



Glenn Naylor

If you are wanting an easy hike through tall trees, sword ferns and huckleberry bushes go for a wander at Wildwood. Located just 7km (10 minute drive) from downtown Courtenay, several trail heads provide convenient access to this 276 ha (682 acre) block of wilderness. Go for a short outing or enjoy a three hour loop. You are just as likely to encounter a bear here as you are other trail users in this quiet forest retreat.

The forest is Crown land reserved for forestry, wildlife and recreation. The Comox Valley Regional District manages the trails in partnership with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) of the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The RSTBC first improved the trail network in 1996 with the regional district stepping in to help maintain the facilities in 2002. The trails follow logging roads, old rail grades, utility easements and some narrow meandering dirt tracks.



The southern half of the forest is a naturally regenerating second growth forest estimated to be in the 75 year age range. Douglas fir, western hemlock, big-leaf maple and Sitka spruce dominate the forest with a few grand-fir and black cottonwood. Common understory shrubs include red huckleberry and oceanspray.

Wildwood Forest is part of an important forested corridor for movement of wildlife in the Dove Creek area. It forms an east/west connection between Seal Bay Park and Strathcona Provincial Park, as well as a north/south passageway.



Brenda Widdess

Multi-Use Recreation Trails

- Leashing optional trails – expect unleashed dogs along the trail. Please keep your pets near and under control. Always have a leash, collar, dog bag and valid licence for your pet.
- Expect horses, bicycles, ATVs, motorbikes and hunting.
- Pass on the left slowly and with warning.



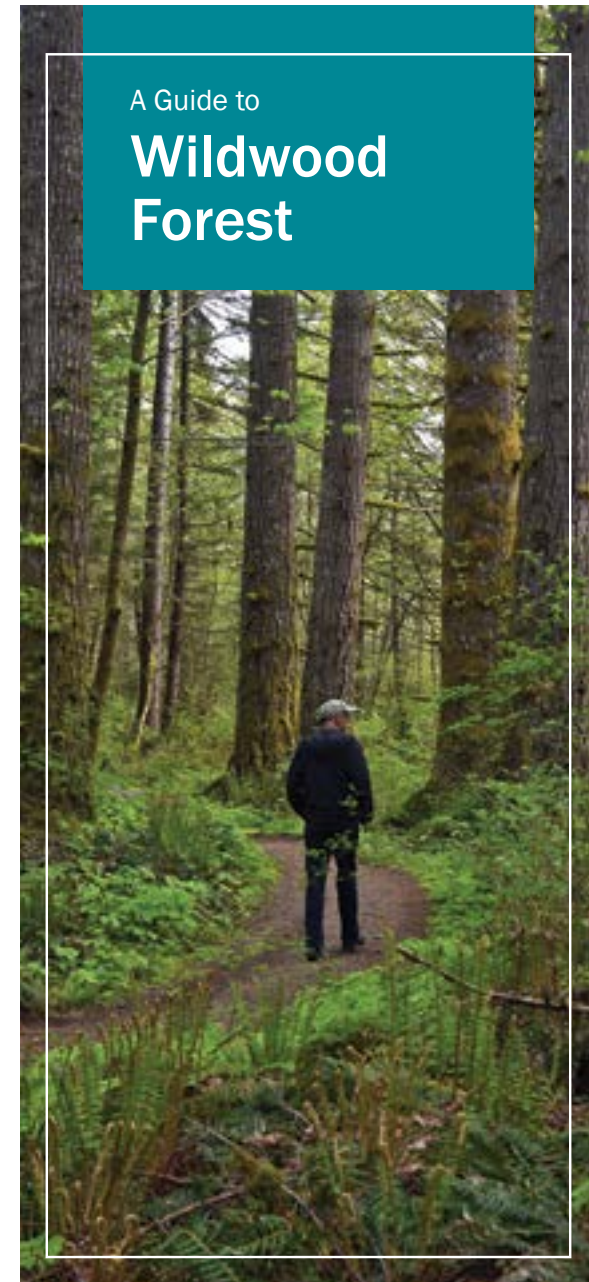
Tavish Campbell



Mike Yip

Bears and cougars pass through the forest regularly. Always keep children and pets in sight. Animals are more active at night. Use trails after dawn and before dusk. Make noise to avoid surprising wildlife and triggering an attack. Understand, wildlife that ignore you, look calm, or appear friendly may without warning charge. Report unafraid animals or those getting into human food sources to 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on Telus mobiles.

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A Guide to Wildwood Forest

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Amy Therde

The Bob Webb Trail links Burns and Brazier Roads connecting to another 8km of trail along the historical One Spot. Along the Bob Webb Trail near Brazier Road look north for a footpath through a cluster of stout Douglas firs. Some of these trees are more than a metre in diameter. The Ware and Enns families have protected this area of their farm from being logged under a conservation covenant. The forest and plant community it protects was common but is now actually quite rare.

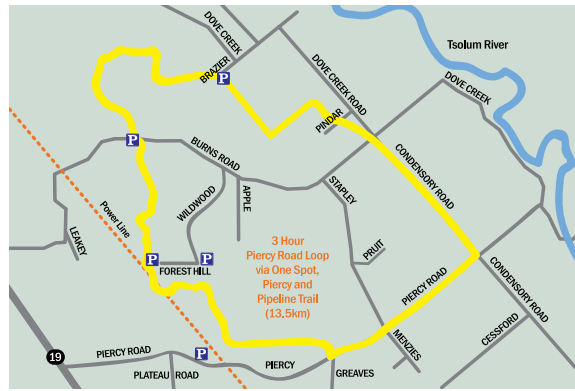


Catherine Hufnagel



Glenn Naylor

Who was Bob Webb you ask? He was a Dove Creek resident who loved to ride horses. For many years he maintained the trail between Brazier and Burns roads and campaigned to have the One Spot Trail built so horses could be ridden away from roads.



Hiking from Piercy to Brazier and back takes approximately three hours to complete. Same for the 13.5km loop through Wildwood to Brazier, down the One Spot from Brazier Road to Piercy and along Piercy Road to the main trail head.



Rob Millne

Another popular outing is Nymph Falls Park. It is on Forbidden Plateau Road just 3.5km west of the Piercy Road parking area at Wildwood.

