

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Royston Greenway



Common & Barrow's Goldeneyes:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Royston waterfront: Krista Kaptein photo



Red-necked Grebe: Terry Thormin photo

[Photo Gallery](#)

On the Royston Greenway, explore scenic and historic ocean-side trails south of Courtenay. The north half of the trail follows the old Comox Logging Railway Grade, which transported logs along the waterfront and out onto a man-made spit where they were dumped and boomed. Remains of old ships known as the "Royston Wrecks" were abandoned here to act as a breakwater to protect the booms from storms. These can be viewed from the end of Hilton Road. The southern section of trail follows alongside Marine Drive. Along the greenway there are good views of Comox and Comox Harbour, Sandy Island and Denman Island. The waterfront is excellent for birding; look for American Widgeon, Mallards, Bufflehead, Harlequins and other ducks in the winter months, and Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles at any time of year. Shrubs along the waterfront such as Nootka rose, ocean spray and thimbleberry provide habitat for a variety of songbirds. The Royston Greenway has 12 acres of flat waterfront trails, and is a great place to get acquainted with Royston's natural beauty and historical significance.

[Site Map](#)

Geographical Description	Shoreline along south side of Comox Bay at Roy Creek, west of Trent River Estuary.
Area/ Trail Length	1.2 km. shoreline, flat. Roadside viewing possible.
Habitat	Cobble beach, mud flats, salt marsh.
Highlights	Roadside viewing of waterbirds; part of longer greenway system.
Best Season	Winter for waterbirds, Summer for low tide.
Main Access	Marine Dr. at north end of Royston Rd.
Secondary Accesses	East end of Marine Dr.
Cautions	Seaweed covered beach may be slippery.
Jurisdiction	Greenway: Comox Valley Regional District (Area A) on lease from MoT. Breakwater Esplanade: CVRD, former logging railway right-of-way. Intertidal zone: Provincial MOE; Fish & fish habitat: Federal DFO.

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Birds Northern Pintail, Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon, Mallard, Wigeon, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, Mew Gull, Kingfisher, Killdeer, Dunlin, Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Northern Flicker, Northwestern Crow, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch.

Mammals

Reptiles

Amphibians

Fish

Intertidal Life Oyster, clam, moon snail.

Insects

Trees Occasional Douglas-fir, bigleaf maple.

Shrubs Common snowberry, rose sp.

Flowering Plants

Ferns, Lichens,

Mosses

Other Species

Invasive/Non-native species Himalayan blackberry, tansy, Scotch broom, daphne laurel.

Seaweeds Rockweed, Turkish towel.

Mushrooms

Geology

Regulations No shellfish harvesting. No parking from 11 p.m. - 5 a.m. Dogs on leash at viewing platform.

Facilities Roadside parking, Viewing platform, Interpretive sign, Benches, Picnic tables, Dog bags at several locations.

Other Features Commemorative stone fireplace. Pedestrian bridge over Roy Creek. Breakwater of old ships.

Other West along shoreline to Breakwater Esplanade.

Connections

FMI

[Comox Valley Regional District Parks](#)

[Comox Valley Regional District Beach Accesses](#)

[K'omoks Important Bird Area](#)

[Invasive Plant Inventory: Royston Greenway Trail Extension](#)

[Fish Species in the Courtenay River Estuary and Baynes Sound 2001 pdf](#)

[Tide Tables](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)