



Witty's Lagoon REGIONAL PARK



Photo: Mary Sansaverino

Waterfall, estuary and sandy ocean beach draw you into an ecosystem rich with coastal plants and animals.



Witty's Lagoon Regional Park

Forest trails, sandy beach, nature centre and rich bird life make this an ideal destination.

Features

- Nature Centre
- An estuary with salt marsh, excellent for bird watching at any time of year and sandspit that encloses the lagoon
- More than five kilometres of trails through woodland, past lagoon and marsh
- A sandy beach overlooking rocky headlands and offshore islets
- Sitting Lady Falls

Trail Rating: Moderate Park Size: 58.21 hectares

Witty's Lagoon is within the traditional area of the Songhees. This Coast Salish ethnic group are descendants of the Kakyakaan family group.

Running through the forest of immense Douglas-fir is Bilston Creek, which tumbles toward a waterfall, then spills over volcanic rock.

Where fresh water meets salt water, an estuary is formed. The calm, nutrient-rich waters of the protected lagoon are valuable as nurseries for animals that tolerate both salt and fresh water, and feed on microscopic life.

In the salt marsh, bordering the lagoon, channels of salt water create new territory for tiny snails, rock crabs and fish which migrate from the ocean. Witty's Lagoon is a birder's paradise — over 160 species have been documented in the park. Listen for the call of the belted kingfisher, and the songs of orange-crowned warblers and dark-eyed juncos. Beyond, a wide beach beckons. Few plants and animals survive the rolling, churning movement of sand. But just below the surface are those who have adapted. Burrowers such as bloodworms find food among the tiny grains.

Above the high water mark, tall grasses rustle in the

wind, and beach pea and sea rocket grow among the dunes and driftwood.

The spit points toward the rocky shore at Tower Point. In this intertidal zone look for purple sea stars, white acorn barnacles and brown rockweed. Harbour seals play in kelp beds and sea lions pass by on their migration route each spring.

Park Etiquette

- Stay on designated trails
- Do not remove or disturb animals or plants, such as wildflowers
- Dogs must always be under control, in sight, and on a leash where required
- From June 1 to September 15, dogs must be on leash when passing through the beach areas above the natural boundary of the sea, and are not allowed to stay, except at Tower Point
- Pick up dog droppings and take it to the trash
- Leave no trace and carry out litter
- Smoking, bicycles, motorized vehicles, camping, open fires and alcohol are prohibited

How to Get There

Main Entrance & Nature Centre — Follow the Trans-Canada Highway from Victoria, and take the Colwood exit. Follow the Old Island Highway, which turns into Sooke Road. From Sooke Road, turn left on Metchosin Road, which leads to the park entrance on the left.

Tower Point Entrance - Follow the directions above to Metchosin Road. From Metchosin Road, turn left on Duke Road, then right on Olympic View Drive, which leads to the park entrance on the left.

Public Transportation — BC Transit #54 or #55

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

490 Atkins Avenue
Victoria, BC
Canada V9B 2Z8

tel: 250:478.3344
email: crdparks@crd.bc.ca
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Capital Regional District

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park



Park Amenities

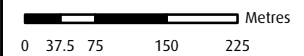
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|--|-------------------|--|-------------|
| | Accessible Toilet | | Parking |
| | Accessible Trail | | Picnic Area |
| | Beach | | Shelter |
| | Bench | | Toilet |
| | Information | | Viewpoint |
| | Nature Centre | | |

Trails By Designated Use

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Accessible Trail |
| | User Friendly Trail |
| | Hiking Trail |
| | Hiking/Equestrian Trail |
| | Unofficial Trail (Not Maintained) |

Map Features

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| | Road |
| | Contour (10m Interval) |
| | River/Creek |
| | Lake |
| | Witty's Lagoon Regional Park |
| | Municipal Park |

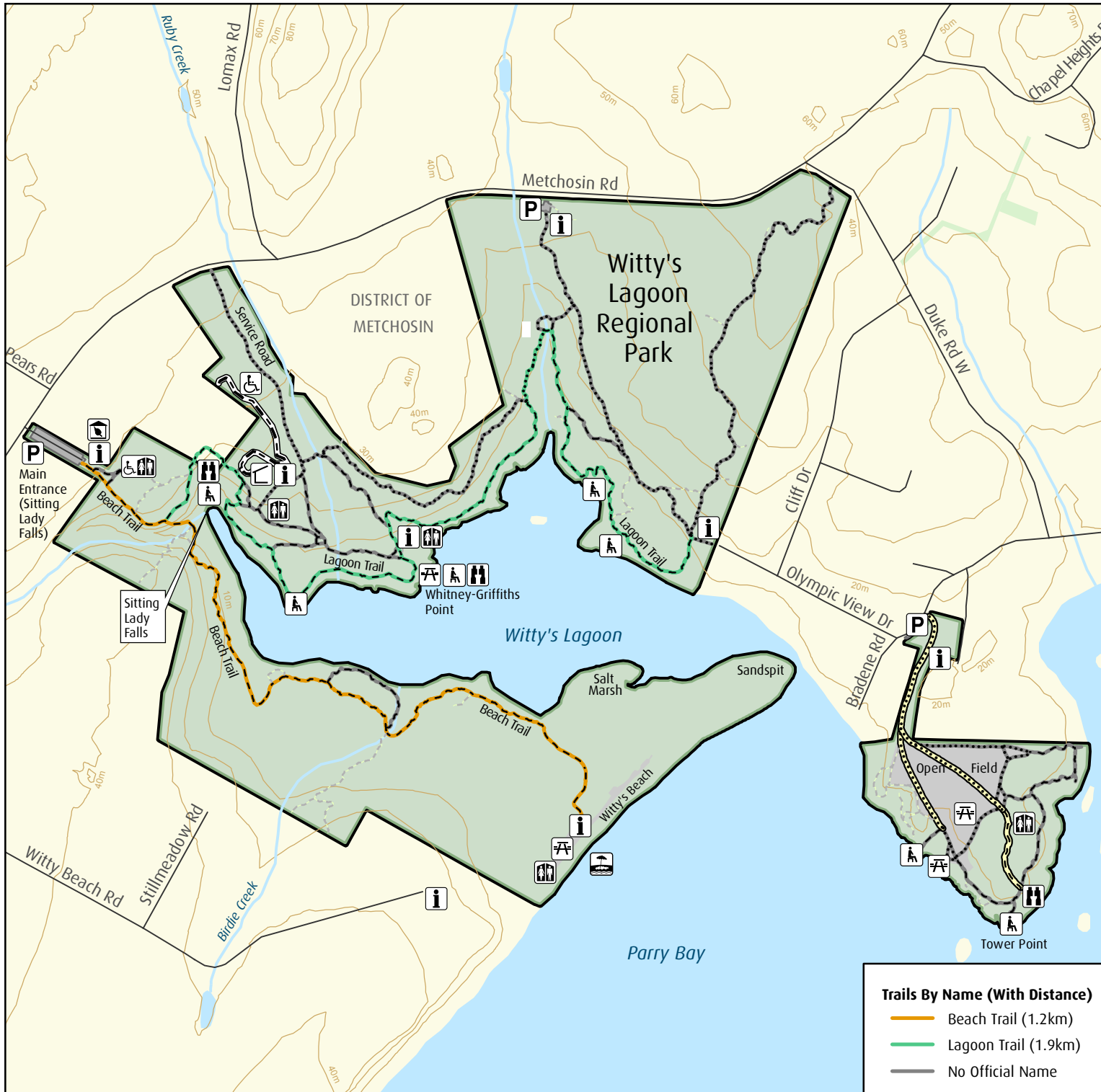


Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD83

Disclaimer

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Trails By Name (With Distance)

- Beach Trail (1.2km)
- Lagoon Trail (1.9km)
- No Official Name