

# **TRAILS, PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS**

## **Ladysmith Trail System**

The Town of Ladysmith's Trail system has been developed over the years following a comprehensive trail management plan. The development was through the collaboration of volunteers, government grants and staff.

Ladysmith is committed to preserving the area's natural beauty; retaining a wildlife habitat and biodiversity, while promoting recreational opportunities.

## **Holland Creek Trail**

This trail winds 5.8 kilometers along both sides of Holland Creek offering an attractive walking route through the centre of the municipality of Ladysmith. Meandering from the Island Highway west to the Hydro lines above the Town, the trail appeals to outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Two major access points for the Holland Creek Trail provide ample parking. One is located at the Holland Creek Park, the other at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Methuen Street. The trail can also be accessed at Davis Road park and Mackie Road Park.

## **Heart Lake Loop**

The Heart Lake Loop is a challenging 6.4-kilometer hike that will take approximately two hours to complete. The start of the trail is very steep, but there are rest stations along the way. Spectacular views of the town, the harbour, the Gulf Islands and on a clear day, Mount Baker, will make the climb worth the effort. The trail follows the lake then meanders to Holland Creek. You can access the trail from Davis Road Park or Holland Creek Trail.

## **Stocking Lake**

This lake loop is a 9.3-kilometer trail that begins at Davis Road and takes approximately two hours and forty minutes to hike. This beautiful winding walk through Ladysmith's natural forest offers scenic views of the Gulf Islands, Stocking Lake and many streams.

The trail intersects with the Heart lake Loop where you will be led to a beautiful rest spot at the water's edge at Heart Lake. Due to the distance of this walk, please remember to wear proper clothing and to bring water. You can access this trail from Davis Road Park, the Heart Lake Loop or the Holland Creek Trail.

## **The Rotary Lookout Trail**

The Rotary Lookout Trail is a short 1.2-kilometer walk accessed near the log bridge at the top of the Holland Creek Trail. Check out the 200-foot stone retaining wall at the start of the trail. In 2002, a time capsule was buried in this wall. At the top of the trail enjoy the breathtaking view and a picnic lunch at one of the hand-crafted picnic tables.

## **The Marine Walk**

The Marine Walk is a 1-kilometer trail that starts at Transfer Beach and ambles through the trees to the waterfront. The trail then passes the Maritime Society wharves and follows an old abandoned railway path ending at the Government Wharf.

## **The Estuary Trail**

This short 10-minute walk is along the edge of the Ladysmith Harbour offering views of marine waterfowl and mammals. In the fall, salmon can be seen entering Holland Creek. When the tide is low you can enjoy a shoreline walk to beautiful Transfer Beach Park and, if you like, connect to the Marine Walk. The Estuary Trail can be accessed from a small parking lot located at Kin Road.

## **Points of Interest**

### **Colliery Dams**

These weirs were constructed in the creek bed in the early 1900s to collect water to wash coal at Transfer Beach. A wooden flume was built along the trail's edge diverting water to a reservoir where the Bel Aire Villa now stands. This reservoir supplied water to the coal washing bunkers, which were located at Transfer Beach.

### **Crystal Falls**

Known as "the Falls" to many locals, this scenic waterfall can be viewed best from the south bank of the Holland Creek Trail.

### **Logging Railroad Grades**

From 1921 to 1927 the Eastern Logging Company logged this area by rail. The main mill was located where the Coronation Mall now stands, and railway tracks ran 4-kilometers west along Holland Creek. Old grades can still be seen today.

### **Seaside Culvert**

This culvert was constructed in 1908 from beautiful sandstone taken from the Koksilah Quarry Company. In 1994 the construction crew of a highway-widening project unearthed the culvert which now marks the lowest point on the Holland Creek Trail.

### **Dog-Off leash Areas**

- Heart Lake Loop
- Stocking Lake Loop
- Rotary Lookout Trail
- Upper field at Transfer Beach

### **Mountain Bikes**

- Heart Lake Loop
- Stocking Lake Loop
- Rotary Lookout Trail

### **Parks**

- Arboretum
  - .88 Acres
  - Located on the Trans Canada Highway
  - Entrance to Transfer Beach Park
- Kinsmen Park
  - 3.66 Acres
  - Located across from Brown Drive and Malone
  - Large open field with a small brook
  - Large Kinsmen adventure playground
  - Park leads to trails behind Ladysmith
- Gourlay-Janes Park
  - 3.5 Acres

- Located on Chemainus Highway
  - Water front park
  - Rest area with sea wall
- Davis Road Park
  - Natural linear park
  - Walking trail

- Lions Park
  - 1.24 Acres
  - Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
  - Playground area for children
  - Great view of water
  - Large asphalt play area
  
- Queen's Park
  - .17 Acres
  - Located on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue
  - Resting area
  - Great views
  
- Root Street Park
  - .24 Acres
  - Tot Playground
  - Asphalt basketball court and hockey nets
  - Completely fenced
  - Picnic tables
  
- Bob Stuart Park
  - .49 Acres
  - Located on the Trans Canada Highway
  - Large horticultural beds
  - Great resting spot
  
- Transfer Beach Park
  - 28.33 Acres
  - Located off Trans Canada Highway
  - Water front park & beach
  - Picnic tables and concession stand
  - One large shelters and brick barbecue
  - Amphitheatre overlooking harbour
  - Large adventure playground
  - Spray Park
  - Sand Volley Ball Court
  - Large horseshoe pitch with 20 pits
  - Large public washroom area
  - Wheel chair accessible
  
- Skate Park
  - Located beside the Ladysmith Community Centre

## **Playing Fields**

- Holland Creek Ball Park
  - 10 Acres
  - Located on Dogwood Drive
  - Little League and Babe Ruth baseball fields
  - Washrooms
  
- Aggie Ball Fields

- 2 fast ball diamonds
- Fully irrigated fields
- Bleachers
- South field lighting for night games
- Children's playground
  
- High Street Little League Field
  - 3.51 Acres
  - Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
  - Little league ball diamonds
  - Concession stand and washrooms
  - Bleachers

### **Tennis Courts**

- High Street Tennis Courts
- Ladysmith High School Tennis Courts