

March | April | May 2019

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks

Spring 2019



Spring at a Glance

March

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2	Early Signs of Spring (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
6	Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
9	Magnificent Mosses (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
10	Mount Work Out! (Guided Adult Hike)–Mount Work	
16	Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
18	Explore Island View Beach (Drop-in Event)–Island View Beach	
20	Buzz About Bees (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	
22	Bear Necessities (Guided Walk)–East Sooke	
24	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Mount Work	
26	Bug Buddies (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill	
27	Brilliant Butterflies (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill	
30	Salmon Saturday (Drop-in Event)–Charters Interpretive Centre	

April

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6	Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided Adult Hike)–Mill Hill	
7	Cougar Capers (Guided Walk)–Sooke Potholes	
13	Busy Beavers (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
14	Spring Time on Mount Wells (Guided Adult Hike)–Mount Wells	
20	Connecting to Nature (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
27	Spring Fling (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	
28	Spring Sensory Snoop (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	

May

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–Mill Hill	
5	Iron Mine Bay Walk (Guided Walk)–East Sooke	
11	Feelin' out Frogs (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
12	Beginner Birding Basics (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
19	Beechey Head Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–East Sooke	
25	Horth Hill Highlights (Guided Hike)–Horth Hill	

What You Need to Know

All programs run rain or shine. Try to arrive 10 minutes beforehand. Outings that require registration or fees are noted in the listing. Age recommendations are based on park terrain and program content.

Legend

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

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.

Guided Hikes (Challenging) - Have fewer interpretive stops and are rated challenging. Trails will be uneven and steep and may be slippery in sections. These hikes are suitable for experienced and fit adult hikers.

Accessible - Events and outings on these trails meet universal design standards, and are suitable for visitors with limited mobility.

Youth & Adults only



Register online

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

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.

www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

What to bring & how to dress

Carry a day pack with drinking water, a hat, extra clothes and a small snack (or lunch for longer outings). Please wear sturdy footwear 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 by taking the short online survey at www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events. Your feedback is important to us to monitor and improve our services.

March

Saturday, March 2 | 1-2:30pm

Early Signs of Spring (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on a walk down to the beach. Look for birds, plants and other early signs of spring along the way. Meet at the Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Rd.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Wednesday, March 6 | 10-11am

Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)–5 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 forest. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by March 4 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, March 9 | 10-11:30am

Magnificent Mosses (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Spend your morning in the forest with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the wonderful world of mosses and what makes them so magnificent. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Sunday, March 10 | 10am-2pm

Mount Work Out! (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Mount Work Regional Park (Highlands)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on this vigorous hike that takes us from marshy lowlands to rugged rocky outcrops. **There is no fee but you must pre-register by March 6 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**



Animal Adventures

Saturday, March 16 | 10:30am-12pm

Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk)–All ages
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

Be it a banana or a licorice slug, stroll with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to peek under fallen logs and leaves in search of these giant gastropods that are one of nature's best recyclers. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Monday, March 18 | 11am-2pm

Explore Island View Beach (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Come with your curiosity to explore Island View Beach! Join us for fun activities and guided walks as we explore the fascinating creatures that live here. Look for the CRD tent by the picnic area off Homathko Road.

Wednesday, March 20 | 11am-2pm

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

A honey of a program fit for the royalty of the insect world. What's the buzz about bees – are they really good dancers? Join us for bee crafts, guided walks and buzzing activities. You can even get a glimpse of live bees up close! You'll be amazed, bee enchanted and bee happy. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Friday, March 22 | 10-11:30am

Bear Necessities (Guided Walk)–5 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

We can co-exist with these magnificent forest dwellers. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to learn about the natural history of the black bear. Meet at the kiosk in the Aylard Farm parking lot off Beecher Bay Road.



Explore Island View Beach

Sunday, March 24 | 1-2:30pm

Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–5 years +
Mount Work Regional Park (Saanich)

Solve the riddles to find the clues hidden along the trail with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover who the mystery creature is. We'll learn fascinating facts and enjoy the beauty of Durrance Lake along the way. Meet in the Durrance Lake parking lot off Durrance Road, off Willis Point Road.

Tuesday, March 26 | 10-11am

Bug Buddies (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

What's that bug? Bring your preschooler to explore the wonderful world of insects! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on this bug safari as we search for grasshoppers, wood bugs and other not-so-creepy crawlies. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by March 20 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #53

Wednesday, March 27 | 1-2:30pm

Brilliant Butterflies (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

Spring has sprung and the butterflies will come. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the fascinating life of the butterfly, as they transform themselves and the world around them. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Ave.

BC Transit #53

Saturday, March 30 | 11am-2pm

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

There's something fishy going on. Drop by between 11am and 2pm to check out the demonstration hatchery, see salmon fry, enjoy displays at the interpretive centre and explore along the river with CRD Regional Parks naturalists. Meet at Charters Interpretive Centre at 2895 Sooke River Road.

April

Saturday, April 6 | 10am–12pm

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

An opportunity 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 their importance. The trail to the summit is steep and uneven in places: wear sturdy footwear, bring water and dress for the weather. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by April 3 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #53

Sunday, April 7 | 1–2:30pm

Cougar Capers (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Sooke Potholes Regional Park (Sooke)

Investigate the life of a cougar on this informative walk and talk with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Meet at CRD Parking Lot #2.

Saturday, April 13 | 10–11:30am

Busy Beavers (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Bring your young ones to the shores of Beaver Lake Ponds to see an active beaver lodge. Children will have a chance to learn more about this amazing mammal and its marvellous adaptations. Meet at the Beaver Lake Ponds parking lot off Beaver Lake Road.

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75



Wildflowers of Mill Hill

Sunday, April 14 | 10am–1pm

Spring Time on Mount Wells (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Mount Wells Regional Park (Langford)

If you've never hiked to the summit of Mount Wells, here is your opportunity to discover this trail with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Early spring wildflowers will likely be putting on a show. The trail to the summit is steep and uneven in places: wear sturdy footwear, bring water and dress for the weather. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by April 10 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, April 20 | 1–2:30pm

Connecting to Nature (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

Come celebrate Earth Day weekend with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on a guided walk. We'll make connections to nature while walking from the forest, to the wetland to the beach. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, April 27 | 11am–2pm

Spring Fling (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Come and explore the sights, sounds and smells of spring! Join in this spring celebration with CRD Regional Parks naturalists for exhibits, crafts, activities – fun for the entire family! There will be guided walks at 11:15am and 1:00pm. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Sunday, April 28 | 10–11am

Spring Sensory Snoop (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Bring your preschooler to celebrate spring at Francis/King. Wake up your senses on a wander through the forest. Look for spring colours, listen for birds calling, smell forest perfume and more. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

May

Saturday, May 4 | 10–11:30am

Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

Solve the clues along the trail to discover who the mystery creature is with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Is it a bird? A mammal? It's up to you to solve the mystery! Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue.

BC Transit #53

Sunday, May 5 | 10am–12pm

Iron Mine Bay Walk (Guided Walk)–5 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on this superb walk along Pike Road Trail to the spectacular Iron Mine Bay. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off Pike Road.

Saturday, May 11 | 10–11am

Feelin' out Frogs (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Spring is in full swing, and so are the frogs! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist in exploring the fabulous lives of the frogs that live in Elk/Beaver Lake, including their songs, their lifecycle and their adaptations. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by May 7 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75



Mill Hill Regional Park

May

Sunday, May 12 | 10-11:30am 

Beginner Birding Basics (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Have you ever wanted to birdwatch? This is a great time of the year for birding, as courtship and territory disputes fill 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 Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, May 19 | 10am-2pm 

Beechey Head Hike (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a west coast exploration from Aylard Farm to Beechey Head Point. We will explore a piece of paradise hiking a trail that winds along the ocean, passing arbutus bluffs and kelp forests along the way. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by May 15 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, May 25 | 1-2:30pm 

Horth Hill Highlights (Guided Hike)–8 years+
Horth Hill Regional Park (North Saanich)

Check out this delightful park at the tip of the Saanich Peninsula. Along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist, discover the plants at your feet, the birds over your head and great views from the top. Wear sturdy footwear. Meet at the kiosk off Tatlow Road.



Views from Horth Hill

PAWS in Parks

Pause to consider this simple canine courtesy



Protect nature by keeping your dog away from wildlife and sensitive areas



Always respect others who might not welcome your dog's attention



Watch that your dog is under control, in sight, and on a leash where required



Scoop your dog's poop and take it to the trash



Learn more at www.crd.bc.ca/petsinparks

About CRD Regional Parks

CRD Regional Parks protects and manages more than 13,000 hectares of spectacular and accessible natural areas in 34 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.

Connect with us

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 CRDVictoria

CRD

Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8

Tel: 250.478.3344 | Fax: 250.478.5416

E: crdparks@crd.bc.ca | www.crd.bc.ca/parks