

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Little River Nature Park



Mallard:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Little River ponds: Krista Kaptein photo



Common Green Darners: Terry Thormin photo

[Photo Gallery](#)

Explore diverse habitats at Little River Nature Park including ponds, salt marsh, and the lower portion of Little River - a provincially designated sensitive stream. The main entrance on Wilkinson Road near the Powell River Ferry Terminal provides access to two small man-made ponds and a revegetated meadow. Ring-necked and Mallard ducks frequent the pond, and there is evidence of Beaver. In the summer, dragonflies cruise over the ponds. Though semi-open, there are many willow, black-cottonwood and Douglas-fir trees. Another section of the park, inland from a row of waterfront houses, features an estuarine salt marsh with rare plant species including elegant rein-orchid. The wetlands provide critical habitat for birds and fish. Watch for birds of prey such as Bald Eagles and Merlins, as well as a variety of songbirds. Mink, Raccoon and Black-tailed Deer are among the mammals that call the park home. The trail by the ponds may be subjected to seasonal flooding.

[Site Map](#)

Geographical Description	Two park sections: ponds & revegetating meadow in former gravel extraction area, and sandy beach meadow; connected by statutory road access through private forest. Right-of-way access to beach.
Area/ Trail Length	4.2 ha. ponds & meadows area; 2.2 ha. beach meadow; .5 km. one way from parking area to beach.
Habitat	Ponds, revegetating meadow & forest, sandy beach meadow.
Highlights	Best accessible site for dragonflies; rare seaside plants; beaver and lodge in ponds.
Best Season	Spring for flowers; summer for dragonflies and butterflies.
Main Access	Wilkinson Rd., .4 km. east of Ellenor Rd. junction to Little River Ferry terminal.
Secondary Accesses	
Cautions	Seasonal flooding.
Jurisdiction	Comox Valley Regional District Park (Area B). Private land between ponds and meadow sections of park. Statutory access along access road to sandy beach meadow; 3m wide right-of-way to beach. Intertidal zone: Provincial MOE; Fish & fish habitat: Federal DFO.
Birds	Bald Eagle; Merlin, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveller, Killdeer (nesting), Northern Flicker, American Robin, Towhee, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

[Bird List](#)

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Mammals	Beaver and lodges, Mink, Raccoon, Black-tailed Deer.
Reptiles	Common garter snake.
Amphibians	Pacific tree frog, red-legged frog, rough-skinned newt.
Fish	Cutthroat trout & coho in ponds.
Other species	Banana slug, millipede, terrestrial snail.
Insects	20 species of dragonflies; sand wasps, tiger beetles, crickets, mud daubers, bald-faced hornet nest, ten-lined June beetle. Tufted tussock moth (woolly bear caterpillar).
Trees	Black cottonwood, red alder, grand fir.
Shrubs	Snowberry, Pacific willow, Scouler's willow.
Flowering Plants	Watershield, yellow pond-lily, seaside plantain, Douglas' knotweed, yellow sand-verbena, claytonia, blue-eyed Mary, gumweed, northern wormwood, elegant rein-orchid, sea asparagus, sea rocket.
Ferns, Lichens, Mosses	
Other Species	Cattail, dunegrass.
Invasive/Non-native species	Invasive: Scotch broom. Non-native: sedum, brass buttons.
Mushrooms	Amanita.
Geology	Former gravel pit area.
Regulations	No parking 11 pm to 5 am. Dogs on leash at all times.
Facilities	Parking lot on Wilkinson Road.
Other Features	
Other	To King Coho Greenway east along beach.
Connections	To Little River Ferry west along Wilkinson Rd.

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- [Comox Valley Regional District Parks](#)
- [Comox Valley Regional District Beach Accesses](#)
- [K'omoks Important Bird Area](#)
- [Flora and Fauna Inventory of McPhee Property 1999 pdf](#)
- [Tide Tables](#)
- [eBird Hotspot](#)