

Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve



Comox Lake Bluffs: Krista Kaptein photo

Leader Names: Helen Robinson and Mandy Vaughan

Start Time & Location: Sunday, May 15th, 9 am at Filberg Centre

NOTICE: This trip will be cancelled if wet and raining, as the bluffs can be very dangerous with poor footing. An alternate trip may be arranged if this is necessary.

Duration: Approximately 4 hours

Parking: Parking is available in a pull-out on the logging road, approximately ½ kilometer

past the Comox Lake bridge. A Car pool will depart from the Filberg Centre at 9 am, Maps will be available from the Registration Desk up to 6 pm Saturday.

Maximum number of Participants: 14

What to Bring: We suggest water, a snack, and a hand lens. There are no facilities at the Reserve.

How to dress: Dress warmly as this area generally colder than Courtenay. Wear sturdy boots and bring walking poles if you have them.

Difficulty of Trip 3-4 (Moderate). The bluffs can be dangerous, and we ask that the group stay together and follow the Leader's path. Foot traffic is the biggest risk to the survival of many plants. Unfortunately, this field trip is not Wheel Chair Accessible as it has some steep cliffs and narrow paths. Caution is urged.

What to expect on trip:

The Comox Lake Bluffs face south across Comox Lake, and consist of a mixture of exposed bedrock, shallow soils and surface deposits. The first part of the trip will be on the Cretaceous sandstone of the Comox Formation with a second-growth Douglas fir forest with many interesting plants in the understory. You will then climb the bluff overlooking Comox Lake. The steep, rocky Bluffs themselves are part of the Karmutsen Formation formed during the Triassic Period, and consist of volcanic basaltic lava, with many areas of exposed lava. The dry open-site bluffs support arbutus, hairy manzanita, seaside juniper and shore pine, as well as many herbaceous plants, several of which are blue listed.

The Reserve is 47 hectares in size, and extends 100 meters into the lake.

<http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/nature-viewing-guide/6-comox-lakepuntledge-river-area/comox-lake-bluffs-ecological-reserve/>

BC Gov't Web Site: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/comoxlk_er.html