

Walk #10



Ridgeway Trail

GaLTT's Great Winter Walkabout



What to expect

Approx time: 75 mins

Approx distance: 4.4 km

Difficulty: easy

Begin: end of Fawn Place (off Hess via Wilson and McCollum)

Walk the Ridgeway Trail through the naturally regenerating forest of the 707 Community Park, Gabriola's largest, in the new parkland acquired in the fall of 2020.

You have until February 28 to hand in your trail journal to North Road Sports for a chance to win a prize. Due to extremely wet weather, trail markings will remain in place until the end of February.

Directions

Begin at post 57 (Fire Access #8) at the end of Fawn Place and enter the 707 Community Park. Turn left on North Road Trail at post 56, walk along the salal-lined path, and turn left onto Coats Drive Trail at post 58. Continue straight down to post 84 and turn right onto Fisher Road Trail.

The 707 was formed in 2005 when the Islands Trust and the Regional District of Nanaimo negotiated a density-transfer agreement that gave approximately 707 acres (hence the name) of previously logged forest land in the centre of the island to the community. Logged since the 1950s and especially in the 1990s and early 2000s, the 707 forest is being left to regenerate naturally. Notice many different tree species in the meadows.

Turn left at post 74 and again at 73 onto Stanley Place Trail. Pass post 75, ford a stream and rather

than continuing down to Coats Marsh, bear left at post 76 and into the parkland acquired in the fall of 2020 (GaLTT donated \$58,000 towards its purchase).

“Situated within the Coats Marsh watershed, the new parkland property is an integral part of the Coats Marsh hydrological system. The parkland addition will provide increased ecological protection to Coats Marsh, a rare, ecologically sensitive Gulf Island freshwater wetland.” (Gabriola Souder, October 13, 2020).

The trail climbs slightly upward through forests of salal. At the unmarked trail junction turn left (to the right, a new trail license brings you out to Coats Drive, close to Ravenskill Cidery which could make a nice warm weather detour) and left again at post 82 onto Coats Drive Trail. You will notice yellow triangles, remnants of an original wayfaring system, as you continue straight to post 88. Turn right and take the connector trail out to McCollum road, where a left turn on Fawn Place will take you back to your start.



Gabriola

RECREATION SOCIETY

THANKS TO THE GRS
FOR PROJECT
FUNDING!

Please be respectful of other users, obey all posted rules and keep your dog under control. REMEMBER that even the easiest Gabriola trails may have mud and rough or rooty sections that make sections awkward or slippery.