

Swiws/Haynes Point

Swiws is the peninsula located 2 km south of Osoyoos on Lake Osoyoos. The peninsula is about 1.4 km long and a popular camping spot in the summer months. The campground is on the traditional territory of the Okanagan people.

A peninsula is a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water but is connected to the land on one side. Peninsulas are formed in 3 ways: erosion, ocean currents and movement of glaciers. The word peninsula comes from the latin word paene insula, meaning almost an island.



Haynes Point was originally named after John Haynes a local judge in the 1800's. In 2015, the name was changed to Swiws. Swiws sounds similar to "s-wee-yous" and means a place where it is narrow in the middle of the lake. The place names explain how the area was used to cross Osoyoos Lake by foot or by horse.



There is a very nice trail near the entrance to the park for people to explore. The trail includes a number of wildlife viewing opportunities. You just might see migratory birds, barn owls, the western small-footed myotis bat, painted turtles, spadefoot toads and tiger salamanders. The Haynes Point slough also contains a number of lush plant species and some valuable wetlands.

