

December | January | February 2017/18

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks

Winter 2017/18

Photo: William Ng

Online Registration

Register online

The CRD's new secure online registration site allows you to browse, pre-register and pay immediately for a nature outing.

www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

1. Browse nature outings
2. Select an outing
3. Create an account
4. Select a credit card payment option and complete your registration

Once registration is complete, a receipt and confirmation will be emailed to you. Payment options: VISA or Mastercard.



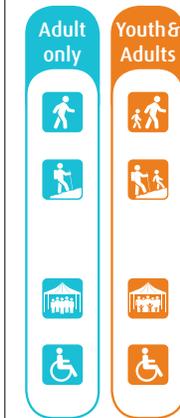
Photo: William Ng

What You Need to Know

All programs run rain or shine. Try to arrive 10 minutes before the start of the program. 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.

www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Age recommendation is based on park terrain and program content.



Guided Walks - Have a casual pace with interpretive stops.

Guided Hikes (Moderate)- Have occasional interpretive stops. Trails may be uneven and slippery with steep sections. The pace of the hike is set according to the needs of the group.

Drop-in Event - Come by anytime between the hours that the event is offered.

Wheelchair Accessible - Accessible trails and/or at wheelchair accessible nature centres.

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 hiking shoes and dress for the 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.

Winter at a Glance

December

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2	Winter Wander (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
3	Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
9	Forest Festivities (Drop-in Event)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
12	Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
16	Bear Hill: Winter Ascent (Guided Adult Hike)–Bear Hill	
17	Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
21	Solstice Stroll (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	

January

6	New Year, New Beginnings (Guided Adult Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
13	Tree-mendous Trees (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
14	Stop, Look, Listen (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
20	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Coles Bay	
27	Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill	
28	Tracks and Traces! (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	

February

3	High Ridge Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–Francis/King	
10	Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)–East Sooke	
11	Love is in the Park (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
17	Moss Landscapes of Vancouver Island (Guided Adult Walk)–Francis/King	
24	Squirrely Squirrels! (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
25	Thetis Lake Loop (Guided Adult Hike)–Thetis Lake	

December

Saturday, December 2 | 1–2:30pm

Winter Wander (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)



Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to explore this beautiful sea-side gem. What plants and animals make this park home? Come and find out. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, December 3 | 10:30am–12pm

Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)



What does it take to survive as a squirrel? With a CRD Regional Parks naturalist discover what keeps these furry creatures busy at this time of year. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, December 9 | 11am–2pm

Forest Festivities (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)



Join CRD Regional Parks naturalists in the spirit of the season. Make recycled cards, crafts, and a small green swag with broom. We'll supply material and instructions, you supply the creativity. Drop in anytime with your family and friends. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #75



Bear Hill: Winter Ascent

Tuesday, December 12 | 10–11am



Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Birds are fun for little ones-especially when they are by a winter bird feeder! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and look for our fine feathered friends, make a birdseed craft and enjoy a short exploration in the woods. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by December 8 as space is limited.** Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Saturday, December 16 | 11am–1pm



Bear Hill: Winter Ascent (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Bear Hill Regional Park (Saanich)

Great views await you, exploring the forest along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist, on the way to the summit of Bear Hill. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by December 13 as space is limited.** Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, December 17 | 10–11am



Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Bring your little one to celebrate winter with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Your child will explore the winter woods using their senses and look for creatures enjoying the winter season. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by December 13 as space is limited.** Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

BC Transit #70 or #75

Thursday, December 21 | 10–11:30am



Solstice Stroll (Guided Walk)–18 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

As the longest night of the year approaches, enjoy the quiet of the forest with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Discover the plants and animals that call Witty's Lagoon home at this time of year. Meet at the Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

January

Saturday, January 6 | 10am–2pm



New Year, New Beginnings (Guided Adult Walk)–18 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Burn off some of the holiday treats on a 10 km walk around the lakes with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Discover the fascinating cultural and natural history of this multi-use park. Bring a lunch and water and wear sturdy footwear. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by January 3 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, January 13 | 10–11:30am



Tree-mendous 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, January 14 | 10–11am



Stop, Look, Listen (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Use your senses to appreciate the wonders of the forest. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and find what's hidden on the trail, meet a tree, and more. This is a great way for kids and adults to share nature together. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by January 10 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**



Stop, Look, Listen



Tracks and Traces!

Saturday, January 20 | 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.

Saturday, January 27 | 10–11:30am



Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)–All ages
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to learn some owl calls, find out about these excellent night hunters, and get to know our BC owls. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue.

BC Transit #53

Sunday, January 28 | 12:30–2pm



Tracks and Traces! (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Become a nature super sleuth. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to explore the evidence and investigate clues left behind by animals. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #75



Who's Hooting?

February

Saturday, February 3 | 10am–12pm



High Ridge Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Have you ever wanted to explore more of the fabulous forest at Francis/King but weren't sure where to start? Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to hike one of this park's hidden treasures: the High Ridge Trail. Bring a snack, water, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by January 31 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, February 10 | 1–2:30pm



Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)–5 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Enjoy a walk in the park with your family to celebrate Family Day weekend! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and discover the beauty of this wooded parkland. Bring a snack and water, and wear sturdy footwear. Meet at the kiosk in the Aylard Farm parking lot off Beecher Bay Road.

Sunday, February 11 | 1–2:30pm



Love is in the Park (Guided Walk)–All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Come discover what animals are breeding in the park. Participate in family fun and all age-appropriate activities related to tree frogs singing, eagles cart-wheeling, hummingbirds dancing, owls hooting and more. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter in the Filter Beds parking lot off Beaver Lake Road.

BC Transit #70 or #75



Love is in the Park



Moss Landscapes

Saturday, February 17 | 10am–12pm



Moss Landscapes of Vancouver Island
(Guided Adult Walk)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join guest CRD Regional Parks naturalist, Kem Luther, to discover the strange lives of mosses. Learn how to identify the most common species. **\$7/person + GST. Pre-register by February 14 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, February 24 | 10–11am



Squirrely Squirrels! (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

What does it take to survive as a squirrel? With a CRD Regional Parks naturalist discover what keeps these furry creatures busy at this time of year. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 21 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Sunday, February 25 | 11am–2pm



Thetis Lake Loop (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Thetis Lake Regional Park (View Royal)

Join in a hike around Thetis Lake while exploring the park's natural history with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Bring a snack, lunch, and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by February 21 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.



Squirrely Squirrels!

Top 10 Things to do this Winter at a Regional Park



1. Visit Island View Beach Regional Park to see the diversity of seaweeds brought in by winter storms.
2. Join us for a winter event such as our Forest Festivities celebration.
3. See how many shades of green you can spot at Devonian Regional Park.
4. Watch for napping owls in the trees at Mill Hill Regional Park.
5. Take a roll or stroll for the winter solstice to celebrate that the days will be getting longer again.
6. Enjoy the cozy reading nook at our nature centre at Francis/King Regional Park.
7. Work off the winter feasts with a hilltop hike at Bear Hill or Lone Tree Hill Regional Parks.
8. Take a drive out to Jordan River Regional Park to watch the surfers brave the winter waves.
9. Do some winter birdwatching at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park.
10. Invite a friend to explore a new regional park with you.

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 & Trails on southern Vancouver Island and the 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)
CLOSED FOR THE SEASON Open in summer – 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.

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Making a difference...together

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