

Exploring Our Shared Natural Heritage



On the southern edge of British Columbia's beautiful Okanagan valley is one of Canada's most critically endangered ecosystems - the semi-arid, antelope-brush shrub-steppe. In the 1990s a group of concerned citizens eager to protect, restore and advocate for our disappearing desert environment opened the Osoyoos Desert Centre, a 67-acre nature interpretive facility. Fast forward to today, and we are thrilled to be celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2024.

At the heart of our mission is the desire to provide engaging, immersive experiences in nature, offering insight into our natural world and inspiring active concern for healthy ecosystems. Each year we welcome thousands of visitors from around the world, who take tours along our 1.5 km boardwalk trail, enjoy interactive displays in our interpretive discovery centre, or explore our native plant garden. Through various educational initiatives, visitors learn about biodiversity loss, habitat connectivity, climate change and invasive species



management, and take part in hands-on workshops like creating pollinator gardens or building bluebird nest boxes. We are also keen to deliver outdoor, place-based educational field trips to hundreds of students each year, working with teachers to tie learning outcomes to BC's education curriculum.

We believe exploring our shared natural heritage promotes caring, collaboration, and social and individual responsibility. It sparks curiosity, encouraging people to observe our world more deeply, and incites passion, not just for this part of the world, but for the entire planet. Equally

important, it creates a space where everyone, regardless of differences in gender, ethnicity, language, age, ability, geography, or economic status, can come together to work towards making a meaningful and lasting impact to ensure natural spaces thrive for future generations.

Osoyoos Desert Centre is located at 14580 146 Avenue. Check our website www.desert.org for more information.

By Jayme Friedt Executive Director, Osoyoos Desert Centre



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