

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE

Mount Parke Regional Park

Park Etiquette

To protect the park's fragile ecosystems, please:

- stay on designated trails
- keep pets on the trail and under control
- pick up your dog's droppings
- carry out litter

Help protect your regional parks and trails.

How to Get There

Take the ferry from Swartz Bay to Village Bay, Mayne Island. From the ferry terminal, follow Village Bay Road. Turn right on Fernhill Road, then right on Montrose Road, which leads to the park entrance.

Allow approximately 10 minutes driving time from the ferry terminal.

What's Happening in CRD Parks?

Find out more about your regional parks and trails on the CRD Parks web site: www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Located on pastoral Mayne Island, in the southern Gulf Islands, this 47-hectare park is a perfect place to appreciate nature. At 255 metres, Mount Parke is the highest peak on Mayne Island. Visit the viewpoint (185 m) for spectacular views of the Gulf Islands and Lower Mainland. You may see a variety of wildflowers and birds while hiking the ridge and slopes.

The Past

These lands were thrust out of the sea 40 million years ago by the earth's shifting tectonic plates.

Ancient sites indicate the first people to live on Mayne Island, as early as 3000 BC, were the Coast Salish. Attracted by the mild climate and varied food supply found in sheltered bays, they fished, hunted sea mammals and gathered plants from nearby forests.

European exploration began in the late 1700s, when the Spanish left their names on Galiano Island and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The British arrived soon after. Mayne Island is the only Gulf Island Captain Vancouver landed on, in 1794.

Mount Parke is named after Lieutenant J.J. Parke, a US Army topographical engineer on a survey ship that mapped the area in the 1850s.

The Present

You can be a modern explorer in this small park, which is rich with plant and animal life. Follow the winding woodland trail through a forest dark with western red cedar and red alder. Giant swordfern glistens in the shadows, and Oregon grape hangs lush with fruit. The trail leads to the ridge and panoramic views of the Gulf Islands and sea below. Listen for ravens arguing overhead or, at dusk, the haunting call of barred owls.

In spring, wildflowers cling to the slope: blue-eyed Mary, early saxifrage and spring gold are just a few. Share the skies with the majestic bald eagles or turkey vultures circling in the wind.

Mount Parke Regional Park

LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Area donated by Mary Jeffries (1992). Under joint management of CRD Parks and Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission.
-  Contours (20 metre interval)
-  Trail Summit
-  Viewpoint
-  Hiking Trail
-  Gravel Road
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Information

