

Volunteers In Parks

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**Volunteer &
Park Updates**



Regional Parks are Outdoor Classrooms

By Todd Golumbia

The regional parks are like touchstones in our region. These core protected areas lie within a landscape increasingly modified by human development.

They are managed for the conservation and protection of our local wildlife and their habitats. They are managed to provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the region. Yet Regional Parks provide much more. As core protected areas, our parklands are classrooms for students across the spectrum of education, from parents exploring with their children, to the school programs provided by CRD Regional Park Interpreters. They are outdoor classrooms for both high school sciences and college or university-level field schools. Our parks are often considered as “benchmarks” for natural science research comparing conditions in other unprotected landscapes. They also provide a natural context for social and cultural aspects or human dimensions research describing our lives in the region. >>



Western Painted Turtle research at Elk/Beaver Lake undertaken by Habitat Acquisition Trust with assistance of park restoration volunteers. Photos Kristiina Ovaska



Owl research at Witty's Lagoon by the Rocky Point Bird Observatory. Photo Ann Nightingale



Western black widow spider research by Simon Fraser University student Catherine Scott at Island View Beach. Photo Sean McCann

For those who wish to do research in a regional park, the CRD requires that these activities be carried out under a research permit. This allows us to connect with the researchers and exchange information. Often the research results are important for our management, and likewise, we can often provide insight to the best locations for research studies and other relevant information to the researchers. By sharing information, we ensure efficient use of resources and an overall increase in knowledge about our parks.

In the two-year period, including 2013-2014, CRD Regional Parks issued 39 research permits. Researchers represent an even three-way split between government agencies, academics and non-government organizations. Most permits are issued for research on birds, rare plants and general ecology. There are also permits issued for general biological surveys like the Metchosin Bioblitz, which has been undertaken annually for

Research Category	2013	2014	Total
Avifauna (birds)	3	5	8
Biological Surveys	1	2	3
Ecology	4	4	8
Herpetiles (reptiles and amphibians)	1	3	4
Invertebrates (i.e.: Insects, moths, butterflies)	4	1	5
Mammals	1	3	4
Rare Plants	1	6	7
Total	15	24	39

Sponsor Category	2013	2014	Total
Government	3	9	12
Non-Government Organization	5	9	14
University/College	7	6	13
Total	15	24	39

several years by a large group of volunteer biologists. Ecological work undertaken by Camosun College at Island View Beach has helped us to better understand our coastal ecosystems, and the Rocky Point Bird Observatory has been collecting data for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, which is international in scope. Each year there are always a few interesting projects designed to better understand some of the rare or interesting invertebrate, reptile and amphibian species that occur in our region. Researchers bring inquisitive minds and the rigors of scientific process, while the regional parks provide the management context and baseline knowledge of our natural laboratories.

We are continuing to look back over the years of research that has accumulated and, as time permits, we will try to compile the information in a more accessible format to be shared with others. We hope to use this information for "marketing" our parks as valuable benchmark sites for ecological research and for attracting more targeted research toward answering questions that arise from our management programs. As we move forward, there are areas of research that need attention both in the natural sciences as well as a recognized gap in social sciences, including traditional research like archaeology, cultural history and outdoor recreation science. It will help us integrate the human dimensions or cultural landscapes with the natural landscape, to encourage improved management of these valuable park lands.

Todd Golumbia is the Environmental Conservation Specialist with CRD Regional Parks.



VIP Profile

James Chapman is a long-term Restoration Volunteer at Mill Hill, Elk/Beaver Lake, East Sooke, Thetis Lake and the Galloping Goose. He also recently became a Trail Ambassador for the Regional Trails.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I enjoy meeting up with the other volunteers and the camaraderie that we share. I also really enjoy getting out to some of the other Regional Parks, some of which I had not visited before.

What is your favourite Regional Park and why?

My favorite Regional Park is Witty's Lagoon. The beach at low tide is an excellent place to walk with friends.

What is your favourite volunteer experience or memory?

My first day on Mill Hill it rained non-stop, but it was still a good day as I met a new friend, Margaret. She kills broom!

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in the Peace River region of Alberta and have lived in Victoria for 31 years. Shortly after I moved to Victoria, I met my wonderful partner, Rick, who has been putting up with me for 30 years. I also like to garden, so summer is my favourite season of the year.



Staff Profile

Phil Hayes is the Mechanic/Fleet Technician with Regional Parks. He has been in the position on a term appointment since 2014.

Where have you worked previously?

For the previous 25 years, before becoming a CRD employee, I worked in the forest industry on the West coast of Vancouver Island, between Port Renfrew and Port Alberni for various timber companies. The last was 16 years for Timberwest, where I acquired my Tradesmen tickets. Having done so, it enabled me to be hired at CRD, Regional Parks, due to my forestry background and mechanical experience.

What is your favourite Regional Park and why?

Mill Hill is my favorite regional park due to its seclusion and beautiful habitat for bird life, such as owls and other animals right in the heart of Langford.

Where were you born and where have you lived?

I was born in England, and moved to Lake Cowichan when I was 4 years old, due to relatives and my father needing to secure good work to raise our family. Growing up there was so simple - a beautiful lake and river to pass your time on, and lots of bare feet in the summer. My parents still live in the same house they built for us in 1970-72.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I now live in Duncan. My wife Selena and I are raising our own family on a small acreage, where I have a large shop for my hobby, which is building my own muscle cars, and helping my friends out on their vehicles.

Volunteer & Park Updates

Volunteer Recruitment



Gordon Tolman

We are still recruiting for the following positions. If you know of anyone interested in helping out in one of these positions, please have them contact Colleen Long: clong@crd.bc.ca or 250.360.3329. Job description details can be found at crd.bc.ca/parks.

Volunteer Naturalists/ Summer Volunteer Naturalists

Volunteer in the Nature Centre at either 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. The commitment is a four-hour shift weekly during the summer or weekends monthly year round.

Event Volunteers

Assist Regional Parks' staff at special and community events. Positions involve staffing an information station, craft station, parking attendant, face painting or other tasks as required. The commitment is for one event, 2-4 hours.

Trail Ambassadors

Help to build awareness, understanding, and appreciation of safer and more effective use of the Galloping Goose or Lochside Regional Trails. Commitment is three to four events per year (three-hour sessions), some weekday and some weekend events.

Share Your Views with Parks Staff on Issues at Island View Beach

We are currently undertaking Step 2 of the four-step process to identify issues that the public thinks should be addressed in park management planning at Island View Beach Regional Park. The purpose of Step 2 is to ensure that staff and the Regional Parks Committee understand the issues and to help set the agenda for the Step 3 community dialogue session this fall. CRD staff will be at the park in June and July to gather information on park issues. Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot during these times to share your views:

**Fri., July 10 at 11am-4pm | Sat., July 18 at 12-5pm
Thurs., July 23 at 11am-4pm**

Or provide your feedback through the [online response form](#).

E&N Rail Trail Sections Open

Although construction of the entire E&N Rail Trail-Humpback Connector is not complete, three sections are open to public use. Where gaps exist, local roads or sidewalks connect users to the next section of trail. If you get a chance, check out this new paved cycling and pedestrian trail that will link downtown Victoria to the western communities. Currently 9 km of the 17-km trail is completed!

- 1. Jacklin Road to Savory School.** (Route between Savory School and the Atkins Road link is yet to be developed.)
- 2. Atkins Avenue to Hollowell Road.** (Route between Hollowell Road and Maplebank Road is to be determined.)
- 3. Maplebank Road to Wilson Street.**

See the latest bulletin online at crd.bc.ca/parks.

