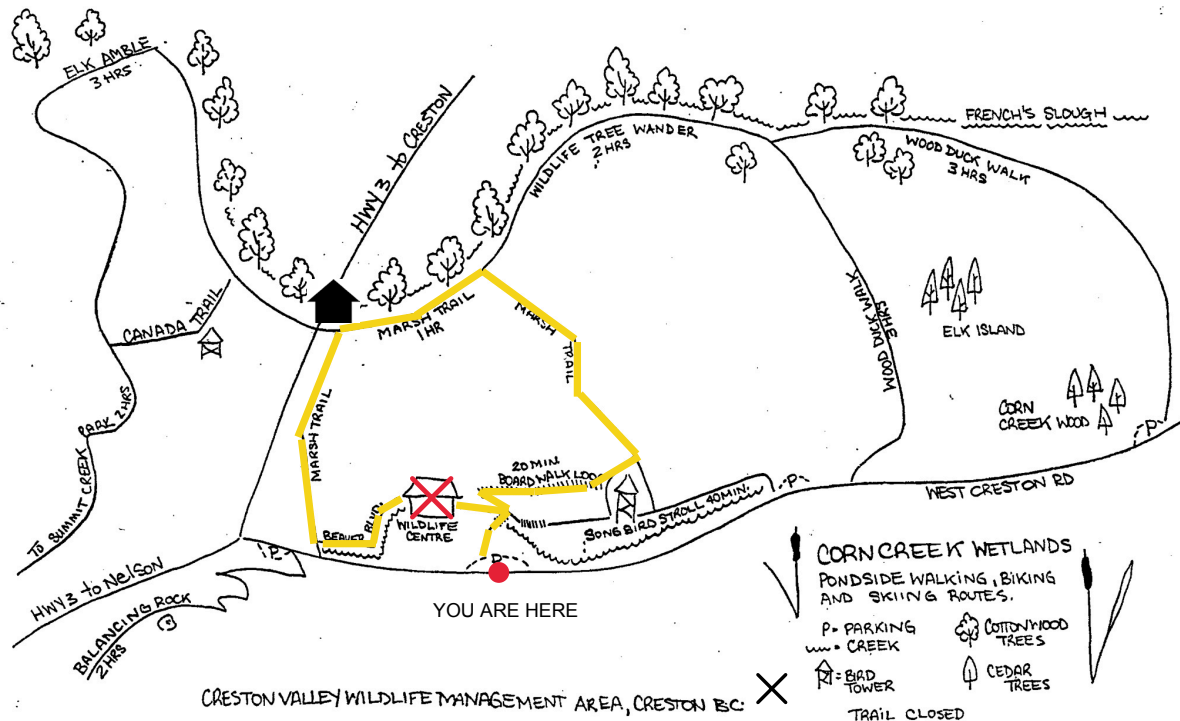




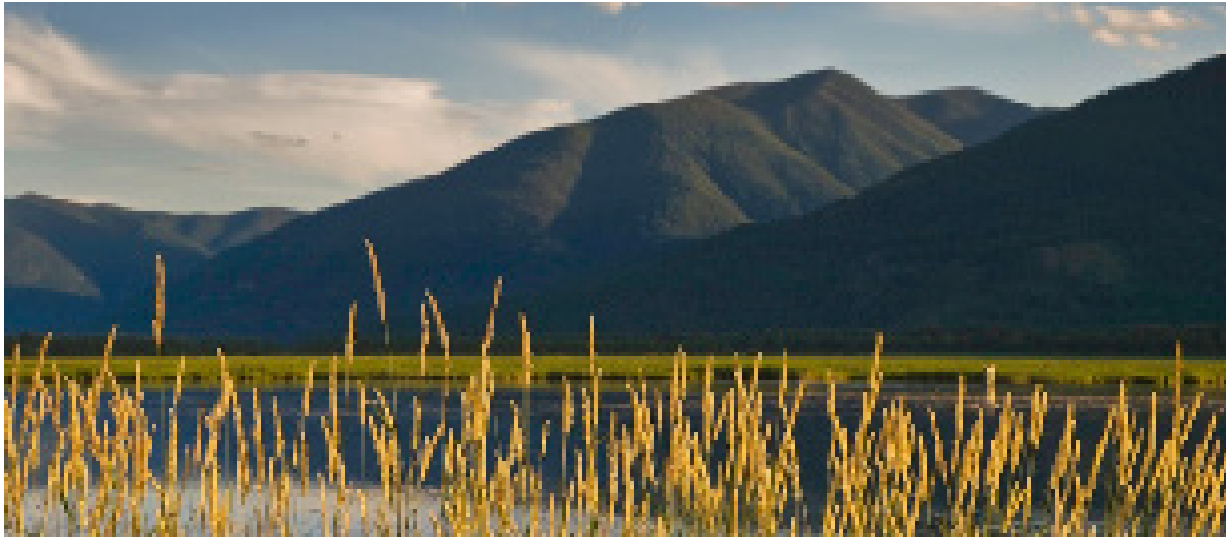
Self Guided Evening Tour Marsh Trail



- Marsh Trail
- Discovery Centre in Parking Lot
- X Old Wildlife Centre - demolished in 2020
- Bat Condo

WELCOME TO THE MARSH TRAIL

As you embark on the Marsh Trail you will have a good view of the wetlands of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA). The CVWMA is a 17 000 acre wetland that is internationally recognized as a Ramsar site and nationally as an Important Bird Area of Canada. The area supports an amazing amount of biodiversity. There are over 300 bird, close to 60 mammal, 17 fish, 6 reptile and 6 amphibian species that have been recorded in the area. Plus, there are thousands of invertebrate and plant species!



Did you know?

- Since 1800, 20 million hectares (~15%) of Canada's wetlands have been filled in and lost to development. Near major cities and towns, 70% of wetlands have been lost.
- When one hectare of wetlands is converted to agricultural land, between 1 and 19 tonnes of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) are emitted to the atmosphere per year.
- Most wildlife in the province use wetland habitat at some point in their life cycle.
- Wetlands cover about 6% of the land in BC.
- One hectare of wetland can store between 9 and 14 million liters of water.

NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST RODENT

As you walk along the channel and make your way across the Beaver Boulevard Bridge, stop to admire the dams that our friendly neighborhood beaver has been hard at work creating. These semi-aquatic mammals are often referred to as '**ecosystem engineers**' because of their dams. Through the creation of their dams, beavers are able to alter their environment significantly by allowing water to slow down and pool. This not only helps them create the ideal locations to build their lodges and have their underwater food caches but also create habitat for many organisms in their ecosystem including fish, waterfowl, amphibians, etc..., reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and mitigate flooding risk!

Beavers will create their lodges and dams out of anything they can find. This includes sticks, grasses, mosses, garbage in the environment, etc. and bind it together using nature's glue-mud.

Dams can be 8ft wide & 3ft tall.

Lodges can be up to 10-12 meters in diameter. They can often also have underwater backdoors for easy water access. Talk about excellent water front property!

These busy beavers are most active at twilight and during the night.



BAT TO THE BONE



Standing tall along the stretch of cottonwood trees on the Marsh Trail is a little house with a green roof. This is our bat condo! Before this condo was built, a maternity roost of bats had established themselves in the rafters of the old Wildlife Interpretation Centre. When the centre was demolished in 2020, this condo was built to replace the lost habitat. Typically, pregnant bat mamas will roost together in maternity roosts while the males and other females will roost in bachelor roosts.

Since 2000, twelve species of bats have been recorded within the CVWMA. Bats are very important to our ecosystem for a number of reasons including:

- Pest control- some bat species have been recorded to consume 600 mosquitoes per hour each! Now that is excellent pest control!
- Fertilization- bat poop (guano) is full of nutrients that are important for plant growth!

Did you know:

- + Bats are able to navigate and locate prey using echolocation!
- + Some bats hibernate while others migrate
- + Less than half a percent of bats have rabies



WHAT A HOOT!

As you follow the line of old cottonwood trees, keep your eyes and ears peeled for owls!



Great Horned Owl

- Has two ear-like tufts on its head and yellow eyes
- listen for “hoo hoohoo hoo hoo hoooo hoooo”
- Most common owl in North America!

Barred Owl

- Big brown eyed owl with brown-white plumage
- Listen for “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?”
- Preferred treed wetlands



Northern Saw-whet Owl

- Small owl with a large head and bright yellow eyes
- Listen for a high pitched too-too-too (Mostly heard in January to May)
- Prefer mature forest with river-side habitat nearby

AMERICAN BULLFROG

The American Bullfrog is the largest frog found in BC. Their body can grow to be 18-20 cm long from head to tail. These massive frogs were introduced to BC for frog leg farming but have invaded the natural environment and now pose a threat to many wetland species. These frogs will eat anything that can fit into their mouth which includes the Northern Leopard frog and the Western Painted turtle (both of which are species at risk in the province).

In addition to their incredible size and appetite, these frogs can lay masses of up to 20,000 eggs in a season and can live between 7 to 9 years!

Because of the large threat these frogs pose, the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society and other community partners are actively monitoring for their presence and intervene when necessary.

If you hear a low drone or bellow- similar to the sound you make when you blow into a jug then you have just heard the bull frog! If you do, please report them to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP): 1-877-952-9277 or #7277 on Telus Network.



NOCTURNAL/CREPUSCULAR WILDLIFE CHECKLIST

MAMMALS	MAMMALS CONTINUED	OWLS
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk <input type="checkbox"/> Mule Deer <input type="checkbox"/> White-Tailed Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Moose <input type="checkbox"/> Cougar <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Lynx <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat <input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Skunk* <input type="checkbox"/> American Marten <input type="checkbox"/> Ermine <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Tailed Weasel* <input type="checkbox"/> American Mink <input type="checkbox"/> Wolverines <input type="checkbox"/> Northern River Otter* <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon* <input type="checkbox"/> Coyotes* <input type="checkbox"/> Red Fox <input type="checkbox"/> North American Porcu- <input type="checkbox"/> Western Jumping Mouse <input type="checkbox"/> Busy Tailed Woodrat <input type="checkbox"/> North American Deer <input type="checkbox"/> House Mouse <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Red-Backed <input type="checkbox"/> Western Heather Vole <input type="checkbox"/> North American Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Vole <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Tailed Vole <input type="checkbox"/> American Beaver* <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe Hare <input type="checkbox"/> Muskrat* <input type="checkbox"/> Cinereus Shrew <input type="checkbox"/> Vagrant Shrew <input type="checkbox"/> American Pygmy Shrew <div>BATS</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Eared Myotis <input type="checkbox"/> Little Brown Bat* <input type="checkbox"/> Yuma Bat* <input type="checkbox"/> Long Legged Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Fringed Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Silver-Haired Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Big Brown Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Big-Eared <div>AMPHIBIANS</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Western Toad <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Chorus Frog* <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia Spotted Frog* <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Leopard Frog <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Toed Salamander <input type="checkbox"/> Coeur d'Alene Salaman-	<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Western Screech owl <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl* <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Hawk Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pygmy owl <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl* <input type="checkbox"/> Great Grey Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Long eared Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Owl <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-Whet Owl <div>BIRDS</div> <p>Here are a few birds you might hear at night but check out our wildlife checklist for more birds!</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Common Snipe* <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail* <input type="checkbox"/> Sora Rail <input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern <input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk <div>* Common</div>

HOW TO CONNECT & LEARN MORE

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(250) 402 6905 (Year Round)

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