north saanich



Guide to Parks Trails & Beach Accesses

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This Guide was produced in collaboration with the Parks Commission, Heritage Commission, and various Departments of the District of North Saanich.

This booklet is available on the North Saanich website at **www.northsaanich.ca**. Please visit the Parks section of the website for updates and further information about our Parks and Trails in North Saanich.

Contact the Municipal Hall at 250-656-0781 or e-mail the District at **admin@northsaanich.ca**.

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Welcome to the Rural Community of North Saanich



Our District is rich with environmental treasures, and we invite you to enjoy the bounty nature has provided. Throughout our region, you will discover a network of hiking, cycling, and bridle trails that connect with many of our parks and picturesque byways.





In the future, new trails will be developed, and existing trails altered according to needs and opportunities. Public consultation is a prerequisite to any significant change. Information is available at the District Hall and on the District website.

There are many undeveloped parks, greenways, and ecological reserves, as well as parks and playgrounds, under the jurisdiction of other authorities. See the Parks at a Glance Table on pages 10 and 11 for more information.

With several waterfront parks and many developed beach accesses, our waterfront is accessible wherever the terrain allows.

The trail conditions and terrain change drastically throughout North Saanich. What may start out as a smooth gravel trail can quickly become more rugged as you explore further.

Parks and Trails Etiquette

Responsible use of our parks, trails, and beaches will benefit everybody.

- Please stay on the trails to minimize your impact on the natural surroundings.
- Picking or damaging wildflowers, mushrooms, or other vegetation, and removing fallen trees for firewood or other purposes, are prohibited.
- Please do not disturb any form of wildlife.
- Please do not trespass on properties adjacent to trails or beach accesses or on waterfront properties above the high tide line. The goodwill of residents adjacent to trails and beach accesses is essential to the success of the District's Parks Program.
- Please keep your dog under control at all times and remove any droppings.
- No motorized or electrically powered vehicles are allowed on trails unless required to transport disabled persons.
- No smoking is permitted in parks or on trails.
- Open fires are not permitted anywhere, anytime in parks or on trails.
- Consumption of liquor and rowdy behaviour are not permitted on trails, in parks, or on beaches.
- Please respect restricted parking signs and do not block private driveways or the passage of emergency vehicles.
- Almost all District Trails are multi-use. Cyclists should adjust their speeds to be able to stop within the available sightlines and should give way to both hikers and equestrians. Both cyclists and hikers should be careful not to startle horses.
- Please take all your garbage home with you.
- Please report trail blockages such as fallen trees or any hazardous conditions to the District at **250-656-0781** as soon as possible. Open fires or rowdy behaviour should be reported to the RCMP at **250-656-3931** once you have safely left the area. Leave active policing to the professionals.

Volunteer Opportunities



There are several ways in which residents can contribute directly to the maintenance and improvement of North Saanich Parks, Trails, and Beach Accesses.

- From time to time, volunteer work parties are organized to replant hedgerows and trail rights-of-way, remove invasive species in parks, or undertake other “light” tasks where many hands are required.
- Stewardship groups for Dominion Brook Park and The Free Ride Park have developed into registered societies which support the planning and development of these two specific parks. There are less formal groups, such as the Friends of Lillian Hoffar Park, who organized the building of a beautiful kiosk containing a heritage and wildlife display. The District is supportive of such initiatives through its Adopt A Park Program.
- The North Saanich Parks Commission is composed of volunteers appointed by Council to advise on Parks issues and planning. Opportunities to volunteer for the Parks Commission are posted annually. The Commission also seeks to promote recreational activities and ecological education. The Parks Commission meets once a month, and meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes are published on the District website at **www.northsaanich.ca** (Municipal Hall Meetings link).



If you would like to contribute to the District's Parks Program in any of the ways mentioned on the previous page, please visit the Municipal Hall or call **250-656-0781**.



Parks At a Glance

		Facilities										Activities									Features						
	Page	Parking Area	Picnic Area	Toilets	Playground	Playing Fields	Kayak Launch	Tennis Courts	Disabled Access	Beach Access	Paved Path	Walking/Hiking	Beach Activities	Bird Watching	Dog Walking	Scenic View	Mountain Biking	Camping	Baseball/Soccer	Horseback Riding	Hilltop	Coast	Stream	Lagoon/Pond	Woods	Wetland	Field/Meadow
North Saanich Parks																											
Bluebell Pk	19											•													•		
Balsam Pk	33		•		•																						•
Cy Hampson Pk	37	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•					•
Denham Till Pk	15	•			•																				•		•
Dominion Brook Pk	37	•	•	•								•		•	•	•								•			•
Free Ride Pk	29																•										
Gulf View Pk	37	•	•											•		•									•		
Green Pk	25											•		•						•				•	•	•	
H.M.S. Plumper Pk	25											•															
Kanishay Pk	19											•								•					•	•	•
Lillian Hoffar Pk	27									•		•	•	•		•						•			•	•	
Nymph Point Pk	27	•										•		•		•						•					
Pachena Pk	25											•															
Patricia Bay Pk	29	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•					
Prentice Pond Pk	25											•												•		•	
Quarry Park	37											•		•	•						•				•		
Queen Mary Bay Pk	37																										
Readings Pk	19											•			•					•					•		
R.O.Bull Pk	17											•								•					•		
Sumac Pk	19											•								•					•	•	
Sycamore Pk	19		•									•				•					•						
Wain Pk	17	•	•		•	•			•	•									•								•
Woodcreek Pk	19											•														•	
Blue Heron Pk (Memorial Pk Society)	27	•	•	•		•						•			•				•						•		•
Coles Bay Regional Pk	31	•	•	•						•			•							•		•					
Horth Hill Regional Pk	21	•	•	•								•			•	•				•	•				•		

Parks At a Glance

		Facilities										Activities									Features						
	Page	Parking Area	Picnic Area	Toilets	Playground	Playing Fields	Kayak Launch	Tennis Courts	Disabled Access	Beach Access	Paved Path	Walking/Hiking	Beach Activities	Bird Watching	Dog Walking	Scenic View	Mountain Biking	Camping	Baseball/Soccer	Horseback Riding	Hilltop	Coast	Stream	Lagoon/Pond	Woods	Wetland	Field/Meadow
North Saanich Parks																											
John Dean Provincial Pk	35	•	•	•								•			•	•				•	•				•	•	
McDonald Pk (Federal Campground)	27		•	•														•							•		
Panorama Recreation Centre	37	•	•	•	•			•				•															
Rotary Pk (Controlled Access)	33	•		•		•													•								
Deep Cove Elementary School	19	•			•	•													•								
Kelset Elementary School	37	•			•	•													•								
Parklands Secondary School	27	•				•		•											•								
Undeveloped Parks (shown on maps in parenthesis)																											
Bazan Bay	37																										
Highview North	19																										
Highview South	19																										
Quatsino Pk	19																										
Tsehum Lagoon Pk	27																										
Reay Creek Pk	33																										

Map Symbols



Beach Access



Swimming



Canoe/Kayak Launch Area



Parking



Playground



Dogs Must be Leashed



Playing Fields



Picnic Area



School



No Horseback Riding



Information



Wheelchair Access



Toilets



Viewpoint



Dolphin/Whale Sightings



Church

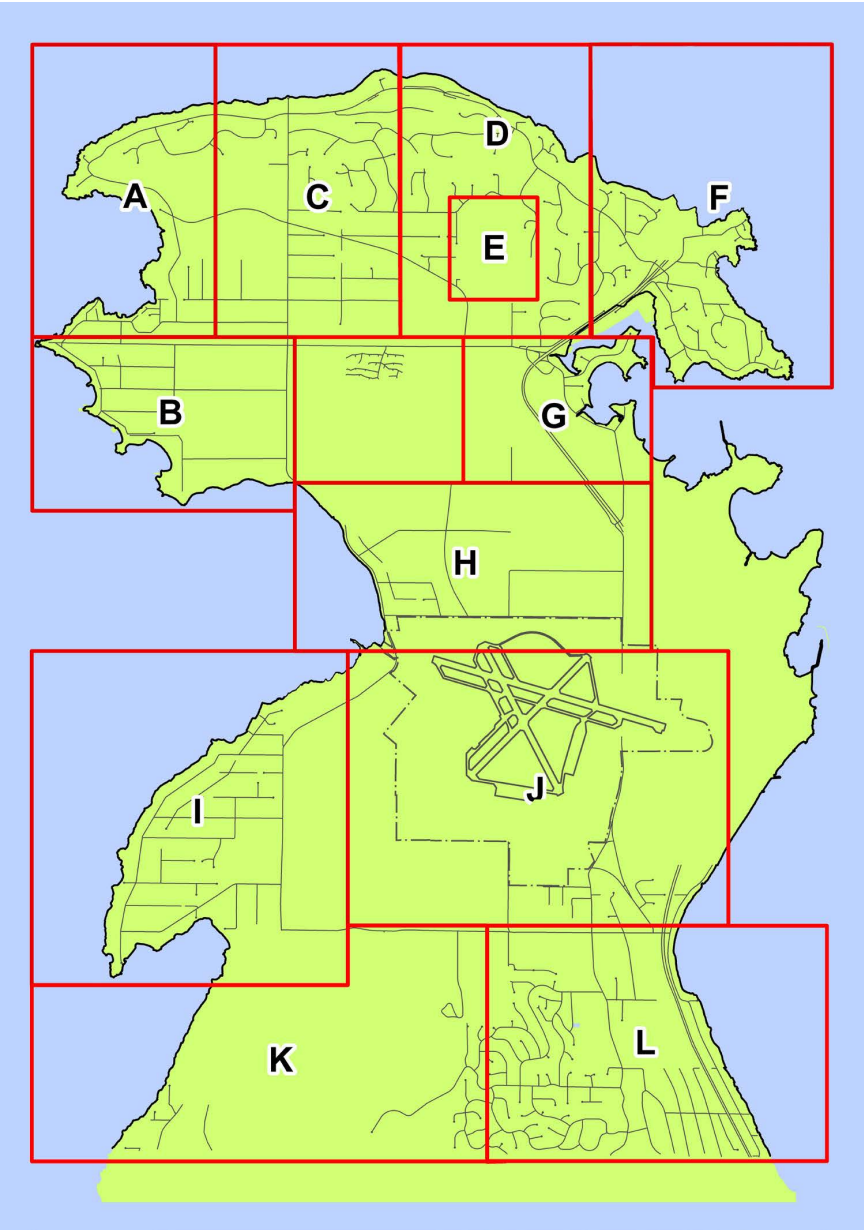


Parks

Trails

Boundary

Parks & Trails Key Map



At low tide, the rocky shores off the Moses Point Beach Access (48) are a beachcomber's delight. Tide pools reveal tiny crabs, starfish, and other sea creatures. Jets of water give away the hiding places of clams. Sea lions, seals, dolphins, and the occasional pod of killer whales parade by. Eagles from miles around sometimes join in a feeding frenzy off the point.







Denham Till Park, located between Clayton and Birch Roads, has some forested area with trails as well as an orchard and play equipment suitable for toddlers. The park is named in honour of Commander F. Denham Till, R.N. who spent his retirement years in the nearby home.

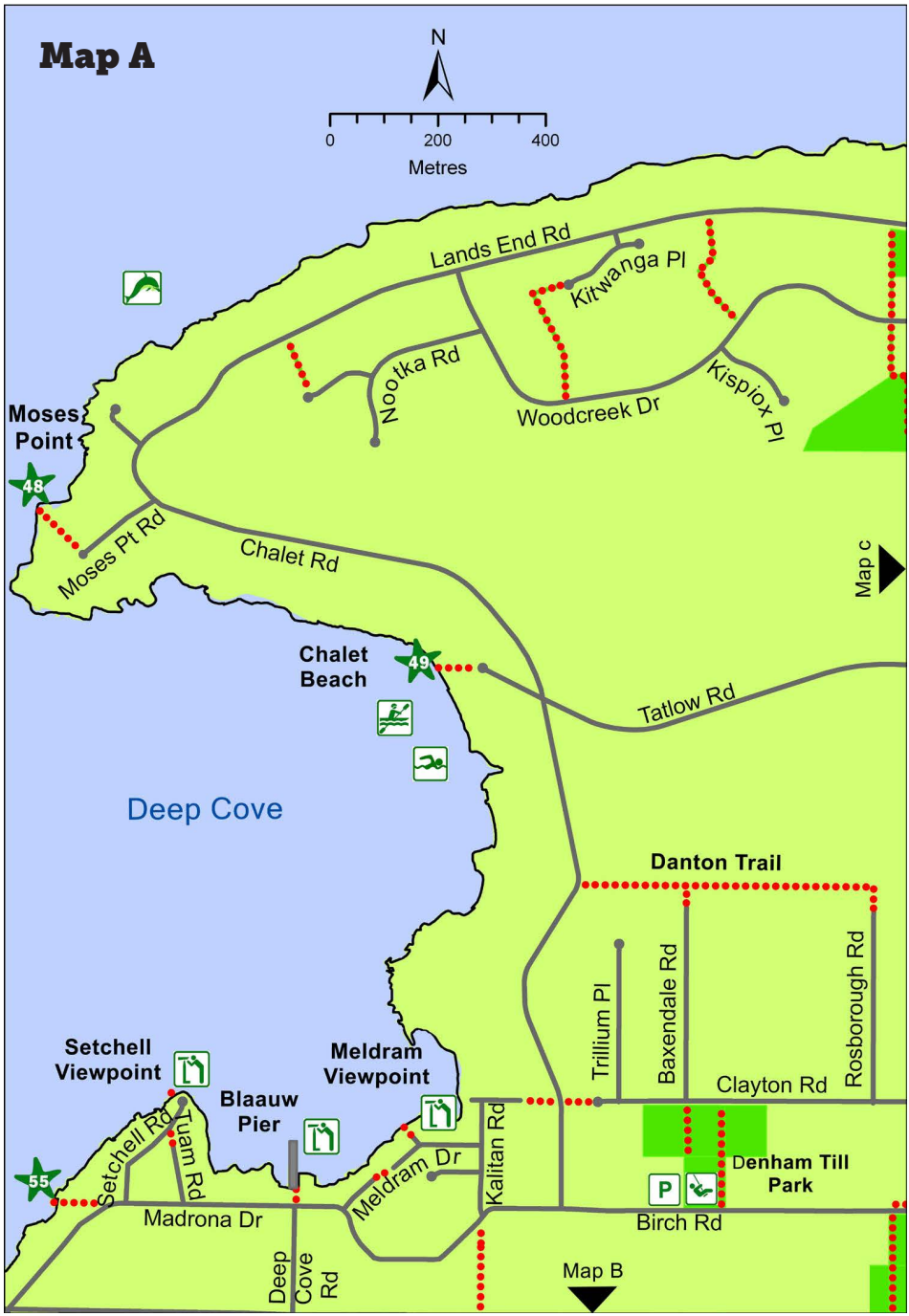
Danton Trail, with its mixture of evergreen and deciduous forest, may be entered at the end of Rosborough Road off Clayton Road, or at the western end of the trail on Chalet Road. Starting at Rosborough Road is easier, since the trail descends from there.



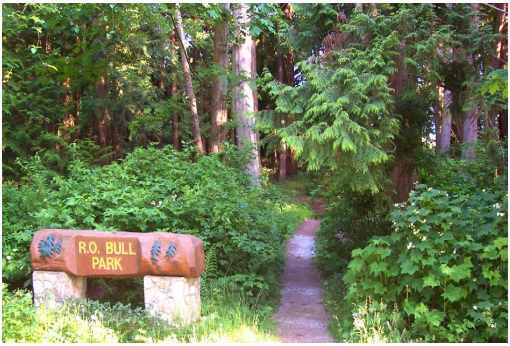


Drop by **Setchell Viewpoint**, located at the end of Setchell Road off Madrona Drive, to take in a west coast sunset or head to Blaauw Pier at the foot of Deep Cove Road for a view of marina activities. There is access to a small rocky beach off Madrona Drive (55), just south of Setchell Road.

Chalet Beach (49), at the west end of Tatlow Road, is a favourite spot for swimmers when the water warms up in summer. It offers superb views across the Saanich inlet. Enjoy the scenery from the viewpoints off Meldram Drive (approach via Kalitan Road from Birch Road) and near the end of Coal Point Lane off Madrona Drive (Map B).


Map A
N
0
200
400
Metres
Lands End Rd
Kitwanga Pl
Nootka Rd
Woodcreek Dr
Kispiox Pl
Moses Point
48
Moses Pt Rd
Chalet Rd
Map c
Chalet Beach
49
Tatlow Rd
Deep Cove
Danton Trail
Trillium Pl
Baxendale Rd
Rosborough Rd
Clayton Rd
Setchell Viewpoint
Meldram Viewpoint
Blaauw Pier
Setchell Rd
Tuam Rd
Kalitan Rd
Meldram Dr
55
Madrona Dr
Deep Cove Rd
P
Denham Till Park
Birch Rd
Map B

R.O. Bull Park on Wain Road is a serene cathedral of ancient Douglas fir trees, some of them hundreds of years old. Please protect their roots by keeping to the two gravel trails. This is a fragile ecosystem, so please do not remove deadfall because it contributes nutrients to the soil. The land for this park was purchased and donated in 1973 by Mrs. Ruth Bull and friends in memory of her husband Colonel Roland O. Bull and to commemorate his love of trees.

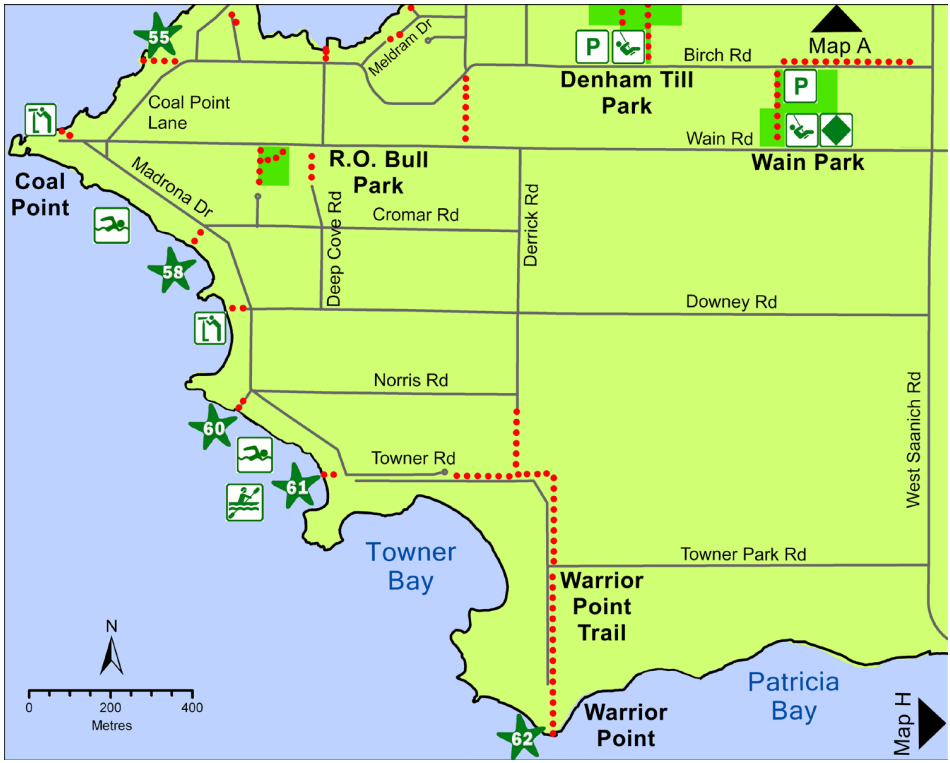


Approached from Towner Park Road, the Warrior Point Trail skirts the private Towner Park community and leads through the forest to Patricia Bay. The beach off Warrior Point affords excellent views of Saanich Inlet, planes approaching the airport, and float planes splashing down. The trail joins up with a woodland trail accessed from Derrick Road (off Downey) or from Towner Road (at the south end of Madrona Drive).



There are five beach accesses as shown on Map B: Madrona Drive (55), the foot of Cromar Rd (58), off Norris Road (60), Towner Road (61), and at Warrior Point (62). Kayaks are easily launched at the west end of Towner Road, but parking is limited.

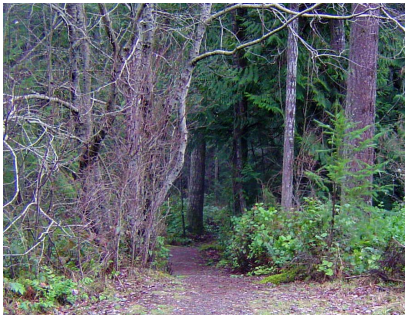
Map B



Wain Park has two outdoor tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, a soccer field, basketball court, children's swings and a picnic table. The park and road are named for Henry Wain, a pioneer carpenter and hops grower who transported mail to and from Victoria in his stage coach.



Woodcreek Park is located off Lands End Road at the north end of the District. The park offers walking trails that connect Lands End Road with Woodcreek Drive.



Readings Park is located off Readings Drive near Hillgrove Road. This .8 hectare wooded park provides hiking and dog-walking trails.

For a picnic with breathtaking views, head to Sycamore Viewpoint and picnic area on Cloake Hill.

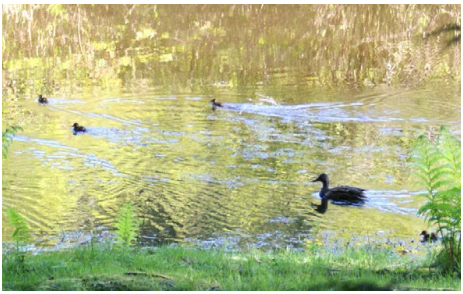


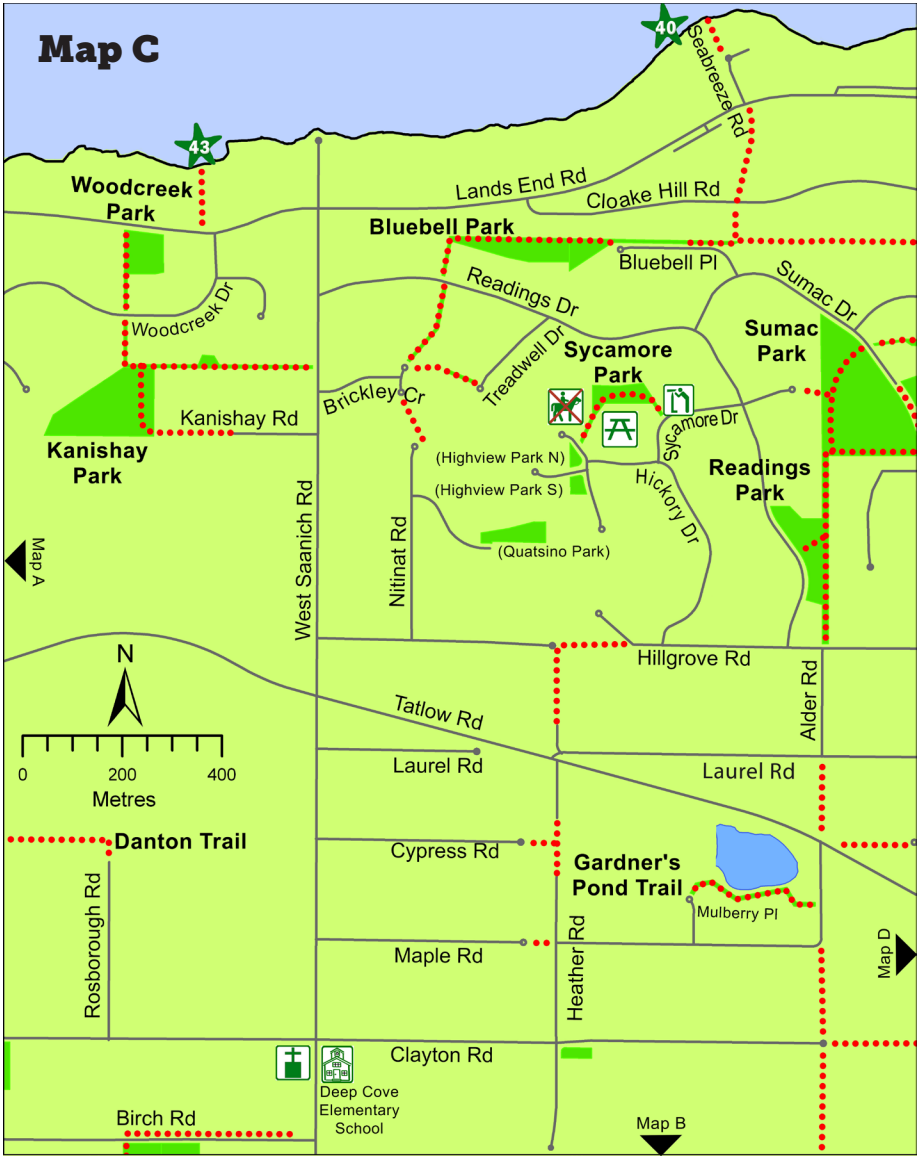
Kanishay Park features 2 hectares of undeveloped wooded area and wetland. Horseback riding trails heading north out of the park lead to Woodcreek Park and Lands End Road.

Bluebell Park is a 1 hectare neighbourhood park at the north end of the District, accessed from the west end of Bluebell Place or from the trail on the north side of Readings Drive. The park is mostly forested, with trails that are suitable for walking and hiking as well as horseback riding.

Quatsino Park is undeveloped at this time.

Gardner's Pond Trail is approached just south of the Tudor-style house on Alder, which is south off Tatlow. The privately owned pond, constructed by the Gardner family in 1949 to allow for harvesting of peat and cultivation of blueberries, has become a wildlife habitat with especially rich bird life in the winter. The trail skirts the pond and ends at Mulberry Place which connects with Maple. As you will see on the map, there are many hiking and walking options from here using the rural roads and connecting trails.




Map C
40
43
Seabreeze Rd
Lands End Rd
Cloake Hill Rd
Woodcreek Park
Bluebell Park
Bluebell Pl
Readings Dr
Sumac Dr
Sumac Park
Woodcreek Dr
Sycamore Park
Treadwell Dr
Brickley Cr
Kanishay Rd
Kanishay Park
Sycamore Dr
(Highview Park N)
(Highview Park S)
Hickory Dr
Readings Park
Map A
West Saanich Rd
Nitinat Rd
(Quatsino Park)
N
Hillgrove Rd
Alder Rd
Tatlow Rd
0
200
400
Metres
Laurel Rd
Laurel Rd
Danton Trail
Cypress Rd
Gardner's Pond Trail
Mulberry Pl
Rosborough Rd
Heather Rd
Maple Rd
Map D
Clayton Rd
Deep Cove Elementary School
Birch Rd
Map B

Pick up the **Eugene Bailin Memorial Trail** at the intersection of Hillgrove and Alder Road and follow it north to Sumac Park, where you can then choose from a series of loops. The trail is named for Eugene M. Bailin (1923–1987), who served as alderman of North Saanich from 1984 to 1987. Make your walk short and sweet with a circle loop in the park itself, or head east and north towards Oceanspray Drive and loop back for an hour-long outing. You can also hike for several hours by working your way east and south to Horth Hill Regional Park via Peregrine Trail, Eagle Way, and Eagle Trail. Return to your starting point via Willow Road to Hillgrove Road or via Cypress to Alder Road.

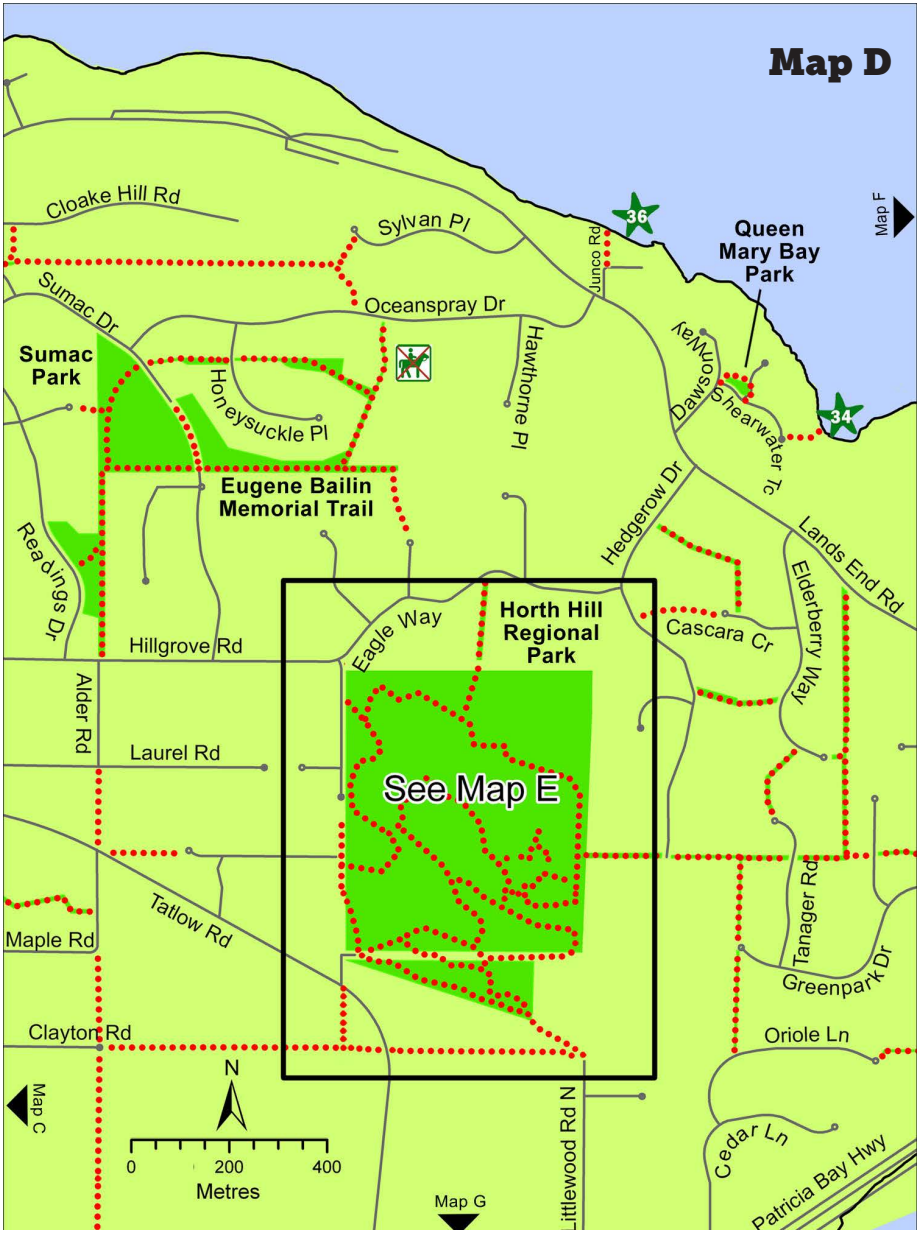




Sumac Park is located in the Oceanspray Drive area. This large, 4-hectare wooded park is suitable for hiking and horseback riding. The park offers several trails, and some of the best hiking in the District is available in this area.

Access to the beach at Junco Road (36), off Lands End Road, is by a series of almost 100 steps. Although the return climb is steep, it is worth it for the flat rock and shell beach with close views of ferries passing between Piers Island and the peninsula.




Map D
Cloake Hill Rd
Sylvan Pl
Junco Rd
36
Queen Mary Bay Park
Map F
Sumac Dr
Oceanspray Dr
Sumac Park
Honeysuckle Pl
Hawthorne Pl
Dawson Way
Shearwater Tc
34
Eugene Bailin Memorial Trail
Hedgerow Dr
Lands End Rd
Readings Dr
Eagle Way
Horth Hill Regional Park
Cascara Cr
Elderberry Way
Hillgrove Rd
Alder Rd
Laurel Rd
See Map E
Tatlow Rd
Maple Rd
Tanager Rd
Greenpark Dr
Clayton Rd
Oriole Ln
N
Map C
0
200
400
Metres
Map G
Littlewood Rd N
Cedar Ln
Patricia Bay Hwy



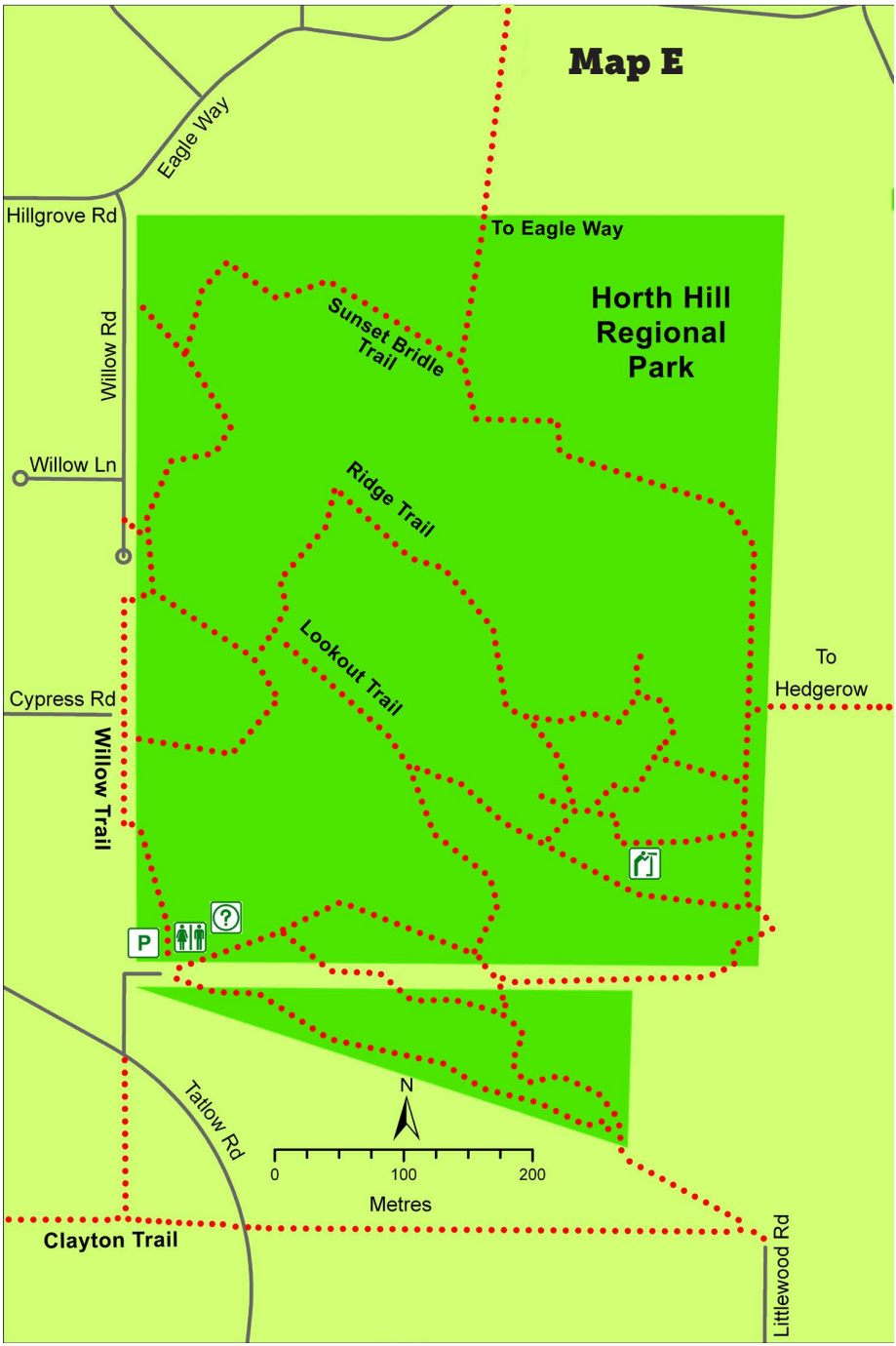
Horth Hill Regional Park (named for a pioneer family) offers excellent views of the Saanich Peninsula from the steep Ridge Trail. Wildflowers grace the upper trails in the spring.

The Sunset Bridle Trail (named after the Sunset Riding Club) starts at Willow Road and loops around the park, providing an easier route for walkers and horse-riders. Or you can leave the parking lot off Tatlow Road and head back across Tatlow to pick up **Willow Trail**, which intersects with Clayton Trail. Go west and you will skirt a grand cattle farm before meeting up with Alder Road (which loops back to Tatlow), or go east for a shorter walk that also brings you to Tatlow. These trails offer shaded, easy walks, but watch out for tree roots.








Map E
Eagle Way
Hillgrove Rd
To Eagle Way
Horth Hill
Regional
Park
Sunset Bridle
Trail
Willow Rd
Willow Ln
Ridge Trail
Lookout Trail
To
Hedgerow
Cypress Rd
Willow Trail
P
N
0
100
200
Metres
Tatlow Rd
Clayton Trail
Littlewood Rd

A main east/west trail leads from **Green Park** to Horth Hill Park, and a network of shorter trails connects with roads throughout this area, allowing for a variety of walks of varying lengths. Green Park is a small jewel with two man-made ponds and an open meadow, which can be wet in the rainy season.



Pachena Park, near Lands End Road, has a short trail through it joining Ravenscroft Place to Neptune Road.



Curteis Point, with its network of heavily treed country lanes, offers little in the way of trails. However, traffic is light, so this area is ideal for road-walking and cycling, though there are some hills to navigate. **Fernie Wynd Viewpoint**, close to the end of Fernie Wynd Road, offers an idyllic seascape.

There is a walking trail alongside **Prentice Pond Park**, which was constructed and stocked with trout by Captain J.D. Prentice R.N., R.C.N., in the early 1960s; the trail also connects Prentice Place and Boas Road.



H.M.S. Plumper Park is an ecological reserve. It is named for a Royal Navy survey vessel; an image of this ship appears in the coat of arms of the Town of Sidney. A short trail loop passes by a bench providing an excellent view.

The beach access (19) at the end of Beach Road leads to a pebbled beach with a good view across Tsehum Harbour. Parking is limited at this access, so it is best to walk or cycle in.


Map F
N
0
200
400
Metres
Dunne Rd Trail
34
Pachena Park
Lands End Rd
Ravenscroft Pl
Pachena Pl
Piers Rd
Neptune Rd
Swartz Bay
Government Dock
Green Park
Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal
Dolphin Rd
Gulfhaven Rd
Cardinal Cl
Salal Pl
Larkspur Ln
Greenpark Dr
Dunne Rd Trail
Canoe Bay
Curteis Rd
Kedge Anchor Rd
Map D
Patricia Bay Hwy
Prentice Pond Park
Prentice Pl
Oas Rd
Inwood Rd
Fernie Wynd Rd
Marina Way
McDonald Park Rd
Beach Rd
H.M.S. Plumper Park
P
19
Tryon Rd
Nymph Point Park
Map G



The campground on McDonald Road is part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. The **McDonald Park** Campground is named for Donald McDonald, a Scot who settled on 148 hectares in the area in 1873. He was a trustee of the first school in North Saanich, Justice of the Peace, and a director of the Agricultural Society.

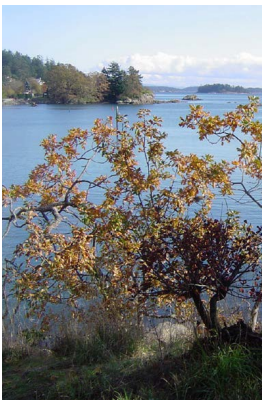




Lillian Hoffar Park is a delightful 1.6 hectare wooded waterfront park located behind the Kiwanis Village on McDonald Park Road. Pedestrian access is via a small, gated lane just south of the Village. The park was willed to the municipality by boat builder Henry Hoffar; its name commemorates both his wife, Lillian Olsen Hoffar (1886-1970), and his daughter, noted artist Irene Hoffar Reid (1908-1994). An information kiosk installed in 2008 tells the history of the park and identifies the flora and fauna to be seen here.



Nymph Point Park is one of the municipality's smallest waterfront parks, named for an eight-gun sloop that surveyed local waters in the late 19th century. It is located off Marina Way, between the Sidney and North Saanich Yacht Club and the marina to the south. A trail leads out to a breakwater which is a good spot for viewing the marine traffic. You can park on Marina Way by the park marker sign and pick up the trail to the point.





Blue Heron Park, owned and managed by the Memorial Park Society, is a 16-hectare park that is popular for outdoor sporting events such as baseball and soccer. Facilities at the park include playing fields, picnic tables, public toilets, and walking trails. The vehicle entrance to Blue Heron Park is located north of Parklands School off McDonald Park Road.

Tsehum Lagoon Park, on Marina Way, is an undeveloped ecological reserve. All of Tsehum Harbour, including the lagoon, was declared a migratory bird sanctuary in 1931. Only the lagoon remains relatively undisturbed.





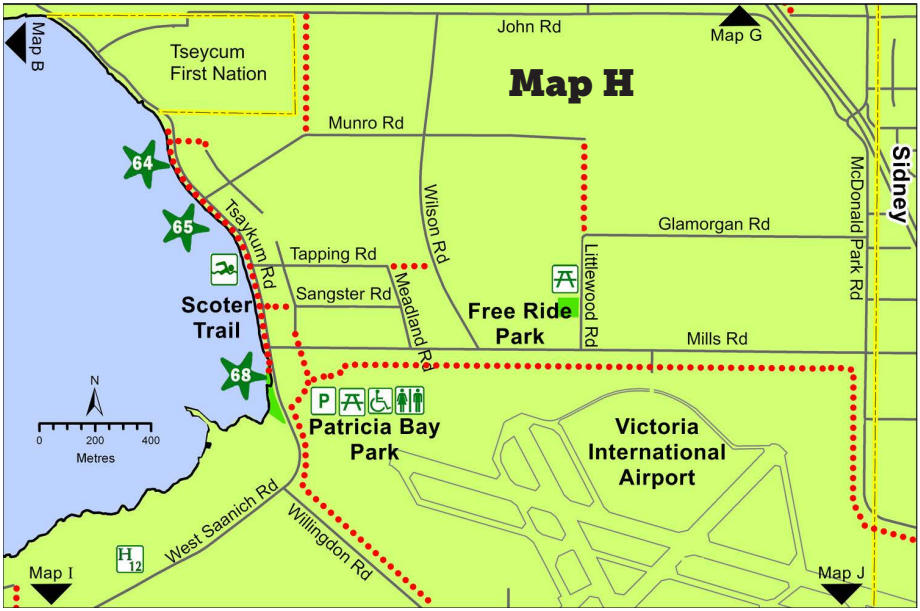
Patricia Bay Park, which was developed with funds from GoBC and the Provincial Capital Commission, is a wheelchair accessible waterfront park featuring panoramic views and sunsets over Saanich Inlet, a paved circular trail, picnic tables, and public toilets. Patricia Bay Park is a favourite place for watching airplane traffic. From this park, you can access the paved trail on the north side of Victoria Airport.



Scoter Trail, which commences at Patricia Bay Park, follows the shoreline of Patricia Bay. The trail is named for one of the many species of seabirds that make the bay their home. Children will love exploring the tidal flats at low tide. Be careful not to get trapped in the clay muck exposed at low tides at the south end of Patricia Bay near the seaplane ramp and the mouth of Ten-Ten Creek. Beach accesses at the west end of Munro Road (65) and at the north (64) and south end of the Scoter trail (68) offer the best swimming opportunities and relatively firm low-tide beaches. A network of trails and country roads east of the bay offers circular routes of varying lengths.







Free Ride Park is the District's most recently developed park. It was a volunteer initiative that brought both youth and professional riders together with the formation of the Friends of the North Saanich Mountain Bike Park. These dedicated individuals have worked hard to see this park open for public use and will be actively working on additional phases in the future.

This park has jumps and tracks for all skill levels but is not supervised. Users are required to wear helmets, requested to wear appropriate safety equipment, and to ride only in areas that are developed and within their skill level.



Ardmore area offers pleasant cycling along quiet roads shaded by high canopies of deciduous and evergreen trees. At the north end of Ardmore Drive you will find beach accesses at the foot of Briarwood Place (70), Glenelg Ave. (72), and Bayview (73). The easy, level access to **Briarwood Place Beach Access** makes it suitable for launching small boats, but parking is limited in the area.





The south end of Ardmore Drive has beach accesses at Braemar Ave (80), Aboyne Ave (81), and one just south of where Ardmore forks towards Yarrow Point (83). Parking at Yarrow Point is limited.

Braemar Ave (80) has parking at the end of the road and is suitable for launching kayaks and canoes.

Coles Bay Regional Park offers warm water for swimming during the summer and has parking, toilets, picnic tables, and short trails.




Map I
Map H
N
0
200
400
Metres
70
72
73
Glynnwood Park Rd
Briarwood Pl
Glenelg Ave
Bayview
Ardmore Dr
Dogwood Rd
Map J
Glenelg Ave
Falkirk Ave
Bradley Dyne Rd
Dalkeith Ave
Ardmore Dr
Carnoustie Cr
Cromarty Rd
Ardmore Golf Course
West Saanich Rd
80
Braemar Ave
Glen Meadows Golf Course
81
Aboyne Ave
Inverness Rd
Jura Rd
P
Hartfell Ave
85
86
McTavish Rd
Ardmore Dr
Coles Bay Regional Park
83
Pauquachin First Nation
Yarrow Point
Map K

The section of **Reay Creek Park** that is within North Saanich is undeveloped at this time. The Town of Sidney owns the developed part of the park, which can be accessed from the end of Greenglade Rd or Frost Ave. The park is named for gold mining brothers William and Charles Reay, who settled on a sizeable acreage around Reay Creek in 1875.



Balsam Park, off Graham Avenue, has play equipment for children and an open grassy area for games.





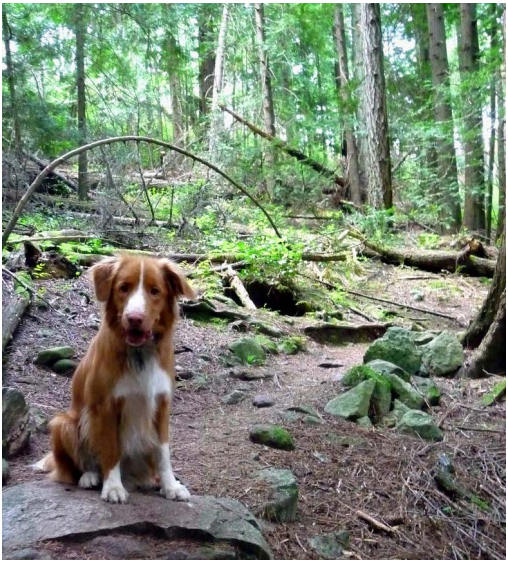
Rotary Park, originally built by volunteers, is managed by the Peninsula Baseball/ Softball Association. It is used primarily for youth baseball, softball, and soccer leagues and is only accessible during those events. The property is leased from the Airport Authority and the maintenance is jointly shared by the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney.

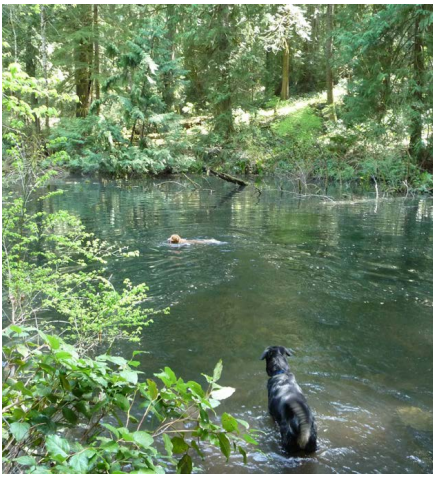
Map J


Free Ride Park
Map H
Mills Rd
Victoria International Airport
Beacon Ave
Sidney
Patricia Bay Hwy
Map I
Ocean Ave W
Rotary Park
Canora Rd
Greenglade Rd
Frost Ave
Willingdon Rd
P
N
0
300
600
Metres
Balsam Park
(Reay Creek Park)
Cresswell Rd
East Saanich Rd
Mainwaring Rd
Map K
McTavish Rd
Map L



John Dean (1851-1943) was an ardent supporter of the Boy Scout movement and the outdoor life. He built a cabin near the summit of Mount Newton and in 1921 donated 13 hectares of land to the province. This initial donation (the first of its kind in British Columbia), along with subsequent donations from other individuals and additional acquisitions by the Provincial Government, has become the 180 hectare forest we now know as **John Dean Provincial Park.**



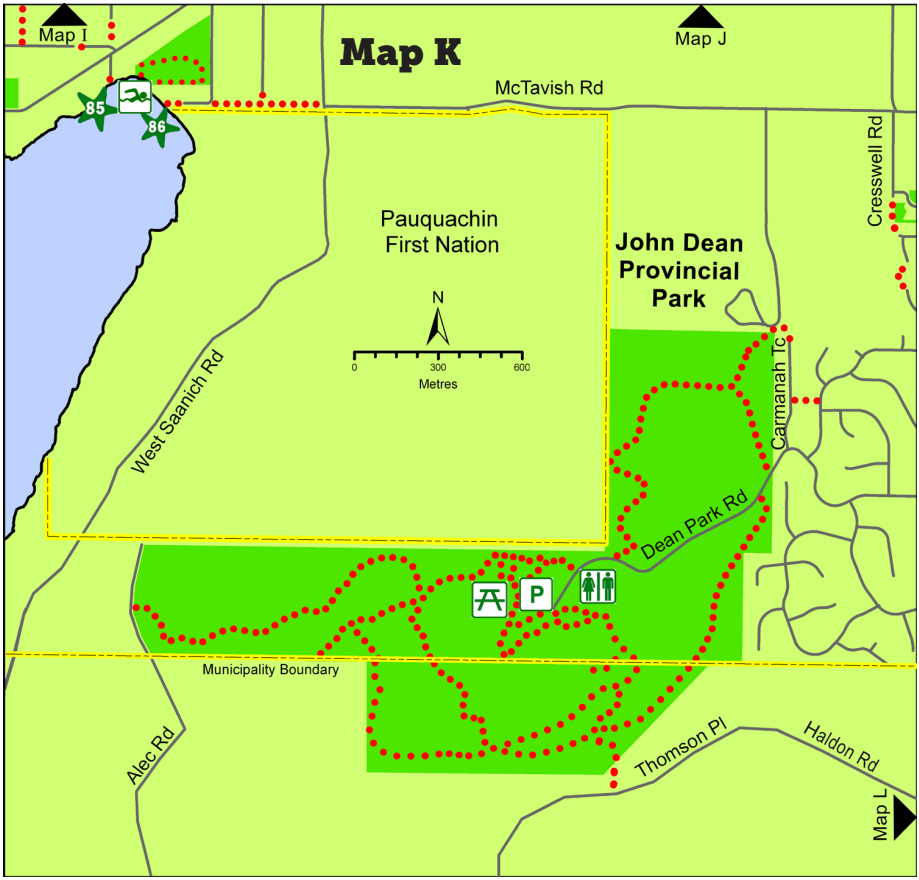


This is a heavily treed wilderness park with many kilometers of criss-crossing trails, some quite steep. Walkers and hikers are reminded to wear proper clothing and take appropriate care to have a safe park experience. Trails on the south side of the park offer views of Mt. Newton Valley.

Vehicle access to this park is off Dean Park Road or via trails at Alec Road, or Thompson Place and Haldon Road, both in Central Saanich.



Dean Park Road from Carmanah Terrace to the main parking lot is closed to vehicle traffic November to March.


Map K
Map I
Map J
Map L
McTavish Rd
Cresswell Rd
Pauquachin
First Nation
John Dean
Provincial
Park
N
0
300
600
Metres
West Saanich Rd
Carmanah Tc
Dean Park Rd
P
Municipality Boundary
Alec Rd
Thomson Pl
Haldon Rd
85
86



Dominion Brook Park comprises 4.5 hectares on East Saanich Road. The park was originally developed in 1913 and maintained by the Federal Government as an ornamental garden. It has been re-established for public use with the help of funds from the District of North Saanich, the Provincial Capital Commission, and the Millennium Bureau of Canada.



The park contains a natural watercourse which flows into a series of manmade ponds and there are many specimen trees and flowering shrubs.

The Friends of Dominion Brook Park is a non-profit society of volunteers dedicated to re-establishing the unique heritage of the park and working to rehabilitate its plant life which includes many rare and exotic species. Dogs must be leashed at all times in Dominion Brook Park.

Cy Hampson Park is named for the avid conservationist and biologist who lived adjacent to it for 30 years. Located on Lochside Drive, it is a wheelchair accessible waterfront park with magnificent views, open fields for playing, and a dog-walking area. The Sidney Lions Club built and donated a viewing area as well as picnic tables. There is a walking trail down to the beach and a “dogs off leash” area between Lochside and Patricia Bay Highway.





Gulf View Park provides a convenient parking and picnic area off East Saanich Road. This 1 hectare park offers good scenic views and bird watching.





Children's play equipment is available at **Panorama Recreation Centre** at East Saanich Road and Forest Park Drive and there are playing fields at the new Kelset Elementary School across the street.



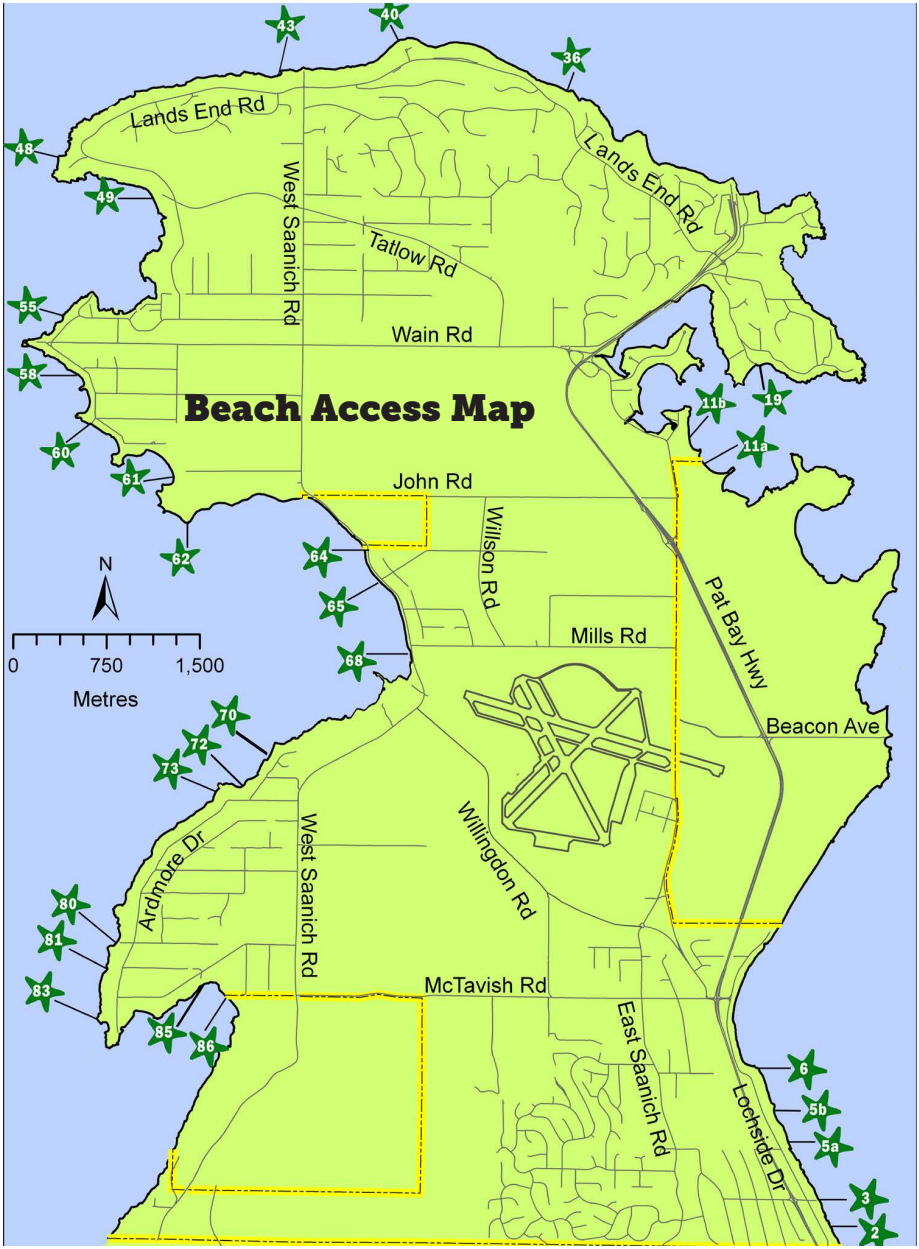
In **Quarry Park** on East Saanich Road, there are steep trails around an abandoned quarry. Rock from this quarry was used for local road building.

Beach Accesses

The District of North Saanich is bounded by almost 40 km of shoreline (48 km, including Sidney's waterfront). Thanks to many public road allowances that extend to the shore and to a long-standing District policy that promotes the enjoyment of the District's many natural amenities by both residents and visitors, the District maintains seven waterfront parks, active public accesses to the shoreline and several ocean viewpoints. Thirty active beach accesses are marked on maps A through L with a starfish symbol bearing a reference number. Typical recreational uses of beaches and beach accesses, locally dependent upon site and season, include ocean viewing, beach combing, picnicking, swimming, canoe and kayak launching, windsurfing, and fishing. The Beach Access Table on page 49 in this section of the booklet contains detailed information about each beach access. More information regarding the viewpoints and parks is found in the text accompanying maps A through L.

Everyone has a right to access the shoreline seaward of the high water mark, but with that right comes the responsibility to respect the privacy and other legitimate concerns of waterfront property owners and of residents who live close to beach access entrances and trails. Please refer to the beach etiquette on page 46. Also note that with the exception of Coles Bay Regional Park, Pat Bay Park, Tulista Park (Sidney) and Cy Hampson Park, District beach accesses and lookouts are not equipped with public toilets or litter containers. Please take any garbage away with you.





The following symbols are displayed on sign posts that lead to viewpoints and beach accesses around the District of North Saanich.



Beach Etiquette

Parking is limited at many beach accesses and some popular accesses may be restricted (tow-away zones) to reduce congestion and to allow access by emergency vehicles. Local beach users might consider walking or biking to the beach.

Beach fires are not permitted anywhere, anytime. Infractions could result in fines.

Consumption of liquor is illegal on beaches and other public areas.

Rowdy behaviour, excessive noise, littering and encroaching on private property all constitute disrespectful behaviour and undermine the goodwill and tolerance required to share the beach amicably.

Dog droppings, infant diapers etc. should not be left on beaches. They contain fecal coliform bacteria and are a hazard to health. Please be aware, there are no washroom facilities or garbage receptacles at North Saanich beaches.

Unacceptable or dangerous behaviour should be dealt with by the RCMP only; please call them after you have safely left the beach (**250-656-3931**).



Safe Enjoyment

Some suggestions for the safe enjoyment of the recreational possibilities at North Saanich beaches:

Ocean Viewing and Beachcombing

Wet, seaweed-covered rocks are slippery and increase the risk of falling. Wear good-gripping shoes, tread carefully and try to minimize damage to intertidal life. At low tide, beachcombers and kayakers should avoid the exposed beach at the mouth of Ten-Ten Creek near the seaplane ramp lest they become trapped in the mucky clay-silt.

Swimming

There are no lifeguards and the water is often cold. Water quality is generally good in the dry season except at the mouths of creeks or at storm drain outfalls following heavy rains. In late summer large red jellyfish may be numerous (especially in Saanich Inlet). Contact with these can produce an unpleasant stinging sensation and welting on the skin similar to contact with nettles. Please refer to the Beach Access Table on page 49 for an assessment of each beach access as a site for swimming.

Fishing and Shellfish Harvesting

It is generally unsafe to harvest and consume shellfish from North Saanich beaches due to the possibility of paralytic poisoning and contamination with coliform bacteria. The current fishing regulations (very specific as to region, allowable catch etc.) are widely available at hardware and sporting goods stores and should be consulted in detail.

Small Boat Launching, Kayaking, Canoeing and Windsurfing

None of the beach accesses mentioned in this guide have ramps for the launching of trailerable boats. The Beach Access Table on page 49 contains an assessment of each beach access as a site for kayak or canoe launching. On the west side of the Peninsula during episodes of strong winds with a westerly component, the beach access at the north end of the Scoter Trail is a popular place for windsurfing.

Beach Access Table

Beach Access #	Name	Map	Pg	Parking	Dist	Access Ease	Kayak Launch	Swim	Amenities
2	East end Wardle Rd	L	35	3	30m	E	M	N	
3	East end Amity Dr	L	35	4	30m	E	M	N	
5a	Cy Hampson Pk South	L	35	Lot	100m	N	N	N	P, T
5b	Cy Hampson Pk North	L	35	Lot	140m	M	M	N	P, T
6	East end Bazan Bay Rd	L	35	10	20m	M	M	N	
11a/b	Lillian Hoffar Pk	G	25	3, L	270m	M	R	N	P
19	South end Beach Rd	F	23	3	70m	E	R	N	
36	North end Junco Rd	D	19	6	100m	M	N	N	
40	North end Seabreeze Rd	C	17	8	70m	D	N	N	
43	Near Woodcreek Pk	C	17	3, L	130m	M	N	N	
48	West end Moses Pt Rd	A	13	8, L	100m	E	M	R	
49	West end Tatlow Rd	A	13	10	50m	E	R	R	
55	Madrona & Setchell	B	15	L	100m	M	N	N	
58	West end Cromar Rd	B	15	L	30m	M	M	R	
60	West end Norris Rd	B	15	L	15m	M	M	R	
61	West end Towner Rd	B	15	L	40m	E	R	R	
62	Warrior Point	B	15	10	430m	M	N	N	
64	North end Scoter Tr	H	27	10	30m	E	R	R	
65	West end Munro Rd	H	27	6	10m	E	M	R	
68	Patricia Bay Pk	H	27	Lot	30m	E	R	N	P, T
70	West end Briarwood Pl	I	29	10	20m	E	R	R	
72	Glenelg & Ardmore	I	29	10	100m	M	N	N	
73	Bay View Beach Access Ardmore Dr.	I	29	3, L	100m	M	M	N	
80	West end Braemar Ave	I	29	10	50m	E	R	R	
81	West end Aboyne Ave	I	29	L	100m	M	N	R	
83	Near Yarrow Point	I	29	2, L	100m	E	M	N	
85	South end Hartfell Ave	I	29	10	50m	M	N	R	
86	West end McTavish Rd	I	29	L	50m	E	R	R	
	Coles Bay Park	I	29	Lot	100m	E	R	R	P, T

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