

December 2018 | January | February 2019

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks



Winter 2018/19

Winter at a Glance

December

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	
2	What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk)	Francis/King	
5	Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk)	Francis/King	
8	Holiday Bird Count Training (Guided Walk)	Island View Beach	
8	Tracks and Traces (Guided Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
9	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)	Mount Work	
15	Forest Festivities (Drop-in Event)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
16	Forest Festivities (Drop-in Event)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
21	Solstice Stroll (Guided Adult Walk)	Witty's Lagoon	

January

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	
5	New Year, New Beginnings (Guided Adult Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
6	Winter Birds of Island View Beach (Guided Walk)	Island View Beach	
12	Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)	Mill Hill	
16	Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
20	Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)	Francis/King	
26	Winter Wander (Guided Walk)	Devonian	

February

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	
2	Stop, Look, Listen (Guided Walk)	Coles Bay	
3	Winter Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon	
9	Tower Point Sea Watch for Winter Birds (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon	
10	Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event)	Elk/Beaver Lake	
16	Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)	East Sooke	
17	Moss Landscapes (Guided Adult Walk)	Francis/King	
21	Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)	Mill Hill	
23	Moss Landscapes (Guided Adult Walk)	Francis/King	
24	Royal BC Museum Field Tripper (Guided Walk)	Island View Beach	

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

Youth & Adults Adults only

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.



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.

December

Sunday, December 2 | 1–2:30pm

What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Come take a closer look at the survival strategies of our local evergreen plants. With a CRD Regional Parks naturalist, you'll learn common species and what keeps these plants green year-round. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Wednesday, December 5 | 10–11am

Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Bring your little one to celebrate winter with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Children will explore the winter woods using their senses and look for creatures enjoying the winter season. We will visit the Francis/King Nature Centre for storytime and exploration. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by November 30 as space is limited.** Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Saturday, December 8 | 9–11am

Holiday Bird Count Training (Guided Walk)–12 years+
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Join guest bird expert, Geoffrey Newell, to learn your song birds and ocean ducks, cormorants, grebes, loons, and seabirds. Good for beginners and advanced birders alike. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.



Wee Winter Ones

Saturday, December 8 | 1–2:30pm

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. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by December 5 as space is limited.** Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75

Sunday, December 9 | 10–11:30am

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. Then piece the puzzle together to discover who the mystery creature is. Meet in the Durrance Lake parking lot off Durrance Road, off Willis Point Road.

Saturday, December 15 | 11am–2pm

Sunday, December 16 | 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 Scotch broom. We'll supply material and instructions, you supply the creativity. Drop in anytime at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre with your family and friends.

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75

Friday, December 21 | 10–11:30am

Solstice Stroll (Guided Adult 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 Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Tracks and Traces

January

Saturday, January 5 | 10am–1pm

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.

There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by January 2 as space is limited.

Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75

Sunday, January 6 | 10–11:30am

Winter Birds of Island View Beach (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Island View Beach is one of the premier winter birding locations in the region. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to look for hawks, owls, sea ducks, loons, and more. Wear warm clothes and bring binoculars, if you have them. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.

Saturday, January 12 | 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



Holiday Bird Count Training

Wednesday, January 16 | 10–11am

Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake 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 bird craft, and enjoy a short exploration in the woods. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by January 11 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75

Sunday, January 20 | 10–11:30am

Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)–All ages
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, January 26 | 1–2:30pm

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

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to explore this beautiful seaside 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

February

Saturday, February 2 | 10:30–11:30am

Stop, Look, Listen (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Coles Bay Regional Park (North 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 28 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Sunday, February 3 | 10–11:30am

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

While some birds fly south, many spend their winters enjoying southern Vancouver Island's 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 Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, February 9 | 9–11:30am

Tower Point Sea Watch for Winter Birds (Guided Walk)–12 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Learn your ocean ducks, cormorants, grebes, loons and seabirds with guest birder, Geoffrey Newell. Excellent for beginners and advanced birders alike. Meet at Tower Point parking lot off Olympic View Drive.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, February 10 | 11am–2:00pm

Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Come discover what animals are breeding in the park. Participate in family fun 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, #72 or #75

Saturday, February 16 | 1–2:30pm

Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)–8 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.



Who's Hooting?

Sunday, February 17 | 10am–12pm

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

Join guest 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.

Thursday, February 21 | 10–11:30am

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

Saturday, February 23 | 10am–12pm

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

Join guest naturalist, Kem Luther, to discover the strange lives of mosses. Learn how to identify the most common species along the accessible Elsie King trail.

\$7/person + GST. Pre-register by February 20 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Sunday, February 24 | 1–2:30pm

Royal BC Museum | Fieldtripper (Guided Walk)–14 years+
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and Royal BC Museum scientists Heidi Gartner, Invertebrates Collection Manager, and Dr. Joel Gibson, Curator of Entomology, to learn about the fascinating world of invertebrate reproduction. We'll search the rare dune environment and intertidal zone for flying and marine invertebrates. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.

The Royal BC Museum suggests a \$5 donation for their Fieldtripper programs.



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
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

 Capital Regional District

 @crd_bc | #crdparks

 CRDVictoria



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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

Top 10 Things to do this Winter at a Regional Park



Mill Hill 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.