

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Nanaimo Area

Buttertubs Marsh , Nanaimo



Buttertubs Marsh: photo by Krista Kaptein



Marsh Wren: photo by Krista Kaptein

The Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area and recently protected West Marsh represent approximately 53 hectares of productive bird & wildlife habitat with significant ecological value in an otherwise fragmented urban landscape.

[Nature Nanaimo](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

Geographical Description	Adjacent to the Millstone River within Nanaimo city limits.
Area/ Trail Length	Conservation Area: 21.5 ha. 2.4 km loop trail. West Marsh: 25.5 ha.
Seasons to Visit	Year-round.
Habitat	Marsh, reclaimed wetland & floodplain. West marsh: riparian areas, upland forest, former agricultural fields.

Viewing Highlights	Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Canada Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Widgeon, Wood Duck. Violet-green Swallows and Red-winged Blackbirds in spring. Marsh Wrens, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat. Virginia Rails and American Bitterns (Vancouver Island's only documented breeding site of American Bitterns) Other red & blue-listed bird species including Purple Martin, Turkey Vulture, Short-eared Owl. Painted turtle, red-legged frog. Beaver.
Other Features	Water control structures, nest boxes.
Main Access	Conservation Area: 1780 Jinglepot Road.
Secondary Accesses	South end of Buttertubs Drive to the north, and several accesses from Bird Sanctuary Drive to the east.
Cautions	
Jurisdiction	Conservation Area: Nature Trust of BC, managed by Ducks Unlimited and City of Nanaimo. West Marsh: managed by Ducks Unlimited Canada & City of Nanaimo.
Regulations	Dogs not permitted. No bikes, no motorized vehicles.
Facilities	Parking area, interpretive signs, viewing platforms & tower.
Other Recreational Activities	
Other Connections	
History	The Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area was purchased by The Nature Trust of British Columbia in 1976. The West Marsh was purchased by Ducks Unlimited Canada & the City of Nanaimo in 2012.
FMI Links	City of Nanaimo: Buttertubs Marsh Park Nature Trust of BC Wildlife Viewing on Vancouver Island