

KTS Trail Pass and Trail Use Fee Program



Our trails provide a natural and compelling environment for outdoor enthusiasts, emphasizing a commitment to preserving the beauty of our landscapes while fostering a sense of community and adventure.

Background

The trail system around Kimberley continues to see increasing use. KTS has advanced its understanding of sustainable trail building practices and identified needs throughout our trail system. In order to continue offering a safe and enjoyable experience for all trail users, a Trail Pass and Trail Use fee program was developed in 2018 and 2023 respectively, with the goal of providing maintenance and thoughtful development throughout our trail system. As the community around Kimberley grows, so does the trail user base. The surge in trail use highlights the importance of securing additional funding to ensure the continued maintenance and enhancement of our trails for all users. With the growing community and increased trail use by a larger user base, it is imperative that we explore avenues to augment our funding to meet the evolving needs of our trail system.

In a 2019 survey, 79% of respondents (230 respondents) said they were willing to purchase a trail pass.

Purpose of the Trail Usage Fee

The trail usage fee serves a crucial role in sustaining and enhancing our trail system by collecting donations from events that take place on KTS managed trails. Event organizers are generally responsible for collecting trail use fees and donating the allotted amount to KTS. KTS will support the event through ongoing trail maintenance, communications with stakeholders and partners, and the general public surrounding the event.

Trail Pass System

The trail pass system is for general trail users or community groups who wish to perform ongoing activities, initiatives and events on KTS managed trails. Trail Passes are a \$40 annual donation to KTS and support the trail maintenance initiatives throughout the year. Trail Passes can be purchased online on the KTS website or any of the outdoor stores in Kimberley (Black Dog Cycle and Ski, Purcel Outdoors, Bootleg Bike Co.).

Fee Structure

Classification of events

Our fee structure is carefully designed to reflect the estimated impact that different events have on our trails. We've done a few case studies pre and post events then weighed that against the true cost of having a trail crew fix specific areas. While we are aware that not all impacts are caused by events, they often produce more enhanced degradation of trails with the frequency of users in short periods of time. While certain events may appear to have a low immediate impact, the cumulative effect of continued trail usage over time is significant and quantifiable. Events also serve as a catch point; Most trail users at events are generally frequent trail users but currently only a small percentage contribute by purchasing a KTS trail pass or attending volunteer initiatives.

Type of Event	Low	Medium	High
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	Impact	Impact	Impact
Coaching and excursions	Trail Pass		
Running races Less than 15km	5	10	15
Running races more than 15km		15	20
Winter Events	5		
Cross Country Mountain BikeRaces	Trail Pass	Trail Pass	40
Enduro Races		Trail Pass	40
Downhill Races	Trail Pass	Trail Pass	40
Orienteering	5	10	15
Recurring Events	Trail Pass	Trail Pass	Trail Pass

Allocation of Funds

Trail Crew Wages

Your trail usage fee directly contributes to paying our dedicated trail crew, equipment purchases, and seed money for grants that require matching funds. Each year, KTS allocates funds towards the upkeep and refurbishment of trails across the network.

Dispersion of resources

KTS works with a number of key partners and stakeholders in the community and supports trail maintenance efforts throughout the trail network on a year round basis. The result is a diverse and high quality trail system and a wide range of users who access the trails for well-being, mental health, entertainment, fitness and personal interests.

KTS Partners and Stakeholders

City of Kimberley
 Rec Sites and Trails BC
 Kimberley Nature Park Society

Kimberley Nordic Club
 Kimberley Alpine Resort/RCR
 Tourism Kimberley

Ktunaxa Nation
Round the Mountain Festival
Teck/Anthem United
Trans Canada Trail
Kimberley Riverside Campground
Purcell Golf & International School

Friends of Lois Creek
Private contractors
Private Landowners
Race Organizers
Wildsight
BC Wildfire Service
Canfor / Logging

Trail areas where funds will be allocated

Lois Creek (Friends of Lois Creek)
Pyramid Creek Trail
Bootleg Recreation Site
Mr Toad and Thunder Turkey
Campground Trails - Jim Ritchie Trail, John Swift Memorial Loop
Round the Mountain Trail
Kimberley Nordic Center
Kimberley Nature Park
Levirs Area
Forest Crown Trails

Pre and Post Events

In many circumstances funds from the trail use fee will be allocated to trails that were used for the event. KTS will work with even organizers to create suitable routes, provide access and emergency preparedness recommendations. KTS can also help connect organizers with the various stakeholders that will need to be informed of an event. KTS will provide best efforts to ensure that trails are maintained to a level that will be suitable for events by clearing downed trees and performing repairs on KTS managed trails.

Season extension

2023 marked the first time KTS was able to hire a fall trail crew and continue operations well into November. The availability of funds to hire three additional crew for three months was mostly due to the donations and trail pass sales.

Equipment supply

Contribution supports the acquisition and maintenance of equipment, trail-building tools to machinery and machine rental.

Seed money for grants

KTS uses a portion of the funds to leverage grants that require matching contributions. This strategic use of funds amplifies our impact, allowing us to access additional resources for significant trail improvement projects. Project priorities are based on needs throughout the trail system. The majority of projects are for trails that provide diversity and inclusivity to our trail system. Other projects solve sustainability issues on trails or replace poorly designed trails with ones that will be much less maintenance in the future. Finally, KTS seeks opportunities to redesign and revive trails through refurbishment.

Administration and Collection

Establishment of a trail usage fee collection system

General Trail Pass purchases can be made online or at any of the outdoor stores in Kimberley. This user-friendly system helps us efficiently collect the necessary funds to sustain and improve our trails. We also encourage attendance at any of our volunteer initiatives throughout the year where trail users can earn a trail pass sticker to show their support of the trail system. Volunteering initiatives can be found through KTS communications such as the KTS social media channels, website and newsletters.

Communication of the fee structure

KTS is seeking additional ways to communicate the Trail Pass and Trail Use system to trail users and event organizers. Currently Social Media, newsletters and word of mouth are the primary avenues of communicating this program.

Event organizers who are planning activities on KTS managed trails should contact KTS to be connected with partners, other stakeholders and private landowners where the event will take place. KTS will inform the event organizer about the trail usage fee for their particular event.

Fee enforcement

The trail pass and trail use fee is a voluntary system. Trail users are encouraged to purchase a trail pass or get involved through volunteer initiatives.

Events that wish to have KTS support should contact KTS surrounding the trail use fees for their event.

Review and Adaptation

We value your feedback. Regular assessments, based on user input and financial considerations, guide us in refining the fee structure to better meet the evolving needs of our trail system.

The Trail Pass program has been around since 2018 and slowly grown year over year.

The Trail Use Fee structure for events is new in 2023 and is being reviewed and revisited with every new event.

Annually, KTS will review the fee structure, ensuring its alignment with our goals and the community's expectations.

Your trail usage fee is an investment in the continued enjoyment and sustainability of our trails. By contributing, you play a vital role in preserving the natural beauty and recreational opportunities our trails provide.