

NATURE GUIDE – SITE INFORMATION SHEET

East Sector Recreation Site

Name of Club submitting this form	Nature Chilliwack
Name of club members completing this form	Janne Perrin
Region	Eastern Fraser Valley unceded Territory of the Sts'ailes people
Area	Harrison Hot Springs
Location Name	East Sector Recreation Site
Key Photos	Spirit Trail Mask in East Sector Park – https://flic.kr/p/2pmgkQd Sword Ferns in East Sector Park – https://flic.kr/p/2pmgkQP Turkey Tails in East Sector Park – https://flic.kr/p/2pmgkQD
Description	This 92.5 ha mixed conifer/deciduous woodland is last of the forested areas on floor of the Fraser Valley. Topography is gently undulating. The area has a system of well-maintained trails and boardwalks.
Photo Gallery	https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB6PbK
Geographical Description,	Fraser Valley bottomland on the north side of the Fraser River and the flood plain of the Miami River (Creek). Bordered on the East by Bear Mountain.
Area/Trail Length	Bridle Trail loop is a 5.5 km / 2-hour easy walk through the forest. Spirit Trail is a 20-minute walk through western red cedars adorned with clay masks and connected to the Bridle Trail by a boardwalk. Memorial Trail – a short loop north of the Spirit Trail but not connected. Entrance is from McCombs Road
Seasons to Visit	Year-round.
Habitat, Eco system	This mixed coniferous/deciduous forest has several old growth Douglas firs and a grand fir, 7.6 ha ephemeral wetland in the centre and two waterways – the Miami River and the Hot Springs Slough, with riparian zones meandering through it.
Viewing Highlights	Over 120 species of birds observed, many nest and some are year-round residents. Look for turkey vulture, peregrine falcon, Virginia rail, black-throated grey warbler and common nighthawk in season. Several at risk species are the Salish sucker, Pacific water shrew and Trowbridge's shrew. Significant plants to observe include ancient western red cedars, black cottonwoods, trembling aspen, Sitka spruce, lodge pole pine, sword ferns and Labrador tea in the northern portion and western trillium throughout the forest. Frogs, snakes, including the rubber boa, dragonflies, and butterflies are found in and around the ponds, forest and scree slopes where American pikas have been observed. Coyote, muskrat, beaver, otter and bears are seen frequently. The Sprit Trail has many clay masks, made by a local artist, displayed on the ancient western red cedars and Douglas firs.
Other Features	A small parcel of land in the southwest corner was once a landfill area for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. It is in the process of reclamation.
Main Access	Park Entrance is off McCombs Road about 1/2 km north of the intersection at McPherson.
LAT, LONG	49.284408 -121.777442 main entrance
Secondary Accesses	Other trail entrances are found along McCombs as you drive north - notably the Memorial Trail entrance and where McCombs changes to Eagle Street as you cross the Miami River, a traditionally used trail over private land to the north entrance of the Bridle Trail.
Cautions	Bears found in the park spring through fall including mothers with cubs; cougars seen occasionally; park bordered by private land on the north, south and east borders. The gravel section of McPherson Road is private from the intersection with McCombs Road eastward.

	It is easy to get lost on the Memorial Trail as the trails are not always clearly marked. Trails muddy and wet in some areas of the park in the rainy season (Fall through Spring). Hours: 7 am to sunset.		
Jurisdiction	Fraser Valley Regional District / Recreation Sites and Trails BC / Village of Harrison Hot Springs / Government of BC.		
Regulations	Leash and pick up after your dog; stay on the trails, no fires, no picking plants, no feeding animals, pack out garbage and dog waste.		
Facilities	Picnic table, pit toilets, interpretive signs, memorial plaques, trail markers.		
Other Recreational Activities	Horseback riding, photography, geocaching, biking, dog walking.		
Other Connections	80 acres of private land to the south is used by locals as an “extension” of the park. The south part of the Bridal Trail runs along this border and in old publications is called the Grasslands Trail. The ultimate use of this land is unknown but it is in the ALR. Visit the Harrison Hot Springs town site to bird the Harrison Beach & Lagoon, a birding hotspot.		
History	From 1992 a local group called Green Legacy under the leadership of Alice Grau, and later known as Friends of the Harrison Forest worked with local authorities to have the 400 acres of woods known as the East Sector Lands on the Official Community Plan to be preserved as a natural passive park in perpetuity for public recreation and to protect wildlife habitat. With parcels of the land under ownership of private individuals, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and a large area by the Crown, the task was onerous. After a commissioned biological study, a bioblitz and a lot of work by the Friends of Harrison Forests, local officials and the Sts’ailes people made this dream come to fruition in June 2016 when the area was officially opened as a Recreation Sites and Trails BC area with Fraser Valley Regional District overseeing administration as a “regional park.”		
For More Info	Harrison Hot Springs BioBlitz: Summary Report for Partners; 2011.		
Links	Fraser Valley Regional District – https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation/parks-trails/east-sector-lands.html Spirit & BridleTrails – https://tourismharrison.com/listing/spirit-trail/ eBird Hotspot bird list (Harrison Hot Springs—East Sector Park) – https://ebird.org/canada/hotspot/L4350893 eBird Hotspot bird list (Harrison Hot Springs—Beach & Town) – https://ebird.org/hotspot/L458893?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec Fraser Valley Birding site information – https://fvbirding.com/Site%20Guide/East%20Sector%20Park/index.htm		
Status of Area	Managed by the Fraser Valley Regional District through an agreement with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.		
Should this Nature Site be preserved as a protected site			
	Yes		
	File #	Caption for Photograph	Name of Photographer
#1	20200924_163212	Spirit Trail Mask in East Sector Park	Janne Perrin
#2	20200924_163527	Sword Ferns in East Sector Park	Janne Perrin
#3	20200924_163335	Turkey Tails in East Sector Park	Janne Perrin