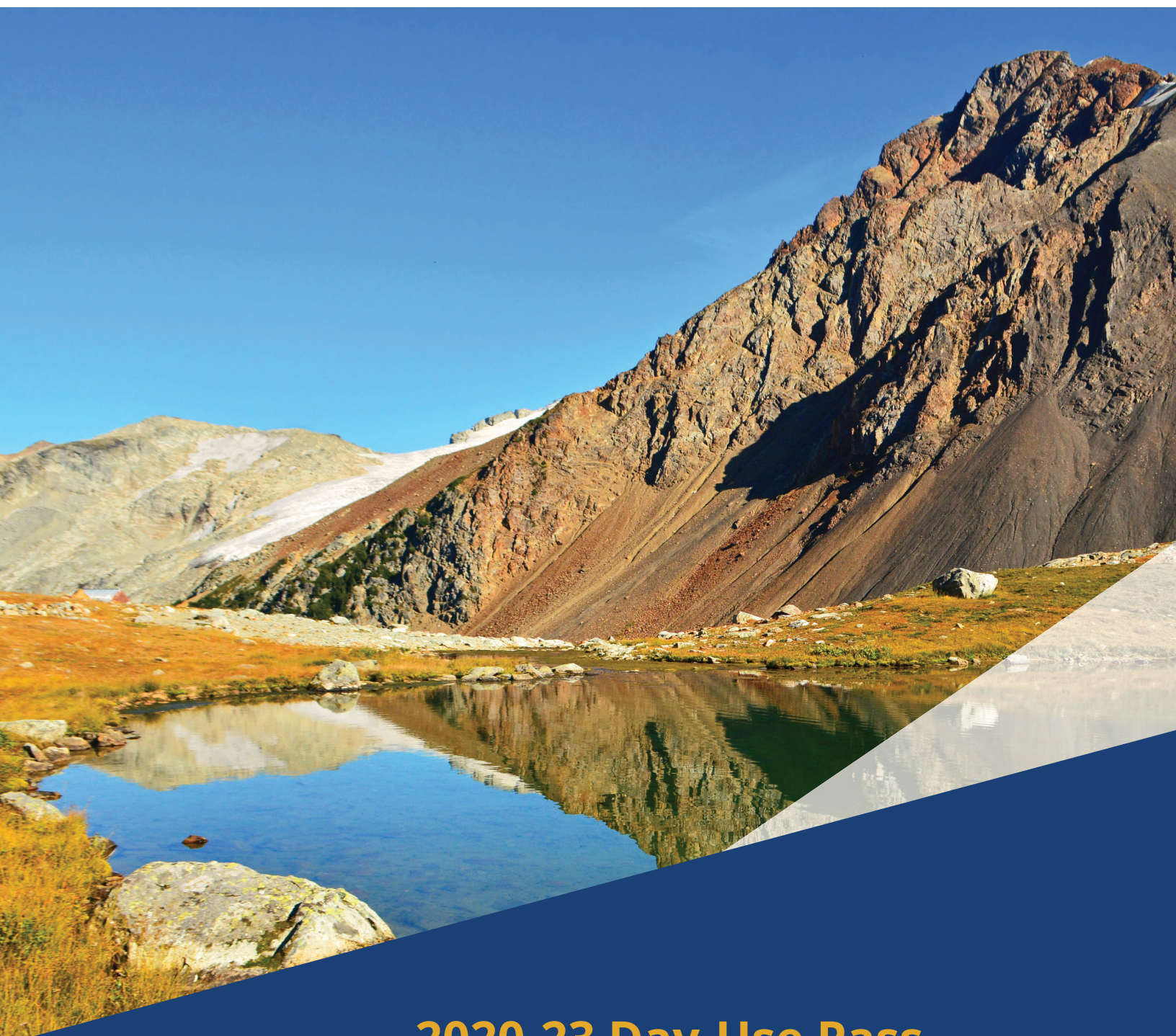
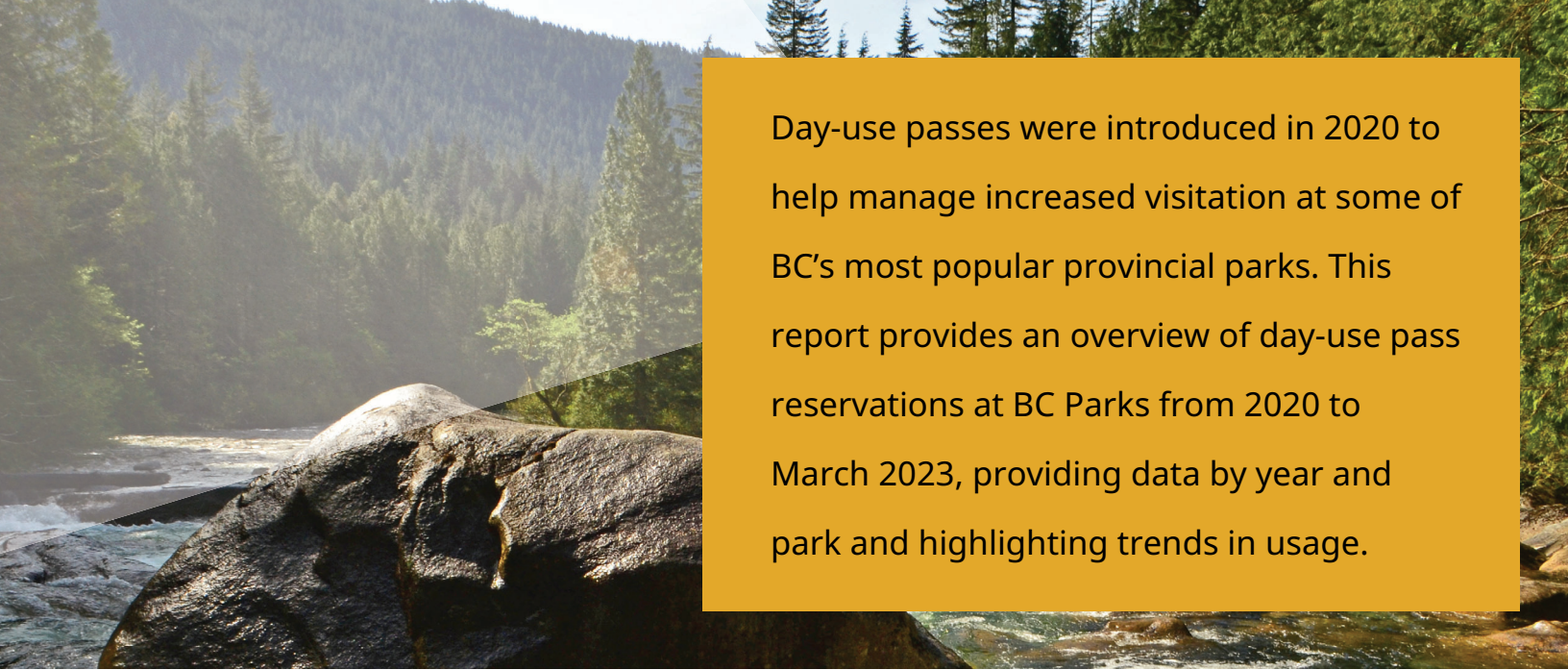




BC Parks



2020-23 Day-Use Pass Statistic Summary Report



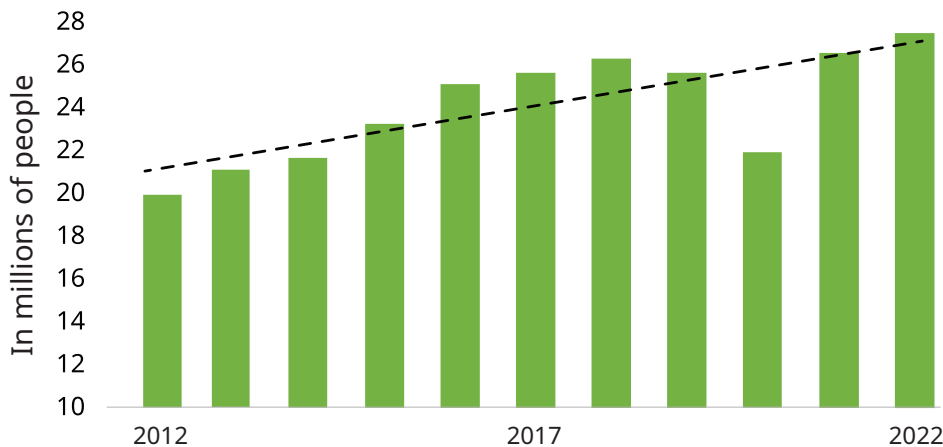
Day-use passes were introduced in 2020 to help manage increased visitation at some of BC's most popular provincial parks. This report provides an overview of day-use pass reservations at BC Parks from 2020 to March 2023, providing data by year and park and highlighting trends in usage.

VISITATION AT BC PARKS

British Columbia's provincial parks boast some of the world's most breathtaking natural landscapes. The parks and protected areas system spans more than 14 million hectares and represents approximately 14.4% of the province's land.

Over the past decade, BC Parks has observed a steady increase in use, attracting 27.2 million visits to provincial parks in 2022. Many of the most popular destinations are located in the Lower Mainland and Sea to Sky corridor, near larger population centres, which act as a jumping-off point for locals and tourists to explore.

Number of visitors to BC Parks



27.2
MILLION
Visits to BC Parks
in 2022



In response to the potential impacts of increased park use, BC Parks has explored and leveraged several visitor use management approaches with short-term and long-term actions. In 2018, due to the significant increase in visitors to Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes Park, a collaboration between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua formed a comprehensive [Visitor Use Management Strategy](#). The strategy was released in 2021 and guides the management of the park, addressing key management issues associated with the dramatic increase in visitation to Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes Park. A similar planning process is underway for Mux̄šīla/Maquinna Marine Park Hot Springs.

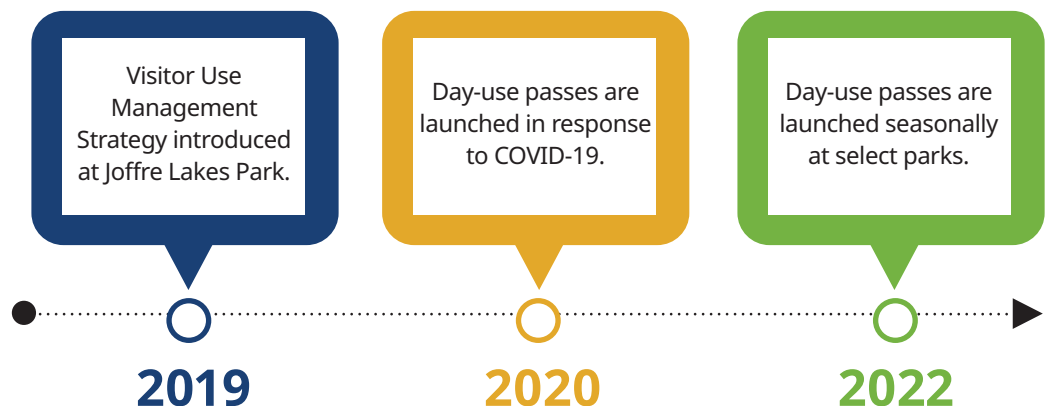
Responsible and sustainable management of visitors is core to BC Parks' work. Initiatives to support visitor management, such as day-use passes, are used in many parks.

Day-use passes

In response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2020, BC Parks introduced day-use passes to manage peak visitation periods in popular parks. During select periods, visitors were required to reserve a pass to enter seven of B.C.'s most popular provincial parks: Cypress, Garibaldi, Golden Ears, Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes, Mount Robson, Mount Seymour and Stawamus Chief.

As of 2024, passes are used to manage visitors at Garibaldi, Golden Ears and Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes Parks in the summer, and Mount Seymour Park in the winter. The number of participating parks has decreased based on analysis of visitor use concerns, only implementing pass requirements at parks with the most acute issues.

History of the day-use passes

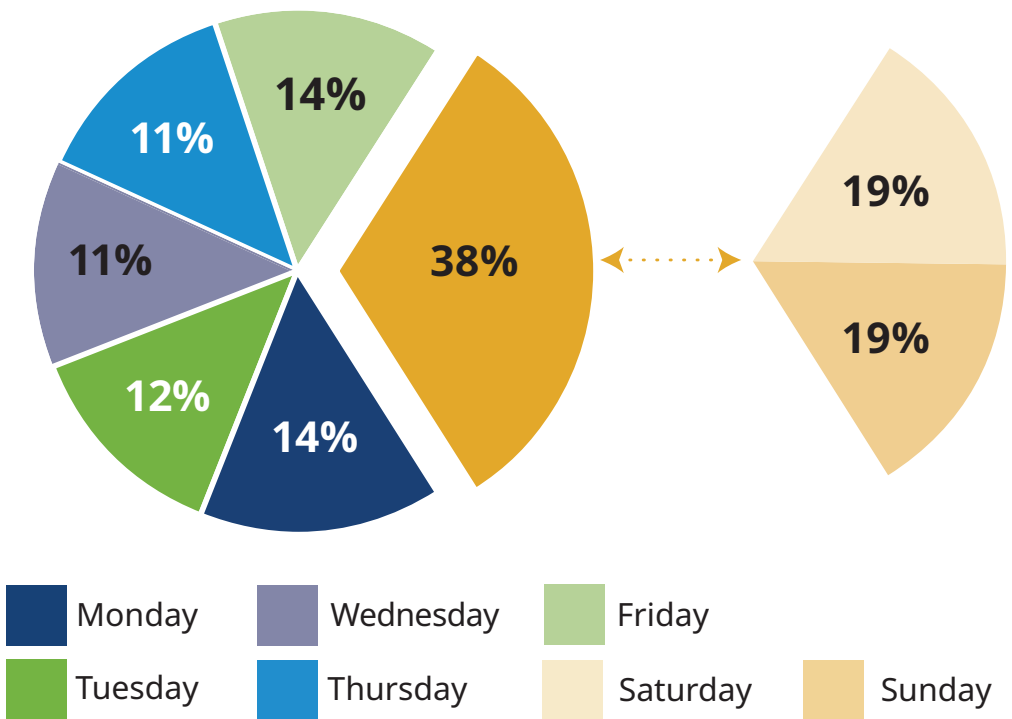


DAY-USE PASS: STATISTICS

Busiest times for day-use passes

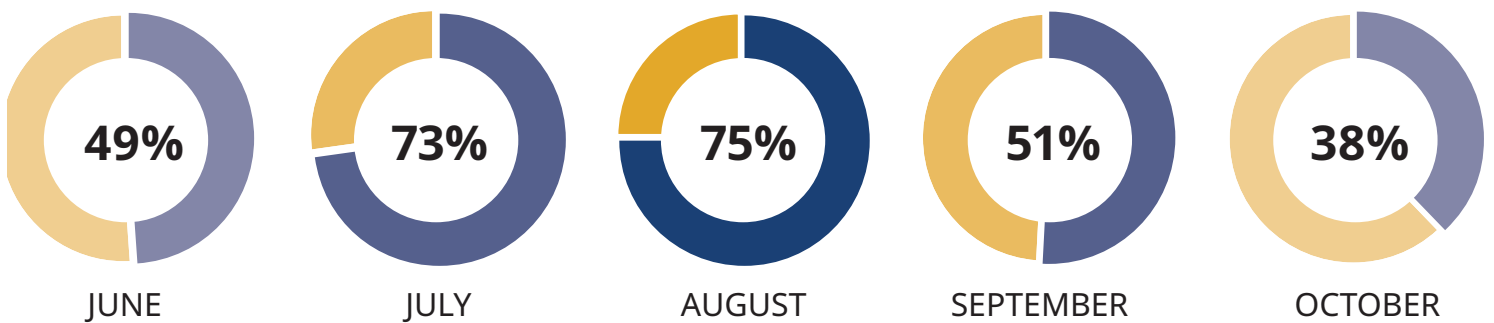
Demand for day-use passes is highest on the weekends, with 38% of all passes booked for Saturday and Sunday. Parks requiring day-use passes are often 100% reserved on weekends.

2020-2022: Day-use pass visitors by day of the week



The highest booking rates for day-use passes are consistently seen in July and August, with 74% of available passes reserved during those months.

2020-2022: Percent of summer day-use passes booked by month



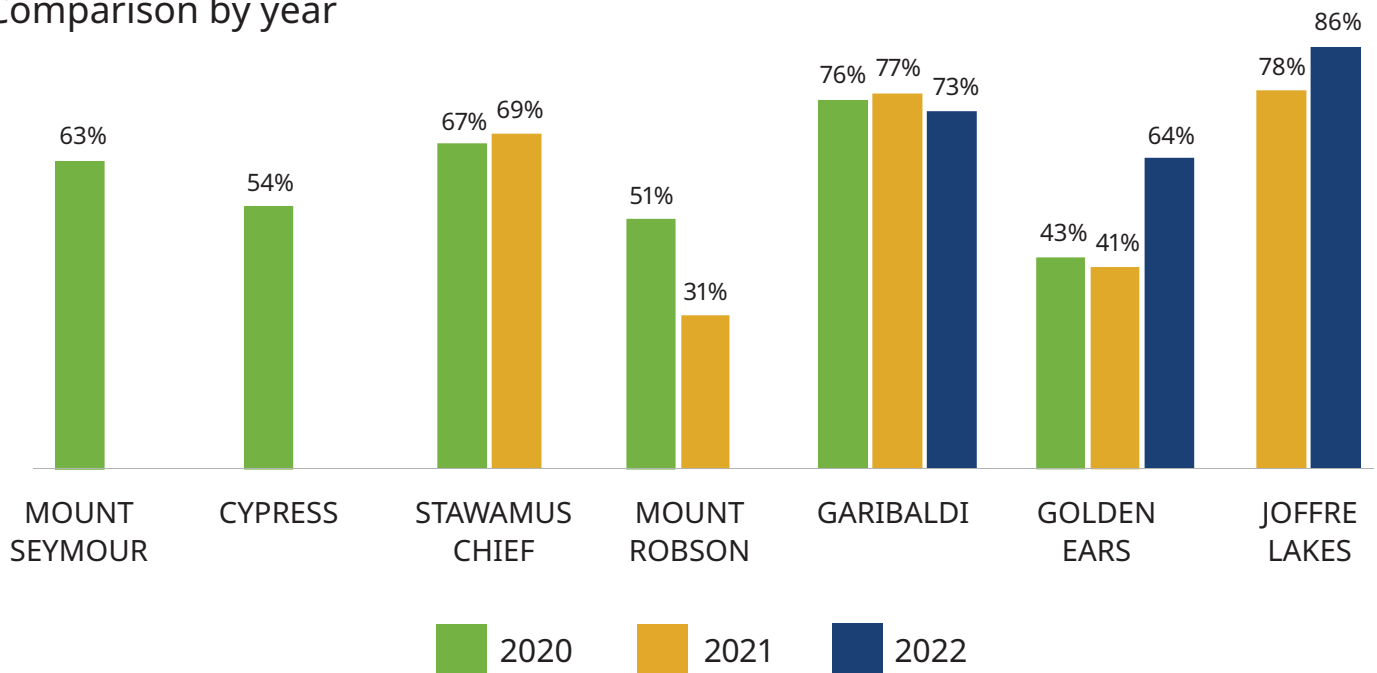
DAY-USE PASS: STATISTICS

Most popular parks for day-use passes

On average Pipi7iyekw/Joffre Lakes Park saw the highest percentage of available day-use passes reserved, with 86% of available passes booked in the 2022 summer months – June to September. The other two parks requiring day-use passes in the summer of 2022, Garibaldi Park and Golden Ears Park, also experienced high booking rates.

Average percentage of summer passes booked

Comparison by year

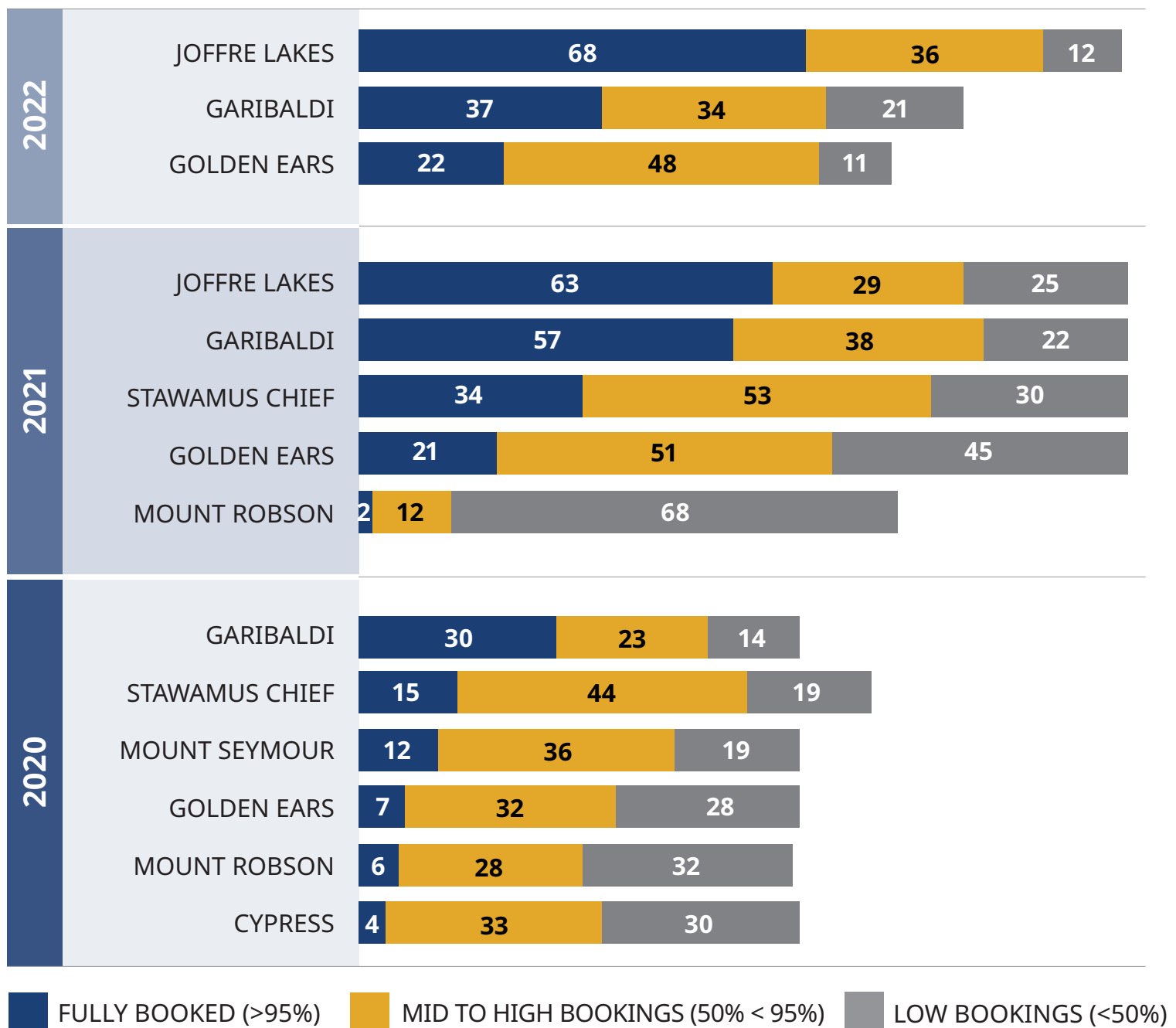


DAY-USE PASS: STATISTICS

Most popular parks for day-use passes

The number of available passes at each park depends on park capacity, which is determined through several factors such as parking lot capacity, trail and viewpoint size, visitor expectations, and agreements with First Nations. Of the parks requiring day-use passes, Pipi7iyekw/Joffre Lakes Park met capacity limits most often and was full 68 out of 106 days in the 2022 summer season.

Summer booking levels by number of days



DAY-USE PASS: PARK INFORMATION

Garibaldi Park



LOCATION

70km north of Vancouver



PASS TYPE

Vehicle



SIZE

188,667 hectares



SEASON

Summer



ANNUAL PARK VISITORS

190,000



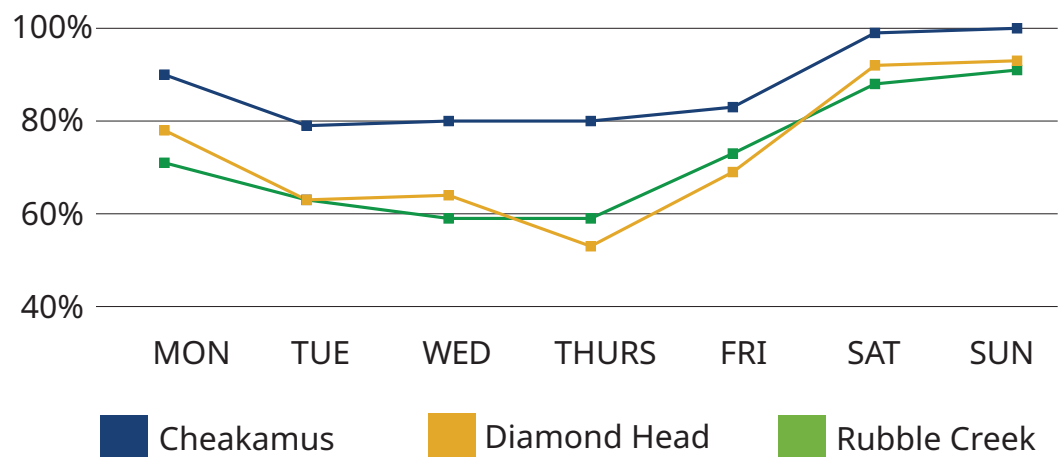
DAY-USE PASS START DATE

Summer 2020

Garibaldi Park is a popular destination, attracting over 190,000 visitors in 2022, with 79% of those visits during the summer months, from June to September.

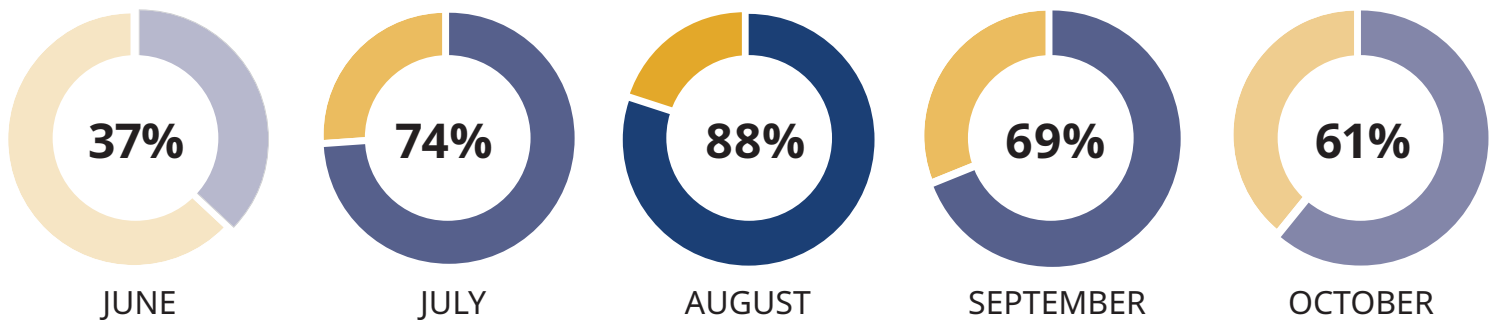
Day-use passes are required during the summer season at the three trailheads experiencing the most significant parking lot and trail congestion - Cheakamus, Diamond Head and Rubble Creek. Since the implementation of day-use passes, Cheakamus trailhead consistently has the highest percentage of available passes booked, followed by Diamond Head and Rubble Creek.

Garibaldi Park 2020-2022: Percentage of passes booked by trailhead



GARIBALDI PARK

Garibaldi Park 2020-2022: Percentage of passes booked by month



Since 2020, August has had the highest visitation rate with 88% of available passes booked, compared with July [74%] and September [69%].

Demand was the highest on weekends with all three trailheads regularly reaching capacity on Saturday and Sunday, even in off-peak seasons.

Day-use pass improvements at Garibaldi Park

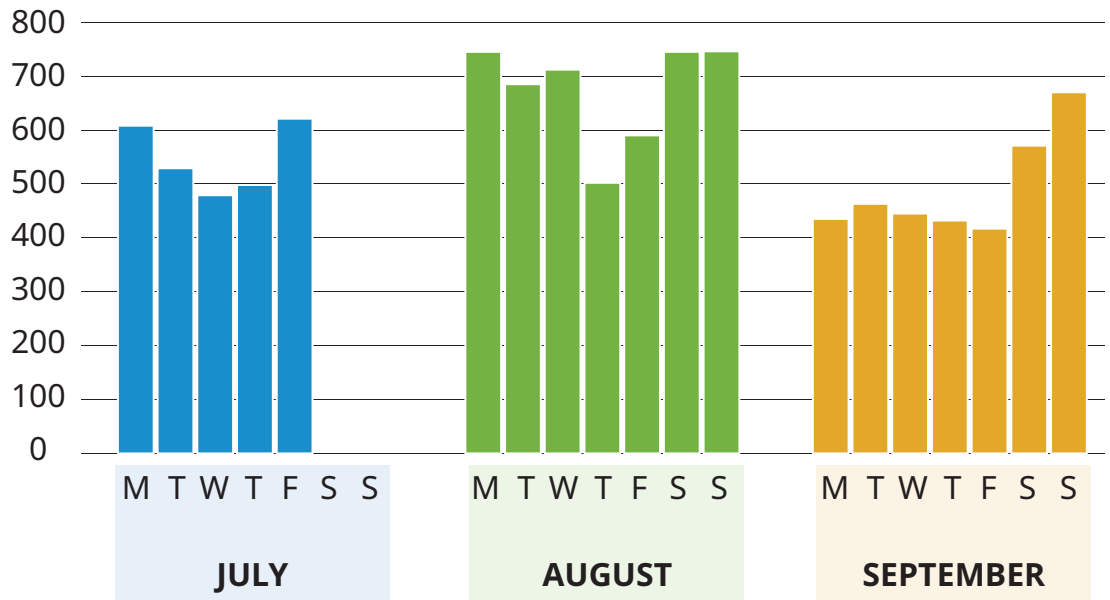
In 2021, BC Parks modified day-use pass requirements at Garibaldi Park by transitioning from a trail-based pass to a vehicle-based pass. This change was implemented to better align day-use pass requirements to parking lot capacity limits.

In 2022, BC Parks acknowledged seasonal trends and further refined pass requirements by removing the weekday pass requirement after Labour Day weekend since demand for passes was only typically high during weekends after Labour Day. Guided by the BC Parks' commitment to continuous improvement, these modifications reflect the integration of feedback to address the evolving visitation demands on Garibaldi Park.

GARIBALDI PARK

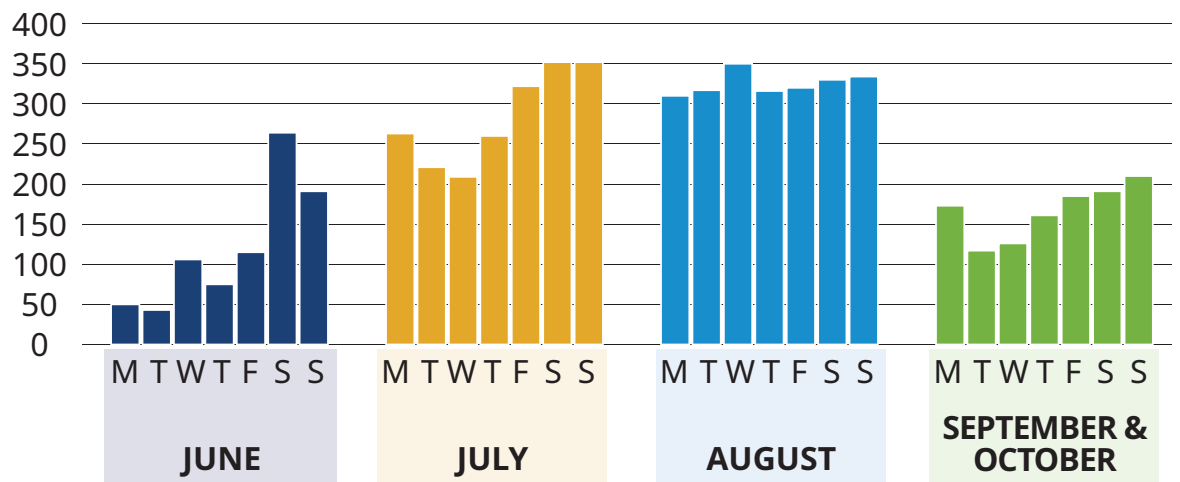


Garibaldi Park 2020: Average trail booking by day of the week



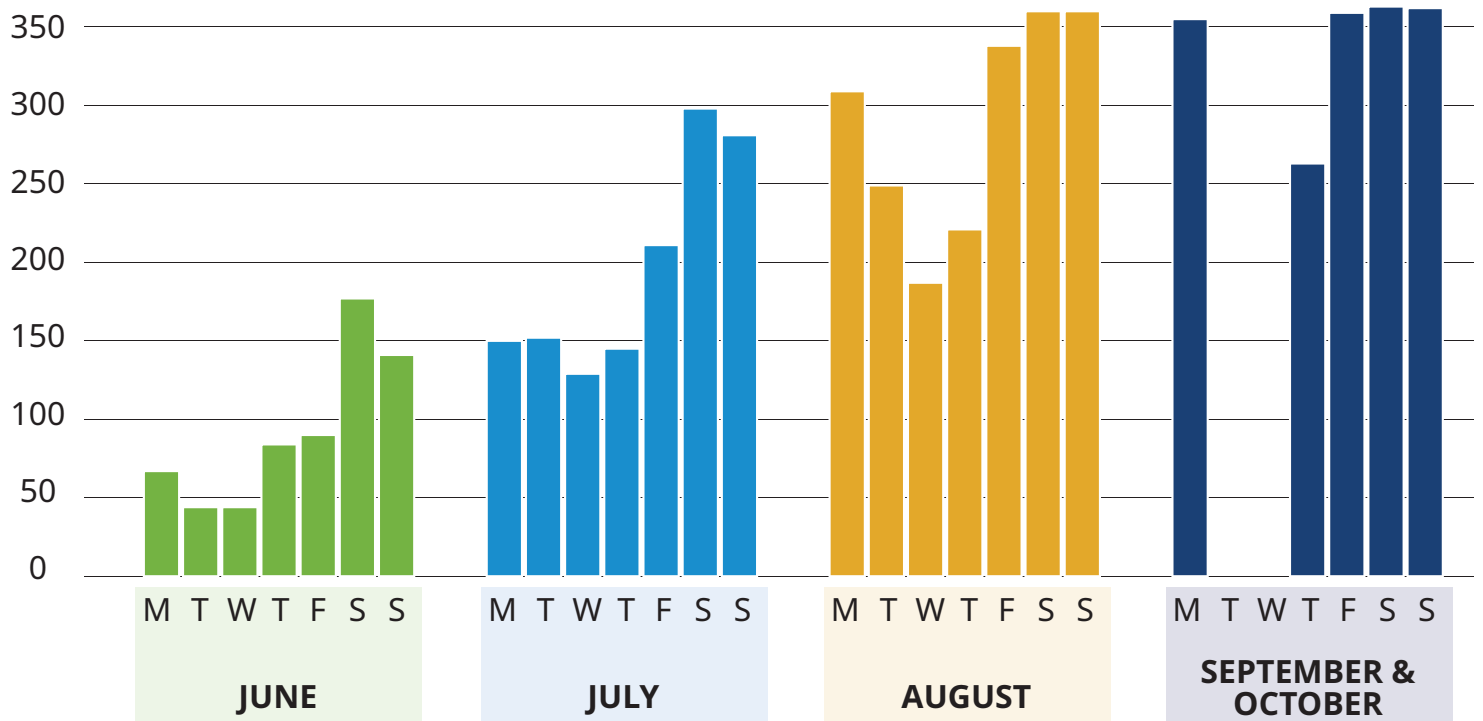
Note: Pass requirements started at the end of June and therefore did not include any weekends.

Garibaldi Park 2021: Average vehicle booking by day or the week



GARIBALDI PARK

Garibaldi Park 2022: Average vehicle booking by day of week









Note: Passes were only required on weekends and holidays after Labour Day long weekend in 2022.



GOLDEN EARS PARK



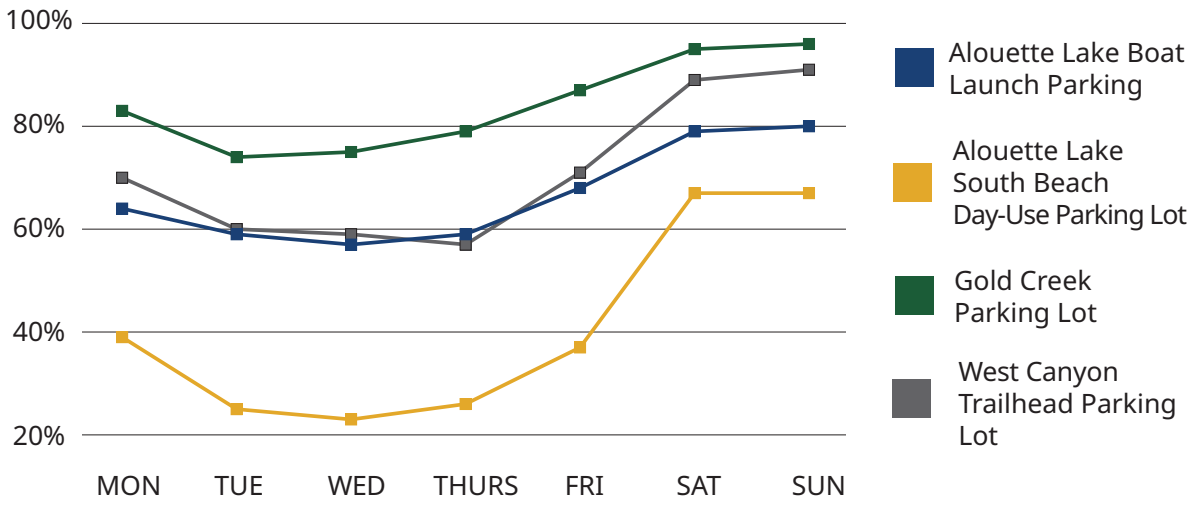
 LOCATION 11km north of Maple Ridge	 PASS TYPE Vehicle
 SIZE 63,539 hectares	 SEASON Summer
 ANNUAL PARK VISITORS 1.1 million	 DAY-USE PASS START DATE Summer 2020

Golden Ears Park is a very popular destination offering beaches, hiking trails and over 400 front-country campsites. In 2022 alone, the park recorded 1.1 million visitors, with over half [51%] visiting from June to September.

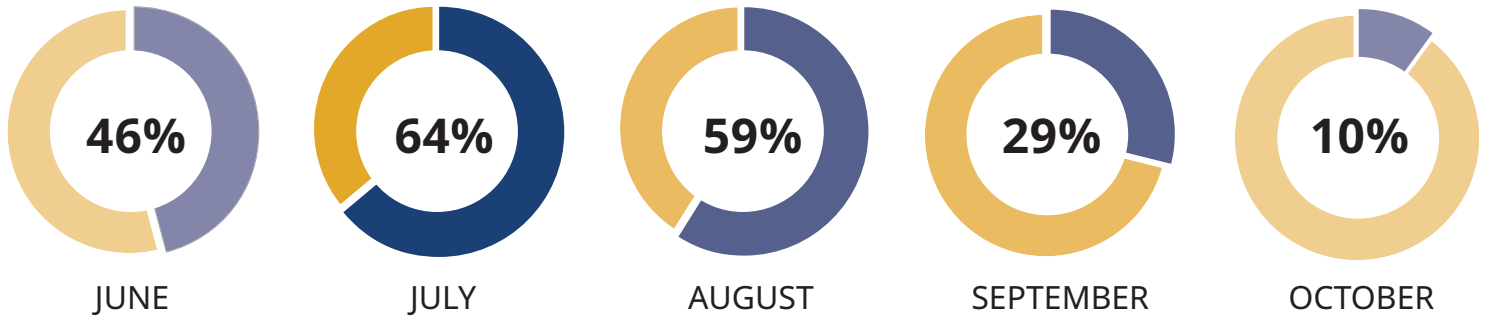
Visitors typically access the park through trailheads located along a main road. With the popularity of this park, significant congestion can occur on the main road and in the parking lots. To help reduce traffic and pressure on the park infrastructure, day-use passes were implemented at four parking lot areas.

Since 2020, the Gold Creek parking lot experienced near-full pass bookings on weekends and consistently high bookings on weekdays. The Gold Creek and West Canyon parking lots had higher booking rates on weekdays compared with the beach-use areas, which were more popular on weekends. A portion of beach-use parking is reserved for boats.

Golden Ears Park 2020-2022: Percentage of passes booked by trailhead



Golden Ears Park 2020-2022: Percent of passes booked by month



The height of summer saw the highest rate of day-use passes bookings, with 64% reserved in July and 59% reserved in August.

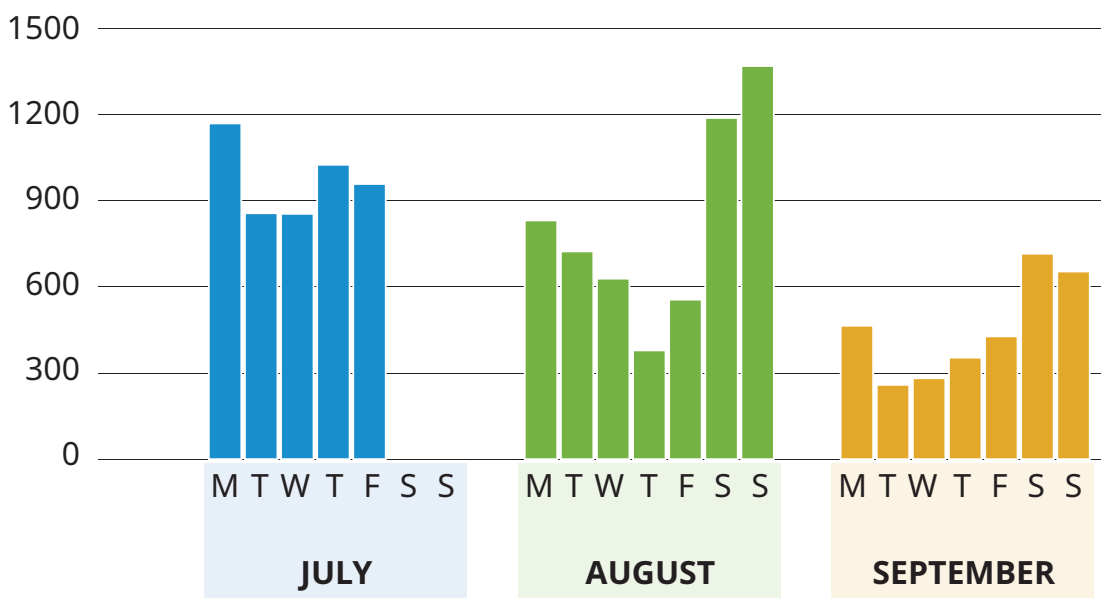
Weekends experienced the highest demand, with Saturday and Sunday passes regularly booked to full capacity.

Day-use pass improvements at Golden Ears Park

In 2022, the implementation of day-use passes at Golden Ears Park was modified by removing the pass requirement after Labour Day weekend to better align pass requirements with the seasonal demand, as visitation decreases to a point where vehicle access can be safely and effectively managed without passes.

In 2024, the day-use pass season at Golden Ears Park was extended into May to account for weather-based demand. However, pass requirements were reduced to Friday through Monday to better match weekly demand for the park.

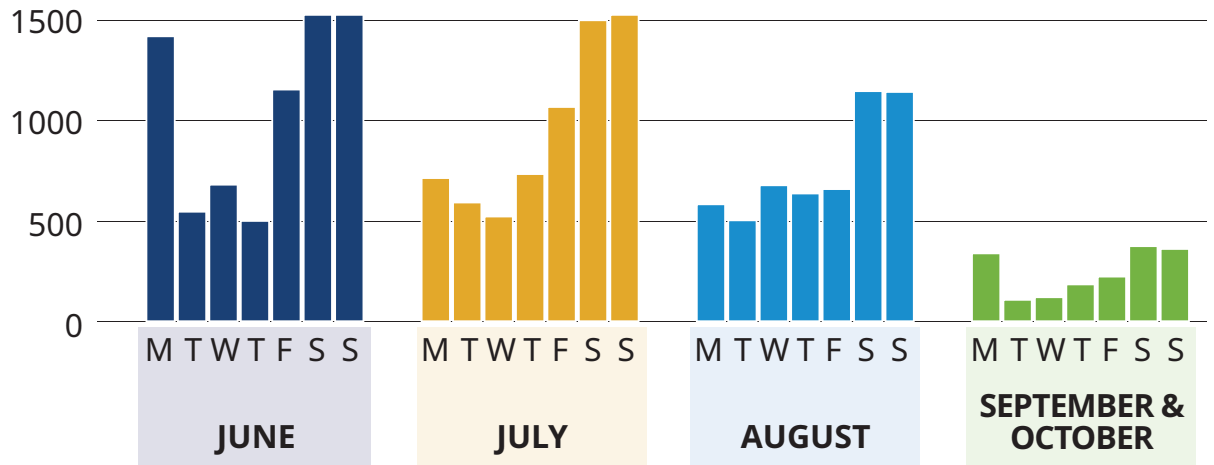
Golden Ears Park 2020: Average vehicle booking by day of the week



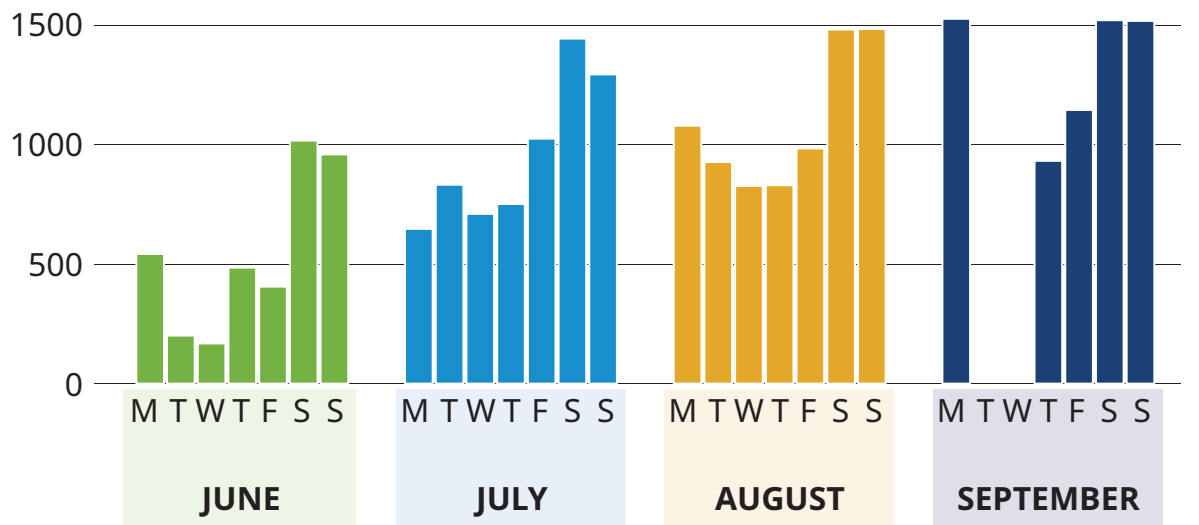
Note: Pass requirements started at the end of June and therefore did not include any weekends.

GOLDEN EARS PARK

Golden Ears Park 2021: Average vehicle booking by day of week



Golden Ears Park 2022: Average vehicle booking by day of week



Note: Passes were no longer required after Labour Day in 2022.



PIPI7ÍYEKW/JOFFRE LAKES PARK



LOCATION

34km east of Pemberton



PASS TYPE

Trail (Person)



SIZE

1,487 hectares



SEASON

Summer



ANNUAL PARK VISITORS

160,000



DAY-USE PASS START DATE

Summer 2021

Located in the Sea-to-Sky corridor, Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes Park is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in British Columbia. In 2022, the park recorded over 160,000 visitors, with 69% visiting from June to September. The demand for park visitation far exceeds the parking lot and trail capacity, necessitating the need for day-use passes to help BC Parks manage daily visitation.

Day-use pass requirements began in 2021 at Pípi7íyekw/Joffre Lakes Park, following the reopening of the park to the general public (the park was closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Due to the concentration of visitors accessing the park through a single point of entry and hiking on a one-way path, each individual requires a pass to access the park. The day-use pass reservation system allows for up to four trail passes to be booked per transaction, with an average of 2.6 passes per booking.

The demand for passes is often affected by weather variability, particularly in June. There is a significant surge in visitors during the summer months, notably after the snow has melted. August experiences the highest visitation rate with 99% of available passes consistently booked throughout the month.

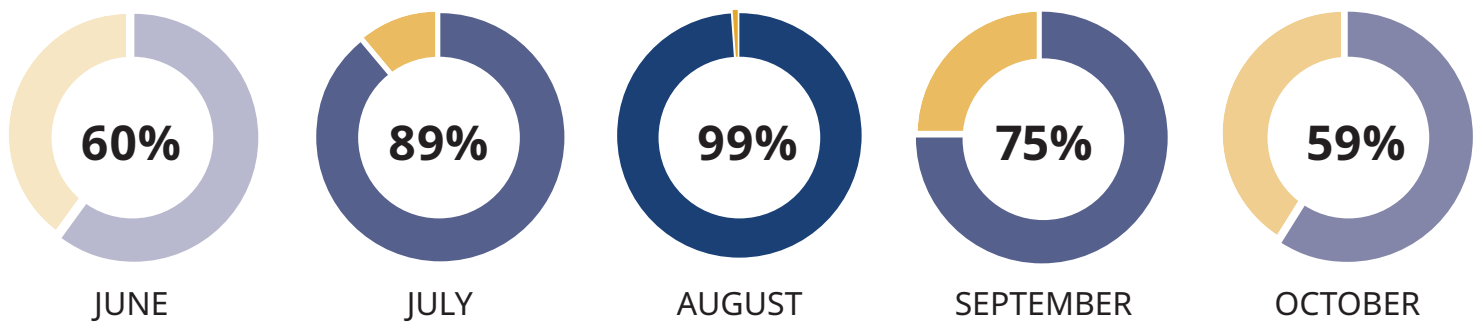
An average of

2.6
PASSES

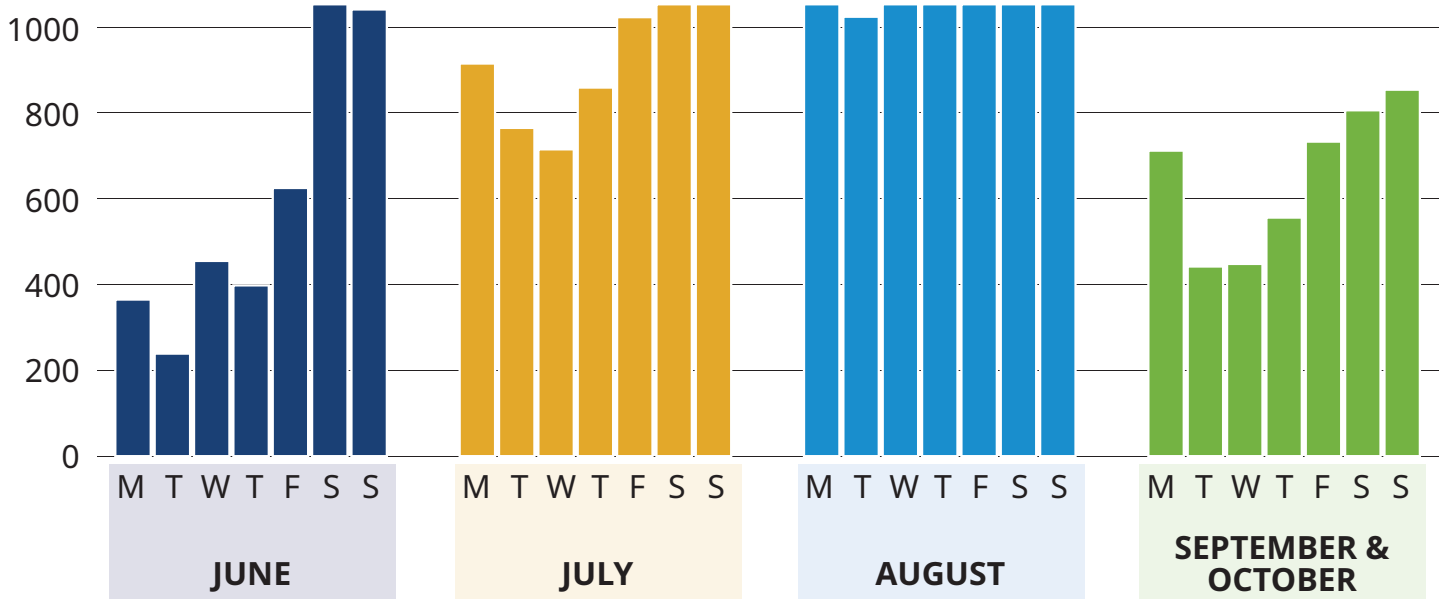
per booking

PIPI7ÍYEKW/JOFFRE LAKES PARK

Joffre Lakes Park 2021-2022: Percent of passes booked by month

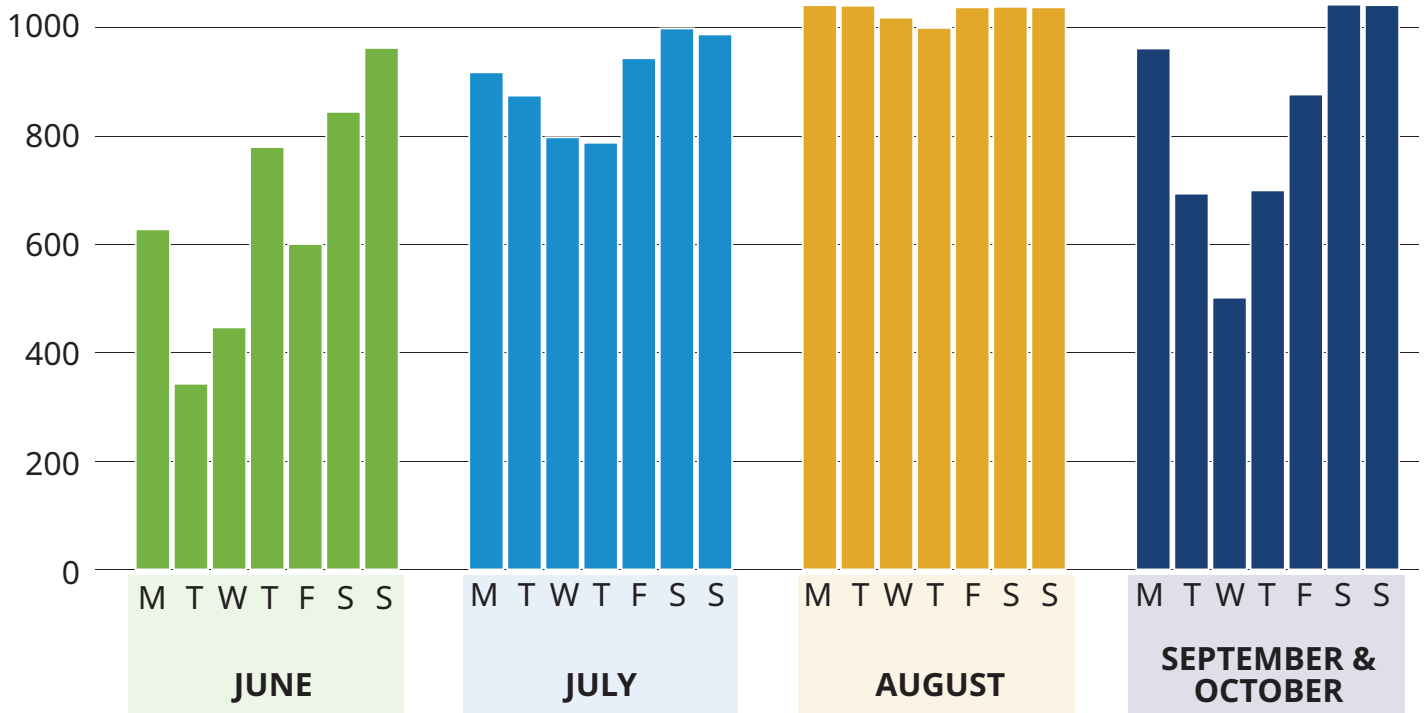


Joffre Lakes Park 2021: Average trail booking by day of week



PIPI7ÍYEKW/JOFFRE LAKES PARK

Joffre Lakes Park 2022: Average trail booking by day of week





MOUNT SEYMOUR PARK



LOCATION

15km northeast of
Downtown Vancouver



PASS TYPE

Vehicle



SIZE

3,509 hectares



SEASON

Winter



ANNUAL PARK VISITORS

1.1 million



DAY-USE PASS START DATE

Summer 2020 &
Winter 2023

Located in North Vancouver, Mount Seymour Park offers summer and winter recreational opportunities, making it a popular destination within the Lower Mainland. Visitors can access the park through a shared road and parking lot with the Mount Seymour Ski Resort.

In 2022, the park recorded 1 million visitors, with 56% visiting during the winter months, from December to March. The number of visitors places pressure on park infrastructure and safety. Day-use passes have been in place during the winter months since 2021 to reduce that pressure by managing visitor use.

In the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons, January has consistently seen the highest number of day-use passes secured, with a majority [63%] of the passes booked on weekends. Visitor numbers are high on weekdays in December, corresponding with the holiday season. As a family destination for winter activities, it can be expected that pass demand aligns with school schedules, increasing during scheduled academic breaks.

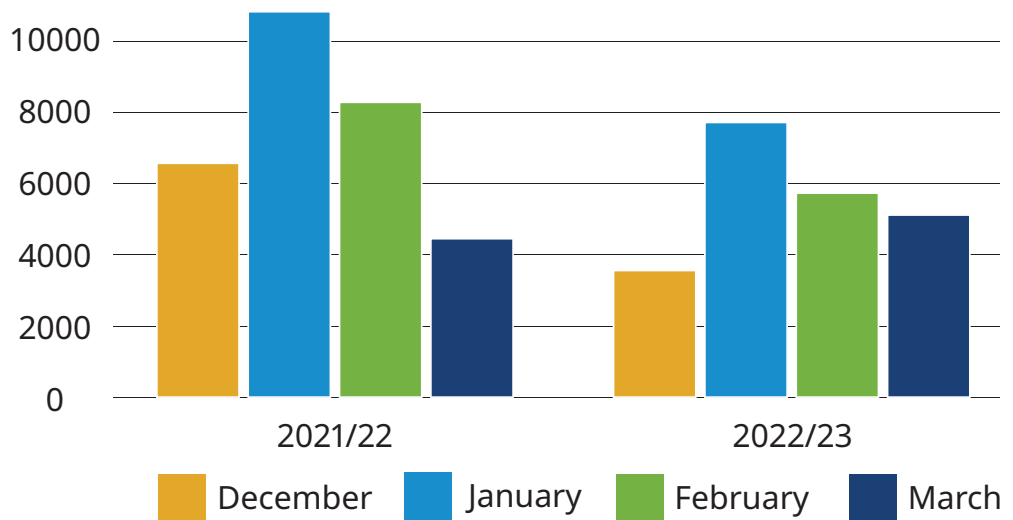
MOUNT SEYMOUR PARK

Day-use pass improvements at Mount Seymour Park

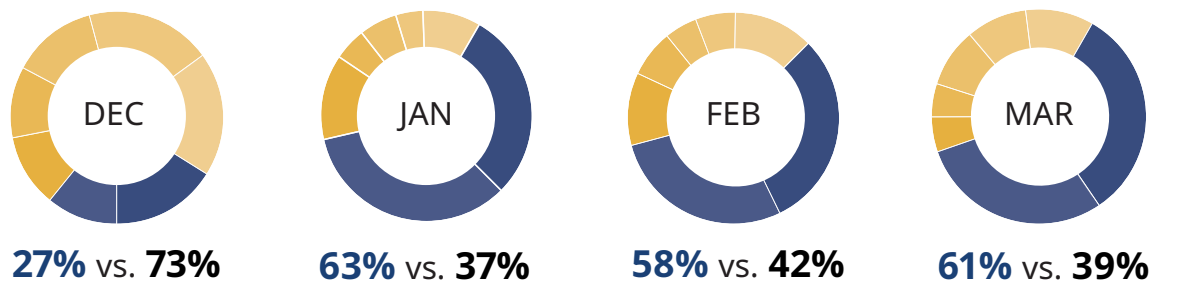
The pass system initially operated as trail-based in the summer months of 2020 but was later adapted to be vehicle-based in the winter months of 2021 to help manage parking lot capacity during months with higher visitation rates.

Given the trend towards greater demand for day-use passes on weekends, the switch was made to require passes daily only in December, and then weekend-only pass requirements from January through March for the winter 2023-24 season.

Mount Seymour Park: Passes booked by month

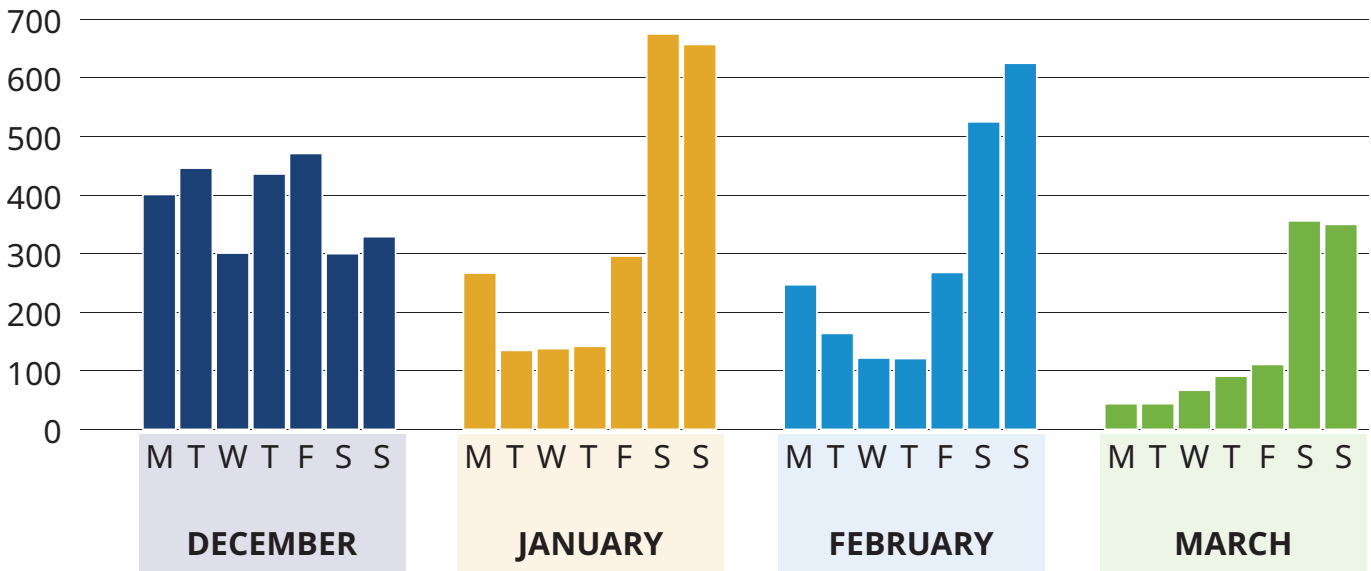


Mount Seymour Park: Weekend vs. weekday winter bookings

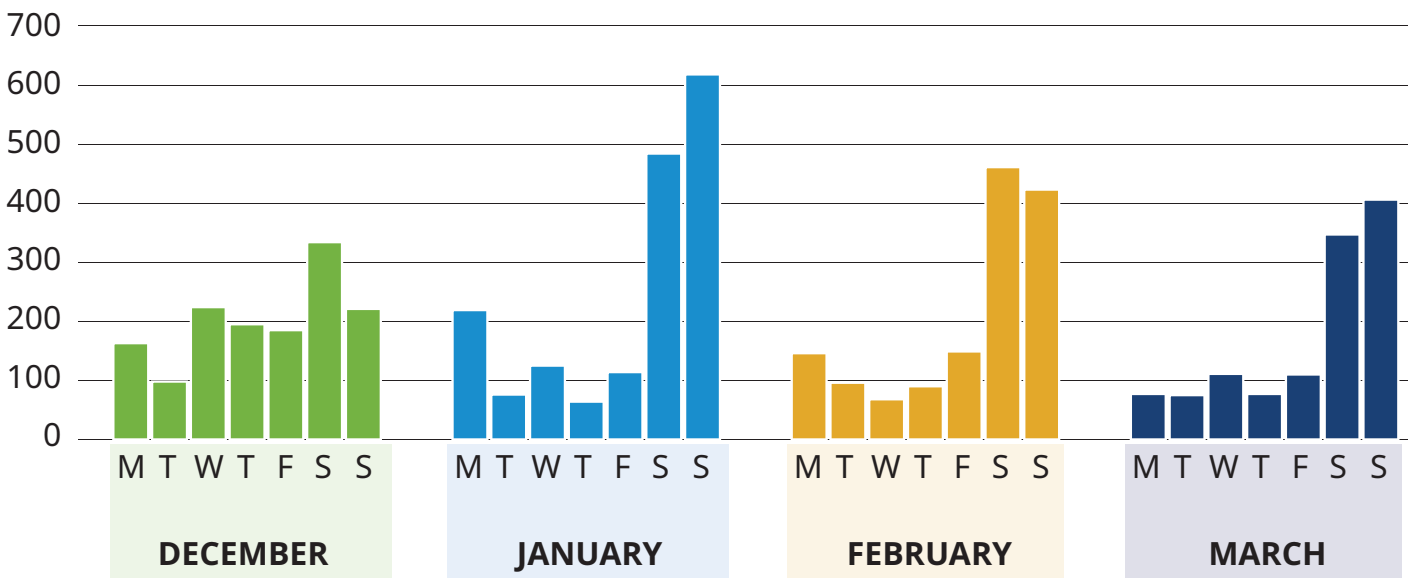


MOUNT SEYMOUR PARK

Mount Seymour Park 2021-2022: Average vehicle booking by day of week



Mount Seymour Park 2022-2023: Average vehicle booking by day of week



CONCLUSION

Day-use passes support BC Parks' commitment to address crowding and congestion in parks, enhance visitor awareness and knowledge about BC Parks by adding new visitor interaction points to their park journey, and alleviate pressure placed on park rangers and emergency responders.

The insights derived from this data will inform our continued efforts to refine and innovate our visitor management approaches, strengthening the sustainable stewardship of the province's cultural and natural resources for generations to come.

As part of our commitment to transparency, moving forward BC Parks will provide more frequent post season reports on day-use passes. Day-use pass data for the summer of 2023 will be presented in an individual report.

