



FOR RELEASE

July 14, 2014

Discover Yukon's research forest and children's playground

WHITEHORSE—The Forest Management Branch is hosting an open house at the Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers Research Forest on Tuesday, July 15.

"The research forest is a great place for families to meet while staying active in the outdoors," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "Recent enhancements to the research forest include an expanded trail network, interpretive signs, and geocaches. These have provided some great opportunities for school groups and the public to learn more about forest science."

The open house takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers Research Forest, located on the North Klondike Highway one kilometre north of the Takhini River bridge. The event provides an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the forest around them, including a chance to participate in a high-tech geocache treasure hunt.

A forestry themed playground has been a feature of the research forest since July 2013. Built for children ranging from two to 12 years of age, the playground is open all year. The playground complements the interpretative trails and educational programs at the research forest.

"The playground is the result of efforts by a group of local parents who expressed the need for a playground in the Hot Springs Road area, and Yukon government was pleased to be able to work with them to make it happen," MLA for Lake Laberge Brad Cathers said. "I would like to thank the residents for their dedication. The research forest, and playground, is a great place for Yukoners and visitors to spend some time getting exercise and learning about Yukon's forests."

Forest Management Branch staff will be present to answer questions and guide people through interpretative trails. The trails vary in length from 600 metres to five kilometres and are suitable for walkers of all ages and fitness levels. Visitors are also welcome to explore the trails on their own. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

For more information contact the Forest Management Branch at 867-456-3999, toll-free 1-800-661-0408, extension 3999 or visit us online at www.forestry.gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder and map attached.

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Backgrounder

The research forest has been a reserved forest since 1964. In 2000, it was dedicated to Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers in recognition of their pioneering forest practices. It is currently managed by the Government of Yukon, in cooperation with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Work at the research forest has been carried out since the early 1970s, including monitoring the forest's response to fire, studying reforestation, and testing the effects of Yukon's climate on certain tree and shrub species.

Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers Research Forest map

News Release #14-164



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