

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Denman Island Residents Association's Parks Committee

Category: Group

Project: Support for facilities at Morning Beach Park and Maple Park, Denman Island

Nominator(s): Brian Allaert, Comox Valley Regional District

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

In 2011, the Denman Island Residents Association's Parks Committee volunteers were instrumental in establishing park facilities in two Comox Valley Regional District parks that enhance opportunities for residents and visitors to explore the natural beauty of Denman Island.

Committee chair Peter Karsten and several committee members worked in cooperation with the Comox Valley Regional District to consider designs for a staircase that would eliminate the need for visitors to scurry down the slope hanging onto a rope. Visitors can now walk to the beach via a 103 step staircase and trail that protect the sensitive, sandy slope from further foot generated erosion. The committee erected fencing, made and installed both park entrance and interpretive signs, planted trees, and sowed grass seed. DIRA volunteers also played a helpful role in the park's official opening. Members of the committee continue to monitor the park and improvements.

Even before the Morning Beach project was completed, the Parks Committee undertook a second project to open McFarlane Road Park. On the committee's suggestion, the Comox Valley Regional District changed the name of the park to Maple Park. The committee built a trail into Morrison Marsh to allow wildlife viewing. Again, the committee created and erected all the signs while also providing a bench and a log book where visitors could share their experiences. With the exception of the wood for the signs, all supplies and labour were volunteered. This work was done again under the leadership of Peter Karsten.