Nature Outings and Events

For Nature Lovers of All Ages

December, January & February

Winter 2026/27



What You Need to Know

Legend

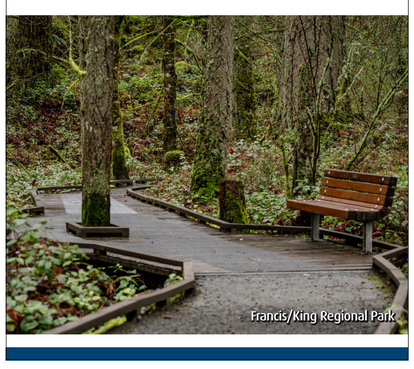
	Youth & Adults	Adults only
Drop-in Event - Come by anytime between the hours that the event is offered.	✓	
Guided Walks - Have a casual pace with interpretive stops.	✓	✓
Guided Hikes (Moderate) - Have occasional interpretive stops. Trails may be uneven and slippery with steep sections. The pace of the hike is set according to the needs of the group.	✓	✓
Self-guided Walks - Follow interpretive signs at your own pace.	✓	
User-friendly - Events and outings on these trails are suitable for many abilities. Check descriptions for personal suitability.	✓	✓

Extreme Weather: Programs run rain or shine. In the event of air quality, snow, ice or wind warning, a program may be cancelled. If you suspect a program may be cancelled, call 250.360.3656 to hear a recorded message confirming the cancellation.

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.

Accessibility

We offer programs for a variety of ages and abilities. Brief trail descriptions can be found under each program in the brochure. For more detailed accessibility information, please visit each program's description on our website: www.crd.ca/parks-events


Francis/King Regional Park

What You Need to Know

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

Please leave your animal friends at home. We like pets too. However, their presence can be disruptive. Guide and service animals are, of course, welcome.

Feedback

Tell us about your experience by taking the short online survey at **www.crd.ca/parks-events**. Your feedback is important to us to monitor and improve our programming.

Register Online

Some programs may require pre-registration. The CRD's secure online registration site allows you to browse and pre-register immediately for a nature outing.

1. Browse nature outings
2. Select an outing
3. Create an account
4. Select a credit card payment option (for paid programs only - VISA or Mastercard)
5. Complete your registration

Once registration is complete, a receipt (if applicable) and confirmation will be emailed to you.

www.crd.ca/parks-events


Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park

Respectful Exploration in Regional Parks

Here's what you can do to keep our forests, beaches, and shorelines in regional parks strong and healthy!

- Stay on designated trails to protect plants and animals.
- Keep your dog under control, in sight and on a leash where required. Remember to pick up your dog's droppings and take them to the trash.
- Do not take anything from the park, including plants, animals and other natural materials. Plants and animals rely on these materials for food, shelter and habitat.
- Keep your parks clean. Help by picking up litter. Leave no trace and pack out your trash.
- Explore carefully along the beach. Watch your step and step only on bare rocks or sand.
- Use your shovels and buckets to make sandcastles, not to collect crabs and other creatures.
- Observe creatures behaving naturally under rocks on the beach by: Lifting, Looking and Lowering.
- Remember, dogs are not permitted to stay in beach and picnic areas between June 1 and September 15.

We can all be caretakers of the forests and beaches, as local First Nations have been for thousands of years. First Peoples believe that all living things should be respected, from insects to eagles, from bees to bears, and from cougars to crabs. As you explore, please travel lightly on these lands and be respectful of the cultures and ecosystems that depend on them.


Devonian Regional Park

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives



Is your organization interested in a private walk 'Exploring Indigenous Perspectives'?

With CRD Regional Parks Indigenous cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry, your group will discover a human history spanning thousands of years. We invite you to learn how First Peoples respect, appreciate and celebrate the plants, animals and seasons. Contact us for more information and pricing:

Tel: 250.478.3344 | E: crdparks@crd.bc.ca


Francis/King Regional Park

About CRD Regional Parks

The Capital Regional District protects and manages more than 13,300 hectares of spectacular and accessible natural areas in 34 regional parks 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.



The CRD boundaries span the territories of several First Nations, whose ancestors have been caretakers of the land since time immemorial. The CRD acknowledges the historic and ongoing cultural significance of these lands that provide important food, medicine and spiritual places for these nations. As you explore, please travel lightly on these lands and be respectful of the cultures and ecosystems that depend on them.

Please take one, share with a friend and recycle.

Download a PDF brochure at www.crd.ca/parks-events.

Connect With Us

Captial Regional District
CRDVictoria
@crd_bc

Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
Tel: 250.478.3344 | E: crdparks@crd.bc.ca
www.crd.ca/parks

CRD Regional Parks Nature Centres



There is a wonderful world of natural and cultural history to explore at our Nature Centres. CRD Regional Parks staff and volunteer naturalists can answer your questions and point you in the right direction on the trails.

Francis/King Nature Centre
(Munn Road in Saanich)
Open year-round – Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, 10am–4pm. The Nature Centre and the Elsie King Trail are wheelchair accessible.

Beaver Lake Nature Centre
(Beaver Beach off Elk Lake Drive in Saanich)
Open in summer - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4pm. The Nature Centre is wheelchair accessible.


Francis/King Regional Park

Winter at a Glance

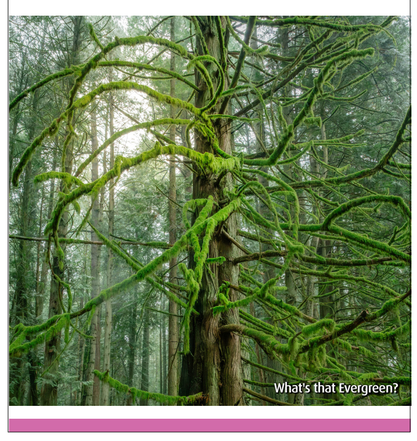
December 2026

DATE	EVENT & LOCATION
Sat 5	Christmas Bird Count Tune-up (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon
Sun 6	A Bear's Perspective (Self-guided Walk) Francis/King
Sat 12	Exploring Indigenous Perspectives (Self-guided Walk) Francis/King


Christmas Bird Count Tune-up

January 2027

DATE	EVENT & LOCATION
Sun 10	What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon
Sat 16	Taking a Lichen to Nature (Guided Adult Walk) Francis/King
Sat 23	Exploring Indigenous Perspectives through Storytelling (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon
Sat 23	Magnificent Mosses with Power To Be (Guided Walk) Francis/King
Sat 30	Road Trip To Antlers, Bones, Beaks and Stones (Guided Adult Walk) Francis/King
Sun 31	Magnificent Mosses (Guided Walk) Thetis Lake


What's that Evergreen?

February 2027

DATE	EVENT & LOCATION
Sat 6	Rascally Raccoons (Guided Walk) Mill Hill
Sat 13	Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event) Francis/King
Sun 14	Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event) Francis/King
Sat 20	Rattle, Hum and Drum: Music of the Forest (Guided Walk) Francis/King NEW!
Sun 21	Road Trip to Mosses with City of Victoria (Guided Walk) Elk/Beaver Lake
Sat 27	The Secret Lives of Wolves (Guided Walk) Witty's Lagoon
Sun 28	Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk) Elk/Beaver Lake


Wee Winter Ones

December

Saturday, December 5 | 9–11am

Christmas Bird Count Tune-up (Guided Walk) – **12 years+**
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Join birding expert Geoffrey Newell and a CRD Regional Parks naturalist along the trail to search the sky and sea for birds. This walk will help you tune up your identification skills for other Christmas Bird Count events! This walk meets at the Tower Point location, not the main parking lot. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

Meeting place: The information kiosk at the Tower Point parking lot off Olympic View Drive. **BC Transit #54 or #55**

Trail description: 700m; compact surface, some tree roots; moderate incline


Christmas Bird Count Tune-up


Exploring Indigenous Perspectives

Sunday, December 6 | 10am–1pm

A Bear's Perspective (Self-guided Walk) – **All Ages**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Ever wondered what a bear's perspective of a park might be? Take part in a self-guided walk along the accessible Elsie King Trail to discover what bears need to survive (just the bear necessities!) and what keeps them busy at this time of year. Follow up your forest wander by warming up inside the Nature Centre and visiting with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist. Bring your own hot beverage to enjoy while you explore!

Meeting place: The Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly.

Saturday, December 12 | 10am–1pm

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives (Self-guided Walk) – **All Ages**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

On this self-guided walk along the accessible Elsie King Trail, you will discover the cultural significance of plants, animals and the seasons and how First Peoples deeply respect, appreciate and celebrate gifts from forests, rivers, lakes and the sea. Follow up your forest wander by warming up inside the Nature Centre and visiting with CRD Regional Parks Indigenous cultural programmer, Leslie McGarry. Bring your own hot beverage to enjoy while you explore!

Meeting place: The Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly.

January

Sunday, January 10 | 1:30–3pm

What's That Evergreen? (Guided Walk) – **All Ages**
Witty's Lagoon 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 and discover what keeps these plants green year-round.

Meeting place: Teaching Shelter, off the Lagoon Trail. Park at the main parking lot off Metchosin Road and proceed down the main trail, turning left onto the Lagoon trail. Allow approximately 10 minutes walking time from parking lot. The trail to the shelter is not stroller friendly. **BC Transit #54 or #55**

Trail description: 800m; gravel and soil surface; steep incline.


What's That Evergreen?


Taking a Lichen to Nature

Saturday, January 16 | 1:30–3:30pm

Taking a Lichen to Nature (Guided Adult Walk) – **18 years+**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join guest naturalist Juliet Pendray and a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the often-overlooked lichens of the forest along the accessible Elsie King Trail. Juliet will share her passion, experience, and knowledge on these small but important species as you stroll or roll along the trail. Learn how to identify the most common species and what role lichen plays in the forest. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather.

$8/person + GST. You must pre-register as space is limited. Visit www.crd.ca/parks-events.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, January 23 | 10–11am

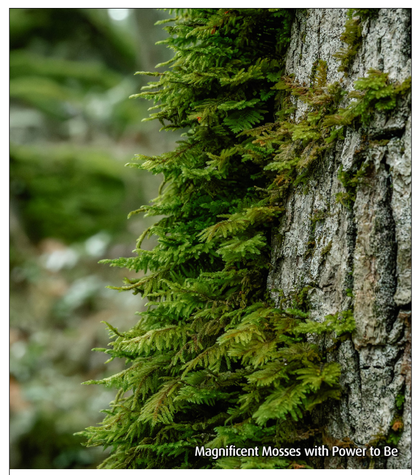
Exploring Indigenous Perspectives through Storytelling (Guided Walk) – **5 years & under**
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

On this interactive program, we invite you and your little ones to walk with CRD Regional Parks Indigenous cultural programmer Leslie McGarry to explore the cultural significance of birds and animals, through a First Peoples lens. The cultural lessons and values shared through the time-honoured tradition of storytelling will amaze participants. We will discover how First Peoples passed down important teachings from their respective territories to upcoming generations.

Meeting place: Teaching Shelter, off the Lagoon Trail. Park at the main parking lot off Metchosin Road and proceed down the main trail, turning left onto the Lagoon trail. Allow approximately 10 minutes walking time from parking lot. The trail to the shelter is not stroller friendly. **BC Transit #54 or #55**

Trail description: 800m; gravel and soil surface; steep incline.


Exploring Indigineous Perspectives through Storytelling


Magnificent Mosses with Power to Be

Saturday, January 23 | 1:30–3:30pm

Magnificent Mosses with Power To Be (Guided Walk) – **All ages**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Spend your afternoon in the forest with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist and Power To Be on the accessible Elsie King trail. We'll discover the wonderful world of mosses and what makes them so magnificent. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather. Power to Be can provide adaptive mobility equipment for a variety of needs. Let us know what support, or program modifications you require to have success in the outdoors.

There is no registration for this program, but to reserve adaptive equipment including a TrailRider, walking poles, Hippocampe Chair and more, please contact us at crdparks@crd.bc.ca or 250.478.3344. Equipment is based on a first come, first serve basis, and confirmed once you have heard from us.

Meeting place: The Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly.

Saturday, January 30 | 1–4pm

Road Trip To Antlers, Bones, Beaks and Stones (Guided Adult Walk) – **18 years+**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Catch a ride on the City of Victoria's Recreation Bus and then join CRD Regional Parks Indigenous cultural programmer Leslie McGarry to explore how First People's value nature's bounty on the coast. We often refer to how First Peoples use EVERYTHING when they successfully hunt and fish. On this guided walk for adults, participants will learn about specific uses for additional resources other than food. Hides for clothing, bones and beaks for tools, just to name a few. We'll learn from Leslie how even stones contribute to sustaining village life on the coast.

$16/person program fee covers the cost of roundtrip transportation from Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre. You must pre-register as space is limited.
Visit www.victoria.ca/registration or call 250.361.0732.

Meeting place: Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre in Victoria.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline.


Road Trip to Antlers, Bones, Beaks and Stones


Maginificent Mosses

Sunday, January 31 | 10–11:30am

Magnificent Mosses (Guided Walk) – **8 years+**
Thetis Lake Regional Park (View Royal)

Spend your morning in the forest with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the wonderful world of mosses and what makes them so magnificent. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather.

Meeting place: The information kiosk at the Main Beach. **BC Transit #53**

Trail description: 1km; compact dirt with roots and rocks; moderate inclines.

February

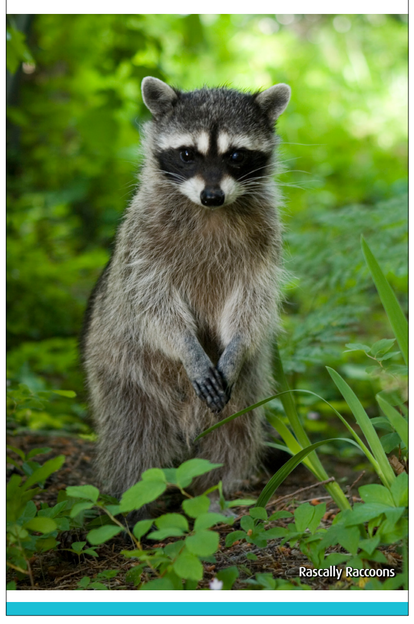
Saturday, February 6 | 10–11:30am

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

A CRD Regional Parks naturalist will lead you on the trail for a day in the life of these little rascally raccoons. You'll find out they may not be so rascally after all!

Meeting place: The information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue. **BC Transit #53**

Trail description: 600m; compact surface with roots; steep incline.


Rascally Raccoons



Saturday, February 13 | 10am–1pm

Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event) – **All Ages**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Come celebrate Valentine's Day and the Family Day Long Weekend in the park with family and friends. Discover how love is in the air for animals in the park and how wild animals are getting ready to welcome their own families! Participate in family fun and all-ages-appropriate activities such as crafts, storytelling, displays and more in the Francis/King Nature Centre.

Meeting place: The Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; accessible nature centre, wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly.

Sunday, February 14 | 10am–1pm

Love is in the Park (Drop-in Event) – **All Ages**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Come celebrate Valentine's Day and the Family Day Long Weekend in the park with family and friends. Discover how love is in the air for animals in the park and how wild animals are getting ready to welcome their own families! Participate in family fun and all-ages-appropriate activities such as crafts, storytelling, displays and more in the Francis/King Nature Centre.

Meeting place: The Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; accessible nature centre, wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly.

Saturday, February 20 | 1:30–3pm

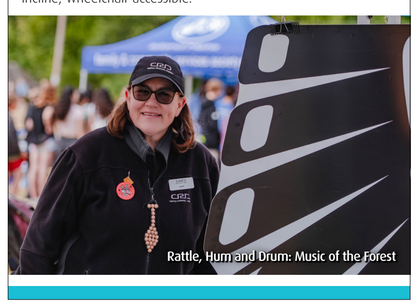
Rattle, Hum and Drum: Music of the Forest (Guided Walk) – **5 years+**
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

NEW!

On this interactive program, we invite participants to explore the natural elements connected to the making of drums and rattles, while providing a hands-on opportunity to learn how and why they are used. You will be amazed at how Indigenous Peoples use this time-honoured tradition, not only to celebrate but to share lessons and values with their children. Join CRD Regional Parks Indigenous cultural programmer Leslie McGarry on this guided accessible walk and interactive opportunity.

There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register as space is limited. Visit www.crd.ca/parks-events.

Trail description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair accessible.


Rattle, Hum and Drum: Music of the Forest


Road Trip to Mosses

Sunday, February 21 | 9:30am–1pm

Road Trip to Mosses (Guided Walk) – **All Ages**
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Catch a ride on the City of Victoria's Recreation Bus and then join a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the wonderful world of mosses and what makes them so magnificent. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather.

$16/person program fee covers the cost of roundtrip transportation from Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre. You must pre-register as space is limited.
Visit www.victoria.ca/registration or call 250.361.0732.

Meeting place: Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre in Victoria.

Trail description: 800m; compact surface with roots; slight incline.


The Secret Lives of Wolves

Saturday, February 27 | 1:30–3pm

The Secret Lives of Wolves (Guided Walk) – **All Ages**
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (Metchosin)

Coastal wolves are elusive predators, playing an important role in the forest and ocean ecosystems of our region. Come join CRD Regional Parks naturalist and Indigenous cultural programmer to learn more about the natural and cultural history of the coastal wolves of Vancouver Island. We'll explore the importance of wolves in First Nations culture and learn how sea wolves survive on the dynamic coastal landscape.

Meeting place: Teaching Shelter, off the Lagoon Trail. Park at the main parking lot off Metchosin Road and proceed down the main trail, turning left onto the Lagoon trail. Allow approximately 10 minutes walking time from parking lot. **BC Transit #54 or #55**

Trail description: 800m; gravel and soil surface; steep incline. Not stroller friendly.

Sunday, February 28 | 10–11am

Wee Winter Ones (Guided Walk) – **5 years and under**
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Bring your littles ones to explore the forest in wintertime and learn all about how animals keep their babies warm and cozy this time of year. After a lovely forest stroll, we'll cozy up in the Nature Centre for storytime.

Meeting place: The Nature Centre, near the Beaver Beach parking lot. **BC Transit #70, #72 or #75**

Trail description: 500m; compact surface; slight incline; wheelchair and stroller friendly.


Wee Winter Ones