

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Comox Valley Area

### Little River Nature Park



Mallard:  
Bill Heybroek drawing



Little River ponds: Krista Kaptein photo



Common Green Damers: 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.

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<b>Highlights</b>	Best accessible site for dragonflies; rare seaside plants; beaver and lodge in ponds.
<b>Best Season</b>	Spring for flowers; summer for dragonflies and butterflies.
<b>Main Access</b>	Wilkinson Rd., .4 km. east of Ellenor Rd. junction to Little River Ferry terminal.
<b>Secondary Accesses</b>	
<b>Cautions</b>	Seasonal flooding.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	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.
<b>Birds</b>	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. <a href="#">Bird List</a>
<b>Mammals</b>	Beaver and lodges, Mink, Raccoon, Black-tailed Deer.
<b>Reptiles</b>	Common garter snake.
<b>Amphibians</b>	Pacific tree frog, red-legged frog, rough-skinned newt.
<b>Fish</b>	Cutthroat trout & coho in ponds.
<b>Other species</b>	Banana slug, millipede, terrestrial snail.
<b>Insects</b>	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).
<b>Trees</b>	Black cottonwood, red alder, grand fir.
<b>Shrubs</b>	Snowberry, Pacific willow, Scouler's willow.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	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.
<b>Ferns, Lichens, Mosses</b>	
<b>Other Species</b>	Cattail, dunegrass.
<b>Invasive/Non-native species</b>	Invasive: Scotch broom. Non-native: sedum, brass buttons.
<b>Mushrooms</b>	Amanita.
<b>Geology</b>	Former gravel pit area.

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**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.

**FMI**

[Comox Valley Regional District Parks](#)

[Comox Valley Regional District Beach Accesses](#)

[Flora and Fauna Inventory of McPhee Property 1999 pdf](#)

[Tide Tables](#)

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