

January | February 2017

Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

CRPD | Regional Parks

Winter 2017



Photo: William Ng

Winter at a Glance

January

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
7	New Year, New Beginnings (Guided Adult Hike*)	Matheson Lake 
14	Winter Birds of Witty's (Guided Walk)	Witty's Lagoon
15	Durrance Lake Loop (Guided Walk)	Mount Work
21	Tree-mendous Trees (Guided Walk)	Francis/King
28	Tracks and Traces! (Guided Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake 
29	Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)	Mill Hill

February

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Horth Hill Highlights (Guided Walk)	Horth Hill 
11	Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)	Thetis Lake 
12	Love is in the Park (Guided Walk)	Elk/Beaver Lake
18	Moss Landscapes (Guided Adult Walk*)	Francis/King
25	Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)	Francis/King 
26	What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk)	Devonian

*Adult Only Ages 18 years+



January

Saturday, January 7 | 10am–12pm

New Year, New Beginnings (Guided Adult Hike)–18 years+
Matheson Lake Regional Park (Metchosin)

Burn off some of the holiday treats on a walk around the lake with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Discover 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 pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by January 5.**

Saturday, January 14 | 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



Matheson Lake Regional Park



Bufflehead

Sunday, January 15 | 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 waterproof footwear. Meet in the Durrance Lake parking lot off Durrance Close, off Willis Point Road.

Saturday, January 21 | 1–2:30pm

Tree-mendous Trees (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Unlock the mysteries of trees on a fun forest adventure with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Follow clues and riddles along the trail to meet Francis/King's giants. Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Saturday, January 28 | 12:30–2pm

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 and investigate clues left behind by animals. Meet at the Elk/Beaver Lake Nature Centre off the main parking lot, off Beaver Lake Road.

BC Transit #70 or #75

Sunday, January 29 | 1–2:30pm

Who's Hooting? (Guided Walk)–All ages
Mill Hill Regional Park (Langford)

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

February

Saturday, February 4 | 1-2:30pm

Horth Hill Highlights (Guided Walk)–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 hiking shoes. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Tatlow Road.

BC Transit #70 or #72

Saturday, February 11 | 10am-12pm

Family Fun Hike (Guided Walk)–5+ years
Thetis Lake Regional Park (View Royal)

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 main parking lot at Thetis Lake off Six Mile Road.

Sunday, February 12 | 10:30am-12pm

Love in the Park (Guided Walk)–All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Come discover what animals are breeding in the park. Participate in family fun and all age-appropriate 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 or #75



Francis/King Regional Park Nature Centre

Photo: Ann Nightingale



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Saturday, February 18 | 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-registration required by February 11. Space is limited. Call 250.478.3344.**

Saturday, February 25 | 10-11:30am

Under the Bird Tree (Guided Walk)–7 years and under
Francis/King 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 seed craft and enjoy a short exploration in the woods. **There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 250.478.3344 by February 23.**

Sunday, February 26 | 1-2:30pm

What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk)–5 years+
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

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, what keeps these plants green year-round and sip some evergreen tea. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road.

BC Transit #54 or #55



Kem Luther

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.

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.

CRD Parks and Digital Direct Printing Ltd. are committed to environmental sustainability.

This brochure is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



Connect with



Capital Regional District



@crd_bc | #crdparks



CRDVictoria

CRD

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