



Photo: Catherine Hufnagel

## Trails

Exploring the trails is a popular recreational activity with Comox area dog owners, mountain bikers and walkers. When enjoying the trails follow the well-marked 4km loop to minimize human impacts on the forest and marsh ecosystems. Staying on this marked loop allows nature to restore damaged areas. With the cooperation of trail-users, and ongoing community projects such as removing invasive species, the biodiversity of this area can be maintained.

Enthusiastic mountain bikers created many of the trails. Several are signed with the names of local pioneer families as a reminder of local heritage. Small green and red triangles on trees identify trees with named signage - look way up. This is a fragile environment. Please walk gently.



## The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary lies below the 20 metre contour line. The area is comprised mainly of year round wetlands where erosion and compaction are quite damaging. Access is limited to protect the ecosystem and to provide a wildlife sanctuary. Stay on the marked trails.



Photo: Kerry Dawson

## Memorandum of Understanding

In 2004 the Ministry of Environment, Town of Comox and the Comox Valley Regional District signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work cooperatively and recognize the obligation to manage the lands for the benefit of ecosystems, fish and wildlife. A new MOU was signed in 2009. In addition, the Friends of Comox-Lazo Forest Reserve and the Comox Town Residents Association are actively involved as volunteer stewards.



## Rules and Etiquette

**Please help us to protect this rare ecosystem by:**

- Staying on designated trails
- Not feeding birds and other wildlife (it attracts predators such as raccoons and rats)
- Leaving trees, shrubs and flowers undamaged for others to enjoy
- Viewing wildlife from a safe distance
- Respecting conservation area regulations:
  1. Leash Dogs
  2. No fires, camping, stunt building or motorized bikes or vehicles

Enjoy your visit!



Photo: Haley Wigard

## Comox North East Woods

In 1993, when the Town of Comox prepared a development plan for a portion of North East Woods, there was much resistance from residents. In response, the provincial government protected all 76ha (187 acres). The Friends of Comox-Lazo Forest Reserve Society was incorporated in 1996 as stewards.

The society and community went on to successfully lobby for the protection of the remaining treed Crown land within District Lot 194 west of Lazo Marsh. K'ómoks First Nation has generously leased this 12ha (30 acres) of forest and trails to the Town of Comox for recreational use and a wildlife buffer under a 99-year agreement. Now the area accessed from Cambridge and Eton Roads as well as Highridge Drive will remain as protected forest.



## Lazo Marsh

In the 1960's a local potato farmer, Bert Marriot, bought 71ha (175 acres) in the area, including Lazo Marsh which was then known as the Radford Swamp. He established a bird sanctuary on 67ha (166 acres) and crusaded to prevent hunting of migratory birds.

In 1975 The Nature Trust of B.C. bought 35ha (85 acres) of the marsh, adding a further 16ha (38 acres) in 1985. Restoration projects by Ducks Unlimited Canada since 1981 have focused on increasing the amount of open water in the Lazo Marsh area to improve habitat for waterfowl.

The marsh and surrounding forests are a year-round wildlife haven. On winter nights, Trumpeter Swans roost in the open waters. In the spring, Pacific Chorus Frogs serenade loudly from land and water with Red Legged Frogs adding five to seven quiet, low-pitched—uh-uh-uh-uh-uh. Wood Duck, and Hooded Merganser nest in nearby tree cavities in spring and raise young amongst other ducklings in the marsh.

Lazo Marsh is at the northern extent of the Coastal Douglas fir bio-geoclimatic zone - the rarest of all landscape types in British Columbia. This ecosystem with its Mediterranean climate has British Columbia's highest density of species that are of both provincial and global conservation concern.



Photo: Al Fraser



We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q'a'

## REPORT ALL POACHERS & POLLUTERS

Please report any vandalism, wildlife violations and suspicious activities to cell #7277 or to 1-877-952-7277, the Provincial Conservation Officer 24hr hot line

**Call 911 for Emergencies**

**Report other Concerns to:**

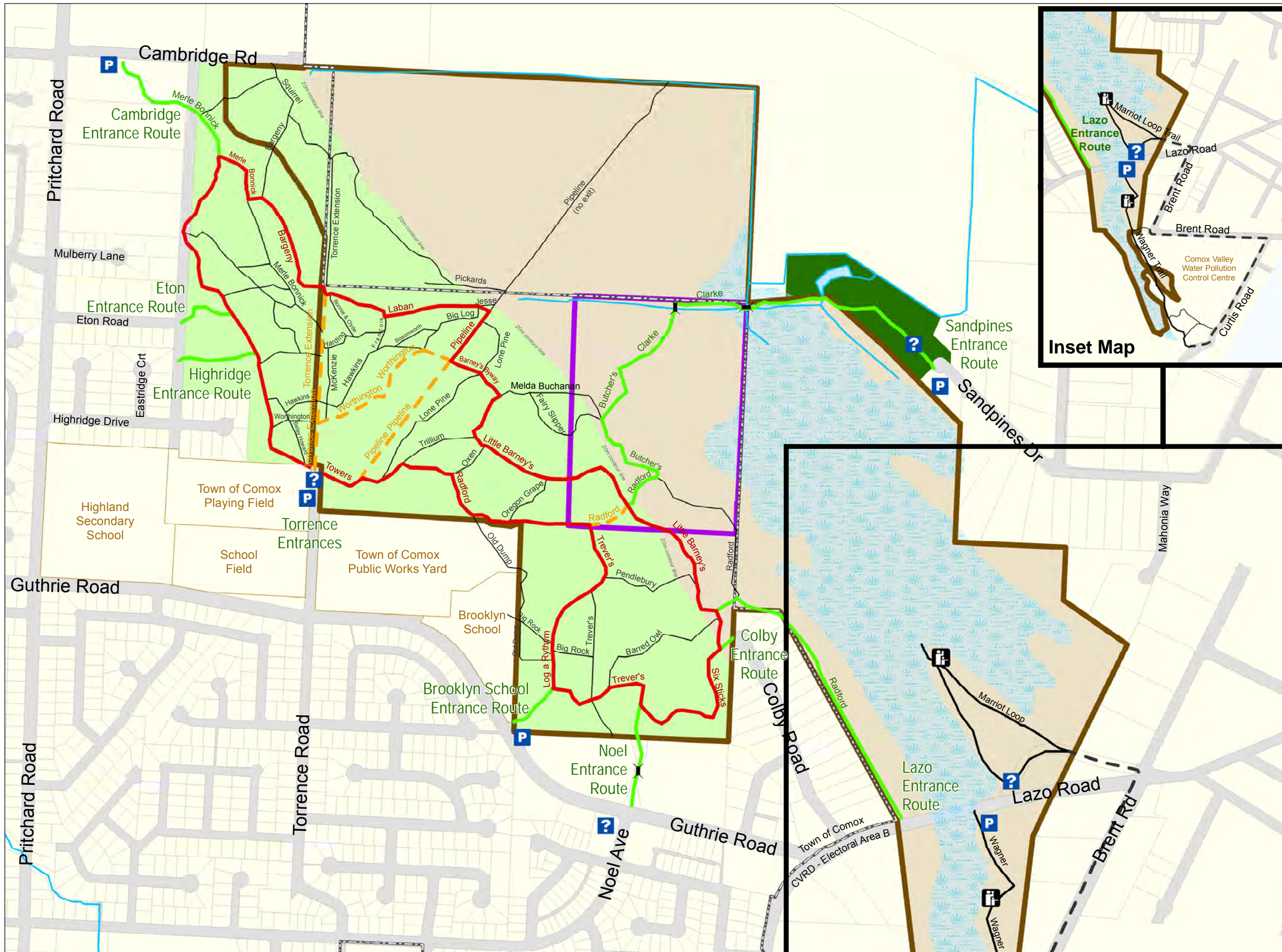
1 (250) 751-3218 or (250) 339-2421  
communityservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca

## Lazo Marsh North East Comox Conservation Area



Photo: Tom Reid

A little known gem of the Comox Valley is the Lazo Marsh - North East Comox Conservation Area. This 159ha (392 acre) protected area is comprised of land owned by the K'ómoks First Nations, the Town of Comox and the Comox Valley Regional District as well as the wildlife management area owned by the Province and The Nature Trust of BC. The area contains a broad spectrum of habitat ranging from wetland, riparian and rare sand dune plant communities, to old growth upland forests and a wealth of, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian and fish species. Lazo Marsh features over 140 species of fish and wildlife. Several of these are rare or endangered such as the Northern Pygmy Owl.



- ### Legend
- Bridge
  - Wildlife Viewing Stand
  - Information Kiosk
  - Parking
  - Entrance Route
  - Loop Route
  - Connector Route
  - Secondary Trail
  - Roadside Trail
  - Marriot Loop Trail and Wagner Trail
  - Stream
  - Wetland
  - Pond
  - Road
  - Administrative Boundary
  - Town of Comox Nature Reserve
  - Wildlife Management Area\*\*
  - Low-Impact Trail Use Area\*
  - Wildlife Sanctuary\*
  - CVRD Lazo Wildlife Community Park

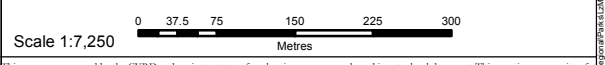
### Route Distances

Route Type	Route Name	Distance	
Loop Route	Main Loop Route	4km	
	Entrance Routes	Brooklyn School Entrance Route	102m
		Cambridge Entrance Route	287m
		Colby Entrance Route	31m
		Eton Entrance Route	117m
		Highridge Entrance Route	151m
		Lazo Route	591m
		Noel Entrance Route	197m
Sandpines Entrance Route		1.0km	
Connector Routes	Pipeline Connector Route	423m	
	Radford Connector Route	86m	
	Torrence Connector Route	336m	
	Worthington Connector Route	334m	
Trails	Marriot Loop Trail	826m	
	Wagner Trail	1.3km	

\* Note: The boundary between the wildlife sanctuary and the low-impact trail use area is determined by the 20 metre contour line.

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# Lazo Marsh NE Comox Conservation Area - Recreational Trails



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