

March | April | May 2018

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRD | Regional Parks

Spring 2018



Photo: K. Turner

Spring at a Glance

March

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
3	Rascally Raccoons (Guided Walk)	Mill Hill
10	Moss Landscapes of Vancouver Island (Guided Adult Walk)	Francis/King
11	The Best Nest (Guided Walk)	Francis/King
17	Spring Time on Mount Wells (Guided Adult Hike)	Mount Wells
19	Mystery Creature (Guided Walk)	Coles Bay
21	Buzz about Bees (Drop-in Event)	Francis/King
24	Beginner Birding Basics (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon
25	Ugh! A Slug! (Guided Walk)	Devonian
27	Bear Necessities (Guided Walk)	East Sooke
29	Amazing Race (Drop-in Event)	Elk/Beaver Lake
31	Salmon Saturday (Drop-in Event)	Charters Interpretive Centre

April

7	Spring at Francis/King (Guided Walk)	Francis/King
8	Up the Blooming Hill (Guided Hike)	Lone Tree Hill
14	Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided Hike)	Mill Hill
21	Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake
22	Spring Fling (Drop-in Event)	Francis/King
28	Horth Hill Highlights (Guided Hike)	Horth Hill

May

5	Cougar Capers (Guided Walk)	Sooke Potholes
6	Iron Mine Bay Hike (Guided Adult Hike)	East Sooke
12	Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon
19	The Beach Rocks (Guided Walk)	Island View Beach
20	Sandy Shore Explore (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon
26	Spring Sensory Snoop (Guided Walk)	Francis/King

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 www.crd.bc.ca/parks.
Contact 250.360.3329 | email parksvolunteer@crd.bc.ca.**



March

Saturday, March 3 | 10–11:30am 

Rascally Raccoons (Guided Walk)–All ages
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

A CRD Regional Parks naturalist will lead you on a raccoon trail for a day in the life of these little rascals. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue.

BC Transit #53

Saturday, March 10 | 10am–12pm 

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

Join guest CRD Regional Parks naturalist, Kem Luther, to discover the strange lives of mosses. Learn how to identify the most common species. **\$7/person + GST. Pre-register by March 7 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Sunday, March 11 | 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. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by March 8 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, March 17 | 1–3:30pm 

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 March 14 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Monday, March 19 | 10:30am–12pm 

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 21 | 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 food to taste. You'll be amazed, bee enchanted and bee happy. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, March 24 | 10–11:30am 

Beginner Birding Basics (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 Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Photo: Bev Hall

Buzz about Bees

Sunday, March 25 | 10–11:30am 

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 information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Tuesday, March 27 | 1–2:30pm 

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.

Thursday, March 29 | 11am–2pm 

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. Meet at the Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, March 31 | 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, explore along the river and enjoy the displays at the Centre with CRD Regional Parks naturalists. Meet at Charters Interpretive Centre at 2895 Sooke River Road.

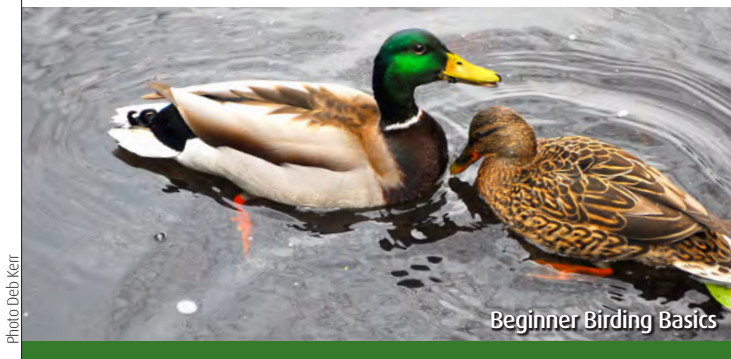


Photo: Deb Kerr

Beginner Birding Basics

April

Saturday, April 7 | 1-2:30pm  

Spring at Francis/King (Guided Walk)–All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Check out what spring has to offer. Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and take a roll/stroll along the universally accessible Elsie King trail at Francis/King Regional Park. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Sunday, April 8 | 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 guided hike to the top of the peak at Lone Tree Hill Regional Park. We'll make lots of stops and the views are spectacular. Bring a snack, water and wear sturdy footwear. Meet in the parking lot off Millstream Road.

Saturday, April 14 | 10am-12pm 

Wildflowers of Mill Hill (Guided 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 hear interesting plant lore. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register by April 11 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #53



Wildflowers of Mill Hill

Saturday, April 21 | 10-11am 

Animal Adventures (Guided Walk)–5 years and under
Elk/Beaver Lake 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 April 18 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

BC Transit #70 or #72

Sunday, April 22 | 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 Earth Day celebration with CRD Regional Parks naturalists for exhibits, crafts, activities – fun for the entire family! There will be guided walks at 11:15am and 1pm. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, April 28 | 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 information kiosk in the parking lot off Tatlow Road.



Horth Hill Highlights

May

Saturday, May 5 | 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 the CRD Parking Lot #2.

Sunday, May 6 | 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 by May 3 as space is limited. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.**

Saturday, May 12 | 9:30-11am 

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

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park is a birder's paradise due to a combination of freshwater, salt water, mudflat, grassland and forest ecosystems. For the novice and intermediate birder, join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for a glimpse of some of the birds that reside and visit this park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Iron Mine Bay Hike

May

Saturday, May 19 | 1-2:30pm 

The Beach Rocks (Guided Walk)–All ages
Island View Beach Regional Park (Central Saanich)

The tide is out! Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and get a glimpse of the creatures that live beneath the rocks. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet at the grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Road.

Sunday, May 20 | 1-2:30pm 

Sandy Shore Explore (Guided Walk)–All ages
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist for an intertidal exploration and discover the strange and wonderful creatures that appear between the tides. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). Meet at the kiosk near the main beach off Metchosin Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Saturday, May 26 | 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.

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.

Youth & Adults Adults only



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.

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.

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Sandy Shore Explore