

March | April | May 2017

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages






CRD | Regional Parks

Spring 2017





Satinflovers

Spring at a Glance





March

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Early Signs of Spring (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon	
11	Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk) Mill Hill	
12	Mount Work Out! (Guided Adult Hike) Mount Work	
18	Salmon Saturday (Drop-in Event) Charters Interpretive Centre	
20	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk) Coles Bay	
22	Buzz about Bees (Drop-in Event) Francis/King	
25	The Best Nest (Guided Walk) Francis/King	
26	Busy Beavers (Guided Walk) Elk/Beaver Lake	
28	Beginner Birding (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon	
30	Amazing Race (Drop-in Event) Elk/Beaver Lake	
31	Springtime on Mount Wells (Guided Adult Hike) Mount Wells	

April

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1	Family Forest Tea Party (Guided Walk) Francis/King	
8	Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided Adult Hike) Mill Hill	
9	Up the Blooming Hill (Guided Hike) Lone Tree Hill	
22	Explore Island View Beach (Drop-in Event) Island View Beach	
23	Tracks and Traces! (Guided Walk) Francis/King	
29	Cougar Ridge Hike (Guided Adult Hike) Roche Cove	

May

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6	Riverside Walk (Guided Walk) Sooke Potholes	
7	Feelin' out Frogs (Guided Walk) Elk/Beaver Lake	
13	Spring Sensory Snoop (Guided Walk) Francis/King	
20	Beechey Head Hike (Guided Adult Hike) East Sooke	
21	Explore Island View Beach (Drop-in Event) Island View Beach	
27	Iron Mine Bay Hike (Guided Adult Hike) East Sooke	

Passionate About Parks?

Volunteer at one of the three Nature Centres at Elk/Beaver Lake or Francis/King Regional Parks in Saanich, or Witty's Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin. Naturalists welcome, engage and help build awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural environments in regional parks and trails.

No experience required. We provide the training, you provide the time.

The commitment is a four-hour shift weekly during the summer at the Elk/Beaver Lake Nature Centre, or once a month on weekends year round at the Francis/King and Witty's Lagoon Nature Centres.

**Join up! Position descriptions at crd.bc.ca/parks
Contact 250.360.3329 | email parksvolunteer@crd.bc.ca**



March

Saturday, March 4 | 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 Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, March 11 | 10-11:30am

Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk) **All ages**
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

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 information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue.

BC Transit #53

Sunday, March 12 | 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 for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by March 8.**

Saturday, March 18 | 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 and the displays at the Centre with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Meet at the Interpretive Centre off Sooke River Road.



Dark-eyed Junco Nest

K P McFarland

Monday, March 20 | 10-11:30am

Mystery Creature (Guided Walk) **All ages**
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.

Wednesday, March 22 | 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 songs, bee crafts and some bee spit to taste. You'll bee amazed, bee enchanted and bee happy. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, March 25 | 10-11am

The Best Nest (Guided Walk) **5 years and under**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Spring is here and birds are busy! Bring your little ones and join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover nests and look for homes of hummingbirds, robins and more. Children will experience life as a small bird through story time, a forest ramble, and a nest craft to take home. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Sunday, March 26 | 10-11:30am

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

Bring your young ones to the shores of the 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 grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter in the Filter Beds parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72



Beavers

Nigel Jones



Amazing Race

Tuesday, March 28 | 10-11:30am

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

Have you ever wanted to bird watch? 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 Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Thursday, March 30 | 11am-2pm

Amazing Race (Drop-in Event) **All ages**
Elk/Beaver Regional Park Lake (Saanich)

Challenge yourself on this skill-testing and fun jaunt through the forest. Drop by anytime between 11am and 2pm and get the scoop from a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Friday, March 31 | 1-3pm

Springtime 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. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by March 28.**



Mount Wells Regional Park

Mary Sansonveino

April

Saturday, April 1 | 1–3pm

Family Forest Tea Party (Guided Walk) **5 years+**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Here's an opportunity to bring the whole family along for a tea party in the woods. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for an interpretive tea tasting featuring some of our local plants. A short guided walk to see some of the plants growing in their native habitat will precede the tea-sampling. **\$10/family + GST. Pre-registration required by March 29. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Saturday, April 8 | 10am–12pm

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

Here is an opportunity to explore the spring wildflowers at Mill Hill. Hike the hill with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and you'll learn the identities of beautiful blooms and hear interesting plant lore. **There is no fee for these programs but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by April 5.**

BC Transit #53

Sunday, April 9 | 1–2:30pm

Up the Blooming Hill (Guided Hike) **8 years+**
Lone Tree Hill Regional Park (Highlands)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a hike to the summit of Lone Tree Hill. Take a look at what's blooming and other signs of spring. The view from the summit is spectacular and well worth the climb. Meet at the parking lot off Millstream Road.

Saturday April 22 | 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 on Earth Day! Drop in anytime as we celebrate this Regional Park. 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.

Lone Tree Hill Regional Park

Sunday, April 23 | 10–11:30am

Tracks and Traces! (Guided Walk) **5 years+**
Francis/King 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 these programs but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by April 20.**

Saturday, April 29 | 10am–2pm

Cougar Ridge Hike (Guided Adult Hike) **18 years+**
Roche Cove Regional Park (East Sooke)

This scenic hike led by a CRD Regional Parks naturalist begins at Roche Cove and follows the Cedar Grove Trail to a spectacular viewpoint in the region. After lunch return via the Galloping Goose. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by April 26.**

May

Saturday, May 6 | 10am–12pm

Riverside Walk (Guided Walk) **8 years+**
Sooke Potholes Regional Park (Sooke)

Here's a chance to explore Sooke Potholes Regional Park with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Wear sturdy footwear, pack a snack and water. Meet in parking lot #3.

Sunday, May 7 | 10–11:30am

Feelin' out Frogs (Guided Walk) **5 years+**
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 why they sing, their lifecycle and their adaptations. Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter in the Filter Beds parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #75

Pacific Tree Frog

Luke McGuff

Francis/King Regional Park

Saturday, May 13 | 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 Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, May 20 | 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. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, pack a lunch and water. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by May 17.**

Sunday, May 21 | 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.

Saturday, May 27 | 10am–2pm

Iron Mine Bay Hike (Guided Adult Hike) **18 years+**
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on this superb hike. From Pike Road, we will head towards Anderson Cove trail and continue along until reaching the spectacular Iron Mine Bay. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. To reserve a spot call 250.478.3344 by May 24.**

East Sooke Regional Park

Mary Sansaverino

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 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 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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CRDVictoria



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8

Tel: 250.478.3344 | F: 250.478.5416

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

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.

www.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

Drop-in Event

Come by anytime between the hours that the event is offered.

Guided walk/hike

Try to arrive 10 minutes before the start of the program.



Hikes marked with this symbol are rated moderate and 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.



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.



Events and walks with this symbol are on wheelchair 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.

Regional Parks Campgrounds



Get away to one of the CRD's three regional park campgrounds! Each offers affordable, self-contained RV and tent camping with water views in nature.

Island View Beach Regional Park

Panoramic Seascape Views on the Saanich Peninsula

> Picnic on the long sandy beach > Enjoy bird watching
> Close to ferry, airport, downtown Victoria, Lochside Regional Trail, Butchart Gardens

www.crd.bc.ca/islandviewbeach

Jordan River Regional Park

Idyllic West Coast Beauty along the Strait of Juan de Fuca

> Walk the cobble beach with views of the Olympic Peninsula
> Hike the trails through hemlock & cedar forest to Sandcut Beach > A local favourite for camping & surfing

www.crd.bc.ca/jordanriver

Sooke Potholes Regional Park

Spring Salmon Place [KWL-UCHUN] on the Sooke River

> Swim and fish in the potholes > Hike the forest and river trails
> Cycle the Galloping Goose Regional Trail

www.crd.bc.ca/sookepotholes