

8 Quarry Park to Fairy Fen

Time & Elevation: 90 minutes, 150 ft.

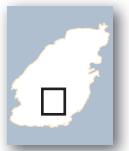
Difficulty: Easy

Access: No bus access at present; parking at entrance to Quarry Park, on the right side of Cowan Point Drive; on foot from Willie's Way through Quarry Park

Main Attraction: Varied terrain, Fairy Fen diversity, viewpoint from Bob's Knob

Route: Take the right-hand path from the car park off Cowan Point Drive, down the hill, then take the right-hand fork, keeping the pond on your left. After passing through the wood gateway, take a sharp turn to the right up the hill, eventually reaching Cowan Point Drive. Exit Quarry Park, and continue on the trail above Cowan Point Drive to Thompson Road, then left up Thompson Road to the access to the Fairy Fen Nature Reserve. The trail starts on the right and is a well-maintained gravel path for the first while. It soon becomes a woodland trail that from time to time is crossed by fallen trunks. It descends in a right-hand direction until the bottom of the valley where a left-hand turn takes you to the first sign for Fairy Fen Nature Reserve. This reserve belongs to the Islands Trust Fund and is managed by the Bowen Island Conservancy. Please do not attempt to walk into the Fen as the wetland vegetation is very sensitive. It is possible to use the trail on the South side of the Fen to access a track that leads up to Radar Hill and eventually back to Quarry Park; however, there are several confusing side trails so we do not recommend this route. Instead, return on the same trail but take the right-hand fork marked on the map and access Quarry Park on this very attractive level path. At this entrance to the park, you will find the attractive Stone Garden designed by Josephine Riley. Then turn right over the bridge to complete your tour of the pond.

Variation: When exiting Quarry Park first time around, take a sharp left up the road marked 'Non-motorized public access only'. At the top of the road (from which there are lovely views of the North Shore mountains behind you), there is a trail marker next to some large wooden gates. Follow the well-marked trail to Bob's Knob, a huge moss covered rock that has a bench and more lovely views to the southwest. There is a steep unmarked trail from the upper left-hand side of this rock down to the path to Fairy Fen (this variation not marked on the map).



Fairy Fen: Photo by Alan Whitehead

