

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!



PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

To help you plan a safe and fun field trip to a Saanich Park, please review this checklist before you head out:

Pick a Park

Use the Saanich website at [Find a Saanich Park](#) to locate a Park close to your school or to find the one that best suits your field trip needs. You can also use the [Saanich Park Map](#) to discover trails and other parks within Saanich. Some parks feature more natural areas while some feature sports fields and facilities that may require a booking permit. Information and a fillable online booking form called a Park Permit Application may be found at [Book a Park](#). If you are unsure, please contact our Parks office at **250-475-5522** or Email: parks@saanich.ca.

Understand your responsibilities

Please review these with your class before your visit. We want our parks to be safe and healthy for everyone and for the future. This means we all have a responsibility to:

- Stay on designated paths and trails, and keep out of water except on established beaches or purpose-built splash pads,
- Keep a safe distance from wildlife and never feed or disturb animals in the park,
- Not collect or harvest natural items from parks, including rocks, sticks, flowers or seeds as all have a role to play in the park's ecosystem,
- Never leave any unnatural items behind; if you pack it in, please pack it out,
- Consider your impact, encouraging students to explore without harm to trees, other plants, and wildlife. Kindness counts!
- Find more Park Use Guidelines here: [Park Use Guidelines](#)

Do a pre-field trip visit

Visiting the park before your trip will help with familiarizing yourself with the area, accessibility, special features, and signage. If you are looking for specific amenities, check out the information found here: [Saanich Park Amenities](#). A pre-visit is also a great opportunity to plan out your activities and see how the natural area can support your learning goals. Consider how other members of the public might be using the space and how to minimize any potential space overlap.

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Plan for safety

During your pre-trip visit, be sure to assess any potential hazards and at the start of your visit, do a quick visual scan to see if anything has changed. Be sure to inform your school team about your plans and review any insurance issues that may be involved. Have a safety plan in place with any accompanying adults and review any health concerns related to students as needed.

Review expectations

Take a few moments at the beginning of your trip to review expectations for behaviour, responsibilities, and potential risks in visiting a park with your students. This is a good opportunity to involve your students in practicing critical thinking and risk assessment in new surroundings. Remind your students that they are sharing park space with its wild residents and to respect that they are in their homes, much like good house guests.

Access free resources

There are many great resources to support your visit. Check out resources found on the Saanich website here: [Giving back by learning about nature.](#)

There are also lots of great activities and resources available to engage children and youth in caring for and learning about nature online. Check out the links below for activities, lessons, and resources aimed at increasing knowledge and fostering conversations about how our actions influence the environment. Many can be adapted to any age.

For Kids

bcinvasives.ca/for-youth/games-activities

For Parents

sierraclub.bc.ca/parents

For Educators

bcinvasives.ca/for-youth/for-educators

www.crd.bc.ca/education/school-programs/education-resources

sierraclub.bc.ca/education/teachers

www.hctfeducation.ca/resources

Nature-based programming is offered by many different partner organizations within Greater Victoria including [Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary](#) which is in the heart of Saanich and partially funded by the District of Saanich. Other partners are listed below.

Compost Education Center

compost.bc.ca

GOERT (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team)

goert.ca

HAT (Habitat Acquisition Trust)

hat.bc.ca

HCP (Horticulture Center of the Pacific)

hcp.ca

Master Gardeners - Victoria chapter

mgabc.org/node/7

Victoria Natural History Society

vicnhs.bc.ca

Sierra Club BC

sierraclub.bc.ca

HCTF (Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation)

hctf.ca and hctf.ca/education