

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Comox Valley Area

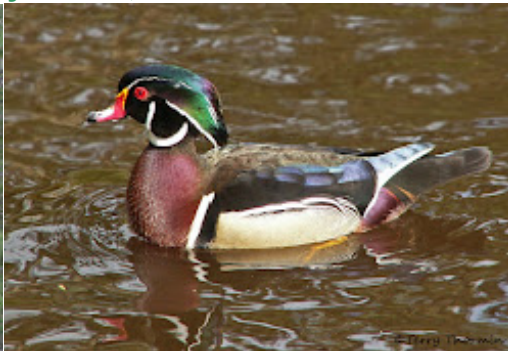
### Cumberland Marsh and Community Forest, Cumberland



Cassin's Vireo:  
Bill Heybroek drawing



Cumberland Marsh: Krista Kaptein photo



Wood Duck: Terry Thormin photo

## [Spherical Panorama](#)

## [Photo Gallery](#)

Large freshwater marshes and forested areas provide Cumberland Marsh with a rich and diverse habitat for plant and bird life. Once the site of Cumberland's historic Chinatown, the area is now comprised of the 40-hectare Coal Creek Historic Park and the 60-hectare Community Forest. A walk along the marsh trail reveals the presence of beaver activity, the seasonal appearance of dragonflies and butterflies, as well as the possibility of seeing a Black Bear. Nesting Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Wood Ducks and Canada Geese are in the area at various times of the year. Wetland areas feature a profusion of cattails and water lilies, while wild ginger, black twinberry, red osier dogwood and other shrubs and plants can be found among the Douglas-fir, redcedar and yew trees of the Cumberland Forest.

[Comox Valley Naturalists Society](#)

## [Site Map](#)

### Geographical Description

Marsh and woods east of Comox Lake. Cumberland Marsh drains into Perseverance (Coal) Creek, then westward to Comox Lake; wetlands by Community Forest drain east into the Trent River system. Interconnective drainage between the wetlands.

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### Cumberland Marsh and Community Forest, Cumberland

<b>Area/ Trail Length</b>	40 ha. Coal Creek Historic Park; .8 km (one-way) trail from Jumbo's Cabin to Japanese #1 Town site; 60 ha Cumberland Community Forest; 1.2 km (one-way) trail from Jumbo's Cabin to Sutton Rd. Marsh: flat trails, coal slack hills at west end. Forest: some hills, bridges.
<b>Habitat</b>	Freshwater marsh, 2nd growth forest, meadow at Chinatown site, revegetating coal slack hills.
<b>Highlights</b>	Extensive freshwater marshes; Beaver activity; nesting sapsuckers, Wood Ducks, Canada Geese in spring; yew trees; wild ginger in spring; ethnobotanical plants.
<b>Best Season</b>	Spring for forest flowers & nesting birds, autumn for bears.
<b>Main Access</b>	Parking below Jumbo's Cabin at 2425 Comox Lake Road, Cumberland. (across from west end of Dunsmuir Ave)
<b>Secondary Accesses</b>	South end of Sutton Rd at Comox Lake Rd (parking 2 blocks north at CRI 2665 Dunsmuir); .77 km west from Jumbo's Cabin along Comox Lake Rd.
<b>Cautions</b>	Marsh trail may be wet; Bridges in forest may be slippery when wet; Off-road vehicles occasionally on coal hills.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Village of Cumberland.
<b>Mammals</b>	Beaver, Black-tailed Deer, Black Bear.
<b>Birds</b>	Wood Duck , Mallard , Common Loon , Bald Eagle , Virginia Rail, Rufous Hummingbird , Red-breasted Sapsucker , Downy Woodpecker , Olive-sided Flycatcher , Hammond's Flycatcher , Cassin's Vireo , Warbling Vireo , Steller's Jay , Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow , Pacific Wren , Marsh Wren , Golden-crowned Kinglet , Hermit Thrush , American Robin , Varied Thrush, European Starling , Orange-crowned Warbler , Yellow-rumped Warbler , Townsend's Warbler , Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee , Song Sparrow , Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) , Western Tanager , Black-headed Grosbeak , Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird , Purple Finch , Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Belted Kingfisher.
	<a href="#">Bird List</a>
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<b>Amphibians</b>	Pacific tree frog.
<b>Fish</b>	Coho salmon, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, sculpin in Perseverance Creek.
<b>Insects</b>	<a href="#">Butterfly List for Cumberland Marsh</a>

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<b>Trees</b>	Pacific ninebark, red-osier dogwood, cascara; bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, red alder, Pacific crab apple, willow sp. Forest: western hemlock, Douglas-fir, western redcedar, western yew, red alder, bitter cherry, Douglas maple.
<b>Shrubs</b>	Black twinberry, hardhack. Forest: Oregon grape, red huckleberry, salal, salmonberry, kinnikinnick, Saskatoon, red elderberry.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	Cattail, water lily, skunk cabbage, sundew in marsh. Forest: Bleeding heart, trillium, palmate coltsfoot, cleavers, wood violet, mint, vanilla leaf.
<b>Ferns, Lichens, Mosses</b>	Bracken fern, sword fern, deer fern, licorice fern. Step moss, lungwort, beard lichens, pelt lichens, Ramalina sp.
<b>Other Species</b>	<a href="#">Lichen List for Cumberland Forest</a> Witches broom (parasitic on Douglas-fir) <a href="#">Plant List</a>
<b>Invasive/ Non- native species</b>	Invasive: Scotch broom, Himalayan raspberry, knotweed sp., periwinkle. Non-native: forget-me-not, plum & apple trees from mining settlements. Ethnobotanical non-natives: horseradish, goutweed, Fuki (Petasites japonicus) Bullfrog; painted turtle, red slider turtle. Black slug.
<b>Mushrooms</b>	False morel (brain mushroom)
<b>Geology</b>	Low marsh areas are glacial sluices, higher ground e.g. Comox Lake Rd is an esker. Bituminous coal deposits.
<b>Regulations</b>	Mountain bikes use trails. No ATVs on trails.
<b>Facilities</b>	Parking areas; Picnic shelter; picnic tables; Occasional benches; interpretive signs; historic signs.
<b>Other Features</b>	Historic artefacts from townsites & mining activities; Informal disc golf course at Chinatown site (former shooting range of Fish & Game club); 31 commemorative Japanese cherry trees planted at #1 Japanese townsite.
<b>Other Connections</b>	Forest trails connect with Cumberland mountain bike trails; Approx. 1.6 km west from Japanese townsite to Comox Lake.
<b>FMI</b>	<a href="#">Cumberland Community Forest Society</a> <a href="#">Cumberland Museum</a>

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### **Cumberland Marsh and Community Forest, Cumberland**

[Cumberland Mountain Bike & Trail Map](#)

[Perseverance Creek Mapping and Inventory Project pdf](#)

[Perseverance Creek Wetlands Map pdf](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)

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