

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Cumberland Wetlands & Sewage Lagoons



Ring-necked Duck:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Cumberland Sewage Lagoon: Terry Thormin photo



Northern Shoveller: Terry Thormin photo

Photo Gallery

Located near the Village of Cumberland, the Cumberland Wetlands and Sewage Lagoons provide habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife. Situated south of Cumberland Road, 32-hectares of natural wetlands draining from Maple Lake are largely inaccessible to visitors. A trail along the outflow channel of the sewage lagoons is a good spot to look for dabbling ducks like Northern Shoveler, Green-winged teal, Ring-necked Ducks and Common Goldeneye, and for raptors like Northern Shrikes and Cooper's Hawks. A number of gull species may also be seen in and around the ponds. Black cottonwood and red alder are the dominant tree species, but there are patches of second growth forest including some Douglas-fir, shore pine, grand fir and western hemlock. A short trail leads through a four-hectare woodland area. Be warned that the trails can be wet in the winter, and seasonal flooding may occur.

Site Map

Geographical Description

Extensive wetlands south of Cumberland Rd, draining from Maple Lake; Cumberland aeration pond & settling pond, all draining southeast into the Trent River.

Area/ Trail Length

Sewage lagoons: 3.3 ha., approx. 600m trail on east side of outflow channel; approx. 4 ha. wooded area to the west, approx. 300 m trails through woods.

Habitat

Wetlands: 32 ha., mostly inaccessible.

Large natural wetlands, two sewage lagoon ponds, small 2nd growth forest.

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Highlights	Dabbling ducks including Northern Shoveller, Green-winged Teal in lagoons, likely raptors including hawks around perimeter.
Best Season	Year-round for birds.
Main Access	Access road west of 2950 Ulverston Ave.
Secondary Accesses	Path from Royston Rd. 80 m. west of intersection with Union Rd. Pedestrian right-of-way between 3354 & 3350 Coniston Cres., between 3378 & 3380 Coniston Cres.
Cautions	Authorized personnel only around lagoons perimeter; High voltage electrical infrastructure behind fence. Trails can be wet in winter & flood occasionally.
Jurisdiction	Village of Cumberland Department of Public Works.
Birds	Ring-necked Duck, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Mew Gull, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Northwestern Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin. Bird List
Mammals	Black-tailed Deer, Black Bear.
Reptiles	
Amphibians	
Fish	
Insects	
Trees	Mostly black cottonwood & red alder. Some shore pine, redcedar, Douglas-fir, grand fir, willow sp., occasional western hemlock.
Shrubs	Salmonberry, red-osier dogwood, red elderberry, pacific crabapple, Oregon grape, snowberry, hardhack.
Flowering Plants	Western dock, cattail.
Ferns, Lichens, Mosses	Sword fern, bracken fern.
Other Species	
Invasive/Non-native species	Invasive: Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, tansy. Non-native: rowan (European mountain-ash)
Mushrooms	
Geology	
Regulations	Authorized personnel only around lagoons.
Facilities	Small parking area at Ulverston Rd.

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Other Features

Other

Connections

FMI

Former underground sewer right-of-way through woods.

[Village of Cumberland](#)

[Cumberland Wetlands Map pdf](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)

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