

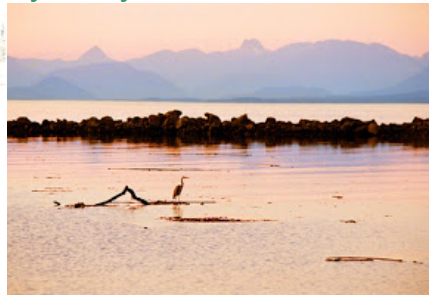
Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Oyster Bay



Red-necked Grebe:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Blue Heron at Oyster Bay: Krista Kaptein photo



Black-bellied Plover: Terry Thormin photo

[Photo Gallery](#)

Situated 3.5 km. north of the Oyster River, Oyster Bay offers outstanding bird watching and nature viewing. A man-made causeway that juts out into the bay was originally built to protect log booms. Over time, land accreted inside the causeway, creating much of today's 1.7 ha. Oyster Bay Shoreline Park. Invertebrate-rich mudflats attract many shorebirds, such as Dunlin and Black-bellied Plovers in winter, and Western and Least Sandpipers during migration. Large numbers of waterfowl shelter in the bay during the winter including American and Eurasian Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Mallards. In the spring, Purple Martins return to the nesting boxes. Keep a lookout for mammals- Mink, River Otters, Harbour Seals and Sea Lions are often seen here. The park has a small section of woodland with a variety of trees and shrubs, and open dune habitat with large-headed sedge, blue-eyed Mary, gumweed and wooly sunflower. The mudflats are unsafe to walk on, but there is a pebbly beach on the east side with good views of Mitlenatch Island and the Coast Mountain Range.

[Site Map](#)

Geographical Description	On Strait of Georgia 3.5 km. north of Oyster River.
Area/ Trail Length	Oyster Bay Shoreline Park: 1.7 ha. Approx. 7 ha. mudflats. Approx. 240 m. breakwater, 400 m. shoreline along Strait.
Habitat	Sandy beach meadow; sand & cobble beach, mudflats.
Highlights	Purple Martin & nest boxes; winter waterbirds.
Best Season	Spring for flowers, late summer for migratory birds, winter for waterbirds.
Main Access	Old Island Highway 1.2 km. north of Salmon Point Rd.
Secondary Accesses	
Cautions	Mudflats are soft & unsuitable for walking.
Jurisdiction	Oyster Bay Shoreline Park: Strathcona Regional District Park (Area D) Intertidal zone: Provincial MOE; Fish & fish habitat: Federal DFO.
Birds	Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Western Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, American Wigeon, Eurasian Wigeon, Ancient Murrelet, Black-bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, American Crow, Northern Flicker. Purple Martin & nest boxes in bay.

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Mammals

Reptiles

Amphibians

Fish

Intertidal Life

Insects

Other Species

Trees Douglas-fir, bigleaf maple.

Shrubs Nootka rose.

Flowering Plants Gumweed, silver burweed, blue-eyed Mary, woolly sunflower, yarrow, beach pea. Dune grass.

Ferns, Lichens,

Mosses

Other Species

Invasive/Non- Invasive: Himalayan blackberry.

native species Non-native: Lombardy poplar.

Seaweeds Rockweed, bull kelp, Turkish towel, seersucker kelp, sponges.

Mushrooms

Geology

Regulations Dogs on leash, no motorized vehicles, no smoking, no camping, no fires, no horses, no hunting. Park closed 11 p.m.- 5 a.m. Stay off sensitive plant areas.

Facilities Parking lot; Pit toilets; Interpretive signs; picnic tables; benches.

Other Features Artefacts from railway logging ; breakwater of old ships visible at low tide.

Other

Connections

FMI

[Strathcona Regional District Parks](#)

[Island Nature: Oyster Bay](#)

[Tide Tables](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)