

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

DRAFT – Revision R2

FWAC HIKING TRAIL TASK FORCE January 2, 2012

This report has been produced at the request of the Forest and Wildlife Advisory Committee (FWAC). It provides an inventory of existing and potential new trails as well as assessing maintenance needs and priorities. It is intended as a working document and planning tool.

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Executive Summary

<u>Hiking is the number one activity for our summer quests</u> visiting Whistler, according to a Tourism Whistler 2010 survey. With the exception of the Whistler Blackcomb tenure, most of the existing hiking trails and the access roads that deliver our guests to the trailheads are in a very serious state of deterioration. The long-term economic benefits of hiking could be an important building block to success for the future and should not be underestimated. We have been extraordinarily successful in developing our local mountain biking trails -now we need to put the same emphasis into alpine hiking.

From an economic perspective, BC Parks has estimated that for every \$1 investment in a park improvement, there is a \$10 return to the BC economy (the US Parks Service data supports this multiplier effect with a \$4 return for every \$1 invested in their Parks.) However, with drastic budget cuts, only minimum trail maintenance has been carried out in recent years in the provincial parks within the Whistler region. In the Centennial year of BC Parks, that is even more disturbing. B.C. Parks estimates that in Garibaldi Park alone there is over \$2,000,000 in maintenance work required to bring their trails up to past standards

Locally, the Stawamus Chief and North Shore mountains (e.g. Grouse grind) see thousands of daily active hikers and currently there is nothing comparable to draw them to Whistler. However, we do have several options here that can be developed.

Our destination guests include an aging group of hikers from all over North America and a potentially huge new and future market of hikers from China, India, Brazil and other countries – Whistler is well-positioned to provide that truly memorable wilderness alpine hiking experience that they will be seeking. Hiking, as opposed to our other offerings, is doable and enjoyable by every family member.

The health benefits from hiking to our children and grandchildren are priceless, especially if we can entice them away from playing sedentary video games by providing better hiking options to experience the natural magic around Whistler's Mountains. We need to begin making the investment in this critical resource now, before it is too late. Whistler needs to be a premier mountain resort in the Alpine hiking experience and not fall far behind competing resorts such as Banff, Canmore, Nelson, Ketchum, Jackson and others in North America.

The goal of this report is to put alpine hiking trails back on the local agenda, to establish priorities and provide a planning tool for alpine hiking trails in the Whistler region and to reverse the trend of neglect and deterioration of this important resource.

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Whistler should have good quality alpine hiking trails which can be accessed without the need for a high clearance 4WD vehicle. The trail heads where possible, should be at a level that allows the average hiker to get up to the alpine and even climb a peak in a day.

In order to achieve that, the following is recommended:

Managing the Resource - Getting Back on the Trail

Recognition, Promotion and Funding

- Alpine hiking trails should be recognized as an important economic resource and a fundamental part of Whistler 2020.
- Tourism Whistler (TW) should take a more active role initially in the development and funding and later (when we have brought some trails up to acceptable standard), in the promotion of the alpine hiking trail systems in this region.
- The RMOW should formally ask the Province, BC Parks, SFD and RSTBC to increase or reestablish funding for hiking trails and recreational sites in this region.
- The RMOW should budget a suitable amount annually for the improvement of alpine hiking trails within municipal boundaries (perhaps from the Resort Municipality Initiative Fund (RMI)). A reasonable estimate is about \$ 300,000 per year for 3 years initially
- Because the forest industry (SFD, CCF) has basically stopped construction and maintenance of trails and recreational areas, the funding for these now needs to be supplemented by revenues from tourism.

Strategy and Coordination

- A hiking trails strategy should be developed for the whole region including these partners: Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), Tourism Whistler (TW), Squamish and Lillooet First Nations, Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), Whistler-Blackcomb (WB), BC Parks, Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF), and the Recreation Sites and Trails Branch (RSTBC) / Squamish Forest District (SFD), as well as local mountaineering and hiking clubs.
- A trails coordination office should be created by the above partners.
- The trails coordinator should be responsible for applying for additional funds and grants; ensure trails are legal and registered under section 56 or 57 of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), develop budgets, liaise with partners; communicate with back-country operators, public and media on trail issues.
- A permanent advisory committee on alpine hiking trails should be established comprised of local hikers and delegates from the above partners.

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- All locked gates to backcountry access roads to be reviewed as part of the trail strategy.
 - <u>Move Gate on Black Tusk</u> microwave tower road up the road as high as possible, but still providing a controllable location to prevent motorized access beyond that point.
 - <u>Remove Gate on CBC/CN tower</u> access road to allow access for hikers onto the Khyber Pass trail.
- Trail coordinator to be part of approval process on any new locked gate.

Managing Access

- Adequate 2-wheel drive road standards with gentler gradients should be established for new forestry service roads for this region by the CCF and SFD. These roads so designated would become permanent multi-use, recreational access roads. Heavily used recreational roads should be paved to reduce maintenance costs where possible. As funding becomes available, identified existing sub-standard road sections should also be upgraded to the new standards.
- Major trail and access road construction contracts within the RMOW need to be cost effectively planned, publicly tendered, managed and supervised.
- CCF, SFD to negotiate with backcountry operators re: maintenance issues of access roads.

Use of Volunteers

- Work by volunteer groups such as Rotary Clubs, Habitat Improvement Team (HIT), Whistler Offroad Cycling Association (WORCA), Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC) etc. would help greatly with keeping maintenance costs of trails to a minimum.
- An adopt a trail program should be implemented whereby each volunteer group takes care of minor maintenance on assigned trails on a regular schedule.
- One option to construct new hiking trails at low cost with volunteers from other provinces or countries should be explored. This would require good trail work lead hands and trainers. Typically, these volunteers would spend the summer here working on hiking trails and get meals and accommodation paid. Tools, materials and insurance would have to be provided. Such volunteer trail crews have been used very successfully in US National Forests and Parks in the Pacific Northwest to keep costs low and still provide good trails.

Effective Trail actions that we can make now (with funding)

• <u>Popular "Chief-like" trail</u> - Initially, develop and maintain at least one popular trail to a local peak or significant viewpoint; options are: Cougar Mountain from Whistler Heli-Port, Sproatt Mtn. , Whistler Mtn. via CBC /CN tower road, Brandywine Mtn.,

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- <u>Goal within RMOW: 3 Alpine trails</u> develop/improve 3 trails to the Alpine within RMOW to "tourist-worthy" within 3 years; options are: W5.1 Rainbow Lake Trail (including W5.10 Rainbow Loop Trail) W4.2 Flank Trail North (to complete Rainbow-Skywalk Loop) E4.4 Crater Rim Trail Upgrade Cougar Mountain Road so that 2wd rental cars can drive up to Ancient Cedars trail head. Upgrade road from there to Flank Trail North Trail Head. Upgrade West Main Service road from Function Junction to Logger's lake parking area to 2wd standard.
 <u>Goal within SFD : 3 Alpine trails</u> – develop/improve at least 3 trails to the Alpine within SFD to "tourist-worthy" within 3 years; options are: W5.17 Skywalk Route (including W4.4 Screaming Cat Lake Trail.) W7.5 Cougar Mountain Loop Route W5.2 Sproatt Ridge Route W5.11 Rainbow Lake-Madeley Lake Trail
- Develop and maintain other hiking trails in the region according to priorities shown in the Trails Lists in Addendum IV.
- Reopen backcountry access on roads with locked gates.
 - <u>Move Gate on Black Tusk</u> microwave tower road up the road as high as possible, but still providing a controllable location to prevent motorized access beyond that point.
 - <u>Remove Gate on CBC/CN tower</u> access road to allow access for hikers onto the Khyber Pass trail.
- RMOW and WB should jointly take responsibility for <u>improving access to the Singing Pass Trail</u> either via the Innergex Power Plant road or by making road repairs to re-establish access to the old trail head and parking area near the abandoned mine shaft.
- In order to make effective improvements as soon as possible, funding and work on trails should be prioritized as follows:
 - 1st address risks and safety issues,
 - 2nd provide adequate signage and information,
 - 3rd improvements and maintenance on existing trails,
 - 4th new trail construction.

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Introduction

This report is the result of an initiative by Kurt Mueller. He was concerned about the current unacceptable conditions of hiking trails and access roads that lead to alpine hiking trails in the Whistler area. He was also concerned that the huge potential for alpine hiking that the Whistler area has to offer, was largely ignored, which could impact the future competitiveness, viability and sustainability of this mountain resort community.

Kurt expressed his concerns to the mayor and was invited to make a presentation to the Forest and Wildlands Advisory Committee (FWAC). As a result of that presentation in September 2010, FWAC agreed that this was a high priority issue that needed more attention from the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) and Kurt was asked to establish and chair a Hiking Trail Task Force (HTTF) with the following objectives:

- Provide an inventory of existing hiking trails
- Identify potential new hiking trails
- Assess maintenance needs and priorities
- Produce a report to FWAC

The Terms of Reference for the HTTF are included in Addendum I.

Initially, a list of 21 existing and 7 potential new hiking trails was developed and a draft report target of September 2011 was set. This initial list has grown from a total of 28 trails to over 100 trails. Not only had the scope more than tripled in size, but the 2011 hiking season had been delayed by a record snow pack and cool spring and early summer climate. This affected our ability in some cases to assess trail conditions in a timely manner. In mid-August there were still significant snow patches at 1500 m. elevation and on September 17, 2011 it snowed in some places again down to about 1600 m. Due to these factors FWAC agreed to extend the report date to the end of 2011.

The members of the HTTF are long time Whistler residents with good knowledge of the backcountry and trail systems around Whistler. This report has been produced as a voluntary service at no cost to the community.

In preparing this report we considered the needs and expectations of our visitors to Whistler in addition to those of Whistler residents. Visitors generally are not prepared for the deteriorated conditions of our forest service access roads and usually do not have high clearance 4WD vehicles. A number of Greater Vancouver hiking clubs also use the Whistler area alpine hiking trails. Many of those people are familiar with access to our trail heads; their needs are similar to those of local residents.

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While sincere efforts were made to produce this report as accurately as possible, no guarantees are implied as to the complete accuracy of this report due to the constantly changing environmental and other factors not under our control, that affect conditions of hiking trails and access roads.

Special thanks go to Don MacLaurin for his continued involvement and assistance in trail planning. John Hammons produced the maps for this report. Mitchell Sulkers, Rupert Merer, Kevin Titus, Bryce Leigh, Richard Auer, John Hammons and Kurt Mueller hiked the trails, proposed routes and filled in the trail reports. Iain Grunwell assisted with the writing and creation of this report.

This draft report is intended as a working document and planning tool. Further, the HTTF will be forming a hiking club and trails crew within the Alpine Club of Canada and continue to update the detail trail reports annually.

Scope

Although this report is primarily produced for the benefit of the Whistler community, the geographic area covered by this report is the old "Whistler, Callaghan and Soo Landscape Units". These extend from the big orange bridge over Culliton creek in the South to Nairn Falls in the North and include all headlands and drainages of the Cheakamus and Green River watershed. This is the same area as covered in the FWAC charter. In this report this whole area is also referred to as the "Whistler region".

There are various jurisdictions in this area. Please note that for the purpose of this report only, we have separated the trails by RMOW boundary, WB boundary, BC Provincial Park boundaries, and all remaining by SFD boundaries.

Most hiking trails are covered. Valley trails and Lost Lake trails are not included. The intent of this report is to focus on hiking trails with special values and trails that lead into the alpine areas surrounding Whistler. Trails within provincial parks and within Whistler-Blackcomb tenures are mostly shown for reference only.

History

Like most hiking trails in the Coastal Ranges of BC, the Whistler area trails were developed by the Squamish Forest District after logging opened up access via forest service roads (FSR). Mountaineering clubs also built and maintained some of the hiking trails.

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Today, the SFD has virtually stopped any development or maintenance of hiking trails in this area. The Mountaineering clubs also have no trail budgets and have not maintained any trails in this area for several years.

The Cheakamus Community Forest has no funds at the moment but intends to help with hiking trails in the future when revenues from timber sales come in.

The RMOW in cooperation with the Provincial Government has constructed and improved trails such as the Flank trail and the trail up to Rainbow Mountain in the past. However, the RMOW has shifted the alpine trail budget for several years now to construct and maintain the Sea to Sky trail and other off-road bike trails in the valley. The Province has reduced funding for trails.

Mainly for these reasons, our hiking trails around Whistler are mostly so run down and dilapidated now that they do not even appear in hiking guide books any more.

The exceptions are trails on Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. WB are doing a great job of continually developing more hiking trails and maintaining existing trails within their tenure. It appears as if WB are the only ones who can envision the economic long term benefits of hiking trails in this area.

However WB only operate the gondola from 10 AM to 5 PM except for weekend evenings when they are having a barbecue. These are short hours for serious hikers, especially those who wish to climb into the Fitzsimmons range.

European resorts generally keep their access gondolas and lifts open for longer hours- In Zermatt most of the lifts open by 8 AM and close at 6 PM in summer, but some, like the Gornergrat, operate from 7AM with the last ride down at 8 PM. The Brevent, above Chamonix operates from 8.15 AM with a last ride down at 5.45 PM in summer. The Brevent offers 9 hours hiking (allowing for gondola journey time), the Gornergrat over 12 hours, Whistler-Blackcomb allows only 6.5 hours. Even the little gondola in Banff operates for much longer hours, 8.30 AM to 9PM in summer, and takes dogs!

Parks BC have in the past built great trails in Garibaldi Park. Today, as everyone knows, BC Parks has seen drastic budget cuts since the new ministry was created. For this reason trails within the BC Parks system are barely maintained, although they receive more attention than the SFD forestry trails. We have tried many times to contact BC Parks, but they have not even been able to answer their phones or email. No new trails have been created for quite some time in Garibaldi, Callaghan or Brandywine Falls provincial parks. None of the master plans on trails shown in the websites of those parks have seen any activity in the last decade. BC Parks has not followed their own recommendation that development of trails will return benefits many times over. A government study from 2001 entitled 'Economic Benefits of BC Provincial Parks' claimed that for every tax dollar invested in parks, visitors spend \$10 in the BC economy. (The US Parks Service data supports this multiplier effect with a \$4 return for every \$1 invested in their Parks.)

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New trail building in BC Parks ended decades ago. There is still no trail around the West side of Garibaldi Lake toward Mt Price, an objective with amazing vistas. A trail around Callaghan Lake has been on the Parks master plan for many years, but nothing has been done. Brandywine Falls Park was increased in size that now includes a nice little loop trail that needs very little work. However, the public is discouraged from using it because of an official (although incorrect) sign claiming that it goes through private lands.

General observations and goals

As representatives of the hiking community we feel that Whistler as a world class mountain resort has squandered a real economic development opportunity by not adequately developing and maintaining alpine hiking trails (except within the WB tenure). From 1966 when ski operations started, the community has grown from about 500 to 11,000 permanent residents today. In the same period, when all infrastructure developments were expanding, the number of hiking trails from the valley to alpine areas has actually decreased and many of the remaining trails are in a deplorable state of decline. Hiking in our opinion is an important recreational activity that could be an important economic driver for the future in our resort community. With visitors from developing economies such as China, Taiwan, India and Brazil expected to increase, we feel that the time has come for Whistler to take another look at this great resource of hiking potential. These new (mostly mature, less adventurous) visitors are more likely to expect hiking opportunities in a mountain resort rather than snow sports or skilled biking recreation. Even now, every day during the summer, many visitors ask for information on local alpine hiking trails.

We are getting more concerned in North America about the fitness level of our children and grandchildren. The health benefits of hiking to all of us are priceless. If we can improve the local hiking experience through better access and trails to our magnificent Mountains around Whistler, our children, grandchildren and elderly residents will benefit most.

This is a resource that we cannot longer afford to ignore. We need to approach hiking with a much greater vision to the future like Banff, Canmore, Nelson, Ketchum, Jackson and most other international mountain resorts have done. Not only is hiking more sustainable and has less impact on our natural environment than many of the other recreational activities, hiking has also the potential to provide significant economic benefits to our community.

There are plenty of trails in the valley and in the interpretive forests. Our greatest assets for hiking however are in our magnificent alpine areas. It is specifically in these areas where we have totally neglected our existing hiking trails and future potential.

Marketing of hiking trails by TW should only include trails that are in good shape, otherwise our trails get bad publicity and a failing grade before they are ready for tourists. Right now, this is a huge dilemma as even one of our most accessible alpine trails, the Rainbow Lake Trail is in very bad shape.

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One challenge that Whistler faces is that the valley is located at 650 m, which is about 900 to 1000 metres below the alpine. For most hikers this is a long hike. Starting at 650 m elevation the average hiker can reach the alpine but has little time or energy remaining to hike further and enjoy the alpine or even climb a peak. This means that almost all of the hiker's day is spent in the trees, with limited or no views. In European and other North American mountain resorts the vertical distance from the valley to the alpine is typically no more than 400 m and hikers have time to enjoy the alpine or climb a peak.

The vertical height of a hike is always an important consideration. Few visitors or casual hikers want to climb more than 1000 metres vertically in a day. The reasonably fit or young will climb 1200/1500 m, but more than 1500 m in a day is a very long day for all but the most serious hiker.

Residents can usually solve this by driving with high clearance 4x4 vehicles to high trailheads on old logging roads. This option isn't available to visitors using taxis or regular rental cars.

This explains why the loss of the old Singing Pass parking lot and trail head is so important. That TH was located at an elevation of about 1000 m, so that the alpine could be accessed relatively easily. Most hikers could reach Russet Lake and it was possible for a reasonably fit hiker to reach the alpine and climb a 2400 m peak in a day.

Many visitors to Whistler would like to hike in the alpine without paying the \$45 (approximate) cost of the gondola, or being restricted by the gondola operating hours. Some of these visitors have large families or are part of groups and the total cost of the gondola ride for the family or group is considerable. And guests that do use the gondola and hike both mountains are looking for other alpine hikes if they stay longer or are a returning guest (they do not want to repeatedly hike the same trails). For visitors who do not wish to use the gondola but wish to hike to the alpine there are few options. Nevertheless, these visitors that come here and look for other alpine hiking options of course are still spending money in our town for accommodation, food, supplies and other services.

Logistically it is not easy to develop a business model for alpine hiking from the Whistler valley. The challenges of a very large area and degraded access roads are huge. The initial small numbers of hikers interested in particular alpine routes may not support a regular scheduled transport system (as for example in Denali Park) but we can all start by putting hiking back on the local agenda and begin to think toward developing that ultimate goal of improving trails and access. With better hiking trails available, no doubt, tour operators will find economical ways to shuttle clients to trail heads.

Some very encouraging news toward that type of thinking is to hear that the CCF is already planning to build future FSR mains with the specifications and goals for permanent recreational access.

We also discussed minimizing access roads and creating major trail heads or hubs. The benefit would be that fewer roads need to be maintained and therefore those roads could be built to a better standard and maintained better and more permanently. Of course, this sounds great, but is difficult to achieve

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without making some trails significantly longer. One location, the trail head for Ancient Cedars, has been discussed where this concept could work. With some modifications it could be a hub for Cougar Mountain, Flank trail North and some potential Soo valley aspects.

Can We Offer One Extremely Popular Local Mountain Trail That Brings Them Back?

Whistler has no equivalent to the Grouse Grind in North Vancouver or the Stawamus Chief in Squamish. The Chief Trail saw an average of 1400 hikers per day on summer weekends, with a peak of 2500 on one long weekend day.

Whistler could establish competitors to these trails which would be popular with tourists, lower mainland hikers and residents. These trails offer easy highway access, a test of fitness that attracts hikers for repeat visits (is my time better?) and scenic views at the summit.

Four Whistler alternatives are:

- (1) A new trail to the top of Cougar Mountain from the heli-port parking area would provide fantastic views and would be very popular.
- (2) A trail directly up Sproatt from the Rainbow Lake trail. We realize that there are watershed issues, but these were resolved on the mountains behind Grouse, where access was limited in the 1960s due to watershed issues. (Also, the current trend for potable water supply in Whistler appears to be in using well water). This trail is practically existing, but it needs significant improvements in order to become really popular. The advantage of this trail is that it has paved access and it also can be reached from a Whistler Transit bus stop.
- (3) A trail up to Whistler peak from the CBC tower road would be even more popular because hikers with knee problems wouldn't have to walk down when the lifts are operating. WB could charge for downloading. However, this would require removal of the current gate and some access road improvements to make the trail head accessible by 2wd. The other issue is that the trail goes through WB tenure at the top.
- (4) A new trail to the top of Brandywine would be extremely popular. However, this would require considerable access road upgrades to make it accessible by 2wd.

Comparison with Canmore

It should be possible for a visitor to Whistler to climb a mountain in one day, without worrying about the gondola cost or timetable. In Canmore the selection is overwhelming. There are at least 10 mountains in the immediate valley with good trails to the top, and many more a short distance away in Kananaskis.

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Whistler gives out two free maps to Tourists. The first shows the village and is a good guide to shopping, restaurants and hotels. The other map shows the valley trail system, and on the rear a detailed map of Lost Lake with its bike and general use trails. This map is firmly based on trails in the valley bottom.

The free map given to tourists in Canmore, which is Alberta's mountain resort of similar size to Whistler, is a detailed topographical map with 200 metre contours. It shows most of the local mountains and alpine hiking trails. It shows a total of about 10 trails to local mountain summits and an additional 30 alpine trails, which are all within 40 km of the town. On the rear of the Canmore map is a topographical map of Kananaskis country, with additional alpine and mountain trails.

The difference between the Whistler and Canmore maps illustrates the difference in the way the two communities relate to the Alpine hiking potential on their mountains.

Access

Expanded timber harvesting in the 1950's and 1960's resulted in an extensive system of FSR's in this region. These forestry roads were constructed to a standard that minimized costs with road gradients often in excess of 20%. Although these roads were constructed and maintained to support logging operations, they provided good 4-wheel drive access to a number of hiking trails. This changed dramatically in the 1990's when the pace of timber harvesting was reduced and the policy of de-activating logging roads was introduced. With erosion and reduced levels of road maintenance, the steeper segments of these FSR's have deteriorated badly. There has been no planning in the past to maintain strategic FSR's as permanent recreational access roads for the purpose of hiking. As an all season Mountain Resort Community this situation really hurts us economically today. The costs to upgrade or even to maintain these roads are now becoming very high. However, without significant improvements to access roads that lead to our alpine trail heads, we cannot grow and promote this huge resource.

After de-activating road sections, locked gates came next, further reducing access to the alpine trails for hiking. We should not eliminate access for hiking to the alpine because of a risk of vandalism.

Backcountry operators are not maintaining roads for public access in their tenure areas and in fact contribute to deterioration of access roads by heavy use of ATV's, which combined with weather and run-off makes some roads inaccessible.

These factors and others have dramatically reduced reasonable access for hiking especially for families and older persons. Reasonable access is defined here as a return trip from the trail head of 8 hours. Following is a list of trails that no longer are accessible within that criterion:

Singing Pass trail from old trail head – now gated at WB boundary

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Black Tusk from microwave tower road – now gated at km 5 from Function Junction

Screaming Cat lake TH from 16 Mile Creek FSR – FSR deteriorated due to ATV tours

FSR connection from Cougar Mtn Road to 16 Mile Creek FSR – deterioration due to ATV tours

Whistler Mountain from CBC tower road - now gated at Function Junction

Jane Lakes loop – now gated at km 5 from Function Junction, access from other side deteriorated

Brandywine meadows – FSR deteriorated due to ATV tours

Recommendations

Trails Strategy

Whistler has come a long way in developing summer recreation. However, hiking somehow has fallen through the crack. The long-term economic benefits of hiking could be the building block to success for the future and should not be underestimated. The economic importance to develop and improve our alpine hiking trail network requires a trails strategy to be developed for this whole area.

This strategy should be managed by a trails coordinator. Ideally, that office would be a partnership between the RMOW, WB, CCF, BC Parks, SLRD, Squamish Lillooet First Nations and RSTBC/SFD. The trails coordinator would work with all partners to achieve goals on trail issues covering the whole area and ensure that all trails are legal and registered under section 56 or 57 of the FRPA. Further, he/she would be responsible to communicate to the public any closures, wildlife alerts, and current status of trails and access roads.

The trails coordinator would also pursue additional grants and funding applications to the partners, provincial and federal governments, Tourism Whistler (TW) and the Whistler business community and develop budgets for hiking trail construction and maintenance.

A permanent advisory committee on alpine hiking trails should be established comprised of local hikers.

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Signage and information

Generally, one of the first things that needs to be improved is signage. Initially all trails that are safe for use by visitors need clear directional signage to trail heads, trail head signs and trail markers. We live in the information age, yet much of the information that is on our current maps and guides is incorrect, leading visitors to de-activated or over-grown roads or worse, on trails were they can easily get lost because of lack of markers and signage. Many trail markers currently consist of coloured tapes. It is recommended to use official RSTBC trail markers on all official hiking trails. Tape should only be used in defining routes for future trails. The reason for this is that there are many types of tapes in our forests, which could be misleading to people, especially to visitors that do not have detailed maps of the area. (Some flagging and tapes are used for logging, mineral claims, surveying, future roads, etc.)

Trail information given and issued by TW and Village hosts needs to be up to date, accurate and precise. Only trails that are in good shape should be shown to visitors. A topographical map, similar to that issued in Canmore, would be a great help to our visitors and a great marketing tool.

Access to trail heads

The gate at the Black Tusk microwave road needs to be moved. Whistler residents are very upset with the current location of the gate. The gate should be moved as close as possible to the alpine area in order to allow access for hikers. This is an area where families could easily hike into the alpine area around Black Tusk with their children, providing opportunities for healthy recreation. This is a high value hiking area near Whistler. In fact, if the BC government is serious about restricting access around the potential Barrier slide area, it would be good planning to provide at least alternative (secondary) access to Garibaldi Park from the Black Tusk microwave road.

In general, locked gates punish hikers in order to protect assets against possible damage by vandals. There are better ways to protect these assets, such as security cameras and stronger legislation. Permit controlled access may also be an option.

The Backcountry operators at Brandywine FSR and at Cougar Mountain and 16 Mile Creek FSR should be approached to maintain the roads through their tenure for public access.

Whistler-Blackcomb, Whistler Legacies Society, and Inergex should be approached to provide access to the Singing Pass Trail via the Fitzsimmons IPP access road. This is one of the most important alpine access trails in Whistler and complements Whistler-Blackcomb's lift accessible trail system. As such restablishing this trail with a new bridge over Fitzsimmons Creek should be a high priority. Moving the access for hikers to the Blackcomb Mountain side of Fitzsimmons Creek would also eliminate the potential for collisions between hikers on the current Singing Pass access road and downhill mountain bikers using the Whistler Mountain bike park trails. If that cannot be achieved, the old access road should be repaired to the old trail head.

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Cross ditching on recreational access roads should be done in a way so that 2WD vehicles can still reasonably drive across without risk of losing a muffler or an oil pan.

In the longer term, the CCF should establish a permanent multiple use road standard focused on public recreation access for 2-wheel drive vehicles with gentler road gradients (less than 16%). For some roads that are more frequently used, such as to the Cheakamus Lake TH, to the Loggers Lake TH, and to the Ancient Cedars TH, serious consideration should be given for asphalt surfacing to reduce maintenance costs and to provide a standard expected by our visitors. Finally, the existing sub-standard road sections in the present system of recreational access roads in the area in general should be identified and upgraded as funding allows.

Hiking Trails

Priority for improvement to hiking trails should be based on ease of access from public roads or transit and on values for effort.

Our recommended short term action plan for trails are:

Goal for RMOW: Develop /improve 3 Alpine Trails and their access to "tourist worthy" condition within 3 years. So that Village Hosts and TW can direct guests to hiking trails close to Whistler rather than sending them to other areas. Options are:

- (1) W5.1 Rainbow Lake Trail (including W5.10 Rainbow Loop Trail)
- (2) W4.2 Flank Trail North (to complete Rainbow-Skywalk Loop)
- (3) E4.4 Crater Rim Trail
- (4) Upgrade Cougar Mountain Road so that 2wd rental cars can drive up to Ancient Cedars trail head. Upgrade road from there to Flank Trail North Trail Head.
- (5) Upgrade West Main Service road from Function Junction to Logger's lake parking area to 2wd standard.

Goal for SFD: Develop /improve at least 3 Alpine Trails and their access to "tourist worthy" condition within 3 years. Options are:

- (1) W5.17 Skywalk Route (including W4.4 Screaming Cat Lake Trail).
- (2) W7.5 Cougar Mountain Loop Route
- (3) W5.2 Sproatt Ridge Route
- (4) W5.11 Rainbow Lake-Madeley Lake Trail
- (5) Improve access road to Madely Lake to 2wd standard

If items 1 to 3 in each of the above goals are achieved, it would provide a good system of alpine trails with options for all levels of hikers close to Whistler. This system offers good access for everyone,

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including access by transit bus. It has truly outstanding views on many of it's trail sections and of course from the top of Sproatt, Rainbow and Cougar mountains

Goals for BC Parks: Develop at least 1 new trail in the short term and restore access on Black Tusk micro wave tower road.

- Develop a new trail at Callaghan Lake. It is suggested to build a trail from the Callaghan Lake parking area around the south-west side of the lake towards Ring Lake.
- Restore access to <u>Black Tusk</u>. Starting at a higher elevation will open up this Whistler iconic symbol.

Priorities of all other trails are shown in the trails list and individual trail reports in Addendum IV.

A volunteer trail crew is urgently needed to help maintain trails at reasonable costs. The HTTF members are intending to join the ACC and form a volunteer trail crew to work on and maintain local alpine hiking trails.

It is proposed that clubs like the Rotary Club, Rotary Club Millennium, HIT, ACC, WORCA, adopt trails for ongoing maintenance purposes.

Significant future potential exists for hiking in the Soo and Rutherford valleys. Due to costs and logistics, these routes are only mentioned as potential at this time. Any hikes in these valleys to alpine areas currently require significant bushwhacking and route finding skills. Any trail development would significantly improve accessibility in this area. New forest service roads will be built in these valleys and these will provide better potential access in future.

Trail Inventory

The trails list and inventory is shown in Addendum IV.

Trails in BC Parks and WB tenure are shown for reference only. Reference guide books are listed in Addendum II.

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

Addendum I

Hiking Trails Task Force Terms of Reference 2010/2011

To advise the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee regarding priority actions required to improve hiking trails in the Whistler area. Tasks include:

- Inventory existing hiking trails
- Identify potential new hiking trails
- Assess maintenance needs and priorities on existing trails
- Produce a report and submit to FWAC for inclusion in the access management strategy

Authorized and Appointed by

Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee

Comprised Of

Volunteers drawn from the Whistler community with expertise and knowledge of Whistler area hiking trails.

Term

The Hiking Trails Task Force will complete the tasks by September 1, 2011.

Chair

Kurt Mueller, Chair

Meetings

As required and determined by the task force.

Communications

The Hiking Trails Task Force communicates with FWAC through update reports submitted for inclusion in the monthly FWAC meeting agenda.

Expectations

All members are expected to:

- to review distributed material before the meeting and to keep up to date on issues;
- RSVP to Task Force Chair whether or not they will be able to attend the meeting.

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Addendum II

References

References and links to trail information are generally provided in the report. Trail information is further available in the following guide books:

Book A	The Whistler book: an all season outdoor guide / Jack Christie
Book B	Whistler Hiking Guide / Brian Finestone & Kevin Hodder
Book C	109 Walks in BC's Lower Mainland / Mary & David Macaree
Book D	Whistler: the 10 premier hikes / Kathy & Craig Copeland
Book E	Hike and Snowshoe Whistler/ Lynn Altieri-Need & Tanya McLaughlin
Book F	Whistler Mountain Biking: A guide to trail rides in the Whistler Valley / Brian Finestone & Kevin Hodder
Book G	Scrambles in SW BC / Matt Gunn

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

Addendum III

List of Abbreviations

AWARE	Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment
BCP	BC Parks
BCMC	BC Mountaineering Club
FMCBC	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
FRBC	Forest Renewal BC
FRPA	Forest and Range Practices Act (BC)
FSR	Forest Service Road (includes also Resource roads in this report)
FWAC	Forest and Wildlands Advisory Committee
2WD	2-wheel drive Vehicle
4WD	4-wheel drive Vehicle
HC 4x4	High Clearance 4-wheel drive Vehicle
HIT	Habitat Improvement Team (Volunteer group spearheaded by WB)
HTTF	Hiking Trails Task Force
IPP	Independent Power Plant
LRUP	Local Resource Use Plan
MFLNRO	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (BC)
MOF	BC Ministry of Forests (old)
REF	Reference
RMOW	Resort Municipality of Whistler
RSTBC	Recreation Sites and Trails Branch BC (of MFLNRO)
	Note: All recreational sites and trails on crown land are within RSTBC jurisdiction. For
	the purpose of this report, all trails on crown land outside RMOW and WB boundaries
	are listed under SFD.
SFD	Squamish Forest District
SLRD	Squamish Lillooet Regional District
TBD	To be determined
TH	Trail-Head
TW	Tourism Whistler (Whistler Resort Association)
VOC	Varsity Outdoor Club
WB	Whistler-Blackcomb
WES	Whistler Environmental Strategy
WLU	Whistler Landscape Unit
WORCA	Whistler Offroad Cycling Association

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Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

Addendum IV

Trail Inventory

Criteria Used for Rating and Estimating

<u>How did we do it?</u> The evaluation of all hiking trails in the list outside of WB tenure and BC Parks are based on the following criteria and guidelines:

Priority rating criteria:

Trails were assigned a priority rating based on a mix of ease of access, value (views, features e.g. waterfalls), and work required to bring up to standard. Priority 1 being the highest and 4 the lowest.

Trail Difficulty Grading System

Duration	Hours	Elevation Gain	m	Difficulty of	Terrain
Α	0-4	1	0-500	а	Easy
В	4-7	2	500-1000	b	Moderate
С	7-10	3	1000-1500	С	Difficult
D	10+	4	1500+	d	Advanced

For example: a hike that takes 2 hours, has 400 m elevation gain over easy terrain, is rated A1a. A hike that takes 8 hours, has 900m elevation gain over advanced Terrain is rated C2d.

Terrain rating criteria:

Easy	Easy grades, generally easy conditions for hiking	
Moderate	Moderate grades, may have some moderate challenges	
Difficult	Steeper grades, may have high steps, longer muddy sections	
Advanced	Steep grades and /or exposed sections. Temporary river crossings of challenging at times	can be
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Value rating criteria:

Low	Little reward for effort, limited scenic views, few features.
Medium	Average reward for effort, good scenic views and unique features.
High	Good reward for effort, great scenic views, outstanding features.
FSR Classifica	tion

Class A 2 WD access

Class B 4x4 access

Class C HC 4x4 access

Trail Standard Classification

To stay as close to the existing RMOW classification, we have tried to follow the Whistler Trail Standards. However, those were developed mainly for mountain bike trails, and are not quite applicable to hiking trails. In order to suit our needs for this report, we have added classification Type VI.

Reference: Whistler Trail Standards RMOW 2nd Draft

http://www.thewhistlerway.ca/cms-assets/documents/3119-702261.trailstandardsfirstedition.pdf

BC MOF Foot Trail Guidelines / BC Parks Trail Classification

Туре І	Paved, Wheelchair accessible
	Heavily used multi-purpose trail as per RMOW Trail Type I Standard, except minimum thread widths may be 1.5m and grades to be suitable for wheelchair use.
Type II	Surfaced
	Moderately used multi-purpose trail as per RMOW Trail Type II Standard.
Type III	Unsurfaced
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Moderately used hiking trail as per RMOW Trail Type III Standard Type IV Developed/Improved. Lightly used wilderness hiking trail. Signage, Trail markers, Cairns above treeline. Similar to RMOW Trail Type VI Standard. Adequate drainage and protection in sensitive areas, boardwalks. Type V Simple/Minor Development. Lightly used wilderness trail. Visible path, some markers, adequate flagging or cairns. Similar to RMOW Trail Type V Standard except keep boardwalks to minimum required, use stepping boulders, log steps, where practical. Type VI Minimal development. Lightly used wilderness route with sufficient flagging and/or Cairns. Similar to (but less developed than) RMOW Trail Type V Standard. This is the first step in any new trail development and over time and depending on popularity and use, it will

be upgraded.

Budget Estimation

Budget estimates for trails (and access roads in some cases), are provided in digital format only on official request.

Budget estimates are considered Order of Magnitude for the purpose of scoping and planning only. Some locations and individual situations may require considerable higher cost for transport, etc. Due to location, restricted access, etc. Estimates are based on following guide lines and average rates:

Estimate Guide Lines and Rates used for this report

Grading of existing Class A access road (1 pass with grader only) Page | 26 \$1,000/km

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

Grade and brush access road (light growth)	\$1,500/km
Resurface road (Add 2" top dressing from local sources)	\$8,000/km
Repair impassable road section (smooth cross ditching)	\$1,000/each
Development of TH (using local materials)	\$7,000/each
Install lockable gate	\$4,000/each
Develop Type I trail (average cost below treeline)	\$60,000/km
Develop Type II trail (average cost below treeline)	\$30,000/km
Develop Type III trail (average cost below treeline)	\$20,000/km
Develop Type IV trail (average cost below treeline)	\$15,000/km
Develop Type V trail (average cost below treeline)	\$8,000/km
Develop Type VI trail (average cost below treeline)	\$2,000/km
Clear light brush and deadfall along trail	\$250/km
Clear heavy brush and deadfall along trail	\$1,000/km
New foot-bridge, 3m span, 2 local logs, hand-rail 1 side	\$1,200/each
Additional span of foot bridge (up to 10m max. Span) This unit can also be used for small stream crossings per m.	\$400/m
Basic board-walk (in wet areas) 0.6m wide (split cedar deck)	\$50/m
Trail sign on highway	\$500/each
Trail direction sign	\$200/each
Sign with map at TH or start of trail	\$2,000/each
Trail markers on trees	\$100/km
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Trail marking above tree line, Cairns, paint	\$300/km
Guidelines for trail repair costs	
Trail repair costs are estimated as a percentage of new construction co actual quantities shown for these items will be proportionally adjusted conditions. A few examples are shown here as follows:	
Existing trail sections with major erosion problems	use 100% of lengths
Existing trail sections with minor erosion problems	use 30% of lengths

Sections where 40% of boardwalk needs to be replaced use 40% of lengths

At this time we have no costs included for habitat rehabilitation due to over-use or short-cutting. This will need to be addressed in future when trails are getting more use.

Summary Trails List

This is a summary list of all hiking trails by jurisdiction (total of 107 trails and 464 kms.)

Including 70 existing and 37 proposed trails.

Jurisdiction	# of	
	Trails	Kms.
BC Parks (BCP)	26	108
BCP/Squamish Forest District (SFD)shared	5	19
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)	23	83
RMOW/SFD shared	5	64
SFD	39	168
Whistler-Blackcomb	9	22

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

Complete Listing of Trails by Location

TRAIL	NAME	SYSTEM	STATUS	Length	Priority	Value	Difficulty	Access
Number				in KM	Rating	Rating	Rating	To TH
Е	TRAILS on East Side							
E1.1	Garibaldi Lake Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	8.0				Paved
E1.2	Taylor Meadows Connector Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	2.2				Trail
E1.3	Taylor Meadows - Black Tusk Lake Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	3.9				Trail
E1.4	Black Tusk Meadows Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	1.8				Trail
E1.5	Black Tusk Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	1.5				Trail
E1.6	Microwave - Black Tusk Route	Garibaldi Lake	Proposed	2.4				4x4
E1.7	Panorama Ridge Trail	Garibaldi Lake	Existing	2.5				Paved
E1.8	Mt Price Route	Garibaldi Lake	Proposed	2.9				Trail
E1.9	Lava Flats N. Route	Conroy Creek	Proposed	3.0	4	Medium	C2C	4x4
E1.10	Lava Flats S. Route	Conroy Creek	Proposed	4.8	4	Medium	C2C	4x4
E2.1	Jane Lakes Trail	Jane Lakes	Existing	6.6	3	Medium	A1B	4x4
E2.2	Jane Lake - Brandywine Connector Route	Jane Lakes	Proposed	2.4	4	Low	A1A	4x4
E3.1	Cheakamus Lake Trail	Cheakamus Lake	Existing	7.3				2WD
E3.2	Helm Creek Trail	Cheakamus Lake	Existing	10.4				Trail
E3.3	Cheakamus Lake to Singing Pass Route	Cheakamus Lake	Proposed	3.1				Trail
E3.4	Corrie Lake Route	Cheakamus Lake	Proposed	1.0				Trail
E4.1	Riverside Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	5.7	1	Low-Med	A1A	Paved
E4.2	Farside Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	3.3	1	Low-Med	A1A	2WD
E4.3	Ridge Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	4.6	1	Low-Med	A1B	2WD
E4.4	Crater Rim Trail (Logger's Lake)	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	3.1	1	High	A1B	2WD
E4.5	Riparian Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	1.2	1	Low-Med	A1A	2WD
E4.6	Highline Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	1.2	1	Medium	A1B	2WD
E4.7	Highline - Babylon Connector Route	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Proposed	2.0	4	Low	A1A	2WD
E4.8	Babylon Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	2.0	2	Low	A1C	2WD
E4.9	Upper Babylon Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	2.5	1	Medium	A1C	2WD
E4.10	Khyber Pass Trail	Whistler Interpretive Forest	Existing	1.7	1	High	A1B	2WD
E5.1	Northwest Passage Trail	Northwest Passage	Existing	2.8	3	Low	A1A	Paved
E6.1	Singing Pass Trail (Road)	Singing Pass	Existing	4.0				Paved

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

TRATI	NAME	SYSTEM	STATUS	Length	Priority	Value	Difficulty	Access
Number			514105	in KM	Rating	Rating	Rating	To TH
E	TRAILS on East Side (cont'd)							
E6.2	Singing Pass Trail	Singing Pass	Existing	10.6				Trail
E6.3	Fitzsimmons Creek - Spearhead Connector	Singing Pass	Proposed	6.3				2WD
E6.4	Spearhead Traverse	Spearhead Traverse	Proposed	7.6				Lift
E6.5	Musical Bumps Trail - BC Parks	Singing Pass	Existing	3.5				Trail
E6.6	Musical Bumps Trail - WB	Whistler Mountain	Existing	5.3				Lift
E6.7	High Note Trail	Whistler Mountain	Existing	4.0				Lift
E6.8	Flute - Singing Pass Route	Singing Pass	Proposed	2.7				Lift
E7.1	Alpine Walk Trail	Blackcomb	Existing	1.5				Lift
E7.2	Overlord Trail	Blackcomb	Existing	3.6				Lift
E7.3	Marmot Trail	Blackcomb	Existing	1.1				Lift
E7.4	Tree Line Trail	Blackcomb	Existing	1.0				Lift
E7.5	Lakeside Loop	Blackcomb	Existing	1.3				Lift
E7.6	Decker Loop Trail	Blackcomb	Existing	1.6				Lift
E8.1	Comfortably Numb Trail	Green Lake East	Existing	20.1	3	Low	C2C	4x4
E8.2	Young Lust Trail	Green Lake East	Existing	1.7	3	Low	B2C	4x4
E9.1	Wedgemount Trail	Wedgemount Lake	Existing	3.3				2x4

V	Trails in Valley							
V1.1	Sea to Sky Trail Daisy Lake	Sea to Sky Trail	Existing	6.2	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V1.2	Sea to Sky Trail Daisy Lake Route	Sea to Sky Trail	Propose	4.0	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V1.3	Sea to Sky Trail Whistler	Sea to Sky Trail	Existing	27.0	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V1.4	Sea to Sky - Green Lake Trail	Sea to Sky Trail	Existing	6.6	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V1.5	Sea to SkyTrail North Route	Sea to Sky Trail	Propose	19.7	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V1.6	Sea to SkyTrail North	Sea to Sky Trail	Existing	2.4	2	Medium	B1A	Paved
V2.1	Brandywine Park Loop	Brandywine Falls	Existing	1.9				Paved
V2.2	Brandywine Park to McGuire Trail	Brandywine Falls	Existing	2.7				Paved
V2.3	Brandywine Park to Calcheak Trail	Brandywine Falls	Existing	2.4				Paved
V3.1	Trainwreck Trail	Trainwreck	Existing	4.9	3	Medium	A1A	Paved
V3.2	Lower Yer Seat Trail	Trainwreck	Existing	0.5	3	Medium	A1A	Paved
V3.3	End of the Line Trail	Trainwreck	Existing	0.7	3	Low	A1A	Trail
V4.1	Blueberry Hill Trail	Blueberry Hill	Existing	1.3	2	Medium	A1B	Paved
V6.1	Shadow LakeTrails	Shadow Lake	Existing	4.7	2	Medium	A1A	Paved
V7.1	Nairn Falls Trail	Nairn	Existing	1.3				Paved

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

TRAIL	NAME	SYSTEM	STATUS	Length	Priority	Value	Difficulty	Access
Number				in KM	Rating	Rating	Rating	To TH
w	Trails on West Side							
W1.1	Tricouni West Trail	Tricouni	Existing	4.4	3	High	A1B	HC4x4
W1.2	Tricouni East Trail	Tricouni	Existing	2.0	3	High	A1A	HC4x4
W1.3	Roe Creek - Cypress Peak	Tricouni	Proposed	2.9	2	High	A2C	4x4
W1.4	Cloudburst from Chance Creek Route	Tricouni	Proposed	3.4	4	Medium	A2C	4x4
W2.1	Brew Lake Trail	Brew Lake	Existing	7.1	2	High	C4C	Paved
W2.2	Proposed New Brew Lake Trail	Brew Lake	Proposed	3.5	4	Low		4x4
W2.3	Roe Creek - Brew Lake	Brew Lake	Proposed	3.4	2	High	B2C	4x4
W3.1	Lower Old Brandywine Meadows Trail	Brandywine Meadows	Existing	1.7	2	High	A2B	2x4
W3.2	New Brandywine Meadows Trail	Brandywine Meadows	Existing	0.3	2	High	A1A	HC4x4
W3.3	Upper Brandywine Meadows Trail	Brandywine Meadows	Existing	1.4	2	High	A1A	Trail
W4.1	Flank Trail West	Flank Trail West	Existing	8.0	4	Medium	B1C	Paved
W4.2	Mid Flank Trail	Mid Flank Trail	Existing	14.7	1	Medium+	A1A	Paved
W4.3	Flank Trail North	Flank Trail North	Existing	7.9	1	Medium	A1B	HC4x4
W4.4	Screaming Cat Lake Trail	Flank Trail North	Existing	1.2	1	Medium+	A1A	Trail
W4.5	19 Mile Creek East	Flank Trail North	Existing	2.0	3	Medium	A1B	Paved
W5.1	Rainbow Lake Trail	Rainbow - Madely	Existing	8.9	1	High	B2A	Paved
W5.10	Rainbow Loop Trail	Rainbow Madley	Existing	0.9	1	High	A1A	Paved
W5.11	Rainbow Lake - Madely Lake Trail	Rainbow - Madely	Existing	7.2	1	High	B2A	2x4
W5.12	Madely Lakeside Trail	Rainbow - Madely	Existing	2.8	3	Low	A1A	2x4
W5.13	Biathlon-Hanging Lake Route	Rainbow - Madely	Proposed	2.6	3	Low	A1A	2x4
W5.14	Beverley Lake Route	Beverley Lake	Proposed	5.1	2	High	A1A	Trail
W5.15	Beverley Lake Loop Route	Beverley Lake	Proposed	5.0	4	Low	A2B	Trail
W5.16	Rainbow Ridge Loop Route	Skywalk	Proposed	7.9	4	Medium	A2B	Trail
W5.17	Skywalk Route	Skywalk	Proposed	9.4	3	High	B2C	Trail
W5.18	Dry Lakes Route	Skywalk	Proposed	3.0	4	Low	A1B	Trail
W5.2	Sproatt Ridge Route	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	13.2	3	High	B2B	Trail
W5.3	Gin & Tonic Route	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	1.1	3	High	A1A	Trail
W5.4	Gin & Tonic Sproatt Connector	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	1.7	3	High	A1A	Trail
W5.5	North Air Mine Route	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	2.2	3	High	A1B	4x4
W5.6	Sproatt SW Ridge Route	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	4.4	4	Medium	A1B	Trail
W5.7	Van West Route	Sproatt – Rainbow	Proposed	6.2	4	Medium	A1B	Trail

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Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

TRAIL	NAME	SYSTEM	STATUS	Length	Priority	Value	Difficulty	Access
Number				in KM	Rating	Rating	Rating	To TH
w	Trails on West Side (Cont'd)							(Current)
W5.8	Sproatt Mountain - Flank Trail Connector Route	Sproatt - Rainbow	Proposed	2.6	3	High	A1B	Trail
W5.9	Whip Me Snip Me Trail	Mid Flank Trail	Existing	1.7	2	Medium	A1B	Paved
W6.1	Callaghan Lake - Conflict Lake Trail	Callaghan Lake	Existing	4.6				4x4
W6.2	Callaghan Lake - Ring Lake Route	Callaghan Lake	Proposed	3.4				4x4
W6.3	Callaghan Lake NE Shore Route	Callaghan Lake	Proposed	3.6				4x4
W6.4	Cirque Lake Trail	Callaghan Lake	Existing	1.4		High		Boat
W6.5	Callaghan Lake - Madley Lake Connector Route	Callaghan Lake	Proposed	8.1				4x4
W6.6	Pond Loop Route	Callaghan Lake	Proposed	1.5				4x4
W7.1	Ancient Cedars Trail	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Existing	2.9	1	High	A1B	4x4
W7.2	Showh Lake Connector Trail	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Existing	0.5	2	Medium	A1A	4x4
W7.3	Showh Lake Loop West (Road)	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Existing	1.6	2	Medium	A1A	4x4
W7.4	Showh Lake Loop West (Trail)	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Existing	0.3	2	Medium	A1A	4x4
W7.5	Cougar Mountain Loop Route	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Proposed	9.1	3	Medium	A1B	Trail
W7.6	Ancient Cedars South Loop Route	Ancient Cedars, Showh Lakes, Cougar Mountain	Proposed	1.9	3	Medium	A1B	Trail
W8.1	Soo Falls Trail	Soo	Existing	0.3	3	Medium	A1B	4x4
W8.2	Torrent Creek to Alpine Route	Soo	Proposed	7.5	4	High	A2D	HC4x4
W9.1	Rutherford to Mt. Ipsoot	Rutherford	Proposed	8.0	4	Medium	B2D	4x4

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

List of trails within RMOW boundaries

Trails within RMOW boundary prioritized by value

Trail	Name	Status	Length	Jurisdiction	SFD%	Section	Value
Number			In km			Priority	
W5.10	Rainbow Loop Trail	Existing	0.9	RMOW		1	High
E4.10	Khyber Pass Trail	Existing	1.7	RMOW		2	High
W4.2	Mid Flank Trail	Existing	14.7	RMOW		3	Medium+
E4.4	Crater Rim Trail (Logger's Lake)	Existing	3.1	RMOW		4	High
E4.3	Ridge Trail	Existing	4.6	RMOW		4.1	Low-Med
E4.6	Highline Trail	Existing	1.2	RMOW		4.2	Medium
W4.5	19 Mile Creek East	Existing	2.0	RMOW		5	Medium
V4.1	Blueberry Hill Trail	Existing	1.3	RMOW		6	Medium
W5.6	Sproatt SW Ridge Route	Proposed	4.4	RMOW		7	Medium
W5.7	Van West Route	Proposed	6.2	RMOW		7.1	Medium
E2.1	Jane Lakes Trail	Existing	6.6	RMOW		8	Medium
V3.1	Trainwreck Trail	Existing	4.9	RMOW		9	Medium
V3.2	Lower Yer Seat Trail	Existing	0.5	RMOW		9.1	Medium
V3.3	End of the Line Trail	Existing	0.7	RMOW		9.2	Low
W4.1	Flank Trail West	Existing	8.0	RMOW		10	Medium
E4.9	Upper Babylon Trail	Existing	2.5	RMOW		11	Medium
E4.1	Riverside Trail	Existing	5.7	RMOW		12	Low-Med
E4.2	Farside Trail	Existing	3.3	RMOW		12.1	Low-Med
E4.5	Riparian Trail	Existing	1.2	RMOW		13	Low-Med
E4.8	Babylon Trail	Existing	2.0	RMOW		14	Low
E5.1	Northwest Passage Trail	Existing	2.8	RMOW		15	Low
E2.2	Jane Lake - Brandywine Connector Route	Proposed	2.4	RMOW		16	Low
E4.7	Highline - Babylon Connector Route	Proposed	2.0	RMOW		17	Low

List of trails within RMOW/SFD and SFD/BCP shared boundaries

Trail	Name	Status	Length	Jurisdiction	SFD%	Section	Value
Number			In km		Share	Priority	
W5.1	Rainbow Lake Trail	Existing	8.9	RMOW/SFD	0.60	1	High
W5.2	Sproatt Ridge Route	Proposed	13.2	RMOW/SFD	0.50	2	High
W4.3	Flank Trail North	Existing	7.9	RMOW/SFD	0.10	3	Medium
V1.3	Sea to Sky Trail Whistler	Existing	27.0	RMOW/SFD	0.60	4	Medium
V1.4	Sea to Sky - Green Lake Trail	Existing	6.6	RMOW/SFD	0.80	4.1	Medium
V1.1	Sea to Sky Trail Daisy Lake	Existing	6.2	SFD/BCP	0.85	1	Medium
V2.2	Brandywine Park to McGuire Trail	Existing	2.7	SFD/BCP	0.10	2	Medium
V2.3	Brandywine Park to Calcheak Trail	Existing	2.4	SFD/BCP	0.40	3	Medium
E1.9	Lava Flats N. Route	Proposed	3.0	SFD/BCP	0.36	4	Medium
E1.10	Lava Flats S. Route	Proposed	4.8	SFD/BCP	0.15	4.1	Medium

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

List of trails within SFD boundaries

Trail	Name	Status	Length	Jurisdiction	Section	Value
Number			In km		Priority	
W7.1	Ancient Cedars Trail	Existing	2.9	SFD	1	High
W7.5	Cougar Mountain Loop Route	Proposed	9.1	SFD	1.1	Medium
W7.6	Ancient Cedars South Loop Route	Proposed	1.9	SFD	1.2	Medium
W7.2	Showh Lake Connector Trail	Existing	0.5	SFD	1.3	Medium
W7.3	Showh Lake Loop West (Road)	Existing	1.6	SFD	1.4	Medium
W7.4	Showh Lake Loop West (Trail)	Existing	0.3	SFD	1.5	Medium
W5.11	Rainbow Lake - Madely Lake Trail	Existing	7.2	SFD	2	High
W5.17	Skywalk Route	Proposed	9.4	SFD	3	High
W4.4	Screaming Cat Lake Trail	Existing	1.2	SFD	3.1	Medium+
W3.2	New Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	0.3	SFD	4	High
W3.3	Upper Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	1.4	SFD	4.1	High
W3.1	Lower Old Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	1.7	SFD	4.2	High
W2.1	Brew Lake Trail	Existing	7.1	SFD	5	High
W1.2	Tricouni East Trail	Existing	2.0	SFD	6	High
W5.4	Gin & Tonic Sproatt Connector	Proposed	1.7	SFD	6.1	High
W5.3	Gin & Tonic Route	Proposed	1.1	SFD	7	High
W5.14	Beverley Lake Route	Proposed	5.1	SFD	7.1	High
W5.13	Biathlon-Hanging Lake Route	Proposed	2.6	SFD	7.2	Low
W5.5	North Air Mine Route	Proposed	2.2	SFD	8	High
W5.8	Sproatt Mountain - Flank Trail Connector Route	Proposed	2.6	SFD	9	High
W2.3	Roe Creek - Brew Lake	Proposed	3.4	SFD	10	High
W1.3	Roe Creek - Cypress Peak	Proposed	2.9	SFD	10.1	High
W5.9	Whip Me Snip Me Trail	Existing	1.7	SFD	11	Medium
V6.1	Shadow LakeTrails	Existing	4.7	SFD	12	Medium
W1.4	Cloudburst from Chance Creek Route	Proposed	3.4	SFD	13	Medium
W5.16	Rainbow Ridge Loop Route	Proposed	7.9	SFD	14	Medium
W8.1	Soo Falls Trail	Existing	0.3	SFD	15	Medium
V1.6	Sea to SkyTrail North	Existing	2.4	SFD	16	Medium
V1.2	Sea to Sky Trail Daisy Lake Route	Proposed	4.0	SFD	16.1	Medium
V1.5	Sea to SkyTrail North Route	Proposed	19.7	SFD	16.2	Medium
W8.2	Torrent Creek to Alpine Route	Proposed	7.5	SFD	17	High
W9.1	Rutherford to Mt. Ipsoot	Proposed	8.0	SFD	18	High
E8.1	Comfortably Numb Trail	Existing	20.1	SFD	19	Low
E8.2	Young Lust Trail	Existing	1.7	SFD	20	Low
W5.12	Madely Lakeside Trail	Existing	2.8	SFD	21	Low
W2.2	Proposed New Brew Lake Trail	Proposed	3.5	SFD	22	Low
W5.15	Beverley Lake Loop Route	Proposed	5.0	SFD	23	Low
W5.18	Dry Lakes Route	Proposed	3.0	SFD	23.1	Low
W1.1	Tricouni West Trail	Existing	4.4	SFD	24	High

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

TRAIL	NAME	STATUS	Length	Jurisdiction	SFD	Section	Value
Number			in KM		%	Priority	Rating
W5.1	Rainbow Lake Trail	Existing	8.9	RMOW/SFD	0.60	1	High
W5.10	Rainbow Loop Trail	Existing	0.9	RMOW		1.1	High
W7.1	Ancient Cedars Trail	Existing	2.9	SFD		2	High
W5.17	Skywalk Route	Proposed	9.4	SFD		3	High
W4.4	Screaming Cat Lake Trail	Existing	1.2	SFD		3.1	Medium+
E4.10	Khyber Pass Trail	Existing	1.7	RMOW		4	High
W7.5	Cougar Mountain Loop Route	Proposed	9.1	SFD		5	Medium
W7.6	Ancient Cedars South Loop Route	Proposed	1.9	SFD		5.1	Medium
W7.2	Showh Lake Connector Trail	Existing	0.5	SFD		5.2	Medium
W7.3	Showh Lake Loop West (Road)	Existing	1.6	SFD		5.3	Medium
W7.4	Showh Lake Loop West (Trail)	Existing	0.3	SFD		5.4	Medium
W5.2	Sproatt Ridge Route	Proposed	13.2	RMOW/SFD	0.50	6	High
W5.4	Gin & Tonic Sproatt Connector	Proposed	1.7	SFD		6.1	High
W5.11	Rainbow Lake - Madely Lake Trail	Existing	7.2	SFD		7	High
W4.2	Mid Flank Trail	Existing	14.7	RMOW		8	Medium+
W4.3	Flank Trail North	Existing	7.9	RMOW/SFD	0.10	8.1	Medium
W4.1	Flank Trail West	Existing	8.0	RMOW		8.3	Medium
V4.1	Blueberry Hill Trail	Existing	1.3	RMOW		9	Medium
W3.2	New Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	0.3	SFD		10	High
W3.3	Upper Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	1.4	SFD		10.1	High
E4.4	Crater Rim Trail (Logger's Lake)	Existing	3.1	RMOW		11	High
W1.3	Roe Creek - Cypress Peak	Proposed	2.9	SFD		12	High
W2.1	Brew Lake Trail	Existing	7.1	SFD		13	High
W2.3	Roe Creek - Brew Lake	Proposed	3.4	SFD		13.1	High
W1.2	Tricouni East Trail	Existing	2.0	SFD		14	High
W1.4	Cloudburst from Chance Creek Route	Proposed	3.4	SFD		15	Medium
W4.5	19 Mile Creek East	Existing	2.0	RMOW		16	Medium
W5.16	Rainbow Ridge Loop Route	Proposed	7.9	SFD		17	Medium
W5.3	Gin & Tonic Route	Proposed	1.1	SFD		18	High
W5.14	Beverley Lake Route	Proposed	5.1	SFD		18.1	High
W5.5	North Air Mine Route	Proposed	2.2	SFD		19	High
W5.8	Sproatt Mountain - Flank Trail Connector Route	Proposed	2.6	SFD		20	High

List of 20 Highest Priority Trails within RMOW and/or SFD boundaries combined

Report on Whistler Area Hiking Trails

List of 10 Most Scenic Alpine Trails (outside of BC Parks and WB)

This listing includes both, existing and proposed trails. Focus is on scenery at objective.

TRAIL	NAME	STATUS	Jurisdiction	Priority	Value	Access to
W5.1	Rainbow Lake Trail	Existing	RMOW/SFD	1	High	Rainbow, Sproat
W3.2	New Brandywine Meadows Trail	Existing	SFD	2	High	Brandywine, Metal Dome,
W2.1	Brew Lake Trail	Existing	SFD	3	High	Brew
E4.10	Khyber Pass Trail	Existing	RMOW	4	High	Whistler Mtn*
W1.2	Tricouni East Trail	Existing	SFD	5	High	Tricouni
W7.5	Cougar Mountain Loop Route	Proposed	SFD	6	Medium	Cougar Mtn.
W1.3	Roe Creek - Cypress Peak	Proposed	SFD	7	High	Cypress, Tricouni
W1.4	Cloudburst from Chance Creek Route	Proposed	SFD	8	Medium	Cloudburst
W8.2	Torrent Creek to Alpine Route	Proposed	SFD	9	High	Soo North Ridge, Sisqa Pk
W9.1	Rutherford to Mt. Ipsoot Route	Proposed	SFD	10	High	Ipsoot, Rhododendron Mtn

*Although the Khyber Pass trail starts in the Whistler Interpretive Forest, it does enter WB tenure on the way up to Whistler Mountain.

Detail Trail Reports

Detail trail reports are available in digital format only.

Trails Atlas

An Atlas of all hiking trails listed in this report is available in digital format only.

Trail Maps

Maps showing all listed trails in the inventory are identified by a trail system number or a key trail number and are shown on the following pages.