

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Comox Valley Area

### Nymph Falls Nature Park



Cooper's Hawk:  
Bill Heybroek drawing



Nymph Falls: Krista Kaptein photo



American Dipper: Terry Thormin photo

#### [Photo Gallery](#)

At Nymph Falls Park, follow a forested trail along the banks of the Puntledge River to a viewpoint overlooking one of the Comox Valley's finest waterfalls. Featuring 53 hectares of forested lands along the river, this Regional Park has much to offer nature enthusiasts. Watch for American Dippers bobbing in the water on the flat bedrock above the falls, and in autumn look for returning salmon jumping up a series of water ladders. Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and red cedar are the primary species of this second growth forest, as well as some bigleaf maple and red alder. In the summer, unusual plants may be seen along edge of the trail, such as gnome plant and Indian pipe. Bears and cougars cross through the park, but are rarely seen during the daytime. A map near the entrance to the park shows colour-coded trails for mountain bikers, pedestrians and horseback riders. Most of the trails loop back to the main trailhead on Plateau Road.

#### [Site Map](#)

<b>Geographical Description</b>	Second growth forest, along Puntledge River, between Comox Lake and Browns River confluence.
<b>Area/ Trail Length</b>	55 ha. park; 1.8 km along Puntledge River, 2 km upstream from confluence with Browns River; 4 km. downstream from Comox Lake.
<b>Habitat</b>	Riparian 2nd growth forest.
<b>Highlights</b>	Waterfall & rapids; returning salmon in autumn; resident American Dipper; abundant mushrooms in autumn; parasitic (symbiotic) plants.
<b>Best Season</b>	Spring for flowers, autumn for fish, year-round for woods.
<b>Main Access</b>	Forbidden Plateau Rd. 3.1 km south from intersection with Piercy Rd. Across from 4478 Forbidden Plateau Rd.
<b>Secondary Accesses</b>	From Puntledge River Recreation Area (BC Hydro) trails; from trail from Stotan Falls/Duncan Bay Main Rd.
<b>Cautions</b>	Caution at high water; trails can be wet in winter; trails may be unsafe during strong winds.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Comox Valley Regional District Park (Area C)
<b>Birds</b>	Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Glaucous-winged Gull, American Dipper, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper, Pacific Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Belted Kingfisher, Dark-eyed Junco.
<b>Mammals</b>	Possible Black Bear & Cougar.
<b>Reptiles</b>	

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<b>Amphibians</b>	
<b>Fish</b>	Chinook salmon.
<b>Insects</b>	
<b>Other Species</b>	Banana slug.
<b>Trees</b>	Mostly young Douglas-fir, western hemlock, redcedar, some grand fir, with some larger trees near river. Some bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, red alder, few Sitka spruce.
<b>Shrubs</b>	Mostly salal, Oregon grape, red huckleberry, twinflower. Some trailing blackberry, thimbleberry, orange honeysuckle, devil's club.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	Bleeding-heart, vanilla leaf, Lyall's anemone, Prince's pine, gnome plant, Indian pipe, pinesap, candystick, spotted coralroot.
<b>Ferns, Lichens, Mosses</b>	Mostly sword fern, some deer, maidenhair, licorice and bracken fern. Ragbag lichen. Step moss, haircap moss.
<b>Other Species</b>	
<b>Invasive/Non-native species</b>	Wall-lettuce.
<b>Mushrooms</b>	Bristly pholiota, russula sp., puffball, lactaria sp., polypore sp., turkey tail, witch's butter.
<b>Geology</b>	
<b>Regulations</b>	Park closed 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; gate closed after 9:30 pm; no smoking; no camping; no fires; dogs allowed off-leash under control. Multi-use trails; some trails biking only; some trails hiking only.
<b>Facilities</b>	Parking lot; Pit toilets; Picnic tables; benches; maps & trail signage.
<b>Other Features</b>	Fish ladder at main falls.
<b>Other Connections</b>	To Puntledge River Recreation Area (BC Hydro) trails to the west; to Stotan Falls off Duncan Bay Main Rd. to the east.
<b>FMI</b>	<a href="#">Comox Valley Regional District Parks</a> <a href="#">K'omoks Important Bird Area</a> <a href="#">BC Hydro Puntledge River Recreation Area</a> <a href="#">BC Hydro Puntledge River Recreation Area Map</a> <a href="#">Fish Species in the Courtenay River Estuary and Baynes Sound 2001 pdf</a> <a href="#">eBird Hotspot</a>