

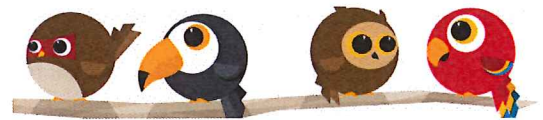
Winter 2018-19

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas BIRD COUNT for Kids

Join us and Nanaimo NatureKids on Friday, December 28th from 10-1:30 pm for this **FREE** family-friendly bird watching

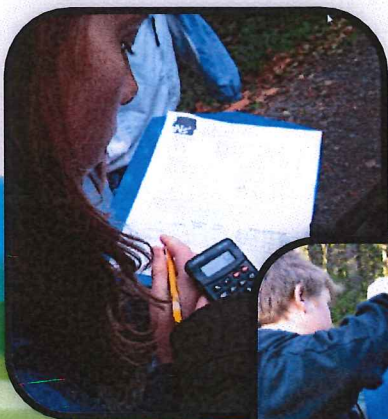
event. Young birders will learn how to spot and identify birds with binoculars, learning about the most common local species found in our area. After the count, teams will gather at the Miner's Cottage off Jingle Pot Road to warm up, share results and enjoy a treat. Kids will go home with their own hand built pinecone feeder to attract birds to their own backyard! For more info or to register visit ireg.nanaimo.ca or call 250-756-5200 using barcode # [10935](#)



LOOKING BACK...

The Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society's (NS3) sixth annual Spooktacular Science Challenge took place October 28 in Bowen Park. Families traveled through the park completing hands-on science challenges. The event finished off with the launching of paint balloons & an

explosive science demo. Definitely one of the wetter events this fall—but still greatly enjoyed by families, filled with learning and exploration of Bowen Park.



NS3 is also starting a **new stream health program** at Bowen Park with ten Grade 7 classes from the Nanaimo and Ladysmith School District. This program will include a riparian walk with a local plant species scavenger hunt, an investigation of pond invertebrates and a unit on water quality chemistry, testing pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. What a fantastic opportunity to encourage young stewards of our parks & streams.

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WHAT'S NEW IN OUR PARKS?

The New Covered Sportsplex is now complete!

This coming year will be a busy year for the new Harewood Sportsplex with box lacrosse and other community groups enjoying the new covered playing surface. Be sure to wander down to Harewood Centennial Park to check out the action.



GEORGIA GREENWAY



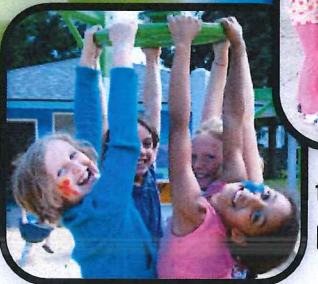
This location will also be busy with the construction of Phase 1 of the new [Georgia Greenway Trail](#) including a bridge over the Chase River. This multi-use trail will connect the surrounding neighbourhood and elementary school with this park and secondary school (see [link](#) for more details). This City project is one more step towards creating a more livable and environmentally sustainable community, where walking and cycling are key components of the transportation system.



Playground Development around the City

Two new playground projects are just being completed. One in the northend at [Westdale/Leslie Park](#) (corner of Westdale and Leslie Crescent) and [Cinnabar Valley Park](#), off Stacey Crescent in Extension, including the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts and a new zipline & climbing wall. Definitely worth a visit in the new year and possibly a location for one of our park programs.

As we start to plan our summer schedule with Parks and Recreation, we often look for feedback on neighbourhoods that could benefit from one of our **Free Summer Playground Programs**. If you think your neighbourhood would be a good fit, please contact us - parksandrecreation@nanaimo.ca



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STREAMSIDE STEWARDSHIP WORK

Departure Creek Realignment and Enhancement Project

Departure Creek, originating in the Nanaimo Golf Course and flowing down to Departure Bay, has undergone some changes. Over the past 6 months, the City Engineering & Environment, Drainage, Parks and Construction Departments, have been working together along with several community groups, individual volunteers, biologists, engineers and environmental consultants (EDI), on a project to improve fish habitat in the lower reaches of this creek.



- In August, volunteers installed 400 Geobags to help stabilize the eroding banks of the creek.
- As part of re-configuring the route of the creek, large woody debris structures have been anchored within the channel to create pools and riffles and improve rearing and spawning habitat.
- A new side channel was created in Woodstream Park to give fish refuge during high waters.
- Volunteers from the surrounding neighbourhood, Departure Creek StreamKeepers, Departure Bay

Eco School and Departure Bay Preschool came together to help with this project - planting trees and native plants along the banks of the creek near the tennis courts and in Woodstream park.



These past few months alone, **over 200 volunteers and over 1000 volunteer and staff hours went into this project and the planting of over 2500 native plants in these two locations.** What an amazing project to bring a community together in support of stream health and park stewardship. Thank you to all who were a part of this project, your hard work and involvement. Be sure to visit Departure Bay Creek and take a look.

"A huge thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors involved in this project and other work parties in our parks. We appreciate all your hard work and time."

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VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK

Protection Island residents have been hard at work again, with over 20 volunteers showing up for their annual Park Clean up at Captain Hook Park—clearing out Daphne, Ivy, and other invasive plants.



Approximately 80 Students from **John Barsby School** spent an afternoon removing garbage and invasive plants along the Chase River in preparation for planting in the spring.



Students from **Wellington School** helped to beautify Loudon Park, planting over 300 Daffodil bulbs at the entrance to this park—I can hardly wait 'til spring.



VIU Parks Canada Club has adopted Hawthorne Park and has been busy removing broom and other invasive plants from this location, preparing for native planting early in the new year.



Bill's Place was busy at it again in Neck Point Park, preparing the property along the trail to Keel Cove for planting in the new year, while **Dover Eco Club** helped out with Periwinkle removal in the park. These youth also joined the **Wally Creek Stream Keepers** and the **Nanaimo Nature Kids** in riparian planting along the Wally Creek and in Morningside Park. What a beautiful, brisk day and amazing turnout of volunteers of all ages. **Thank you to all our valuable Volunteers.**

