

HOME



# Mission Creek Greenway PDF 2.2

This is a stand-alone PDF file

**First time users should read the Instructions (Greenway PDF 2.2)**

**Others may wish to jump directly to the [Interpretation material](#).**

## **Greenway PDF 2.2**

This App is a PDF file that is placed in the **library** of your mobile device. All content will be on the App at this time, therefore there will be no necessity to interact with the web through WiFi, or whatever.

All you have to do is download the PDF file into the library of your mobile device. Upon opening the PDF file, you can read the interpretive information for any of the featured locations along the Greenway just by clicking on the Letter (A to K) that corresponds to the section of the Greenway you are visiting. The sections (A - K)

represent distances between the many Roads that cross Mission Creek.



A section Letter (A to K) is then followed by a number. The numbers increase as you walk upstream from Okanagan Lake (left to right on the map). The number will also correspond to the Photo Gallery designations on our website at the same point along the Greenway.

Numbers followed by an **asterisk (\*)** are also sites with interpretive information on signs.

If you are new to Kelowna, here is a guide for getting to and parking at the Greenway. Parking lots are indicated as P1 - P10 on the map. You will also find the GPS Coordinates for each Parking area.

P1. Cook Rd Parking. Washrooms:

Latitude N49 50.724, Longitude W119 29.301

P2. Lexington Rd Parking. Washrooms:

Latitude N49 50.522, Longitude W119 28.633

P3. Casorso Rd/Swamp Rd. Parking:

Latitude N49 50.686, Longitude W119 27.992

P4. KLO Rd Parking:

Latitude N49 51.614, Longitude W119 26.599

P5. EECO Parking. Washrooms:

Latitude N49 52.647, Longitude W119 25.853

P6. Ziprick Rd Parking:

Latitude N49 52.653, Longitude W119 25.857

P7. Gerstmar Park. Washrooms:

Latitude N49 52.632, Longitude W119 24.527

P8. Hollywood Rd Parking:

Latitude N49 52.371, Longitude W119 23.877

P9. Hollywood Rd South Parking. Washrooms:

Latitude N49 51.853, Longitude W119 23.358

P10. Field Rd Parking. Portable Outhouse:

Latitude N49 50.357, Longitude W119 22.105

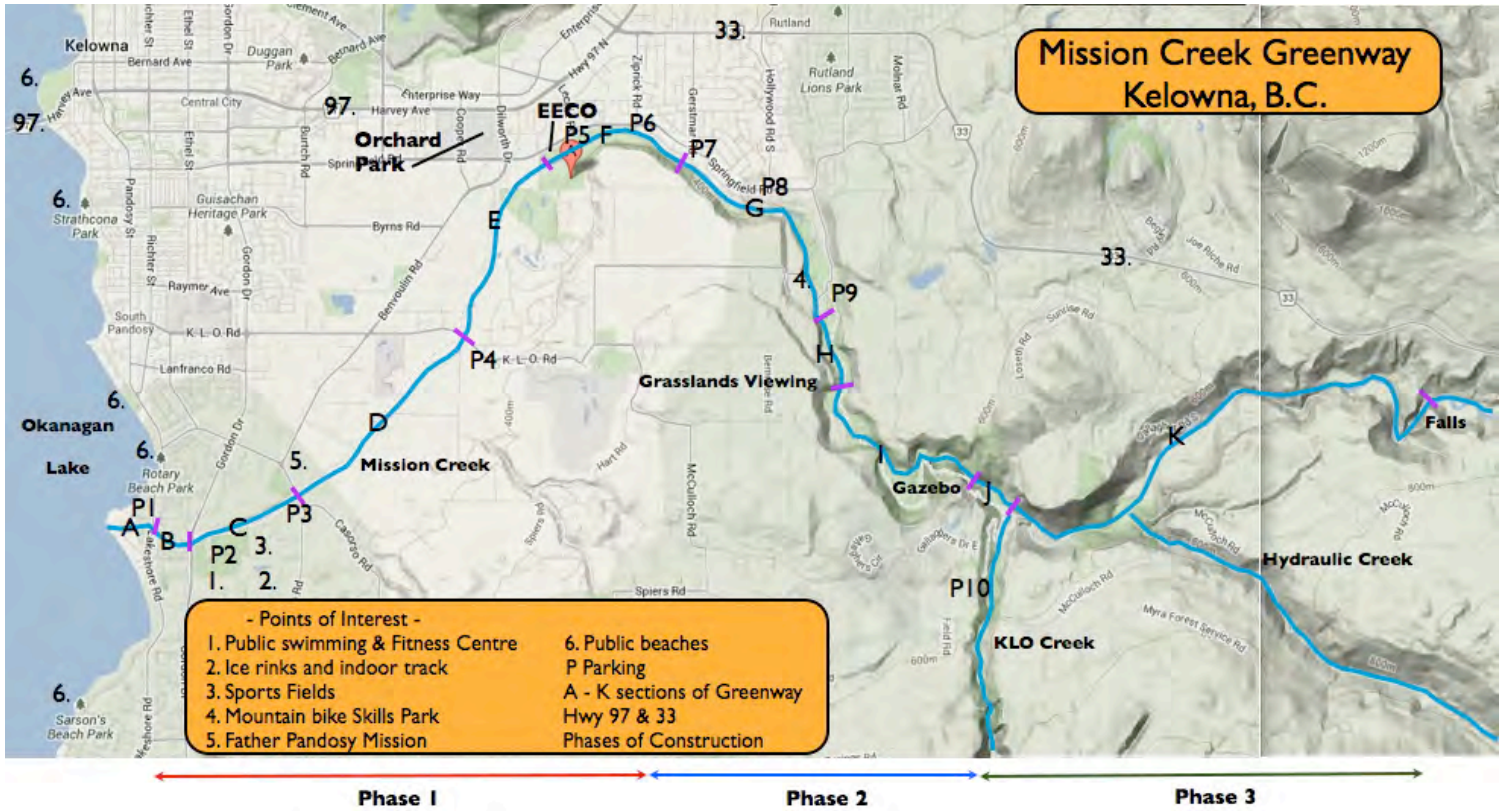
Trail difficulty:

From section A to H the trail is very flat. At the upstream end of H the grade significantly increases. Some hills beyond H are very steep. I to K the grade is moderate with some steep sections. Wear proper footwear and take water. The distance from A to K is approximately 17 km.

Over 20 'You are Here' signs have been placed along the Greenway for your convenience.



# - Interpretation material



[Click](#) below on the section of the Greenway (A to K) you wish to read about.

- O K A N A G A N L A K E
- L A K E S H O R E R D
- G O R D O N D R
- C A S O R S O R D
- K L O R D
- E E C O
- G E R S T M A R R D
- H O L L Y W O O D R D S
- G R A S S L A N D S V I E W
- G A Z E B O V I E W
- F I E L D R D
- H Y D R A U L I C C R K

## **A. Okanagan Lake to Lakeshore Rd**

A1 - Outfall of Mission Creek into Okanagan Lake during Spring melt from the mountains above Kelowna. During September discharge in Mission Creek is often as low as 1 CMS (cubic metres per second). At the time this photo was taken the discharge was probably over 60 MSC. It is times when the discharge is high that river beds, riffle structures and pools are made.





A2 - Large sandbars form here each year. In Summer they attract many recreational visitors & species of birds, both local and migratory.



[BACK](#)



## B. Lakeshore Rd to Gordon Rd

B1 - Trail-Head for the Mission Creek Greenway. Note the Rules while on the trail and the 'You are Here' maps. This trail was constructed mainly by the Regional District for the Central Okanagan, from funds donated to the Friends of Mission Creek Society by the residents & merchants of Kelowna and surrounding areas. Enjoy!



B2 - Founding and long time members of the Friends of Mission Creek Society, Brenda Thomson, Marilyn Foster, Rhea Wiseman, Harald Hall, and spouses Wes Wiseman & Larry Foster.



“For the Friends of Mission Creek - the volunteers who dreamed this trail and then made it happen”

(Inscription on the Friends Bridge (16))

B3 - Photo looking downstream from the Gordon Rd bridge during autumn. Thirty years ago the gravel area in this part of the creek was red with over 3,000 kokanee salmon adults during spawning in September. Now few spawn here.



[BACK](#)

## **C. Gordon Rd to Casorso Rd**

C1 - Michael Brook Marsh (left side of river).

A wonderful place to see resident and migrating waterfowl throughout the year. (When naming the banks of a river one looks downstream and calls them left or right.)



C2 - Site of phase 1 Mission Creek Restoration Initiative.



C3 - Historic Location of Mission Creek Native Settlement.  
Today it is owned by Westbank First Nations.



[BACK](#)



## D. Casorso Rd to KLO Rd

### D1 - Casorso Marsh.

The only section of Mission Creek that is not dyked for the 9 km stretch from East Kelowna bridge to Okanagan Lake. It represents a legacy of what the floodplain was like over 100 years ago.



### D2 - Father Pandosy Historic Site.

Father Pandosy, an Oblate priest, ministered to natives and white settlers of the Okanagan Valley, beginning in 1859 and until his death in 1891.



D3 - Casorso Viewing Platform.  
Casorso Marsh is across the creek.



D4 - Riffles & Bars

Riffles and bars provide complexing to the creek that gives habitat diversity for a myriad of organism.



D5 - Riffle created to produce an upstream pond that feeds water into an irrigation ditch.



D6 - Greenway trail. For most of its length it is bordered by vegetation. Unfortunately, that does not occur in this stretch.



[BACK](#)



## E. KLO Rd to the EECO

### E1 - Benvoulin Woods

Note 4 white heron nests high in the trees within the circle at the top left of photo. This wooded area is owned and conserved by the Central Okanagan Land Trust Society.



E2 - Benvoulin Woods Great Blue Heronry. These birds typically return each year in late March and rear their young.



### E3 - Mission Creek Park

Outfall of Mill Creek overflow into Mission Creek (left), outfall of Spawning Channel into Mission Creek (right), and foot bridge from EECO to Spawning Channel viewing area (centre). When flows in Mill Creek threaten to flood Kelowna the excess water moves across town and into Mission Creek.



### E4 - Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO)

Environmental exhibits rotate to reflect seasonal changes. Well worth a visit by children & adults.



[BACK](#)

## **F. EECO to Gerstmar Park**

**F1 - Children's play area**



## **F2 - Viewing area for Kokanee Salmon Spawning Channel.**



## **F3 - View upstream from blue bridge in background of F2.**

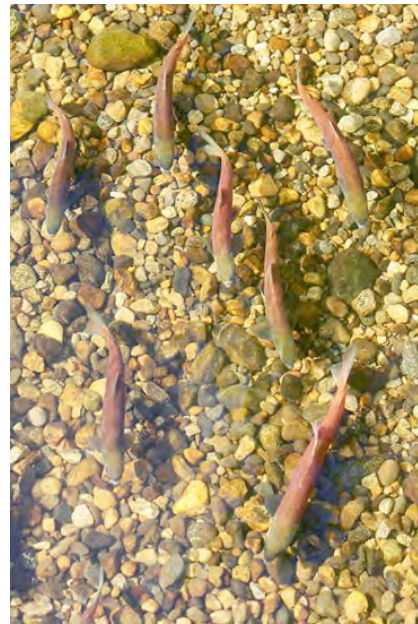




F4 - Spawning Channel 0.8 km long with a capacity of 25,000 spawning kokanee.



F5 - Several photos of Kokanee Salmon. Upper photo captures them moving into the spawning channel. Next photo shows female choosing nest sites and males pairing with them. Bottom photo of a brighter coloured & older male with a female.



F6 - Spawning channel intake settling pond and falls to deter kokanee from moving into pond.



F7 - To the south and uphill from the channel, find several small ponds and many delightful walking trails.



## F8 - Detour off Greenway for 1 block along Creekside Rd to Gerstmar Park.



[BACK](#)



## G. Gerstmar Rd to Hollywood Rd South

G1 - Bluffs with a Bank Swallow colony (left edge of photo on far right)



G2 - Bank erosion. Recent downward erosion on creek by almost 2 m.





G3 - Natural meander immediately upstream from beginning of dykes that extend to Okanagan Lake.



G4 - Slide area. Farmland at escarpment is disappearing.



G5 - Bicycle Skills Park



[BACK](#)

## H. Hollywood Rd South to Grasslands View

H1 - Abandoned Ministry of Environment trout rearing pond makes for a wonderfully diverse aquatic wetland.



H2 - Bridge 1 (The “Friends” Bridge). For the Friends of Mission Creek - the volunteers who dreamed this trail and then made it happen.



H3 - Mission Creek canyon at the Friends bridge.



H4 - Rare cedar forest. You might think you are on the West Coast of BC.





H5 - Bridge 2 (“Cedars Bridge”). Western Red Cedars grow in this area because of the moisture Mission Creek provides.



H6 - Chase property. Future site of Regional District of the Central Okanagan access to the Greenway, parking and picnic area.



H7 - Looking down on Bridge 3 (“Smoothing Stones”) while hiking up to the Grasslands.



H8 - Hiking down from the Grasslands.



[BACK](#)

## I. Grasslands View to Gazebo View

I1 - Mission Creek from the Grasslands Viewing area.  
How long will it be before the pristine view sees evidence of human habitation?



I2 - Grasslands on the Rim.  
Bluebunch Wheatgrass dominate the vegetation.  
Invasive St John's Wort (low brown bush) is spreading.



St John's Wort beetle on  
St John's Wort.  
Both introduced.





13 - FOMC directors on a spring walk through the Grasslands and Montane Ponderosa Pine forest along the Rim trail. Arrow-Leaved Balsam-Root abound.



14 - Closed Oxbow in Mission Creek. Rim trail travels along escarpment in background through Grasslands area.





I5 - Rest in the Grasslands on the Rim trail.



I6 - View walking on Greenway along top edge of Gallagher's Canyon cliff while approaching Gazebo Lookout from downstream. See cliff in photo J4.

Traveling upstream, this is your first look at Layer Cake Mountain and Pinnacle Rock.



[BACK](#)

## **J. Gazebo View to Field Rd**

J1 - Gazebo donated by Weeders and Diggers Society of Kelowna.



J2 - View of Pinnacle Rock and Layer Cake Mt. from Gazebo Lookout.



J3 - Rock Ovens caves in Gallagher's Canyon.



J4 - Gallagher's Canyon. Visit this site off the main Greenway at the bottom of the hill below the Gazebo, while traveling upstream. See the canyon, the rock oven caves and the honeycombed wall. Estimate the height of this cliff using the person at the creek's edge.



J5 - Unusual honeycombed erosion pattern probably created after the last ice-age when Mission Creek flows are estimated to have been 5 times greater than the present annual peak. Photo taken at the Rock Ovens site in Gallagher's Canyon.



[BACK](#)

## **K. Field Rd to Hydraulic Creek (under construction)**

We suggest this KLO/Hydraulic Creek section of the Greenway as a “loop” hike in either direction, creek-side to rim trail, or visa versa.

K1 - Grasslands high above KLO Creek on the East escarpment of the lower canyon.



K2 - Views from the upper Rim Trail between KLO and Hydraulic Creeks.





K3 - Views along the lower Creek-side Trail on Mission Creek between KLO & Hydraulic Creeks.



K4 - Where did this boulder come from?



K5 - KLO Creek Falls downstream from McCulloch Rd. To view the falls, you must hike along the west edge of KLO canyon between McCulloch Rd and the Field Rd caretaker's cabin. It is at the upstream end of the trail.



K6 - KLO Creek immediately before entering Mission Creek



[BACK](#)