



The Shuswap
TRAIL ALLIANCE



Reinecker Creek Bridge

2025 Shuswap Trail Alliance AGM Report: Executive Director

Prepared by: Jen Bellhouse

Updated: May 28, 2026

Weytkp – you are in Secwépemc Territory. The Shuswap Trail Alliance exists as a collaboration of partners working together to create purpose-built, sanctioned, and sustainable trails throughout the Shuswap region. Our vision is Connected Trails, Healthy Communities and through thoughtful collaboration, we develop, operate, maintain, and promote non-motorized trails throughout the Shuswap. Our core values include Proactive Collaboration, Cultural Respect, Community Building, and Care for the Land. Each year, leadership partners throughout the region work together on diverse projects toward this vision leaning on the Shuswap Trail Alliance for support. It is a vision driven by values at the core of which is the idea of weaving it green (our communities and land) for generations to come in a spirit of respect, cooperation, and stewardship - often referred to as the Shuswap Trail Protocol. This protocol is based on the Secwépemc concept of Y'icwetsutce – taking care of the land – that forms the guiding foundation of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy.



Secwépemc Landmarks R TMICW PELL PEṬNÉṆLLP Little Mountain

Introduction

In 2025, the Shuswap Trail Alliance once again saw strong progress in relationship building, trail planning, and trail construction across all sub-regions of the Shuswap. As in the previous year, many projects were completed thanks to the ongoing commitment of more than 50 partner organizations, including Secwépemc, provincial, regional, and municipal governments; sector partners in health, education, and the environment; community leaders; funding agencies; and many volunteers. Projects ranged from maintaining existing trails and building new ones to installing wayfinding signage, mechanically treating invasive weeds, planning short greenway connectors and full sub-regional networks, improving pedestrian and cycling connections in communities, and developing complex backcountry recreational access plans.

Planning Highlights 2025

Planning projects completed or underway include the Balmoral Trail Plan, Kelly Mountain (Glenemma) Plan, Scatchard Mountain, the East Canoe Creek Expansion Plan, Onyx Falls, the South Canoe Mountain Bike Skills Park plan, Owlhead Mountain Bike Park Phase 2, and the Park Hill extension plan. We also advanced the Joss Mountain Recreation Adaptive Management Plan and continued broader recreation access and trail planning in the East Shuswap. In addition, we supported the City of Salmon Arm's Active Transportation Advisory and Climate Resiliency Committees and look forward to continuing to support these important initiatives.

New Trails Built in 2025

New trails built in 2025 included Phase 1 of the Owlhead Mountain Bike Park (in partnership with the District of Sicamous), the Reinecker Creek bridge, and the nearly completed Reinecker West reroute (in partnership with the CSRD). Other additions included benches at the Loftus Lake Universal Trail (in partnership with the CSRD), the Stselxmēms re Stselxmēm Chase Haper trail (in partnership with Neskonlith and the Forest Circle), the Tuey Park Pedestrian Path (in partnership with the City of Enderby), the Jackson Campus greenway trail (in partnership with the City of Salmon Arm and SD83), and the 20th Ave greenway connector (in partnership with the City of Salmon Arm).

Existing trails also received upgrades and improvements in 2025, including the Turner Creek Trail culvert replacement and Piliated Woods stairs construction (in partnership with the City of Salmon Arm), and the Rubberhead boardwalk replacement (in partnership with the Shuswap Cycling Society). Repair work on Mount Baldy also began in partnership with the CSRD.



Sunset Ridge – Byers View Greenway Connector

Environmental Stewardship

The Shuswap Trail Alliance once again partnered with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS), in 2025, to mechanically remove Yellow Flag Iris at White Lake. We also continue to assist the City of Salmon Arm and SABNES with the Foreshore Trail dog monitoring during critical nesting season.

Rail Trail Progress

Over the past year, significant progress was made on completing the Splat-sin te Secwépemc / Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail between Sicamous and Armstrong.

The Shuswap Trail Alliance is proud to continue supporting the joint partners of the Splat-sin te Secwépemc / Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail. The project is led by Splat-sin te Secwépemc, the Regional District of North Okanagan, and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, with support from the Province of BC and the Government of Canada.

The Shuswap Trail Alliance continues to provide technical, administrative, and grant development support to the rail trail partners.

Splat-sin Development Corporation's Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) serves as the primary construction contractor and also maintains the trail. Urban Systems Ltd. provided the initial engineering design for the development plan and first three pilot projects. In fall 2024, Lawson Engineering Ltd. became the technical engineer for construction through km 42.6.

The rail trail from km 0 to 42.6 is nearing substantial completion. Surfacing is complete from km 0.5 to 42.6, and road crossings and signage are now being installed. New sections from the end of Mara Lake at km 14.8 to Grindrod, and from south of Grindrod to Enderby, are expected to open very soon—possibly by the time this report is shared at the annual Shuswap Trail Alliance AGM. Watch for updates.

The first half kilometre is expected to be finished later this year, but it will remain inaccessible during ongoing Bruhn Bridge construction. Access is anticipated in late 2027 or early 2028.

In the meantime, completed sections along Mara Lake are open to the public thanks to Sicamous community members who formed the Sicamous Ferry Society last year. Their fundraising efforts have made it possible to operate a ferry shuttle to km 0.5 every day through the summer, until September.

Extensive erosion repair work is still awaiting provincial permits and is expected to proceed in the fall.

The highway crossing and reroute at Grindrod are still awaiting final permits from the Ministry of Transportation. Work will begin as soon as those permits are issued.

Development permits and a rezoning application are also pending for the Stepney X Road trailhead in the Township of Spallumcheen. The Township is currently reviewing the application, and the trailhead will be completed once that process is finished.

Completion of the final section—from Stepney X Road at km 42.6 to Lansdowne Road at km 49.15—still depends on funding. Splat-sin applied to the Federal Infrastructure Active Transportation Fund last April and is still awaiting the award announcement.

Destination BC recently provided additional funding to support the design, construction, and installation of trailhead information kiosks, which are expected to be completed later this year. Destination BC is also supporting printed ferry access and rail trail update information, with assistance from the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association.

For updates, visit <https://shuswapnorthokanaganrailtrail.ca/> and click the “Latest Updates” links for the most current progress reports, open sections, access instructions, and maps.

This remains a work in progress, and conditions may change quickly over the next year and a half. Please obey all signs and watch for work crews on the trail.



Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail Rosmond Lake Bridge

Secwépemc Landmarks and Trailhead Project

The Shuswap Trail Alliance continued to support administration of the Secwépemc Landmarks and Trailhead Signage Project at the direction of the four Secwépemc Lakes Communities. The project raises awareness of Secwépemc traditional territory through the installation of approximately 100 trailhead posts, 15 Secwépemc Landmark sculptures, and 15 interpretive panels featuring Secwépemc place names and oral histories from the Secwépemc Lakes Elders Advisory Committee across the Shuswap Lakes region of Secwépemcúłecw.

Phase 2 of the project is now complete. The remaining sculptures were installed in 2025, and the final unveiling ceremony is planned for 2026. Funding support has come from Adams Lake, Little Shuswap, Neskonlith, Splatsin, the BC Rural Dividend Program, the Heritage Branch, the City of Salmon Arm, the Village of Chase, the STA, the BC Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP), and the TOTA/Ministry of Tourism StrongerBC program.

Trailhead posts, carved by students under the guidance of Indigenous artists, have been installed on many trails and at trailheads, with nearly 100 posts now in place. Special thanks to the project coordination team—Project Manager Shelley Witzky, Project Coordinator Libby Chisholm, Storyboard Assistant Dorry William, Technical Advisor David Jacob Harder—and to the Knowledge Keepers circle of Elders from the four Secwépemc Lakes Communities.

More information on the Secwépemc Landmarks Project is available here: <https://shuswaptrails.com/points/>.

Fundraising

The STA once again hosted an online silent auction in early 2026, raising more than \$50,000. Many thanks to the exceptional and adaptable volunteer planning committee—this success would not have been possible without them. These funds will be leveraged through matching grants, donations, in-kind support, dedicated community project budgets, and significant volunteer contributions to expand local greenway trails across the region.

We also held our second annual BC Trails Day Celebration at the South Canoe trailhead on June 7, 2025, featuring Five Alarm Funk and drawing more than 700 people to celebrate trails. We will return to South Canoe on June 6, 2026, for this year’s BC Trails Day event, featuring A Million Dollars in Pennies and Skinny Leonard.

In addition to support from project partners in 2025, the Shuswap Trail Alliance receives annual operating grants from CSRD Areas C, D, E, and F; the City of Salmon Arm; the District of Sicamous; RDNO Area F; the City of Enderby; and the Village of Chase. These agreements were all renewed for four-year terms covering 2024–2027, providing a stable operational foundation for the organization.

BC Trails Day 2025



Sponsors

The Barley Station Brewpub continues to support Shuswap trails through its Shuswap Trail Ale IPA, with 10 cents from every pint sold donated to the STA. Cooper Rentals also continues to support the STA by providing discounted equipment rentals. Other corporate sponsors that made significant contributions in 2025 include Acorn Music, Acuity Advisors, Big Steel Box, Blackstone Drilling, Eagle Homes, and Roots and Blues.

Anonymous donations made through CanadaGives continued in 2025 and were used to support trail projects in smaller communities with fewer available resources. The Shuswap Trail Alliance board is now considering the next projects to fund. These donations were also leveraged to support five planning projects and two infrastructure projects through a successful application to the PacificCan Tourism Growth Program that was implemented in 2025. We fully respect the donor’s anonymity, but if you happen to read this, thank you—we are deeply grateful for your support and excited to move these additional projects forward.

(See the “At a Glance” and Sponsors pages below for a full acknowledgement of all funding partners.)

Promotion of trails

Throughout the year promotion of trails included the design of new maps, the update of guides, trail reports, communications on closures and openings, Facebook and e-bulletin posts, and news releases. We have also been supporting the Rail Trail partners with bulletin updates, news releases, and updating the rail trail website.

Recreational Access Management

In 2025, we continued to support the management of recreational activities across the landscape. The Kela7scen (Mt. Ida) working group met several times to discuss care for the mountain. At this stage, Indigenous Communities have directed participation in the provincially funded management planning process being facilitated by O’Leary & Associates. The South Canoe Trail Advisory also remained active, and the Owlhead/Cummings/Blue Lake/Hunters Range working group met several times during the year.

The STA and the Shuswap Trail Strategy continue to advocate for a collaborative, structured adaptive decision-making approach that includes cumulative effects assessment. For more background, please visit our website at www.shuswaptrails.com.

Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable

The Shuswap Trails Roundtable was originally initiated by local Secwépemc leadership and community champions who share strong values of connection to land and trails. It demonstrates how a collaborative approach can support the sustainable and effective planning, development, and maintenance of recreational trails while ensuring broad participation and inclusion. The Roundtable meets annually in early winter, with a leadership working group meeting quarterly. In 2025, it met in December at Gardom Lake Bible Camp and Retreat Centre. Participants include Indigenous, municipal, regional, and provincial government staff and elected officials; leaders from motorized and non-motorized recreation groups; environmental stewardship and naturalist organizations; industry and business representatives; the public sector; Interior Health; School District 83; and many others. Collaborative recreation access management working groups supported through the Roundtable include South Canoe, Skimikin, Glenemma, the South Shuswap Destination Trail Planning Framework, the Salmon Arm Greenway Liaison Committee, Larch Hills Non-Winter, Joss Pass Mountain, Owlhead/Cummings/Blue Lake/Hunters Range, Kela7scen, and the West Bay Connector Trail.



2025 Shuswap Trails Roundtable – Gardom Lake Bible Camp and Retreat Centre

The Shuswap Trail Alliance Board

The board continues to provide governance oversight and ensure the organization remains responsive to the needs of regional partners. Over the past year, key work included the annual review of policies such as Occupational Health and Safety, HR Management, Sponsor Recognition, Employment Equity, and Anti-Harassment.

Monthly board agendas and working sub-committees continue to focus on improved regional representation, growth of the Legacy Fund, long-term financial stability, capital equipment replacement, and HR support for the management team and annual trail crews.

Board sub-committees include HR, Financial Sustainability, Policy and Governance, Accessibility, and Youth Engagement.

2026 priorities

The Shuswap Trail Alliance's 2026 priorities include completing new and restored trails across the region. Key projects include finishing the Reinecker Creek West reroute and wildfire restoration work on Mt. Baldy and Scotch Creek Hlina in partnership with the CSRD; building the Sullivan Campus trail, upgrading the Park Hill Outer Loop, and advancing the Park Hill Extension plan with the City of Salmon Arm; constructing Phase 2 of Owlhead Bike Park with the District of Sicamous; building Odin's Trail on Scatchard Mountain with the Village of Chase; continuing capital development of the Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail; supporting the Secwépemc Landmarks project; advancing planning and construction for the West Bay Trail Corridor; supporting a renewed comprehensive management plan for Kela7scen (Mt. Ida) with Secwépemc leadership; and continuing to partner with CSISS on the mechanical treatment of invasive species in the Shuswap. We will also continue to support trail maintenance and care throughout the region. Volunteer days are scheduled throughout the spring and remain a valuable tool for trail maintenance in the region.

The summer team will also support environmental stewardship through partnerships with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, SABNES, and the Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable. Trail screening and adaptive planning will remain central to our planning process, and we will continue advocating for a more collaborative, structured approach to land management that includes cumulative effects assessments.

Priorities in
2026...currently
30+ active
projects with
targets in all sub-
regions of the
Shuswap:

Advance Regional Trail Strategy, Roundtable, and Access Management Priorities	Support the Secwepemc Landmarks and Trailhead Sign project	South Canoe Skills Park Planning
Foreshore boardwalk replacement planning	Scatchard Mountain trail construction	Eagle Pass cleanup & East Shuswap trail maintenance
Continue supporting Owlhead Bike Park	Reinecker Creek West Reroute	Corbs Trail
Complete CSRD trail projects	Complete City trail projects	Maintain annual trail maintenance schedule & trail reporting system
Support inter-jurisdictional development of the Sicamous – Armstrong Rail Trail	Support volunteer trail stewardship, engagement, and training	Continue ongoing trail planning & capital project targets with regional partners

Acknowledgements

Please join me in extending heartfelt thanks to the Shuswap Trail Alliance management team, who work every day with partners and projects across the region: Adrian Bostock (Project Operations Manager and Stewardship), Hannah Treleaven (Maintenance/Stewardship Coordinator), James Eagan (Bookkeeper), Hanka Mosher (Business Coordinator), Phil McIntyre-Paul (Senior Consultant), and me, Jen Bellhouse (Executive Director). I also want to recognize the Secwépemc Landmarks team: Shelley Witzky (Project Manager), Libby Chisholm (Project Coordinator), Dorry William (Storyboard Assistant), and David Jacob Harder (Technical Advisor).

We were supported by a skilled and dedicated trail crew who worked tirelessly in all conditions to build and maintain trails throughout the Shuswap. We also benefited from contract support on a range of projects from talented professionals, including Sylvia McMahan, Jeremy Ayotte, “Clever” Trevor Timmer, and many local vendors, contractors, consultants, and businesses. And of course, heartfelt thanks go to the board, its sub-committees, and the annual fundraising team for the time, talent, and wisdom they continue to contribute.

Together, the management team, trail crew, board, sub-committees, contractors, vendors, and volunteers strengthen and support the work of the many community leaders, volunteers, and partners who make Shuswap trails possible. Sincere thanks also go to the lead jurisdictional partners, land managers, and staff who form the wider leadership circle advancing the Shuswap Trail story: Secwépemc band departments, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, BC Parks, CSRD Areas C, D, E, and F (including Parks, Tourism, and GIS), RDNO Area F, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Enderby, and Chase. We are also pleased to be growing relationships with Armstrong, Spallumcheen, and the wider RDNO/North Okanagan governments as we work together to realize the Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail.

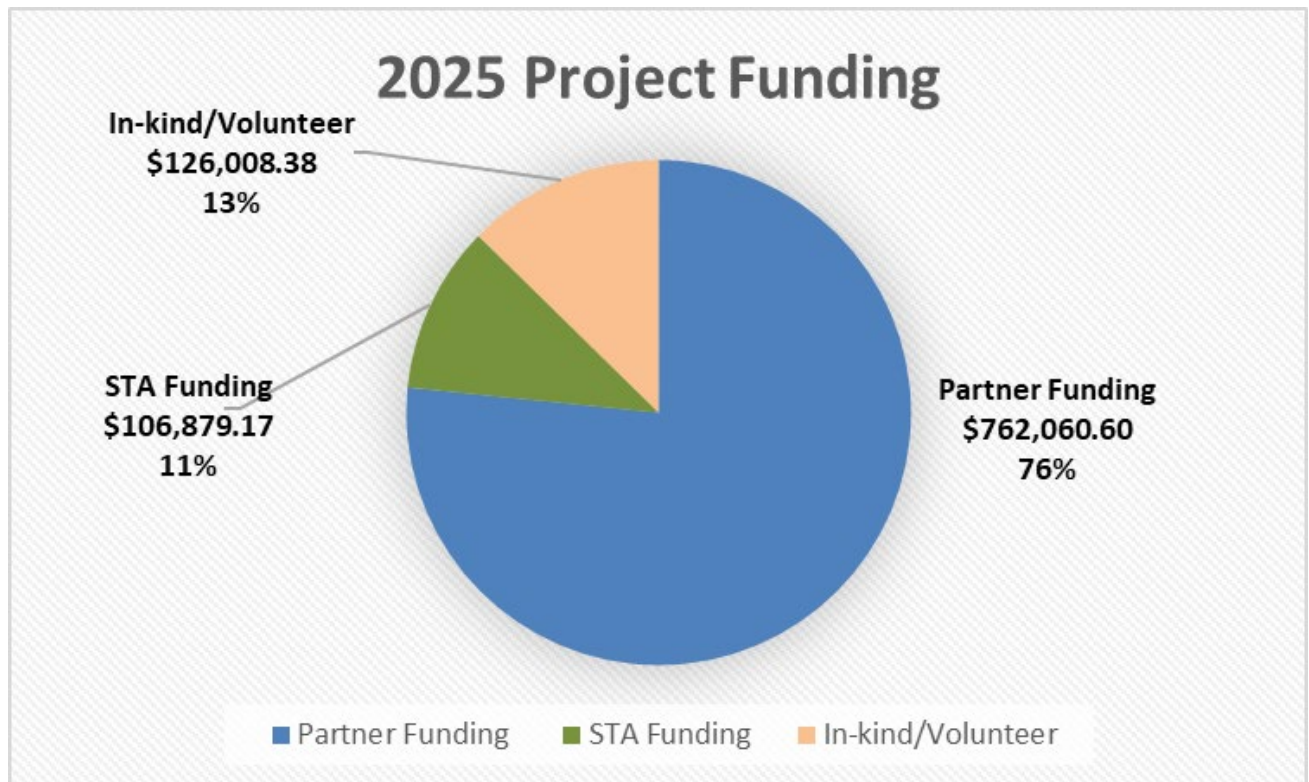
And finally, thank you to the trail stewards—organizations, volunteers, and community leaders who walk, ride, paddle, roll, and move through the landscape caring for the trails and pathways that help us connect with the land, our communities, and one another. This story of collaboration is a shared effort, made possible by the remarkable commitment each of you brings every day. While there is still more of the journey ahead, I hope we can all take a moment to appreciate how far we have come.

Thank you to everyone working so hard to make the Shuswap a healthier, more connected, and more just place to live. **Kukstemc (thank you).**

2025 Leveraged Resources...



Total Leveraged Value in 2025: \$994,948.15



The
outcome ~
with
partners ~
since 2006.

Over 560 greenway trail projects together. . .

11 signature trail systems, 147+ regional trails

212+ km of established trails

Over 20,560 trail signs, 43 kiosks 356+ Trail Structures

Four-season trail-based marketing

\$10,155,000 in leveraged cash/in-kind investment

And in 2025
we worked
on. . .

over 60 projects with over 40 partners

built 7 new trails totaling 13,900 meters

263,455 m maintenance

1 bridge & 5 boardwalks

62 new trail signs and 3 kiosks

1 invasive species removal project

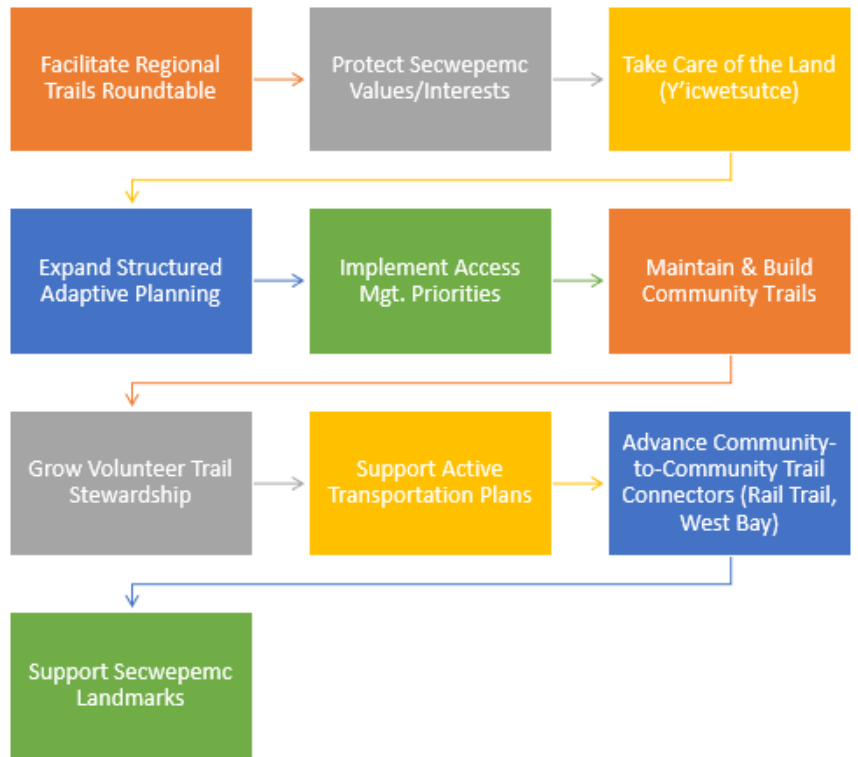
28+ volunteer days with over 100 people

6 recreational access plans

3 conservation projects

2 legacy trail projects

2026 - 2027 Priorities. . .



Again, thank you to everyone helping advance the Shuswap Trails vision and legacy and making our communities healthier places to live, work, and play. To support this work, please consider donating, contributing to the legacy endowment, or joining a volunteer trail day. For more information, visit www.shuswaptrails.com.

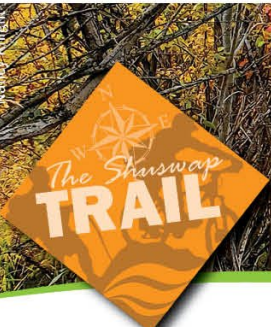
For more background, visit these website pages:

[Shuswap Trails](#) – your online guide to Shuswap trails

[Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy & Roundtable](#)

[Shuswap Trail Standards & Resources](#) – includes regionally developed standards, guidelines, resources, and forms for trail design, signage, environmental trail screening, volunteer trail stewardship, and guided trail programs. All design and signage standards are based on provincial standards and best-practice guidelines.

Photo: Shuswap Trail Alliance



Thank You to our 2026 Shuswap Trail Auction Sponsors

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Joan & Bruce Mitchell</p> | <p>Meadow Brae Farm
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Rancho Vignola
Selah Retreat Guesthouse
Sherry Kalloch - Artist
Shuswap Cider Co. & Panzudo Pizza
Shuswap Optometric Centre</p> | <p>Shuswap Theatre
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Sic Riderz Rentals Ltd
Solstice Auto Glass
The Hansen Family
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Assn.
TI-369 Manual Osteopathy
Toliver Advertising & Design Inc.</p> | <p>Van's Grill
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And...
Acorn Music
Aern Wowchuk
Anvil Coffee Collective
Armstrong Regional Coop
Canooligans
Caravan Farm Theatre
Fieldstone Organics
Gilbert Parts Depot</p> | <p>Gym of Rock
Heavenly Outhouse
Hideaway Public House
Honey Onyx Apiary Inc.
Hunting Season Spice Co.
Loroco Auto Parts
Mitchell Milgram
Salmon Arm Fireplace
Shuswap Dirt Riders
Shuswap Highland Stills
Wildwood Flower Emporium</p> |
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All Shuswap Trails are within the unceded territory of the Secwépemc First Nation.



The Shuswap Trail Alliance acknowledges the collaborative work and support of its community partners representing over 250 regional agencies, stewardship and recreational organizations, Secwépemc, municipal/regional, and provincial government partners, regional businesses, and the hundreds of individuals and volunteers from around the Shuswap who are tirelessly making our communities healthier places to live.