

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until Wednesday, May 2, 2018



CITY OF TRAIL WINS BCRPA PARKS EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Columbia River Skywalk in Trail honoured with 2018 Parks Excellence Award

Vancouver, BC (May 2, 2018) - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) today presented its Parks Excellence Award to the City of Trail for the Columbia River Skywalk. The award recognizes a unique example of excellence in the concept, design and development of parks and open spaces.

The Columbia River Skywalk project specifically addressed issues related to Trail's walkability and connectivity as the West and East communities are separated by the mighty Columbia River. Prior to this project, the only other means to cross the river was via the main traffic bridge's walkway, which was noted as feeling unsafe by pedestrians. The connection to other urban trail systems, the installation of onramps, and the grade and width of the bridge have ensured 100% accessibility to users of all abilities.

The Columbia River Skywalk project is built on a cycling and walking route through the community. It features LED lighting, viewpoints, park benches, and connects the two sides of the community. A favourite pastime of residents is to do the 2km "bridge to bridge" walking loop through town; this loop has proven to be a highlight for visitors to the area as well.

The Skywalk provides an incredible number of direct benefits to the community and surrounding area. Social Benefits: It encourages active recreation, in particular walking and biking, throughout the community. Economic Benefits: It attracts tourism to the community, draws people to the downtown core, connects both sides of the community, and it forms part of the downtown revitalization plan for the community. This project also provides opportunities for the community to grow. Environmental Benefits: Ensuring that the risk of pollutants that could enter the Columbia River were properly contained (new sewer line) was a primary objective of this project. A safe option, which will reduce driving pollutants, is now available for people to walk or bike to work or visit the downtown area.

"We are honored to award the City of Trail the BCRPA Parks Excellence Award for their work on the *Columbia River Skywalk* project," said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association. "This ambitious project has quite literally brought the community together while serving to vault liveability, economic opportunity, and connection to the outdoors for all Trail's citizens.

The Parks Excellence Award is one of five provincial awards presented at the BCRPA's annual Symposium today in Vancouver. The conference brings together members of the recreation and parks sector from across BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others interested in building and sustaining active, healthy lifestyles and communities in BC.

Background included

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BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is a not for profit organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life in our province. The Association and its extensive network of members, in the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector support the development of healthy individuals and communities and sustainable environments and economies.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local health and physical activity priorities. www.bcrpa.bc.ca