

## Mount Geoffrey Nature Park

Mount Geoffrey Regional Nature Park on Hornby Island was established to preserve the natural environment and diverse landscape found in the centre of Hornby Island. The 333-hectare (823 acre) park is adjacent to a large area of Crown land and Mt. Geoffrey Escarpment Provincial Park. This area has been logged several times in the past, but now supports a healthy second growth ecosystem and several stands of old growth Douglas fir. An extensive trail system exists with many connections to trails entering the provincial park and the Crown land.

The Comox Valley Regional District and the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association invite you to explore and enjoy Mount Geoffrey. Experience the unique trails of Hornby Island's largest and most varied protected area.

For more information, or to report any concerns, please contact:



### Community Services Branch

600 Comox Road

Courtenay, B.C.

V9N 3P6

Tel: 250.334.6000 • 1.800.331.6007

[communityservices@comoxvalleycrd.ca](mailto:communityservices@comoxvalleycrd.ca)

## Rules & Safety Precautions

### Park Rules: Bylaw 2027

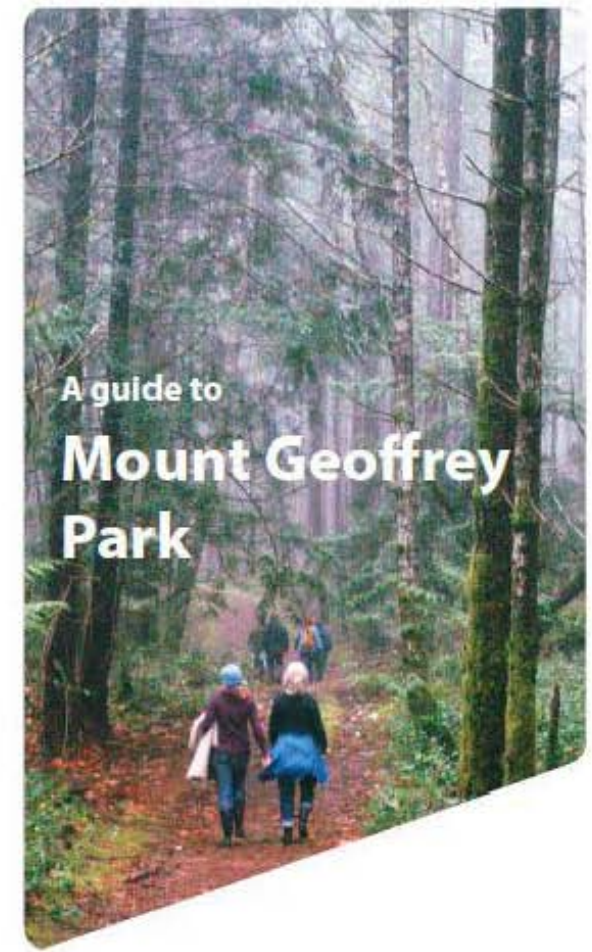
- Fires, smoking, camping, hunting and motorized vehicles are prohibited
- Leave no trace (both you and your pets)
- Dogs must be kept under control to prevent harassment of wildlife and other visitors
- Do not damage or remove natural materials
- Take nothing but photographs and memories



### Park Safety

- The park may not be safe during times of high winds due to tree blow down, during rains when the trails are slippery or where there is loose surfacing – please use caution and wear appropriate footwear.
- There are many areas where the trail traverses the edge of cliffs – for your own safety please stay back from the edge.
- Please respect the trail; use designations shown on the trail map and practice proper trail etiquette.

*Thank you for your cooperation!*





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## Features

The park is home to many unique creatures, plant communities and viewscapes. Rising in a series of benches there is a vertical difference of 250 metres within the park. These benches offer spectacular views. The western escarpment provides panoramic views of Denman Island, Tree Island, the Comox Peninsula, Mt. Arrowsmith, Fanny Bay, and the Beaufort Range.

The park consists of a variety of ecosystems including the very dry Arbutus escarpment face, wetland complexes and a rainforest-like Sitka spruce forest found at the base of the escarpment along the Rainforest Loop. Much of the park is second growth, but huge specimens of first growth Douglas fir grow throughout the park.

The wetlands and seasonal streams are the major groundwater recharge and storage areas for the island. These lands are therefore a valuable environmental resource for Hornby, and it is



essential the land be treated with care. The park is habitat for blacktail deer, small mammals and a variety of birds, reptiles and amphibians. Bald eagles and turkey vultures are frequently seen soaring along the escarpment. At least two nesting pairs of Peregrine falcons inhabit the steep bluffs.

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## Trails

The park contains a vast network of trails. Some have a long history of cross-island use while in most cases cyclists built the newer trails. It is important for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians to respect the trail designations. These were established to protect the park and prevent user conflicts. Please allow others to pass by stepping aside.

The enclosed map shows the connectivity



of the trail system and the designated use of the trails. Most trail intersections have signs.

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## Pedestrians

There are several trail routes to the scenic bluffs and to the top of Mt. Geoffrey (please see map on reverse). Of special interest are:

“Cliff Trail” is a hike-only trail that runs along the escarpment brow with scenic lookouts to the west. Hikers, especially those with children, are advised that appropriate caution is required along the exposed cliff edge.

“Rainforest Loop Trail” offers a tranquil walk under the escarpment through the older trees in the park. The trail begins at, and loops back to the Lea Smith Road park entrance. This trail is for walkers only.

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## Cyclists

The park and adjacent lands contain a first-rate single-track trail system in addition to old logging roads. The regional district and the community appreciates your help in minimizing wear and tear on the trails. Please avoid digging up the trail base while climbing and use no-skid braking techniques. Please alert any pedestrians or equestrians of your approach. Cold Deck and Northwind trails are multi-use trails and the main routes to the top of Mt. Geoffrey. Expect others on these trails and, to avoid an unpleasant mishap, please obey a 20-km/hr speed limit.



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## Equestrians

Horses are permitted on the multi-use trails only. These are the only trails capable of handling the impact of horses. Unfortunately, the majority of the smaller single-track trails are soft and could be damaged by horses.

There are six trails open to equestrian traffic that provide some excellent rides. Heli-sites One and Two provide an ideal meadow to tether horses so riders may explore the Cliff Trail on foot and experience the scenic views. Ride up Northwind or Cold Deck, leave the horses in Heli-site One and walk to the cliff edge.