

Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park



Important Information:

- Day Use Park Only
- No Camping, No Fires
- No Smoking Anywhere in the Park
- Dogs Must be Leashed at All Times
- Leave Nothing but Footprints, Take Nothing but Photos.

What to see in Kal Park:

With over 14 kms of trails, there are some particularly interesting places to visit; Turtle's Head Point, Cosens Bay Beach, Bear Valley, John's Jump Lookout and the cliffs of Cougar Canyon Climbing Area.

Mammals – There is an abundance of wildlife including white-tailed deer, black-tailed (mule) deer, mink, bobcat, black bear, cougar, coyote, red fox, yellow bellied marmots, mountain cottontail rabbits, chipmunks, gophers, raccoons and skunks. In addition, there are two Blue-listed species, the western harvest mouse and Townsend's big-eared bat.

Birds – It is also a great place for birdwatchers. The park provides great habitat for eagles, osprey, hawks, owls, swifts, ravens, swallows, woodpeckers, pheasants, grouse, quail, doves, hummingbirds, geese, ducks, loons and numerous songbird species.

Reptiles – There is a variety of reptiles here including the pacific rubber boa, western rattlesnake, western yellow-bellied racer, gopher (bull) snake, northeastern garter snake, common garter snake, western painted turtle, Great Basin spadefoot toad and northern alligator lizard.

Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park is a day-use only park that protects 3,218 hectares of Okanagan grasslands as well as cliff forest and wetland habitats. Amazingly for such a small area, so far 432 varieties of vascular plants have been identified within the park. It contains a number of endangered or threatened plant and animal species. It is one of the few reserves of publicly owned natural grasslands. At one time these stretched from Vernon to Osoyoos, but sadly they are rapidly disappearing. It remains a living museum of what this region once looked like.

The park fronts over 4 kms of shoreline of Kalamalka Lake which is a “marl” lake. As the lake warms in the summer, calcium carbonate forms crystals that when sunlight is reflected creates distinctive blues and greens.

History of the Park:

The presence of at least one stone circle suggests long human use of the park area, probably as a camp during kokanee spawning. In 1863, Charles F. Houghton claimed a military land grant that became the nucleus of the Coldstream Ranch, the Vernon brothers, acquired it in 1871 and then sold it to Lord Aberdeen (Governor General of Canada) in 1891. Camp Vernon military camp used to train with live rounds, mortars and tanks post WWII right up to the mid '70s. When population pressures in the Vernon area brought the threat of development, local residents successfully lobbied the provincial government to purchase land from the Coldstream Ranch. A 995 hectare park was established in September 1975. In 2008, Kalamalka Lake Protected Area of 2,223 hectares was added and the park now encompasses an area of 3,218 hectares.



*Arrow-leaved Balsamroot
(Spring Sunflower)*

Protect the Park:

This beautiful park contains fragile ecosystems and is shared by many users – walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and climbers. The spread of invasive weeds is a major threat to the park. Please protect it by following a few simple rules.

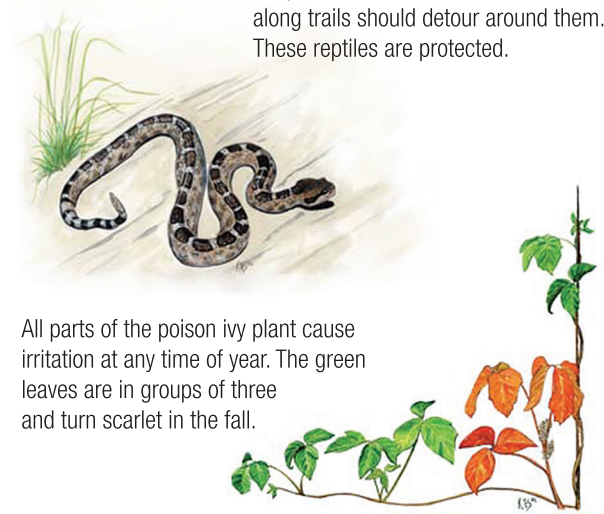
- Stay on the established trails to avoid stomping on endangered flora species.
- Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photos.
- Cyclists – DEAD SLOW when passing hikers and horses, call well ahead as a warning you're passing.
- Horseback Riders – Shoulder season parking of horse trailers is permitted between September 15th and June 15th in the designated parking areas at Twin Bays. Please see signs for “Equestrian Best Practices” and check map for trails where horseback riding is permitted.
- Dog Owners – DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH ALWAYS, EVERYWHERE (except at designated pet beaches) This is mainly to protect the dog and resident wildlife from dangerous, sometimes fatal interactions.
- Dog Owners – Dogs poop! Pick up after your dog and deposit the bagged poop in a garbage can or carry it home. DO NOT LEAVE IT AT THE SIDE OF THE TRAIL!
- Help stop the spread of invasive weeds by removing vegetation from boots, clothes, children, wheels and dogs.
- Tinder dry conditions in summer pose a high risk of wildfires. Camp fires are not permitted anywhere in the park.
- Like all day-use only BC Provincial parks:
SMOKING TOBACCO AND CANNABIS, USING E-CIGARETTES AND VAPING ARE NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME.



Visitor Safety:

- Be prepared for variable weather.
- Carry water, wear a hat, use sunscreen.
- Children should be closely supervised.
- Spring and summer check clothes and skin for ticks after each visit.
- Be aware that some trails are rough terrain with steep drop offs.
- Predators like bears, cougars and coyotes dine here.
- Poisonous rattlesnakes live here.
- Poison ivy grows along some beaches.
- If you come across an Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) don't touch it and call the RCMP.

People who encounter rattlesnakes along trails should detour around them. These reptiles are protected.



All parts of the poison ivy plant cause irritation at any time of year. The green leaves are in groups of three and turn scarlet in the fall.

Report:

Wildfires: 1-800-663-5555, *5555, 911

RCMP: 250-545-7171, 911

BC Parks: 250-490-8200

Conservation Officer, Wildlife: 1-877-952-7277

Park Maintenance – Kaloya Contracting: 250-548-0076

Membership:

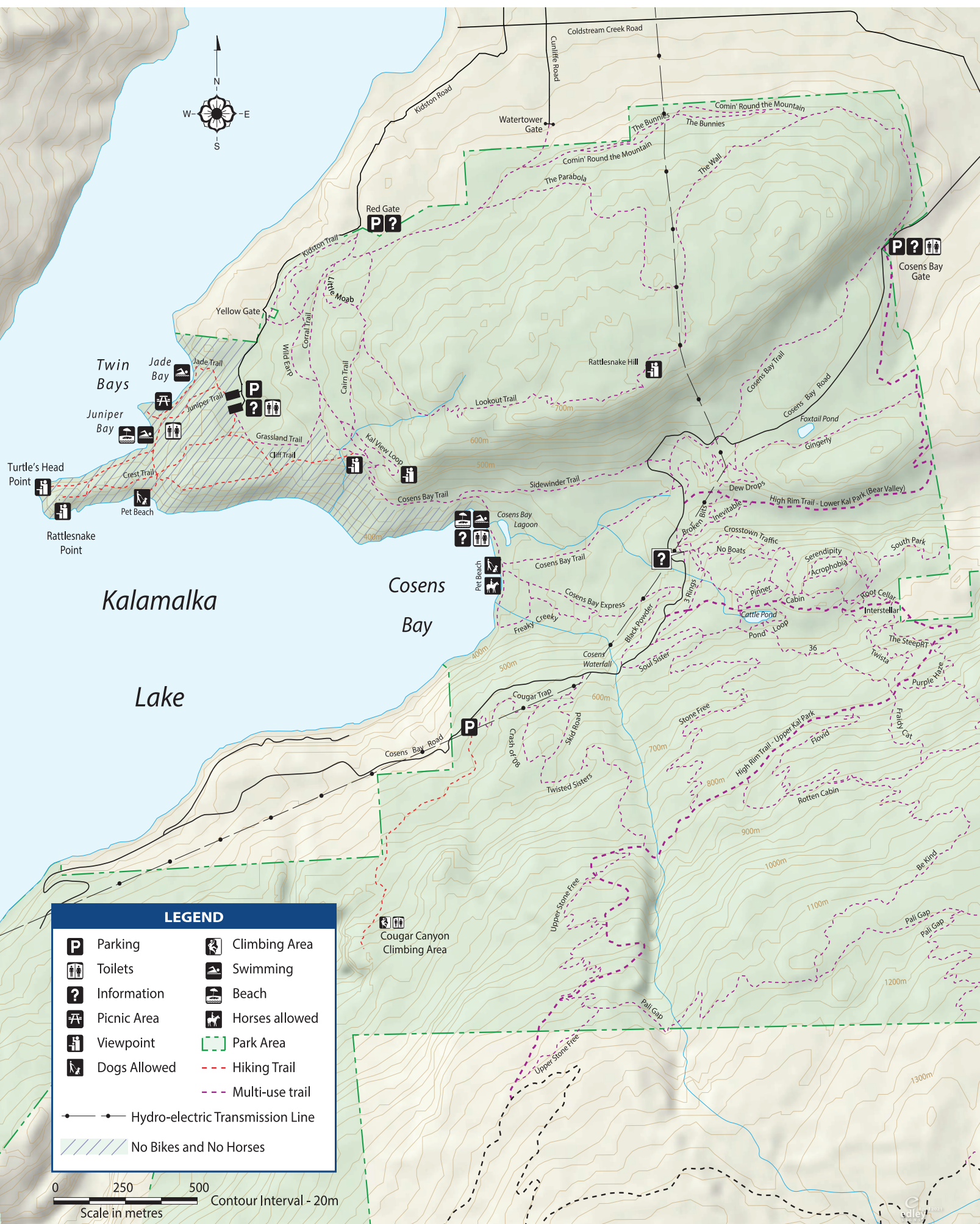
You can help support us by becoming a member for only \$20.00/year per household. Go to kalamalkapark.ca click on Friends Membership, download, print/complete the form. Then email and e-transfer to info@kalamalkapark.ca. Donations are accepted. Tax receipts will be issued for donation amounts over \$10.00.

This brochure was produced and funded by Friends of Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park Society in cooperation with BC Parks.



BC Parks





From Twin Bays Parking Lot:

Juniper Trail a paved trail that drops gently to the lake and picnic area. It continues as a gravel trail to the Lower Turtle's Head Point (aka Rattlesnake Point) Lookout. A loop combines Juniper Trail and Crest Trail back to the parking lot.

Jade Trail drops steeply through ponderosa forest to Jade Bay beach and a small picnic area.

Grassland Trail gives hikers and bikers easy meadow access to the Corral Trail and the switchbacks down to Cosens Bay.

Crest Trail is the only route to take leashed dogs to the Pet Beach. The trail continues as a moderate ridge walk to the Upper Turtle's Head Point Lookout.

From the Red Gate Parking Lot:

Corral Trail starts as an easy, grassland walk to the rim overlooking Kalamalka Lake. It continues down switchbacks to Cosens Bay.

Comin' Round the Mountain an easy walk to the Cosens Bay Gate along the north side of the park. The trail crosses grasslands and some mixed forest providing views north towards Vernon and east down the Coldstream valley.

The Parabola climbs fairly steeply through grasslands and forest to join The Wall near the top of Rattlesnake Hill.

The Wall climbs steeply from the Comin' Round the Mountain trail, through forest to the top of the hill and the edge of the escarpment.

Lookout Trail starts as a moderate woodland trail but then becomes steep and rocky with excellent views. Good footwear is essential.

Loop 1 Trail a 10 km loop of moderate difficulty consists of Corral Trail to Sidewinder Trail to Cosens Bay Trail to Cosens Bay Gate. The Comin' Round the Mountain trail completes the loop back to the Red Gate Parking Lot.

Loop Trail 2 a loop consisting of the Lookout Trail to the top of the escarpment returning to Comin' Round the Mountain trail and the Red Gate Parking Lot via The Parabola (5.7 km) or The Wall (7.5 km).

From Cosens Bay Gate:

Cosens Bay Trail after a short climb, becomes an easy downhill route through major grassland meadows of the park to the beach a Cosens Bay. Remember that the return trip is a long uphill walk. The only parking is at Cosens Bay Gate.

High Rim Trail hugs the fence line heading south and over a steep rocky saddle into Bear Valley. An easier route is down Cosens Bay Trail to join the High Rim Trail at the western end of Bear Valley. The High Rim Trail then climbs steadily through forest, past the Cattle Pond to the Repeater Viewpoint (14 km from Cosens Bay Gate) and on to Hwy 33.

Cougar Canyon Climbing Area can be reached from the parking lot located under the powerline along Cosens Bay Road.