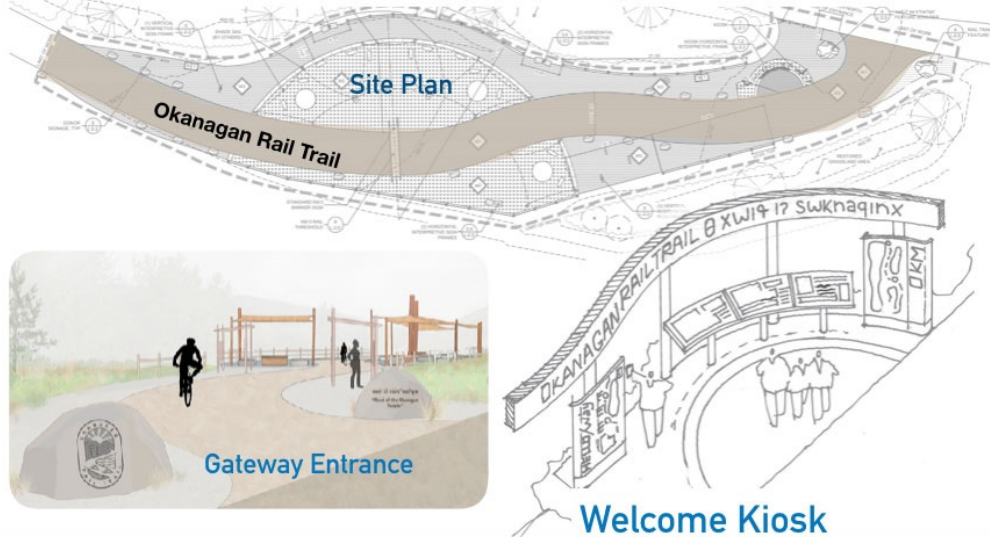




## Km 0 Gateway Design Elements



## Gateways To Your Trail Experience

The Okanagan Rail Trail will soon have its first official gateway! Gateways are major trail entry points and act as trailheads — the place where your adventure begins. Each community will eventually have its own gateway, starting with Km 0 this spring.

A Welcome Kiosk will be an important element of trail gateways. Over the winter, the Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail have worked with Bench Landscape Architects and local jurisdictions to design a kiosk that will be unique to the Okanagan Rail Trail, welcoming and useful to trail users and visitors.

## Plaza with Shade Sails and Seating



Maps, Information,  
Interpretive Signs

Native Plant  
Restoration



# Km 0 Gateway, Coming Soon!

Two new developments are underway this year to create a gateway experience at the north end of the rail trail. The District of Coldstream has begun construction on ['Coldstream Station'](#), the main parking area for the north end of the trail.

A short distance away is 'Km 0' of the 52 km rail trail. The 'Km 0' Gateway will include a welcome kiosk, plaza with shade sails and sitting areas, interpretation and donor recognition, as well as the native plant restoration completed in 2020.

Work with the Okanagan Indian Band over the past two years has uncovered some of the traditional uses and history of this site. This has inspired site design and uncovered enlightening stories that will be told through interpretation.

During planned construction this spring, the Km 0 area will be closed as needed when large trucks are on site, but efforts will be made to keep a path open through the construction zone when possible. This construction won't affect the trail from Kickwillie Road south, but expect a single lane track at Km0 for the next two months. *Any closures will be posted on the [Regional District North Okanagan \(RDNO\) website](#).*

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## Spring is Here!

Spring is here and with it comes the return of the Arrowleaf Balsamroot which was the inspiration for our Sunflower Campaign.



# Huge Thanks to All our Donors

**FORT is pleased to announce that our fundraising goal has been reached and over \$100,000 was raised over the past two years to fund the construction of the Gateway at Km 0.**

Fundraising along with grants from Canada Healthy Communities Initiative and RDNO Trails and Natural Spaces, and support from Greater Vernon Advisory Committee, with final funding from RDNO, has enabled plans to go ahead and work to be starting this spring on the plaza and kiosk.

**Thank You  
Donors**

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## Meet Our Volunteers

### Saturday, April 23, 2022

Mark your calendars for FORT (Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail) Day on the Trail! Saturday, April 23, Trail Ambassadors and Trail Stewards will be out on the trail from 10am to 2pm with a station in each jurisdiction sharing information with trail users. Look for the bright yellow tents and flags and come and say hello!

Event news and updates can be found on our Facebook page. Head over and give us a follow to stay up to date on what's happening next on the trail!

Save The  
Date



## The Trail Keeps Getting Better



The District of Coldstream has made the Westkal Road parking area much safer with a teardrop turn around area adjacent to the parking spaces. This spring, work is already in progress on Coldstream Station on Kalamalka Road to create parking and amenities for trail users. It is hoped that construction will be completed by July. Parking at the Kal Beach parking lot is recommended as an alternative and if you can walk or ride to the trail at the north end, that is even better!

The iconic trestle over the trail in Lake Country, Evans Trestle, has had an upgrade to a pedestrian crossing and will be another interpretive site along the trail.

An important new Active Transportation connection to the ORT is planned this year for Houghton Road in Kelowna. Follow updates on the [City of Kelowna website](#).

Plan your trip along the Okanagan Rail Trail with our handy interactive map which includes photos and other site descriptions.

Plan Your  
Trip

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## Closed Section Update

The question we get asked most often is  
***"When will the whole trail be opened?"***

We were delighted to see that an MOU has been signed, it is a significant step forward towards the goal of opening the closed section of the trail.

The transfer to reserve process must still take place. Please be aware that once all the many remaining steps have been taken, the trail will still need to be constructed so a timeframe for a full opening of the trail is still unknown.

Learn  
More



# Thank You, Volunteers

The Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail volunteers logged over 3,600 hours in 2021 and our dedicated group has grown to 76 people. We are always looking for more help. If you have an interest in any of the initiatives or FORT Committees, please send an email to [volunteer@okanaganrailtrail.ca](mailto:volunteer@okanaganrailtrail.ca) and it will be forwarded to the right person.

Become a  
Volunteer

## DONATE TODAY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT  
AND GENEROSITY.



## Fundraising Continues

FORT is always fundraising as we have many more enhancements we would like to make and your support is always appreciated.

We have a growing group of Friends who **DONATE** on a regular basis and this helps back grant applications and our ongoing FORT project planning.

Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Donate  
Today



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