

NTS UPDATE SEPT 2021

Intended for members of the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society



Warmest greetings to the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society members and volunteers!

As we enter another “unprecedented” autumn, we want to update you on the exciting developments at the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society (Nature Trails Society or NTS for short).

A quick reminder of who we are – the Nature Trails Society is a not-for-profit organization and registered charity with the mission to “champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners.”

You are receiving this email because you have signed up with us as a member have volunteered with us or represent and organization that we work with – THANK YOU!

If you don’t want to receive communication from us, simply email us at naturetrailssociety@gmail.com and we will remove you from our list.

OVERVIEW:

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This update is brought to you by Noah Snell, Vice President and Membership Chair, Daniel Cammiade, Executive Director / Founder, and Kimberley Nemrava, President.

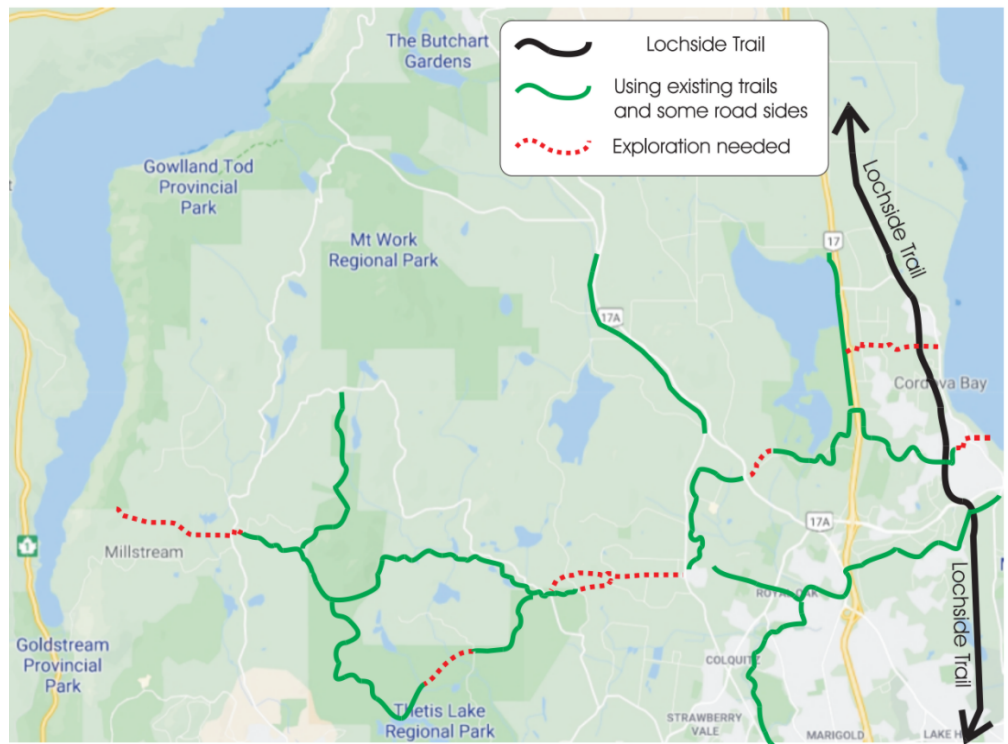
The Nature Trails Society is led and supported by a dedicated and skilled Board who contribute many, many hours of their time and expertise to the organization. Our sincere thanks for their work. You can meet our Board [here](#).

Heart of the Hills Coastal Connector

The Heart of the Hills Coastal Connector is a proposed sea-to-sea, “shared-use”** nature trail that would span 18-20 kilometres from Finlayson Arm to Cordova Bay, connecting with other trails and recreational areas where possible.

There are already many existing and planned trails for this area. These travel through the District of Highlands, Town of View Royal and District of Saanich, asserted territory of the ləkʷəŋən Indigenous peoples of the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation and WSÁNEĆ Indigenous peoples of the Tsartlip First Nation, Tsawout First Nation, Pauquachin First Nation, Tseycum First Nation and Malahat Nation, the Te’Mexw Treaty Association, along with parks of the Capital Regional District (CRD), BC Parks, and other private and public lands.

As a first step, the Nature Trails Society is seeking input from the four local government jurisdictions given the critical importance of working with their planning and parks departments. In parallel, we are reaching out to Indigenous communities with traditional territories that intersect with the general routing of the proposed trail. Following this engagement, we hope to conduct detailed surveys and land ownership identification to establish one or more viable routes for a continuous trail for broad consultation. Trail use (e.g., hiking, trail running, mountain biking and horseback riding planning) would be aligned with the policies and management plans of landowners and managers, including local governments and BC Parks.



We welcome your input and ideas! NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com

** “Shared use” means a trail between 30 cm (1 foot) and 1.5 metres (5 feet) wide with good visibility and frequent areas for travelers to pull or step off to let others pass. It is not meant for constant flow of traffic in both directions simultaneously. Users need to be aware of oncoming traffic and adjust accordingly. While the trail may be wide enough to accommodate multiple users in some areas, the minimum for the proposal is shared use. This reduces environmental impact and encourages slower speeds.

Other updates on our work



Charity Status for the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society

We're so pleased to announce that the Nature Trails Society has been granted registered charity status. Among the benefits of charity status are the ability to issue tax receipts for eligible donations and having access to more funding sources. We welcome any contributions to support our work!

Langford Glen Lake Craggs Trail

This winter, the Nature Trail Society is taking on a major project with Langford to build a trail up to Glen Lake Craggs that involves 500 steps. Stay tuned for an opportunity to be involved in this project.



Southpoint Bike Park

The Nature Trails Society has just completed work on the Southpoint Bike Park in Langford and looks forward to a formal opening with the municipality.

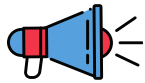
Membership

Members are vital to the success of the Nature Trails Society. Our members give us advice, donate their time and talent and are an indication of how important trails are to the community. Thank you so much for signing up and supporting our work!

Membership is new for the Nature Trails Society, but as we develop (and the pandemic eases), we plan to have special events, benefits and opportunities for our members. We will keep you updated as these come online and welcome your ideas. We welcome new members – people can sign up [here](#).

Society updates, such as this one, are typically provided exclusively to our membership!

WE NEED YOU!



Finlayson Arm Ultra Marathon – volunteers needed

Looking for something fun and exciting to do on **September 11th**? Like climbing hills? We need volunteers to help with the comfort station that the Nature Trail Society is supporting at the top of Jocelyn Hill for the Coastline Endurance Running Ultra Marathon. We need people to support the daytime shifts that provide water, snacks and moral support to these amazing runners. And a few particularly fit volunteers to pack the supplies in and out. If you're interested, please email us at NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com



Volunteer roles available

Communications

Are you a communication expert who loves posting to social media, updating websites or writing communication? Do you know someone who is? We would love to have your talents support the Nature Trail Society.

Fundraising

Are you inspired by raising funds for a great cause? An expert at organizing events and initiatives that raise fund raising? We need support for our fundraising team.

Land Law and Management

The Nature Trails Society works with a range of stakeholders to negotiate access to land for trails. It's complicated. If you have legal expertise in this area, we need your support.

Interested in any of these positions? Please email us at NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com

Bottles and Cans for Trails, Not Left on Trails!



The Nature Trails Society is registered with all three Return-It Bottle Depot locations. You can help us by donating your returned bottles to the "Nature Trails Society". You'll be helping the environment in two ways, recycling and supporting sustainable trails. Our sincere thanks to the Bottle Depots for supporting the community with this easy system!

