

NEWS RELEASE

LOGAN LAKE RECREATIONAL TRAILS NOW OPEN

“This initiative has been one of the most successful of its kind in the Province and is being used as a model elsewhere in BC for wildfire recovery initiatives. The success of this project can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of local residents and organizations, working closely with Indigenous communities, and placing community values above all else. The trail network will benefit current Logan Lake residents and future generations in Logan Lake.” - Adam Sullivan, Senior Planning Forester, Forsite Consultants Ltd.

The Logan Lake recreational trails have a long history in the area with many of them being hand dug by locals and volunteers over the past 30 years. Blood, sweat and tears have been poured into these mountains by more than a few of the residents that have called Logan Lake their home. The extensive crown land surrounding the small community is a sanctuary for many people not only providing an intricate network of trails for skiing, hiking and mountain biking but also connecting to a number of ORV trails that access kilometers of pristine backcountry. This trail network has helped people grow, learn, and uncover things about themselves they never knew existed. It has helped people heal from heartache and loss and rediscover the joy of being out in nature. It continues to be an important aspect of why people choose to live in Logan Lake and why people choose to stay here.

In 2022, Forsite completed the preliminary assessment of the wildfire impacts to the Logan Lake trail network and submitted an impact assessment report to the Province. This report was used to secure a \$2 million grant from the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement program to return over 62 km of biking and cross-country ski trails to their pre-wildfire condition. The funding was direct awarded to the Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corp to act as lead contractor implementing the rehabilitation work, with support from Landmark Trailworks on bike trails. Work on the trail restoration has included re-building bike trails from scratch, drainage upgrades and re-surfacing of the cross-country ski trails, removal of danger tree along the trails, replacement of signage, and replacement of key structures such as the HVOA Gun Hut and 5 outhouses throughout the trail network. From 2022-2024, the community forest also completed salvage harvesting of fire impacted forests and is currently planting trees throughout the wildfire impacted areas to speed up ecological recovery in the area.

“One of the main reasons my wife and I moved to Logan Lake many years ago was to start a family and raise our kids in a small town where we have access to a huge variety of outdoor activities” says HVOA Trails Director, Jarrod Gaudry. “Logan Lake Recreational Trails and Community Forest is where we first explored. The network was full of beautiful Douglas Fir trees, views of the valley, and kilometers of trail for any activity in any season. In 2021, this experience changed drastically. Thankfully no homes were lost but watching the trail network go up in flames as a result of the

Tremont Fire was devastating. As a Trails Director for the HVOA, I spent countless hours clearing, grooming, and adding new trails so this hit me especially hard. Now where do we go from here?"

"In 2023, HVOA met with Landmark Trailworks, a professional mountain bike trail building company, to come up with a plan to rebuild while following very strict guidelines and processes. I had the privilege of meeting most of the trail crew and I now understand how passionate these people are about their job and love for mountain biking" says Gaudry.

Ron Penney and Krystina Green from Landmark Trailworks have a personal story which resonated closely with the residents of Logan Lake. "After loosing our homes to fires the year before, the Logan Lake project was something we really wanted to be apart of. We are proud of the build team for going above and beyond on the trails and the town of Logan Lake for supporting such a great bike community. We can't wait to see how far you can take it. It's an amazing place to ride a bike."

Gaudry continues in stating that "In the fall of 2024, the trail rebuild was finally complete. Now what do we do? Well, maintenance and lots of riding of course. Logan Lake has a large population of mountain bikers who are avid about keeping these trails in top condition while brainstorming new ideas. My wife, two daughters ages 10 and 12, now ride weekly and every time we finish a lap the smiles are 100% worth all my volunteer efforts. I enjoy talking to people every time I'm on the trails to ask their thoughts and seeing their reactions. Let's keep outdoor activities alive and put Logan Lake Recreational Trails on the map."

"As the managers of the Logan Lake Community Forest, the team at Forsite has been grateful to be a part of Logan Lake's journey in recovering from the wildfire, including returning the mountain bike and cross country ski trail network to their former glory (before the wildfire). The recovery effort was a collaboration between the Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corp, Highland Valley Outdoor Association, Landmark Trailworks, District of Logan Lake, Logan Lake Community Forest, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC," says Sullivan.

"Moving forward after the devastation we're thrilled to be officially inviting you back into our community. Back to a whole different and truly unique riding experience that highlights our resilience as a community." Mayor Robin Smith says, "We are beyond grateful for the passion of our volunteers who have groomed, cared for, built, valued, and rode or skied the many miles of these trails for so long. Not only have we put back what we had, but with the help of our partners, we've built back even better than we could have imagined, and we can't wait to share these trails with you and to hear what you think."

The Highland Valley Outdoor Association (HVOA) is a non-profit society that originally constructed and has been operating the multi-use trail facility in Logan Lake for decades in partnership with B.C. Recreation Sites and Trails. The trail system includes both summer and winter activities including most recently two new Disc Golf courses.

HVOA President, Peter Martell, states "We are very passionate about the completion of the trail system and gun range rebuild, the trails have definitely been "built back better" and this would not have happened without the hard work of our directors in collaboration with B.C. Recreation Sites and Trails, the District of Logan Lake, the Logan Lake Community Forest and the execution by Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corp and Landmark Trailworks. I am looking forward to

the celebration, I expect that this event will create more awareness of the great mountain biking experiences that Logan Lake has to offer and we look forward to continuing our engagement going forward to improve and grow the trail systems for all users.”

Event Details: (more information available at www.loganlake.ca):

Soil Searching Trail Maintenance Day

Saturday, May 24, 2025

9AM at the Logan Lake Recreational Trails (North) Trailhead on Hwy 97D

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening Event

Sunday, May 25, 2025

10-2PM Logan Lake Recreational Trails (North) Trailhead on Breccia Drive

Join us for an exhilarating day celebrating the launch of our new Recreational Trails. Enjoy fresh air, fun, and community spirit as we officially open the Logan Lake Recreational Trails! Whether you're a hiker, biker, nature lover or curious explorer, there's something for everyone.

- Mountain Biking Clinics
- Guided Trail Tours (11AM and 1PM)
- Promotional Video Filming
- Food Trucks & Free BBQ (Noon)
- World-Class Riders
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

“This has been a long, technical, and exhilarating process,” says the District of Logan Lake CAO, Wade Archambault. “Fast forward to today, this rebuild has brought together so many passionate people who have worked together and formed some great relationships that will continue to grow long after this project is complete. It has been a pleasure working with everyone on something that is so important to this community and to the entire region. I hope that these relationships continue long into the future making Logan Lake an even more amazing place to live.”

“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt” - John Muir.

For more information, please contact:

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