

April | May | June 2015

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks

Spring 2015



What You Need to Know

All programs run rain or shine. Programs that require registration or fees are noted in the listing. Phone 250.478.3344. See the website for further details, directions, maps and park features.

crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Ages

The age indicated for each outing or event is a recommendation, based on park terrain and program content.

When to meet

Guided walk/hike

Try to arrive 10 minutes before the start of the program.

 Hikes marked with this symbol are rated moderate and have many interpretive stops. Trails may be uneven and slippery with steep sections. The pace of hikes is set according to the needs of the group.

 Hikes marked with this symbol are rated challenging and have fewer interpretive stops. Trails will be uneven and steep and may be slippery in sections. These hikes are suitable for experienced and fit hikers.

Drop-in Event

Come by anytime between the hours that the event is offered.

What to bring

Carry a day pack with drinking water, a hat, extra clothes and a small snack (or lunch for longer outings).

How to dress

Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for variable weather.

Pets

We like pets too. However, their presence can be disruptive. Please leave your animal friends at home.

Feedback

Tell us about your experience on the nature outings and events by taking the short online survey at crd.bc.ca/parks-events. Your feedback is important to us to monitor and improve our services.

Spring at a Glance

April

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Springtime Heel and Wheel (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
11	Tall Trees (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
12	Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided Adult Hike)–Mill Hill 	
18	The Healing Land (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
19	Up the Blooming Hill (Guided Walk)–Lone Tree Hill	
25	Forest Tea Party (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
26	Family Orienteering (Drop-in Event)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
26	Beginners Birding Basics (Guided Walk)–Island View Beach	

May

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2	Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
9	International Migratory Bird Day (Drop-in Event)–Elk/Beaver Lake 	
9	What Have You Seine Today? (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
10	Witty's Hike at Low Tide (Guided Adult Hike)–Witty's Lagoon 	
16	Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
23	Sandy Shore Beach Explore (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
24	Best Nest (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
31	Coast Trail (Guided Adult Hike)–East Sooke 	
31	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Coles Bay	

June

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6	What's That? Ask A Nat! (Drop-in Event)–Island View Beach	
7	Sandy Shore Explore (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
13	Morning Mist Canoe Adventure (Guided Paddle)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
14	The Beach Rocks! (Guided Walk)–Island View Beach	
20	Sensational Seaweeds (Guided Walk)–Island View Beach	
20	Coast Trail (Guided Adult Hike)–East Sooke 	
21	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Horth Hill	
22	Solstice Canoeing (Guided Adult Paddle)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
27	Morning Mist Canoe Adventure (Guided Adult Paddle)–Elk/Beaver Lake	

April

Saturday, April 4 | 1-2:30pm

Springtime Heel and Wheel (Guided Walk)—All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Is this a new country dance? No! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a guided walk along the universally accessible Elsie King Trail. Strollers and wheelchairs welcome. Meet at the Francis/King parking lot off Munn Road.

Saturday, April 11 | 1-3pm

Tall Trees (Guided Walk)—5 years+
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

Unlock the mysteries of trees on a fun forest adventure with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Follow clues and riddles along the trail to meet Devonian's giants. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, April 12 | 10am-12pm 1-3pm

Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided Adult Hike)—18 years+
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

Here are two opportunities to explore the spring wildflowers atop Mill Hill which boasts a riot of colour. Hike the hill with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and you'll learn the identities of beautiful blooms and hear interesting plant lore. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue. **There is no fee but you must pre-register. Call 250.478.3344 by April 10 for registration and meeting location details.**

BC Transit #53

Saturday, April 18 | 1-2:30pm

The Healing Land (Guided Walk)—18 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

A rich storehouse of natural medicines grows all around us. Join CRD Regional Parks guest naturalist Joe Percival to explore this vital botanical heritage used by First Nations people, European settlers and others. Meet at the Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Satin flowers

Sunday, April 19 | 1-2:30pm

Up the Blooming Hill (Guided Walk)—9 years+
Lone Tree Hill Regional Park (Highlands)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a guided walk to the top of this accessible peak. We'll make lots of stops and the views are spectacular. Bring a snack, water and wear sturdy shoes. Meet in the parking lot off Millstream Road.

Saturday, April 25 | 1-3pm

Forest Tea Party (Guided Walk)—18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Forests are full of plants that make delicious teas. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a guided walk and interpretive tea tasting of local plants.

\$7+GST. Pre-register by April 24. Call 250.478.3344 for registration and meeting location details.

Sunday, April 26 | 1-3pm

Family Orienteering (Drop-in Event)—All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Orienteering is a great way to be active with the whole family. CRD Regional Parks naturalists will have maps on hand, and a beginner level orienteering course set up at Beaver Lake. Get active as a family today! Meet at the information kiosk in the Beaver Lake parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, April 26 | 10am-12pm

Beginners Birding Basics (Guided Walk)—9 years+
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Ever wanted to bird watch? This is a great time of year for birding, with courtship and territory disputes filling the air with song. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to learn what to look for, and how to use binoculars and field guides. Bring binoculars if you have them. A spotting scope is provided. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.



Belted Kingfisher

May

Saturday, May 2 | 9-11am

Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)—9 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

For the novice and intermediate birder, join CRD guest naturalist Geoffrey Newell for a glimpse of some of the birds at Witty's Lagoon. Bird watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, May 9 | 9am-1pm

International Migratory Bird Day (Drop-in Event)—All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Celebrate the return of our feathered friends! Join CRD Regional Parks, Rocky Point Bird Observatory and the Victoria Natural History Society to learn more about the journey that birds take from their summer and winter homes. There are activities for birders of all ages, expertise and abilities. Meet at the tents adjacent to the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off Beaver Lake Road.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, May 9 | 1-2:30pm

What Have You Seine Today? (Guided Walk)—5 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join CRD Regional Parks naturalists to use a seine net and see what creatures live in the deeper reaches of the ocean. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet on the main beach. Park in the main parking lot off Metchosin Rd. and follow the 20-minute forest trail to the beach.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, May 10 | 11:30am-3:30pm

Witty's Hike at Low Tide (Guided Adult Hike)—18 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and explore a complete circuit of Witty's Lagoon. You'll learn fascinating local history, explore tidal pools, and discover spring wildflowers. Bring a snack or lunch, and water. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). **There is no fee but you must pre-register. Call 250.478.3344 by May 8 for registration and meeting location details.**

Saturday, May 16 | 1-2:30pm

Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk)—All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Stroll along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to peek under fallen logs and leaves in search of the giant gastropod that is one of nature's best recyclers. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, May 23 | 12:30-2pm

Sandy Shore Explore (Guided Walk)—All ages
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join a CRD naturalist for an intertidal exploration and discover the strange and wonderful creatures that appear between the tides. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet on the main beach. Park in the main parking lot off Metchosin Rd. and follow the 20-minute forest trail to the beach.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, May 24 | 1-2:30pm

The Best Nest (Guided Walk)—7 years & under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Spring is here and birds are busy! Bring your little ones and join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover nests and look for homes of hummingbirds, robins and more. Children will experience life as a small bird through story time, a forest ramble, and a nest craft to take home.

Sunday, May 31 | 8am-4pm

Coast Trail (Guided Adult Hike)—18 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Join CRD Regional Parks naturalists for one of Canada's premier day hikes – East Sooke's Coast Trail. Enjoy ocean breezes, great views and lush coastal forests on this challenging 7-hour hike. Fit hikers only. **\$10+GST. Pre-registration required by May 29. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 for registration and meeting location details.**

Sunday, May 31 | 1-2:30pm

Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)—5 years+
Coles Bay Regional Park (North Saanich)

Solve the riddles to find the clues hidden along the trail with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Then piece the puzzle together to discover who the mystery creature is. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Inverness Road.

June

Saturday, June 6 | 12-3pm

What's That? Ask A Nat! (Drop-in Event)—All ages
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Come with your curiosity to explore low tide and all the marine critters it reveals. Borrow our dip nets and ask CRD Regional Parks naturalists to identify your treasures. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Look for the blue tent on the beach off Homathko Road.

Sunday, June 7 | 12:30-2pm

Sandy Shore Explore (Guided Walk)—All ages
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

See May 23 for details.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, June 13 | 8-11am

Morning Mist Canoe Adventure (Guided Paddle)—5 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Paddle in the lake searching for eagles, herons, turtles and other lake life with CRD Regional Parks naturalists. Canoe equipment and instruction are provided and no experience is necessary. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). **Pre-register: \$20+GST (15 yrs+); \$10+GST (5-14 years). 250.478.3344 for registration and meeting location details.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, June 14 | 10:30am-12pm

The Beach Rocks! (Guided Walk)—All ages
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

The tide is out! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and get a glimpse of the creatures that live beneath the rocks. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.

Mary Sansonevino



Saturday, June 20 | 1-2:30pm

Sensational Seaweeds (Guided Walk)—5 years+
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

A CRD Regional Parks naturalist will help you discover how important marine algae is for you and me and the creatures that call them home! Seaweed-tasting optional. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.

Saturday, June 20 | 8am-4pm

Coast Trail (Guided Adult Hike)—18 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

See May 31 for details. **\$10+GST. Pre-registration required by June 19. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 for registration and meeting location details.**

Sunday, June 21 | 1-2:30pm

Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)—5 years+
Horth Hill Regional Park (North Saanich)

Solve the riddles to find the clues hidden along the trail with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Then piece the puzzle together to discover who the mystery creature is. Meet at the kiosk off Tatlow Road.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Monday, June 22 | 6-9pm

Solstice Canoeing (Guided Adult Paddle)—18 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

See June 13 for details. **You must pre-register: \$20+GST. Phone 250.478.3344 for registration & meeting location.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, June 27 | 8-11am

Morning Mist Canoe Adventure (Guided Paddle)—5 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

See June 13 for details. **Pre-register: \$20+GST (15 yrs+); \$10+GST (5-14 years). 250.478.3344 for registration and meeting location details.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

About CRD Regional Parks

CRD Regional Parks protects and manages more than 13,000 hectares of spectacular and accessible natural areas in 33 regional parks on southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. Regional parks protect and restore biodiversity, offer a range of compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and provide accessible, joyful connections with the natural world.

There is a wonderful world of natural and cultural history to explore at our Nature Centres. Regional Parks staff and volunteer naturalists can answer your questions and point you in the right direction on the trails.

Beaver Lake Nature Centre

(Beaver Beach off Elk Lake Drive in Saanich)

Opens June 21- Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, 12-4pm
The Nature Centre is wheelchair accessible.

Francis/King Nature Centre

(Munn Road in Saanich)

Open year-round - Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, 12-4pm
The Nature Centre and the Elsie King Trail are wheelchair accessible.

Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre

(Metchosin Road in Metchosin)

Open year-round - Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, 12-4pm
The Nature Centre is wheelchair accessible.



Capital Regional District



@crd_bc

Please only take one, share with a friend and recycle.
Download brochure in PDF format www.crd.bc.ca/parks.



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8
Tel: 250.478.3344 | F: 250.478.5416
E: crdparks@crd.bc.ca | www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Island View Beach Regional Park RV and Tent Campground



A site of nature

Get away to one of the region's favorite campgrounds! Island View Beach Regional Park RV and Tent campground on the Saanich Peninsula features fabulous ocean views in a nature setting.

- affordable, self-contained seasonal camping May to Sept.
- long, sandy beach for exploring, picnicking, swimming, kayaking and wind surfing
- beach, dune, wetland, and shrub ecosystems
- premiere bird watching with more than 100 species of resident and migratory birds
- panoramic seascape views of Haro Strait, James Island and Mount Baker
- accessible loop trail offers an easy and scenic walk
- free guided interpretive nature programs
- nearby to Lochside Regional Trail, ferry, airport and downtown Victoria

Download the map and brochure
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Volunteer In Parks



Volunteer as a Summer Naturalist

CRD Regional Parks is seeking outgoing, friendly volunteers who have a passion for sharing nature with the public. We provide training, support, beautiful work surroundings and a great deal of appreciation. You provide your knowledge, talent and passion for nature.

Volunteer Summer Naturalist positions are available at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park Nature Centre and at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park Nature Centre.

The commitment is for a four-hour shift once a week (bi-weekly as a minimum) on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday during July and August from noon-4pm.

Interested? Want to know more? Contact us.

www.crd.bc.ca/parks