

Cuthbert Holmes Park

Habitat & Trail Map



GREAT BLUE HERON
Found in the coniferous forest and estuary where you may see them standing motionless on the mud flats, hunting for food



BELTED KINGFISHER
Likes prominent perches overlooking the estuary from where it dives head first into the water after small fish



These open areas offer prime habitat (sunlight, food and cover) for birds, mammals and reptiles. Introduced species of broom, hawthorn and blackberry compete for space with the native plants. Natural succession will eventually create a mixed woodland forest in these meadows.



CONIFEROUS FOREST This zone is dominated by long lived native conifers, especially the Douglas and Grand firs. Beneath the tree canopy, hugging the forest floor are a variety of shade-loving shrubs such as sword fern, Oregon grape and western trillium.



ESTUARY The species that survive in these brackish waters are found in large numbers. Beneath the mud are literally billions of tiny organisms from bacteria to worms - recycling the organic material deposited by the creek and the tidal waters of Portage Inlet.



MIXED WOODLAND A diverse mixture of native conifers and deciduous trees mixed with fruit trees such as plum apple and crabapple - remnants from old farms along the Colquitz. In times through natural succession this mixed woodland habitat will evolve into a more uniform coniferous forest.



This park is named in honour of Major H. Cuthbert Holmes (1890-1968) who was a leading advocate of planning for future public amenities throughout the Capital District. He was especially interested in preserving and protecting "greenbelt lands" along the Colquitz River. Today, the park area is approximately 27.4 hectares (64 acres) and contains a large variety of animal and plant life.

HABITAT ZONES IN THE PARK

Estuary Habitat occurs where the salt water of Portage Inlet meets the fresh water of Colquitz Creek. It provides valuable food and habitat for migrating geese, ducks and shorebirds as well as the resident populations of great blue herons and belted kingfishers. Small mammals such as raccoons and river otters feed on the plants, shellfish and fish that thrive in the estuary.

Hedgerow/Abandoned Field Habitats are the remnants of farming activity which has ceased. Since mowing and grazing of cleared land has stopped various shrubs and trees such as broom, rose, blackberry, hawthorn and alder have invaded the open clearings or meadows. Hawthorn hedgerows mark old fence lines and boundaries.

Mixed Woodland Habitat is a forest dominated by a mixture of native and introduced deciduous and coniferous trees in various stages of succession. Sun loving Garry oaks are being surrounded by the expanding fringe of the conifers. Short lived "pioneer" tree species such as alder and aspen quickly invade the wooded edges and shrubs such as roses, ocean spray, red osier dogwoods and blackberries grow in dense thickets, providing protective bird habitat.

Coniferous Forest Habitat is a pocket of wilderness in the city - cool, dark, and damp with a hint of mystery. It is an intricate association of plant and animal communities that represents the "climax" of plant community succession in this part of BC. There are trees in all stages of growth and decay.

MAP LEGEND

	Park Boundary		Picnic Site
	Chip Trail		Viewpoint
	3 metre Asphalt Trail		Parking
	Road		Handicapped Access
	Interpretive Sign		Bridge

