

Canine and Human caused damage in PKOLS- Mount Douglas Park

Mapping of Human and Canine Damage in the southern end of PKOLS – Mount Douglas Park

- The authors mapped the degradation of the south end of PKOLS – Mount Douglas during a two-hour walking tour on February 8, 2023.
- They each estimated that only 30 to 40 percent of this area is in good condition.
- Without significant education and restrictions to keep people and dogs on trails, much of the rest of the remaining areas of natural vegetation are at risk.
- During the two hours they observed over two dozen off-leash dogs wandering well off designated trails in the ecosystems of the Douglas-fir Forest at the south end of PKOLS – Mount Douglas.

- The remaining 60 to 70 percent of the south end of PKOLS – Mount Douglas is damaged, degraded, abused, and over-used.
- This has occurred mainly over the last five years.
- People and dogs have been able to access the whole south end of PKOLS – Mount Douglas, including areas restored by volunteers, with no restrictions or education provided.
- Volunteers had spent thousands of hours removing invasive plant species (shrubs, trees, and herbs) allowing the native understory in the forest to return to remarkably good condition.

- The environmental damage seen by the authors includes: many areas of bare, compacted and eroding soil; sparse vegetation in the understory and under trees and shrubs; broken pieces of native vegetation; extensive new, rogue trails made by humans and dogs; holes dug by dogs in the understory and in root zones of mature trees; wallowing in mudholes (in an area with Sensitive Area signage).
- This damage will continue to expand if dogs remain free roaming throughout this whole area and beyond in PKOLS – Mount Douglas Park.

- The Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Strategy indicates that only 5% of Douglas-fir ecosystems remain within the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic zone. This makes the Douglas-fir ecosystems in PKOLS - Mount Douglas Park extremely important to preserve in the best possible condition, as they contribute significantly to this 5%.
- The whole park is mapped by the BC Conservation Data Center as ecosystems at risk and are either red-listed or blue-listed ecosystems*.
- This mapping of damage is preliminary, recognizing that there is a need to do full, detailed, GPS delineation of degraded versus natural condition ecosystems. It will be extremely important to monitor changes that occur to these ecosystems over time.

Natural or Recovered Areas











Beginnings of Degradation

























Areas of Full Degradation















Sensitive Wildlife Area









New Trails









Holes Dug



