conkle Park, Cartwright Avenue neighbourhood parkland, and Living Memorial Park (partial).

A case story recognizing Summerland's contributions has been included in Nature Canada's Municipal Protected Areas website [here](#).

The South Okanagan is a recognized biodiversity hotspot, supporting numerous rare species and unique ecosystems found nowhere else in Canada, and in some cases, the world. However, it is also among the most endangered regions in the country, underscoring the importance of Summerland's contribution to conservation.

Quick Facts

Canada's network of protected and conserved areas is important to mitigating the impacts of climate change by protecting healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.

Summerland is an ecological and biodiversity hotspot with endangered grasslands that support over 50% of BC's species at risk and features unique silt-bluff habitats which are habitat for rare wildlife.

BC Nature is a federation of local nature clubs, representing more than 60 nature clubs throughout BC. BC Nature works to protect nature and educate naturalists, the public, and decision-makers about the natural history of British Columbia, including its biodiversity, species at risk, parks and other natural areas.

Quotes:

"The 30x30 target is an ambitious commitment for Canada and is going to require all levels of governments working together, including local government. By including our local protected areas in the 30x30 database, Summerland Council is demonstrating its commitment to conservation and assuring residents that community parks are being protected."

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

"The inclusion of Summerland's protected areas in the national database is an important milestone for Okanagan ecosystems. The Municipal Protected Areas Program continues to show how local governments can play a vital role in advancing Canada's biodiversity conservation goals."

~ Nancy Flood, President, BC Nature

“Nature Canada is pleased to see the District of Summerland’s parks receiving federal recognition through this initiative. The Municipal Protected Areas Program demonstrates how local governments can make meaningful contributions to conserving biodiversity at a national scale. Summerland’s efforts reflect a growing commitment to balancing community needs with the protection of natural spaces, setting a positive example for municipalities across the country.”

~ Dylan Rawlyk, Organizing Manager – Nature Canada

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2 photos enclosed



From left to right: Andrew Banks (MPAP Project Manager, BC Nature), Lori Mullins (Director of Community Services, District of Summerland) and Jeremy Brown (Parks Operations Lead Hand, District of Summerland) at Adam's Bird Sanctuary in Summerland celebrating the park's registration in CPCAD.



Creek in Adam's Bird Sanctuary