
CWRG Project Report

Gambier Island Conservancy

Shanson Lunny - January 24, 2021



Project Summary

This trails project brought on local workers to help maintain, improve and assess the existing hiking trails on Gambier Island. Participants Estelle Honeywell, Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny received training and worked on the trails from September 29th through December 22nd.

Project Outcomes:

- Clear brush & place markers to establish a new trailhead for the Mt Artaban Trail
- Assess conditions, clear and mark existing trails on Gambier Island:
 - Mt Killam Trail
 - Gambier Lake Trail
 - Gambier Lake To Lost Lake
- Place signposts at important trail junctures between these trails
- Advise on conditions and necessary changes for these trails & their connected trails.

Project Summary

Wilderness First Responder Certification:

Provided by: Coast Wilderness Medical Training

This is a professional level responder certification, designed to provide the necessary skills to handle medical emergencies in remote areas. Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny received this training. This training took place from October 2nd to October 10th. Both participants were certified and intend to upgrade to EMR.

Trail Marking, Maintenance & Standards:

Provided by: Peter Scholefield

Peter demonstrated and supervised the standards for trail work that the conservancy applies to their maintained trails. Estelle Honeywell & Shanson Lunny participated in this initial 2-day work session.

Mt Artaban Trail



Sept 29th, September 30th
20 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:
Estelle Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

Orientation with Peter Scholefield, assessment of extent of work required, marking & clearing of the trail. After walking and doing an initial clear of the Conservancy's prepared new trail connection Mt Artaban on the 29th, we returned to complete the trail work on the 30th. Peter came along with a chainsaw to clear several difficult logs. The initial rough trail is now clearly marked and safe to walk.

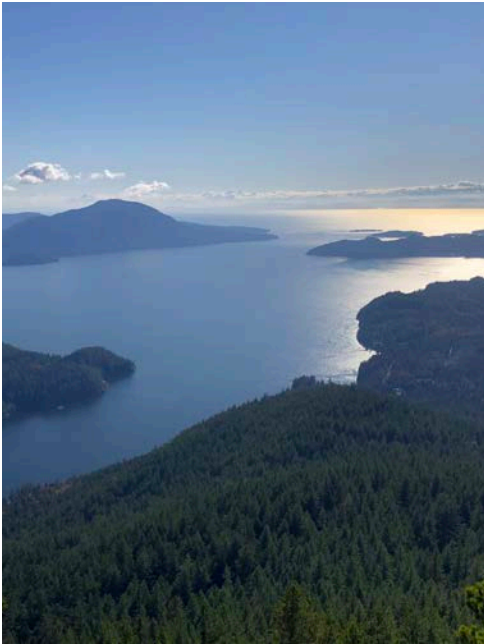


before



after

Mt Killam Trail



October 21st

6.5 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:

Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

The Killam trail has been hit hard by winds, with many downed trees, including several which make the trailhead inaccessible. GPS coordinates were marked for each major clearance or re-route required. Minor clearances were done by hand, and usable areas of the trails were remarked, with old or damaged markers removed. A rerouting of two points along the trail, including the trailhead, is recommended.



examples of areas where a chainsaw is required

Muskeg Lake & Gambier Lake Trailhead Post



November 1st

5.5 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:

Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

Muskeg Lake is a very accessible trail, only minor clearances and remarking was required. The trail is wide enough to be accessible to motorized vehicles. The old path to Mt Liddell is noted to be unsafe and inaccessible from this side; we do not recommend the Liddell route be re-opened from here. A new post was installed at the split of the Gambier Lake & Muskeg Lake trailheads.



before



after

Gambier Lake Trail



November 9th

8 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:

Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

This day included the primary clearing of the trail, as well as the transport of the remaining posts to Gambier Lake. Re-marking was not a major requirement, as most of the trail was well signed. The rocky section of creek as you descend into Gambier Lake seemed potentially unsafe. The trail is in excellent shape aside from that recommended re-routing and a few spots where a chainsaw would improve trail comfort.



before



after

Lost Lake Trail



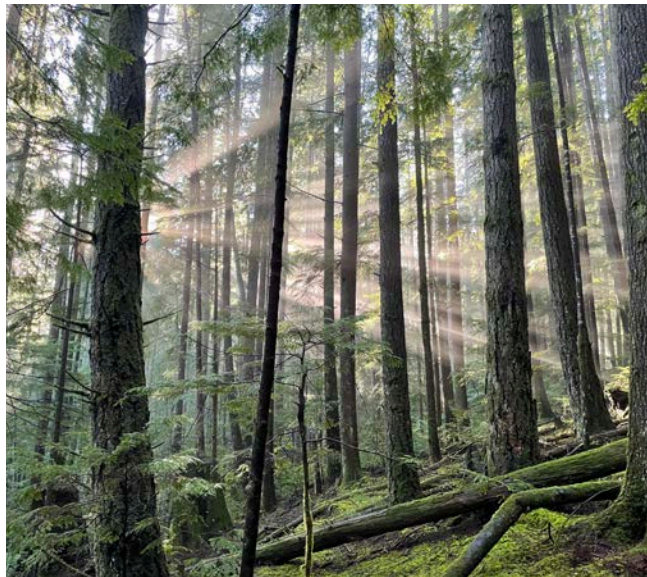
December 2nd

9 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:

Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

After bringing a post to the Lost Lake trailhead, we walked, cleared and marked the trail, noting several points where chainsaw clearing is required. The trail makes sense for the first two thirds, but the last third is unclear, confusingly marked, and seems to have multiple options. It is recommended that this trail needs a major day or two of work with a chainsaw, and a re-route plan for the final third assessing for the safest route. GPS coordinates were taken at the problem areas. The destination is spectacular and should be showcased.



Posts, Gambier Lake Re-Route & Liddell Trailhead



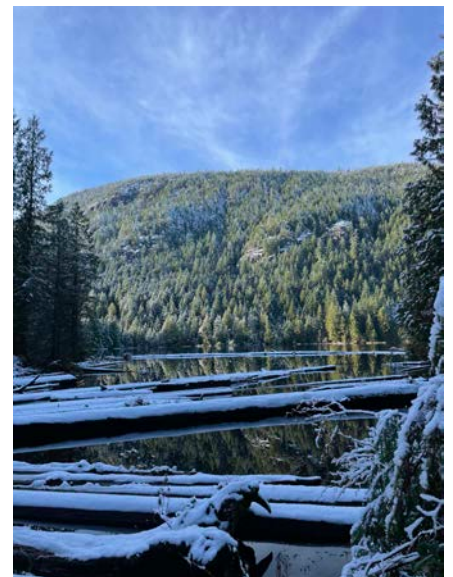
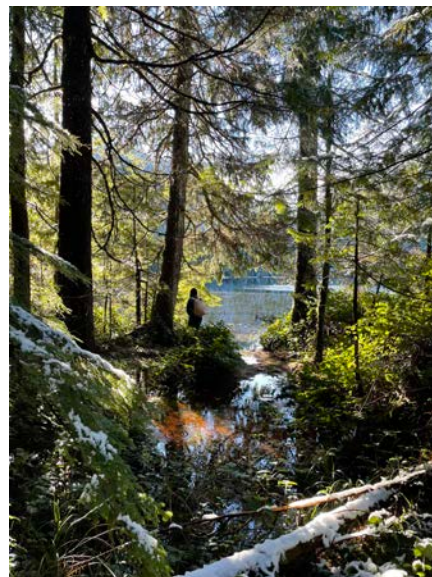
December 22nd

9 hours of trail work per participant

Participants:

Nola Honeywell & Shanson Lunny

Posts were placed in the ground at the Lost Lake Trailhead and Douglas Bay Trailhead (from Gambier Lake). After assessing the Mt Liddell trailhead, there were several potential starting points, none of which were clearly marked. The third post was stored safely nearby and it is recommended that Liddell see's a dedicated couple of days to re-route and mark before confirming the trailhead. GPS coordinates were taken along our recommended alternative to the rocky creek on the Gambier Lake Trail.



Work Summary

This project allowed for 116 work hours to be put into the Gambier Island trail system improving the markings, clearing obstacles and assessing the condition of the trails. Posts are in place which will allow for an improved signage, and GPS coordinates have been taken to help with necessary follow up work and planning.

Recommendations For Future Trail Work

Major chainsaw clearing is required on the following trails:

- Mt Killam
- Gambier Lake to Lost Lake

Minor chainsaw work is required on the following trails:

- Gambier Lake Trail

Re-routing and marking of sections is recommended on the following trails:

- Mt Killam Trailhead
- Gambier Lake to Mt Liddell Trailhead
- Gambier Lake to Lost Lake
- Gambier Lake Trail (Creek Section)

GPS coordinates are available for all above recommendations.