

Hank's Beach Forest Conservation Park Guide



photo: Eldron Consulting

HANK'S BEACH FOREST CONSERVATION PARK

Hank's Beach lies within the traditional lands of the Klahoose and Sliammon First Nations. Hank's Beach Forest Conservation Park is 62 hectares (153 acres) of forested property on Cortes Island's southeast shoreline, gifted by the Tides Foundation to the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) as a result of a major donation by a private individual who wished to see the property preserved. The SRD is managing the land as public park, offering respectful levels of public use in keeping with the primary management goals of maintaining ecological integrity and mature forest ecosystems.



Access is by road and water. To reach the northern road entrance to the trails, park at the signed parking area off Bartholomew Road, 1 km east of the junction of Sutil Point and Bartholomew Roads.

The West Gate and East Gate trails run parallel north/ south and provide direct access to Hank's Beach, a long-standing favourite recreational destination for Cortesians. The beach offers incredible views and is a sought after picnic site for kayakers and boaters traveling the southern shoreline of Cortes Island.



In the winter of 1970/1971, Macmillan Bloedel, then owner, extensively logged the property. When walking the West Gate & East Gate trails, watch for the delineation between young forest (replanted 1973) and mature forest (80-100 years).



photo: Cortes Museum

In 1922, the Crown granted homesteader, Henry Herrewig, this parcel of land. Henry was affectionately known in the Cortes community as 'Hank' and the property has been known as Hank's Beach ever since. *Photo circa 1912 of Hazel & Henry Herrewig.*

Dramatic intrusions of biotite granodiorite form inland and coastal bluffs which support complex mosaics of woodland and herbaceous sensitive ecosystems that shelter numerous species and ecological communities at risk in B.C. The bluffs form an important wildlife corridor utilized by cougar, coastal gray wolf and Columbia black-tailed deer. The bluffs also maintain the integrity of a cross-island biodiversity linkage system, providing connectivity across the greater Cortes Island landscape.



For your own protection
and to protect the park forests & wildlife:

**PLEASE STAY ON TRAILS;
BICYCLES & HORSES WELCOME.
NO CAMPING & NO FIRES ALLOWED AT ANYTIME.**

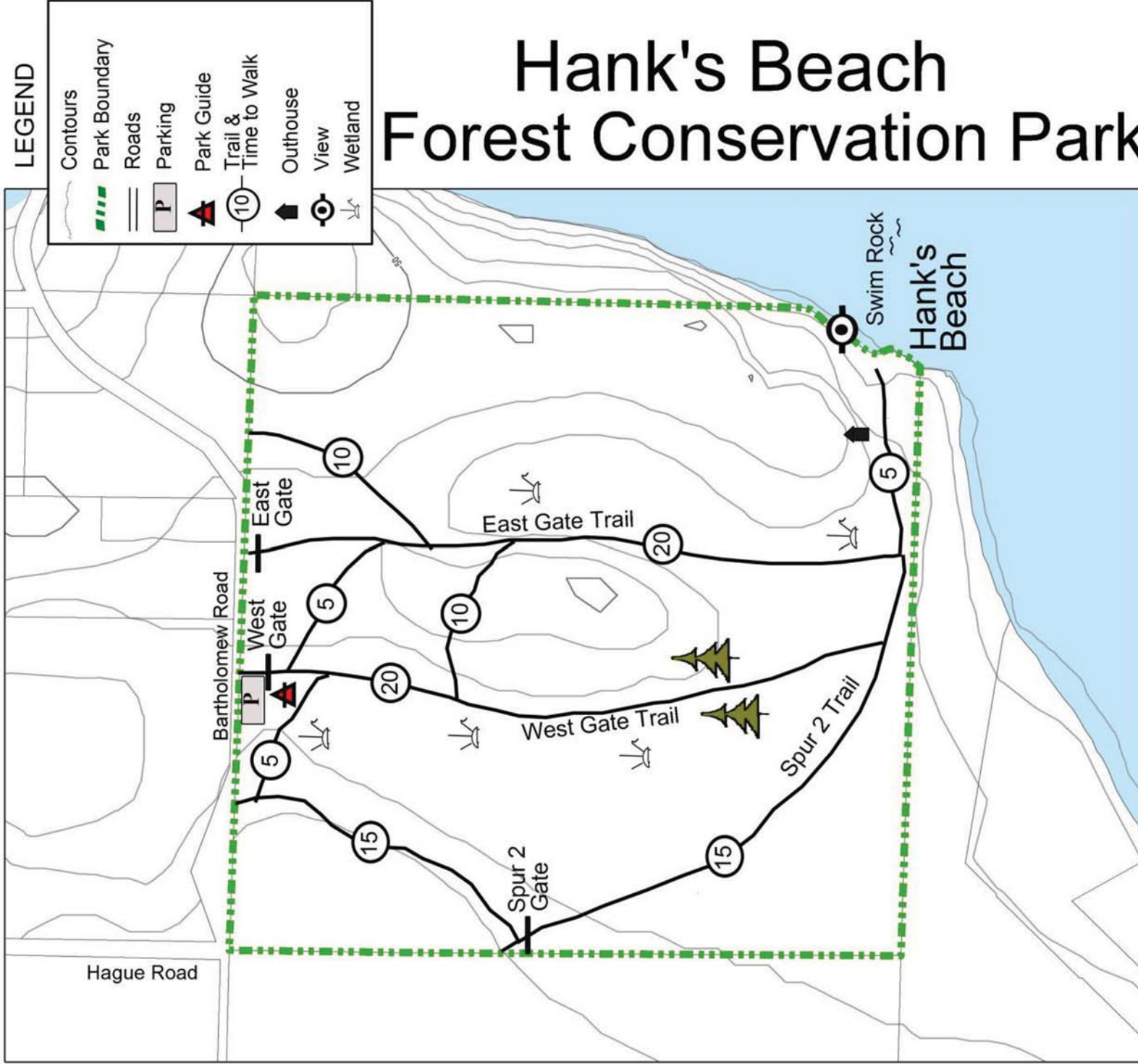
Exercise caution at all times in the park as you are in ungrooved wilderness. Trails may not be safe during high winds due to falling branches and tree blow-down. To reduce wildlife conflict there may be seasonal closures for dogs. Always keep dogs on leash and under their owner's control.



Strathcona Regional District

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PLEASE... STAY ON TRAILS - REDUCE WILDLIFE CONFLICT; KEEP DOGS ON LEASH
PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN – NO CAMPING & NO FIRES ALLOWED AT ANY TIME