

BROWN'S WOOD TRAIL AND BUTTERFIELD PARK **IN CENTRAL SAANICH**

This walk is a real delight that only takes 45 minutes. It is a one-booter, but be aware that half of the trail is not groomed and has lots of rocks and tree roots along it. The trail runs through forest, it's quiet and the bird songs are wonderful. The turn off from Mount Newton Cross Roads is about 1.5 km from the western end of the road where it meets West Saanich Road. Thomson Road has a sign at the turn for Ravenhill Herb Farm. Park at the top of the road. After you've done the walk you may wish to visit St Stephen's Anglican Church further west from Thomson Road. The church is the oldest in the Province, having been built in 1862. The building is in first class shape and is usually open for visiting. The graveyard is fascinating and well worth a wander. To get there, drive west from Thomson Road and take the first turning on the left (it's about a kilometre from Thomson Road).

1. The trail leads from the parking area and runs north. At 'A', turn left along a trail that has wire fencing on both sides. This is Brown's Wood Trail which was built in 2016. Local residents Dorothy and Bill Brown had a fervent wish that future generations could enjoy the exceptional beauty of their land and that led them to donate the public trail corridor through their property.
2. After a short distance along the trail you'll come to a wooden fence on the right. Just after its start you'll see a large tree stump on the left. Take a look at the bottom of the stump and you'll see a bear peeking out of its lair!
3. Continue on Brown's Wood Trail until you come to a road (Thomson Place) at 'B'. Cross the road and go down the short set of stairs on to a chip trail which runs around Butterfield Park. Right away, you'll see a T-junction and turn left on the chip trail at 'E' (you will return to this point later via the trail running from the right).
4. Walk along the chip trail until you come to a small parking lot with a garage and a house to the right at 'C'. These buildings were put up in 1913 when the Butterfield's purchase the 13 acres that now form the park. On the notice board on the side of the garage there's a piece about the history of the park and the buildings.
5. Walk across the parking lot and continue down a gentle hill on a broad path to a T-junction, overlooked by a huge Douglas Fir at 'D'. Turn right and follow the path around to 'E' and the short set of stairs up to Thomson Place.
6. Return to your vehicle along the trails that you came out on.