



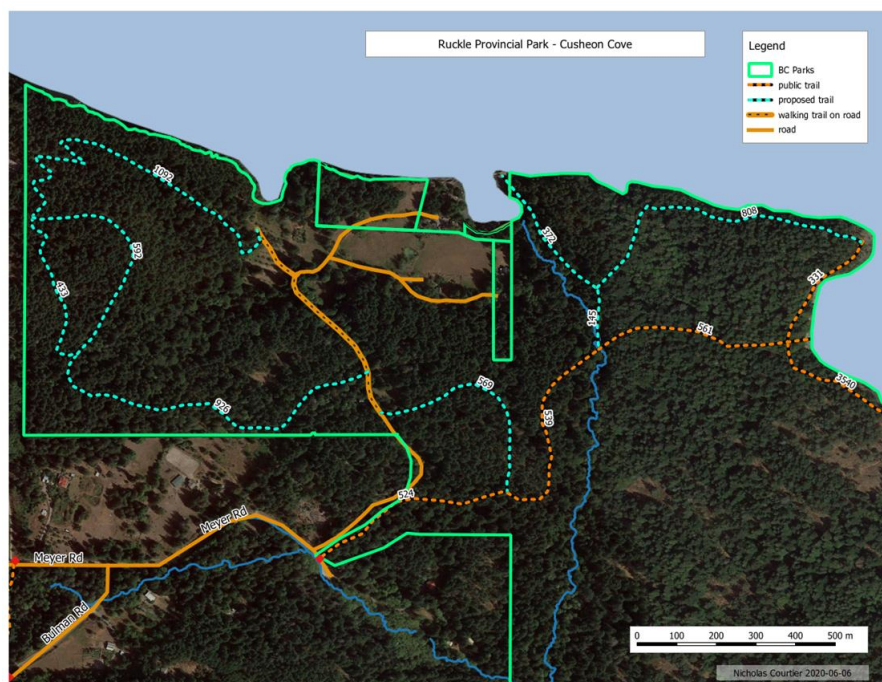
November 2020

Welcome to our third editorless newsletter. Thank you everyone who participated in our activities and our many work parties while following the COVID protocols. It has been a challenging and strange year.

I am sad to tell you that Kathleen Maser's has resigned as our BC Nature rep. Kathleen did a great job for the club and will be very hard to replace.

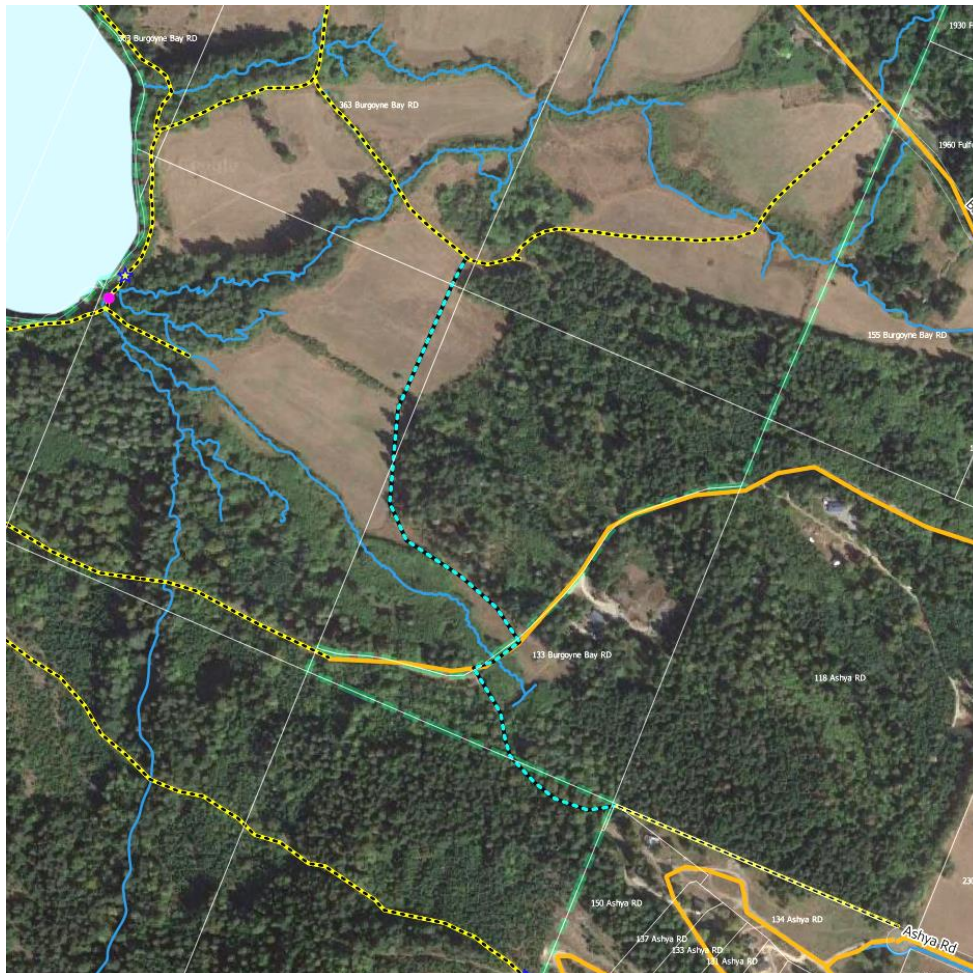
Trail Report

Here are a few of the things club members have been doing behind the scenes. We've been quite busy with trail creation and maintenance and our ongoing work with BC Parks:



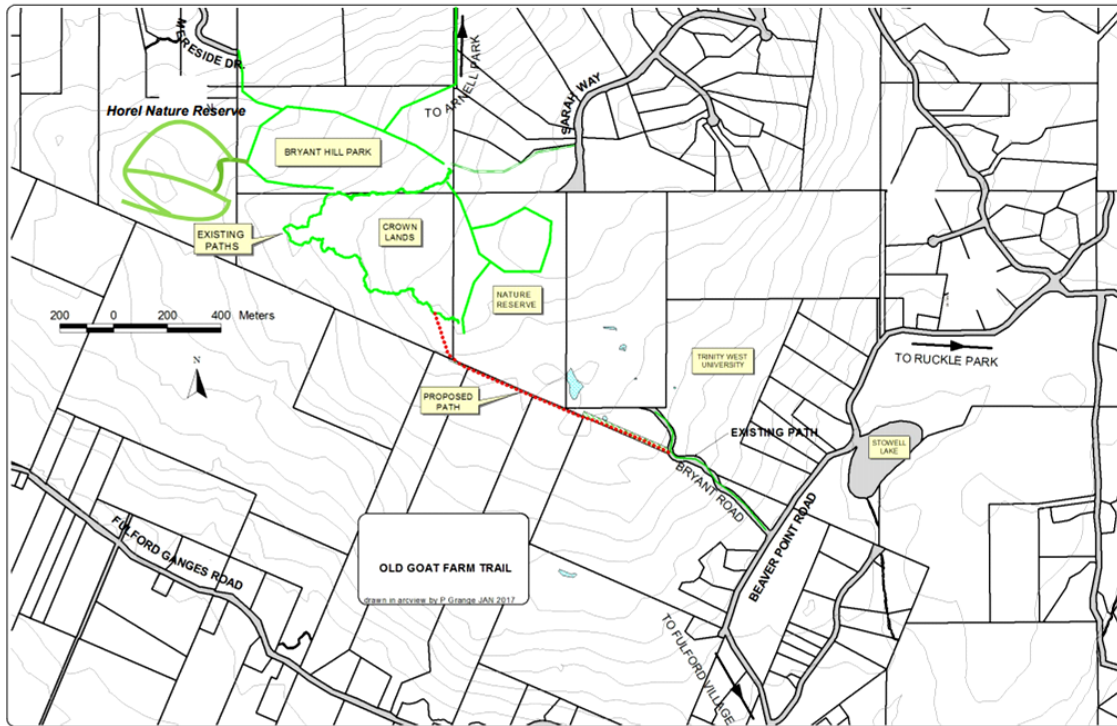
- **Cusheon Cove/Ruckle Park.** We mapped the trails in Cusheon Cove some time ago but needed to walk them with BC Parks personnel before adding them to the new signage planned for Ruckle Park. This walk happened on Friday, Sept. 6, when Kees and I showed BC Parks personnel the trails. Almost all of these trails, shown in turquoise on this map, are on existing roadway.

- **Burgoyne Bay.** With the recent trail closures in Burgoyne Bay at the request of neighbouring landowners, some trails are now dead-ends, and cyclists and equestrians have lost many of the trails they had been using. We've mapped and suggested some new trails to replace the old ones, but this is not a high priority on BC Parks' agenda, so not much will happen for some time. Our suggestions revolve around using the access from Ashya Road (off Furness Road) and then going through CRD property with the CRD's permission. The dotted green line on this map is the new trail access we suggested.



- **Mt. Erskine Provincial Park.** Club members have installed a boardwalk along the beginning of the trail in the park from the access off Trustees Trail. This section is usually very wet in the winter and people tend to create a side trail, which we'd like to avoid. This boardwalk were paid for by BC Parks through its facilitator, K2.
- **Old Goat Trail.** We have been working on a trail that starts on a public road right of way from Beaver Point Road and would continue to the Crown land near Bryant Hill Park with the permission of private landowners. We hope to sign contracts with landowners to establish this trail connection. The contracts provide property owners with liability insurance through our arrangement with the Gulf Islands Trails Society (GITS).

The beginning of the trail is shown in green on the following map. The red line shows the trail we'd like to establish to reach the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve and the Crown land with their networks of trails.



- **Jack Foster Trail.** As PARC will not agree to maintain this trail, we are doing that on our own. However, we have been concerned with liability issues, which would not be a factor if we had a contract with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), as a private landowner. We have confirmed with the insurance company that MOTI could be considered a private landowner, and MOTI personnel are currently checking to see if they would agree to do this. If we are successful, we would be covered by liability insurance for anyone hurting themselves on the trail.



Refurbished stairway on Jack Foster Trail

- ***KDOL trail.*** This trail in the Buddhist Retreat Centre is now complete and fully signed. On October 19, we did some additional trail clearing and created a new piece of trail to complete a loop of the trail on the north side of the driveway into the property.



KDOL's fabulous view

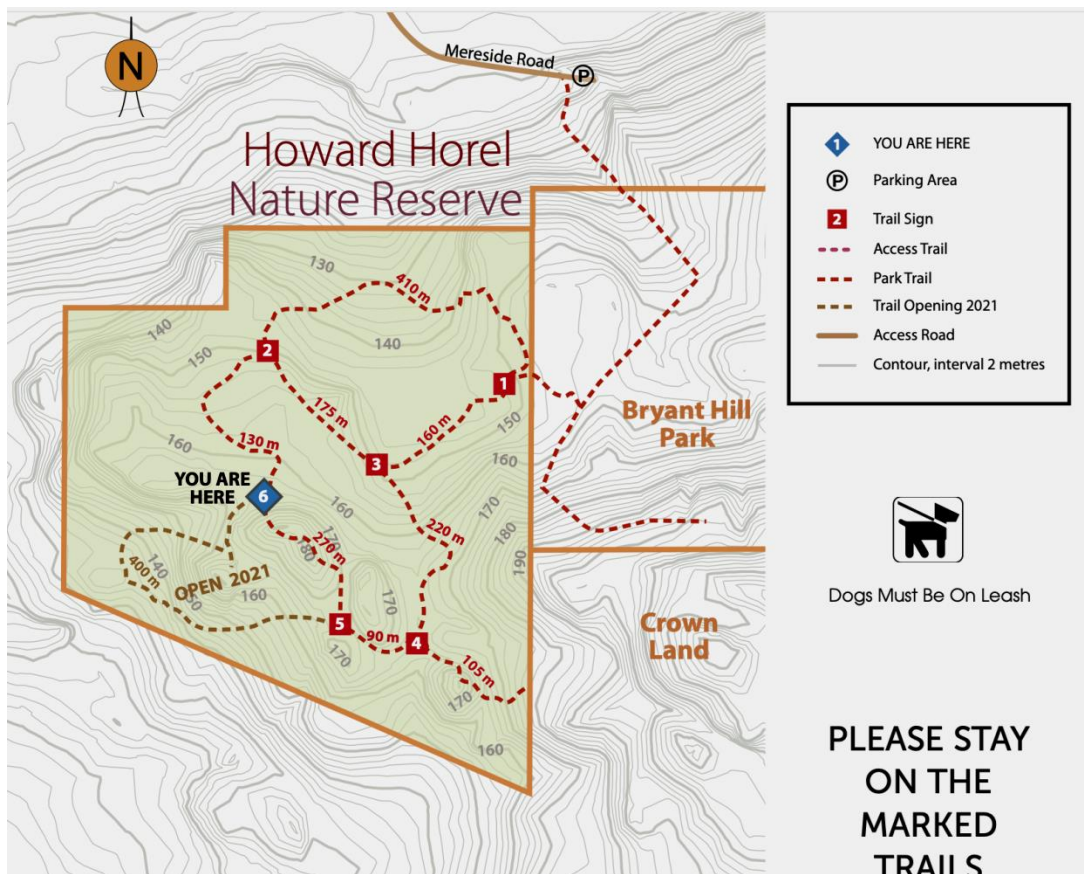
- ***Mt. Maxwell Road.*** As you know, the condition of this road has deteriorated significantly. BC Parks has informed us that it is not responsible for the road outside of the park boundary. MOTI and its road maintenance company have not maintained the road much beyond Foxglove Farm in the past. The road is now in such bad repair that it will be difficult to get road-maintenance equipment up to repair it.

Howard Horel Nature Reserve Trail System

In 2018 the Salt Spring Island Conservancy obtained a new nature reserve: the 25 ha Howard Horel Nature Reserve. Primarily an anonymous donation, in memory of Howard Horel, a sawmill operator and member of a long-time Salt Spring family, the acquisition was supported by a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. A conservation covenant on the land is held by The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC).

The Conservancy started to design and develop a trail system in the reserve in 2019. This year three dead-end trails were connected and two loop trails were developed with the help of our club. In 2021 a third loop trail will be completed. Before the end of this year new signage will help visitors navigate the trail system. Dogs are allowed as long as they are leashed. Trail access is via Bryant Hill Park, entered either from the end of Mereside Road or the end of Sarah Way.

This reserve is mostly forested with the globally rare Coastal Douglas-fir, which comprises just 0.25 percent of British Columbia's forests. It also contains several rocky bluffs, a few Garry oak, many wildlife trees, a couple of small wetland areas, and two small streams flowing into upper Fulford Creek. The land was logged in the 1960s, and pockets of western red cedar trees have been harvested since then. Seven species at risk have been found here, including the Band-tailed Pigeon, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Threaded Vertigo Snail, and four species of lichen—Streaked Horsehair, Pitted Beard, Peacock Vinyl, and Forty-five Vinyl.



Mt. Erskine Missing Link

BC Parks has now signed a contract to purchase the acre of land we need to connect Mt. Erskine Provincial Park with Manzanita Ridge Nature Reserve. Fundraising for this purchase has begun. The BC Parks Foundation is taking the lead role in this acquisition and will issue tax receipts for all donations (see bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/enhance/mount-erskine-park for more information on making donations). The land will ultimately become part of Mt. Erskine Provincial Park. Our board supports this purchase and recently approved our donating the funds obtained from Friends of Salt Spring Parks for this purpose. We hope to receive many individual donations from club members.



2021 AGM

At its November meeting our board agreed to hold our AGM at 10:00 a.m. on January 14. This will be a Zoom meeting to follow COVID protocol of avoiding gatherings. So for the first year in a long time there will be no lunch before our AGM. We will be asking members to register if they wish to participate in the AGM so that we know how many will join us on line and we can be sure to have a quorum. Each registrant will receive a link to enter the Zoom meeting.

Although we will send out a slate of candidates for election to next year's board, anyone can volunteer for a position on the board. This would be a good time to do that as it will facilitate our planning. The board positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, Hiking/Walking/Rambling Coordinators (3 positions), Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Website Coordinator, Presentations Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Nature Coordinator. We now have nominees for all but the last three positions. Could you take on one of these roles? If so, please so inform someone on our board.