

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Comox Valley Area

### Millard Creek Conservation Area & Millard Nature Park



Northern Flicker:  
Bill Heybroek drawing



Millard Conservation Area: Krista Kaptein photo



Red-osier dogwood: Krista Kaptein photo

#### [Photo Gallery](#)

Trails through Millard Nature Park and the Millard Conservation Area follow Millard Creek through the forest to the estuary. Millard Nature Park, a city park, is located just south of Anfield Rd. in Courtenay. A mixed second growth forest has some sizeable Douglas-fir, western hemlock, grand fir and bigleaf maple. Look for Woodpeckers, Pacific Wrens, Brown Creepers and Red-breasted Nuthatches. On the other side of the highway to the east, is the Millard Conservation Area managed by the Nature Trust of BC. A broad path with sections of boardwalk leads through a semi-open forest of red alder, bigleaf maple and assorted conifers. A bridge crossing Millard Creek is a good place to view spawning salmon in the fall. In the spring look for fringe-cup, Pacific bleeding heart, western meadowrue and other woodland flowers. Several interpretive signs explain aspects of the park's natural history, such as the salmon life cycle and forest succession. The conservation area can be accessed from the end of 31st Street or the end of Sandpiper Drive. At both ends there is access to the oceanfront, a good place to scope for ducks, gulls and other seabirds.

#### [Site Map](#)

<b>Geographical Description</b>	Along Millard Creek from Estuary to 1 km. upstream.
<b>Area/ Trail Length</b>	Millard Nature Park: 14 ha. , wide flat path & boardwalk. Millard Conservation Area: 5 ha., rough trail, roots, some hills. Longest trail: 400m.
<b>Habitat</b>	Riparian 2nd growth forest; cobble beach access.
<b>Highlights</b>	Variety of habitats in small area; part of larger greenway system.
<b>Best Season</b>	Year-round for woods; autumn for spawning fish.
<b>Main Access</b>	East end Millard Rd.; east end 31st St.
<b>Secondary Accesses</b>	Opposite 3479 Fraser Rd.; corner Anfield Rd. & Cliffe Ave.; from railway right-of-way.
<b>Cautions</b>	Use caution along railway track. Caution at eroding shoreline access.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Millard Conservation Area: Nature Trust of BC property. Millard Nature Park: City of Courtenay Park.
<b>Birds</b>	Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bushtit along railway greenway. Mallard, Wigeon, Glaucous-winged Gull, Mew Gull in estuary.

#### [Bird List](#)

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<b>Mammals</b>	Black Bear possible.
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<b>Amphibians</b>	
<b>Fish</b>	Spawning pinks, chum, coho salmon.
<b>Insects</b>	
<b>Other species</b>	Banana slug.
<b>Trees</b>	Predominantly Douglas-fir on upland, grand fir & Sitka spruce in lower areas; western hemlock, bigleaf maple, red alder, some redcedar. Large Black Cottonwood at estuary.
<b>Shrubs</b>	Snowberry, hardhack, cascara, Oregon grape, red elderberry, crab apple, red huckleberry, trailing blackberry, rose sp., red-osier dogwood, Pacific willow. Salmonberry in wetter areas.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	False lily-of-the-valley, vanilla leaf, northern starflower, wall-lettuce.
<b>Ferns, Lichens, Mosses</b>	Spiny wood fern, sword fern, licorice fern, bracken fern.
<b>Other Species</b>	Scouring rush.
<b>Invasive/Non-native species</b>	Invasive: Himalayan blackberry, holly, ivy, yellow archangel ( <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> ).
<b>Seaweeds</b>	
<b>Mushrooms</b>	
<b>Geology</b>	Conservation Area on Estuary side is former ancient beach plain.
<b>Regulations</b>	Conservation Area: dogs on leash, share path with bicycles.
<b>Facilities</b>	Conservation Area: interpretive signs, distance signs. Nature Park: viewing platform on southeast side, interpretive signs on east side.
<b>Other Features</b>	Conservation Area: bridge, railway track remnant.
<b>Other Connections</b>	To Courtenay Riverway to north; to Royston Breakwater Esplanade & Greenway to south.
<b>FMI</b>	<a href="#">City of Courtenay Parks</a> <a href="#">City of Courtenay Official Community Plan</a> <a href="#">Comox Valley Regional District Beach Accesses</a> <a href="#">Nature Trust of BC</a> <a href="#">Millard Creek Map</a> <a href="#">Fish Species in the Courtenay River Estuary and Baynes Sound 2001 pdf</a> <a href="#">Tide Tables</a>