

Top 10 Things to do this Fall at a Regional Park



1. Watch for spawning salmon at Sooke Potholes Regional Park.
2. Catch a CRD mushroom identification program.
3. Enjoy the accessible Elsie King trail at Francis/King Regional Park to see the fall colours.
4. When the autumn rains start, visit Sitting Lady Falls at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park.
5. Check out the diversity of seaweeds at Island View Beach Regional Park.
6. Drop in to the Spook-tacular Halloween program at Francis/King Regional Park.
7. Go for a bike ride on a regional trail.
8. Grab your binoculars for birdwatching at Witty's Lagoon or Island View Beach Regional Parks.
9. Hike to a hilltop at Mount Work Regional Park and listen for ravens calling.
10. Challenge yourself to explore a new regional park or trail.

Fall at a Glance

September

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2	The Amazing Race (Drop-in Event)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
3	Cougar Capers (Guided Walk)–East Sooke	
9	Marvelous Matheson * (Guided Adult Hike)–Matheson Lake 	
16	Bear Necessities (Guided Walk)–Witty's Lagoon	
17	Forest Buddies (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	
20	Mount Work Out! * (Guided Adult Hike)–Mount Work 	
23	Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
23	Birds of Beechey Head (Guided Walk)–East Sooke	
30	Hawk Watch (Drop-in Event)–East Sooke 	

October

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1	Fabulous Fungi (Adult Presentation)–Francis/King	
7	Riverside Walk * (Guided Adult Hike)–Sooke Potholes 	
8	Seasonal Safari (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
14	Marvelous Mushrooms (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
15	Ugh! A Slug (Guided Walk)–Devonian	
21	Forest Spook-tacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	
22	Forest Spook-tacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	
28	Forest Spook-tacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	
29	Forest Spook-tacular (Drop-in Event)–Francis/King	

November

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Salmon Sensation (Drop-in Event)–Charters Interpretive Centre 	
12	Fabulous Fungi * (Adult Presentation)–Francis/King	
12	Fabulous Fungi * (Guided Adult Walk)–Francis/King	
18	Wonderful Woodpeckers (Guided Walk)–Francis/King	
19	Durrance Lake Loop (Guided Walk)–Mount Work	
25	Furry Forest Friends (Guided Walk)–Elk/Beaver Lake	

*Adult Only Ages 18 years+

September | October | November 2017

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks

Fall 2017

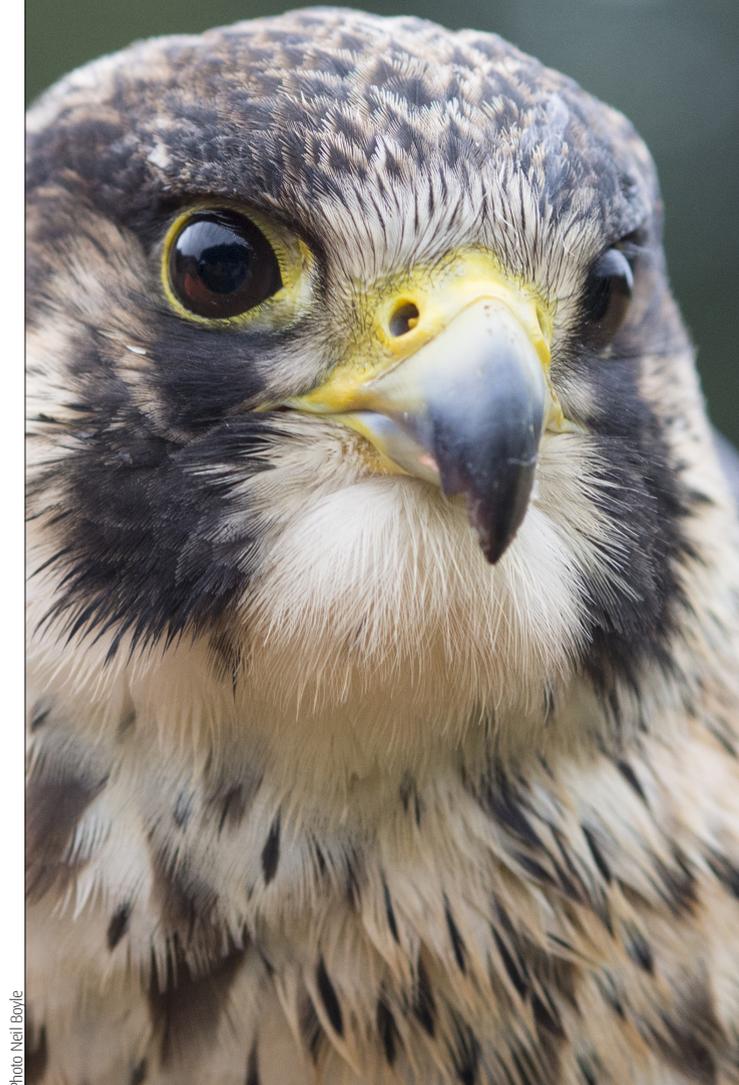


Photo: Neil Boyle

September

Saturday, September 2 | 11am-2pm

The Amazing Race (Drop-in Event)–All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (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.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, September 3 | 1-2:30pm

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



Investigate the life of a cougar on this informative walk and talk with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Meet at the kiosk in the Aylard Farm parking lot off Beecher Bay Road.

Saturday, September 9 | 10am-12pm



Marvelous Matheson (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Matheson Lake Regional Park (Metchosin)



Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a hike around this gem of a lake. Discover some of the fascinating cultural and natural history of this park. Bring a snack, water, and wear sturdy footwear. **There is no fee for this program but you must preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by September 6.**

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

Bear Necessities (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)



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 Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Marvelous Matheson

Sunday, September 17 | 11am-12pm

Forest Buddies (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)



Bring your little ones to Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park to be the best buddies they can be to the forest! Help us meet the forest, feed the forest, and discover what animals live in the forest through inspiring sensory activities, songs, and stories. **There is no fee for this program but you must preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by September 13.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

Wednesday, September 20 | 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 preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by September 15.**

Saturday, September 23 | 10:30am-12pm

Going Squirrely (Guided Walk)–5 years+
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, September 23 | 9am-12pm

Birds of Beechey Head (Guided Walk)–9 years+
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)



Join CRD guest naturalist, Geoffrey Newell, and walk to Beechey Head to observe raptors during their fall migration. Meet at the kiosk in the Aylard Farm parking lot off Beecher Bay Road.

Saturday, September 30 | 11am-2pm



Hawk Watch (Drop-in Event)–All ages
East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)



Have you ever seen turkey vultures kettling? Join CRD Regional Parks and the Victoria Natural History Society for this annual migration event. There will be live raptor demonstrations and activities at Aylard Farm, which are accessible to all ages and abilities. For those who want to add in a hike, there are experts with spotting scopes at the viewpoint above Beechey Head. The hike up to the viewpoint requires sturdy hiking shoes and is a 20-minute trek up a steep and rocky trail. Bring binoculars, water, and a lunch. Drop in anytime between 11am and 2pm at the Aylard Farm parking lot off Beecher Bay Road.

October

Sunday, October 1 | 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 short walk. 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. Call 250.478.3344 by September 27.**

Saturday, October 7 | 10am-12pm



Riverside Walk (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 hiking shoes, pack a lunch and water. **There is no fee for this program but you must preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by October 4.**

Sunday, October 8 | 10-11am

Seasonal Safari (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)



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 winter spot to rest. **There is no fee for this program but you must preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by October 4.**



Hawk Watch

Saturday, October 14 | 10:30am–12pm

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 preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by October 11.**

Sunday, October 15 | 10–11:30am

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



Stroll along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and Kristiina Ovaska from the Habitat Acquisition Trust to peek under fallen logs and leaves in search of the gastropods that call Devonian Regional Park home. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, October 21 | 11am–2pm

Sunday, October 22 | 11am–2pm

Saturday, October 28 | 11am–2pm

Sunday, October 29 | 11am–2pm



Forest Spook-tacular (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 1:15pm 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. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.



Ugh! A Slug!

November

Saturday, November 4 | 11am–2pm



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



Salmon have returned to the rivers. Drop in anytime for fishy-fun activities, a craft and guided walks with CRD naturalists along Charters River. A close-up look at these magnificent fish as they return to spawn and complete their lifecycle awaits. Meet at Charters Interpretive Centre off Sooke River Road.

Sunday, November 12 | 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. Call 250.478.3344 by November 8.**

Sunday, November 12 | 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. Call 250.478.3344 by November 8.**



Fabulous Fungi



Furry Forest Friends

Saturday, November 18 | 10:30am–12pm

Wonderful Woodpeckers (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)



Discover all of the tricks of the woodpecker trade. What makes them so good at what they do? Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and learn how to identify different woodpeckers by sight, sound, and habits on this adults-only guided walk. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Sunday, November 19 | 10:30am–12pm

Durrance Lake Loop (Guided Walk)–8 years+
Mount Work Regional Park (Saanich)



Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a hike around this picturesque lake to explore its many inhabitants. Wear sturdy, waterproof footwear. Meet in the Durrance Lake parking lot off Durrance Close, off Willis Point Road.

Saturday, November 25 | 10–11am

Furry Forest Friends (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)



Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a fun-filled forest walk with your young ones. Explore mammal adaptations, play the "Camouflage" game, and learn all about our furry forest friends. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot. **There is no fee for this program but you must preregister. Call 250.478.3344 by November 8.**

BC Transit #70 or #72



Wonderful Woodpeckers

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 & Trails 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.

Connect with us

 Capital Regional District

 @crd_bc | #crdparks

 CRDVictoria

CRD

Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

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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



Youth and Adults



Adult only

An age recommendation is indicated for each outing or event, 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.

The 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.
- Remember, dogs are not permitted to stay in beach and picnic areas between June 1 and September 15.

