

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Parksville/Qualicum Area

### Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest, Qualicum Beach



Heritage Forest: photo by Krista Kaptein



Western Starflower: photo by Krista Kaptein

The Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest is significant in protecting a mature Douglas-fir forest ecosystem, last logged 150 years ago, in the heart of the Town of Qualicum Beach. Very little of the coastal Douglas-fir zone forest is protected and old forests are extremely rare.

#### [Photo Gallery](#)

**Geographical Description** Along Beach Creek in downtown Qualicum Beach.

**Ecosection** [Nanaimo Lowlands](#)

**Area/ Trail Length** 20 ha. About 2 km total wide flat trails.

**Seasons to Visit** Year round. Spring for flowers & songbirds.

**Habitat** Mature Douglas-fir forest, riparian.

**Viewing Highlights** 150 yr. old mature Douglas-fir forest ecosystem, last logged in 1870's. Very little of the coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem is protected, which makes this forest significant. Large Douglas-fir (oldest tree is 700 years old), large western redcedar. Some Sitka spruce, some grand fir.

Spring flowers, parasitic plants. Evergreen huckleberry.

Variety of forest birds including warblers & flycatchers in spring. Possible owl.

**Other Features**

**Main Access** Adjacent to Crown Mansion at 292 Crescent Rd East.  
[Map](#)

**Secondary Accesses** West end of Dogwood Rd, east end of Hoylake Rd.

**Cautions**

**Jurisdiction** Conservation covenant between the Town of Qualicum Beach, the Brown Property Preservation Society and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

**Regulations** Stay on trails, dogs on leash. No motorized vehicles, no horses, No camping, no fires, no smoking.

**Facilities** Roadside parking, interpretive signs, benches.

**Other** None.

**Recreational Activities**

**Other** The Qualicum Beach waterfront is about 700 m north.

**Connections**

**History** [Heritage Forest history](#)  
In 1995 the Brown Family Trust expressed interest in selling the Brown Mansion (now Crown Mansion) along with the immediate 5 acres and the surrounding 50 acres of forested lands. The Brown Property Preservation Society was formed to raise funds through public donations for the purchase of the Lands with the intent to protect the Lands from development. A conservaton covenant was signed on July 15th, 2008.

**FMI**

**Links** [Brown Property Preservation Society](#)  
[Arrowsmith Naturalists](#)