

October | November | December **2014**

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRP | Regional Parks

Fall 2014



Fall at a Glance

October

*Identification only,
no harvesting

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------|---|---|
| 4 | Hunter's Moon, Fall Reflections (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon | |
| 5 | Spectacular Spiders (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake | |
| 11 | Ocean Birds (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon | |
| 11 | Fabulous Fungi* (Adult Presentation)–Francis/King |  |
| 11 | Fabulous Fungi* (Guided Adult Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 12 | Fabulous Fungi* (Adult Presentation)–Francis/King |  |
| 12 | Fabulous Fungi* (Guided Adult Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 18 | Ha-bat-itat (Guided Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 19 | Sooke Potholes Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–Sooke Potholes |  |
| 19 | People, Plants, Places (Guided Walk)–Devonian | |
| 24 | Forest Spooktacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King |  |
| 25 | Forest Spooktacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King |  |
| 26 | Forest Spooktacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King |  |

November

*Identification only,
no harvesting

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | Marvelous Mushrooms* (Guided Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 1 | Fabulous Fungi* (Guided Adult Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 2 | Nuts About Squirrels (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King | |
| 8 | Salmon Sensation (Drop-in Event)–Charters Interpretive Centre |  |
| 9 | Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 15 | Marvelous Mushrooms* (Guided Walk)–Francis/King | |
| 16 | Park 2 Park: A Hiking Adventure (Guided Adult Hike)–Francis/King |  |
| 16 | Seasonal Safari (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill | |
| 23 | Winter Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon | |
| 30 | Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Coles Bay | |

December

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------|---|---|
| 6 | Wreathmaking (Drop-in Event)–Elk/Beaver Lake |  |
| 7 | Thetis Lake Loop (Guided Adult Hike)–Thetis Lake |  |
| 7 | Christmas Paper-printing (Workshop)–Francis/King |  |
| 13 | Solstice Stroll (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon | |
| 14 | Christmas Paper-printing (Workshop)–Francis/King |  |
| 29 | Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill | |
| 30 | Winter Wander (Guided Walk)–Devonian | |
| 31 | Bring in the New Year! (Guided Hike)–Bear Hill | |

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.

October

Saturday, October 4 | 1–2:30pm

Hunter's Moon, Fall Reflections (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join guest CRD Regional Parks naturalist Joe Percival on this guided walk through the woods of Witty's Lagoon. Learn about the seasons of the moon and the plants that were harvested in days of old. Meet at the Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, October 5 | 1–2:30pm

Spectacular Spiders (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Walk anywhere in BC and you'll be less than a metre from a spider! Join CRD Regional Parks guest naturalists Claudia and Darren Copley for an expedition in search of spiders. Meet at the Beaver Lake information kiosk off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, October 11 | 8–11am

Ocean Birds (Guided Walk)–9 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Birdwatchers at any level of experience can join CRD Regional Parks guest naturalist Geoffrey Newell at Tower Point to look for gulls, cormorants, loons, grebes and sea ducks in their winter plumage. A spotting scope will be on hand. Bring scopes and binoculars, if you have them. Meet at the Tower Point parking lot off Olympic View Drive at 9:00 a.m. or join us later at the end of Tower Point.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, October 11 | 10am–12pm

Fabulous Fungi (Adult Presentation)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join CRD Regional Parks guest naturalist Kem Luther for this 2-hour slide presentation and talk. You'll learn to identify some of our common local mushrooms and about the important role that fungi play in the forest ecosystem. **\$7+GST. Pre-registration required before October 10. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Saturday, October 11 | 1–3pm

Fabulous Fungi (Guided Adult Walk)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Mushrooms play a vital role in our forests. Spark your interest in their fascinating variations and adaptations with CRD Regional Parks guest naturalist Kem Luther on this adults-only guided walk on mushroom identification. **\$7+GST. Pre-registration required before October 10. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Sunday, October 12 | 10am–12pm

Fabulous Fungi (Adult Presentation)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

See Oct. 11 for details. **\$7+GST. Pre-registration required before October 10. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Sunday, October 12 | 1–3pm

Fabulous Fungi (Guided Adult Walk)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

See Oct. 11 for details. **\$7+GST. Pre-registration required before October 10. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Saturday, October 18 | 1–2:30pm

Ha-bat-itat (Guided Walk)–All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

This guided walk about bats with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist will help dispel fear and misinformation about these fascinating flying mammals. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road. Strollers not recommended.

Sunday, October 19 | 11am–3pm

Sooke Potholes Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Sooke Potholes Regional Park (Sooke)

Here's a chance to explore Sooke Potholes with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Wear sturdy shoes, pack a lunch, and bring a camera if you have one (the photo opportunities are fabulous).

There is no fee but you must pre-register as space is limited. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344 before Oct. 17.

Sunday, October 19 | 1–3pm

People, Plants, Places (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

We often take for granted how easy it is to obtain food, clothing and medicines. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist as we discover how people in the past have used our native flora. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

**Friday, October 24, Saturday, October 25,
Sunday, October 26 | 11am–2pm**



Forest Spooktacular (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Drop by anytime between 11am and 2pm with family and friends for this spook-tacular afternoon of Halloween fun with CRD Regional Parks naturalists. At 11:15am and 1pm join the guided walks, if you dare - we'll fill the cauldron with spooky treasures from the natural world. Displays, Halloween crafts and hot ghoulish brew await. Wear a costume and win a prize.

November

Saturday, November 1 | 10:30am–12pm

Fabulous Fungi (Guided Adult Walk)–18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

See Oct. 11 for details. **\$7+GST. Pre-registration required before October 31. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Saturday, November 1 | 1–2:30pm

Marvelous Mushrooms (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

For the novice mushroom explorer, join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover more about fungi in the forest. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344 before Oct. 31.**

Sunday, November 2 | 11am–3pm

Nuts About Squirrels (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Drop in for a squirrely day and find out more about these amazing animals. Join in the fun with puppet shows at 11:30 and 1:30, and walks at 12 and 2pm. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, November 8 | 11am–2pm



Salmon Sensation (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Charters Interpretive Centre (Sooke)

Drop in anytime between 11am and 2 pm for fishy-fun activities, a craft and guided walks with CRD Regional Parks naturalists along the Charters River. A close-up look at these magnificent fish as they return to spawn and complete their life cycle awaits. Meet at Charters Interpretive Centre off Sooke River Road.

Sunday, November 9 | 1–2:30pm

Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)–8 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on a family adventure, as you learn animal skills. Creep like a deer, jump like a cougar, and feel like a raccoon as we wind our way through the Francis/King forest. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, November 15 | 1–2:30pm

Marvelous Mushrooms (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

See Nov. 1 for details. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344 before Nov. 14.**

Sunday, November 16 | 11am–3pm

Park 2 Park: A Hiking Adventure (Guided Adult Hike)
18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Hike two parks in one! A CRD Regional Parks naturalist will guide the hike in Francis/King, and along the Pan Handle Fire Trail to Thetis Lake and back. Bring a lunch, water and raingear, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. **There is no fee but you must pre-register before Nov. 14. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344.**

Sunday, November 16 | 1–2:30pm

Seasonal Safari (Guided Walk)–8 years and under
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

The leaves are turning yellow, and the air feels crisp! Animals know it is time to prepare for winter. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist as we play games, look at leaves, and explore how raccoons, squirrels, bears and more are collecting food in the fall and preparing a warm spot to rest. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue.

BC Transit #53

Sunday, November 23 | 10am–12pm

Winter Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

While some birds fly south, many spend their winters here enjoying our moderate climate. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to find out who's who at the lagoon, a favourite bird hangout. Bring binoculars if you have a pair. A spotting scope will be available. Meet at the Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, November 30 | 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, off Ardmore Drive.

December

Saturday, December 6 | 11am-2pm



Wreathmaking (Drop-in Event)-All ages

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Join CRD Regional Parks naturalists in the spirit of the season to make a festive wreath. We'll supply materials and instructions - you supply creativity! Drop in anytime and bring a mug for hot apple cider, and clippers if you have them. Food and money donations welcome. Suggested minimum donation \$5/wreath (proceeds to a local food bank). Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, December 7 | 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 or lunch and wear sturdy footwear. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344 before Dec. 5.**

Sunday, December 7 | 11am-2pm



Christmas Paper-printing (Drop-in Event)-All ages

Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join in the spirit of this special time of year with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist at the Francis/King Nature Centre. Sip hot apple cider, sample Christmas cake, and make DIY wrapping paper. Potato stamps, recycled paper, and other tools will be used to create gorgeous (and 'green'!) paper creations. Make gift tags, one-of-a-kind paper, and spend some winter wonder-time with your wee ones, family and friends. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, December 13 | 1–2:30pm

Solstice Stroll (Guided Walk)–8 years+

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

As the longest night of the year approaches enjoy the quiet of the forest with CRD Regional Parks' guest naturalist Joe Percival. 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

Sunday, December 14 | 11am–2pm

Christmas Paper-printing (Drop-in Event)–All ages

Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

See Dec. 7 for details.

Monday, December 29 | 1–2:30pm

Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)–5 years+

Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

The owls are hooting. 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

Tuesday, December 30 | 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

Wednesday, December 31 | 11am–1pm

Bring in the New Year (Guided Hike)–8 years+

Bear Hill Regional Park (Saanich)

Out with the old and in with the new! End your year with a hike up Bear Hill. We will enjoy fabulous vistas at the top and toast to the coming New Year with some warm forest tea. Bring a snack, wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. Meet at the boat launch parking lot off Brookleigh Road.

Park Explorer's Code

Here's what you can do to keep your forests, beaches and shorelines alive and healthy!

- Stay on the trails to protect the plant and animal life.
- Keep your dog under control and on the trail. Remember to pick up your dog's droppings.
- Do not take anything from the park, including plants, animals, soil and other natural materials.
- Keep your parks clean. Leave no trace and help us by picking up litter.
- Walk carefully along the beach. Don't step on or disturb shoreline creatures.
- Handle sea creatures, including shells, gently. Leave it where you found it.
- If you move rocks, replace them exactly as you found them. Rocks provide homes and hiding places.
- If you dig in the sand, return animals to their homes and refill the holes.



Fall School Programs

Attention Teachers!

Fall is the perfect season to take your students on an educational outing in your regional parks. Book a CRD Regional Parks school program for your class (Kindergarten-Grade 5).

What: Programs on mammals, birds and other natural history topics. All programs are designed for the ages and curriculum requirements of your students.

When: October 7 to November 13, Tuesday to Thursday.

Where: Elk/Beaver Lake, Francis/King, Mill Hill and Witty's Lagoon regional parks. Select programs are designed for the classroom.

Cost: \$70 per program (maximum of 30 students).

Salmon Fry-days



October 7 to November 21

Book a program to discover the fascinating natural history of salmon and visit the Charters Interpretive Centre in Sooke!

Cost: \$70 per program/class.

Please call 250.478.3344 or visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks/events/schoolprograms.htm for more information and bookings.



Visit Your Nature Centres

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 three Nature Centres too!

Beaver Lake Nature Centre

Closed for the season. Re-opens June 2015.

Francis/King Nature Centre

(Munn Road in Saanich)

Open year-round—Saturday, Sunday, holiday Mondays, 12–4pm.
The Nature Centre is wheelchair accessible.

Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre

(Metchosin Road in Metchosin)

Open year-round—Saturday, Sunday, holiday Mondays, 12–4pm.
The Nature Centre is wheelchair accessible.



Capital Regional District



@crd_bc



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

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