

## KNOCKAN HILL PARK

This walk will take you through four parks in the southern part of Saanich. It's a two booter, without question. To get to the start point, drive to the five way stop at the Interburban/Wilkinson Road intersection and take Hastings Street which is the smaller road running off the junction. Hastings is the road that runs along the left hand side of the small mall that houses the Crooked Goose Restaurant. Turn left off Hastings at Delmar Avenue (the third turning on the left) and park on the left by the school yard's fence. The walk will take about 2 hours.

1. Before you begin you need to decide if you'd like a shorter walk or the full meal deal! If you want the shorter walk just follow the red arrow route over to the side of the elementary school nearest the cars and walk up the pathway that runs along the side of the building. Then follow the route as laid out starting at #3 below.
2. For the longer route, walk back to Hastings Street and turn left. Follow Hastings until you come to the second road running in from the left (Holland Avenue) and cross Hastings and continue along Holland towards Strawberry Knoll Park. At 'A' you will come to a very steep drop in the road and about 100m further on, on the right, you'll see a footpath leading into the park. Follow the trail, keeping right, and you'll see the route leading in between houses that brings you out to a cul-de-sac (Rosedale Ave). Follow Rosedale across Hastings to the Strawberry Vale Elementary School. On the right, at 'B', you'll pass the Strawberry Vale Preschool building that dates from 1953 but the site was created to house the one-room school that, in 1893, was the Strawberry Vale School. When you get to the new school's parking lot, cross over it to the far left hand side of the building where you'll find a pathway which leads into Rosedale Park.
3. Once in the park, pick up the trail that runs along the edge of the park through trees. Continue on the trail until you come to a small rocky knoll where you turn left, walking past the play area and, keeping right, follow the path between the houses into another cul-de-sac. At the end of the road you'll come to Helmcken Road (an extension of Wilkinson) at 'C'. Across the busy road you'll see another pathway leading between the houses. Be careful crossing Helmcken!
4. Once you have walked up the short pathway between the houses, cross the road and proceed straight ahead up Helen Road. At the top of the short hill you'll find a yellow barrier and on the left a small paddock that has some donkeys in it. Walk past the barrier and follow Helen Road around a corner

and up a slight rise to the right and turn into Jean Place. About 50 m along the road you'll find a footpath on the left that leads into Knockan Hill Park.

5. Follow the main trail into the park and turn right at the first T-junction. Keeping right, you'll find that the trail then leads up a short hill. At the top of the hill the trees thin out and the main trail curls to the left. The trail then leads down a short hill to a junction where you turn right. Ignoring the next trail off to the right, you'll find another rocky knoll in an open, treeless area with a great view to the west, overlooking the Victoria General Hospital. From the knoll, continue down the main trail and, at the bottom of the hill, turn left and follow the trail back up the hill. When you come to the next main trail junction (four trails, one of which you came down earlier) turn right and, staying on the main trail, keep right (ignoring the trail to the right down to Tall Tree Place). You will come to a park sign and map and continue straight on to the road. Just a short distance along the road at 'E', to the right, you'll see a footpath leading down a flight of stairs that will bring you to Wilkinson Road.
6. At Wilkinson, turn right and then cross over to follow Tulip Avenue down a short hill to South Valley Road where you turn right. Follow the sidewalk along South Valley Road until it turns to the right at 'E' where you'll find a footpath leading up a short but steep hill into Marigold Park. You will see a building on the left (a public toilet that's not open often!). Keep to the right of that building, following the path until you come to Iris Avenue at 'G'. Cross the avenue and follow the path between the houses to Mina Avenue where you turn right, ending up at Grange Road where you turn left.
7. Along Grange Road, take the second road to the left which is Tulip Avenue. At the end of Tulip you'll find a path running down a short hill which will bring you back to South Valley Drive, where you turn right. South Valley parallels a small creek and, after about 200m and ignoring an access road on the right, you'll come to a short bridge leading into a townhouse development at 'H'. Turn right over the bridge and then immediately left along the footpath between the condo development and the creek.
8. Walk past the pond on the left hand side of the trail and at the T-junction, just after the pond, turn left. Continue on to Hatfield Road and turn left. Continue up Hatfield until you come to the cul-de-sac and you'll see a pathway on the left leading up between the houses. This will bring you back to Wilkinson Road, at 'I'. Cross Wilkinson and proceed up Santa Rosa Avenue to Rosedale Park. Cross the park to the far side of the school and follow the footpath back to your car on Delmar Road.