

PKOLS

(Mount Douglas Park)

Area: Gordon Head

Location: Cedar Hill Road

Size: approx. 184.02 ha

Amenities:



[Beach Access](#)



[Dog Restrictions](#)



[Interpretive Signs](#)



Picnic Areas



Dogs on Leash



Cycling Restrictions



Garry Oak



[View/Lookout](#)



[Playground](#)



Dogs Leash-Optional
on designated trails
only



[Washrooms](#)



Green Space



Parking



[Trails](#)



Seasonal restrictions.
Dogs not permitted on
playground

About the Park:



This expansive, stunning area is the largest park administered by Saanich. Walk the shores of Cordova Bay, hike trails adorned with lush

ferns, wildflowers and majestic Douglas fir and Cedar trees. Trails as well as a paved, albeit steep, park road leads you to the summit. From the parking lot at the peak, a trail leads you higher up to an elevation of 225m. The panoramic 360° lookout at the top offers views of rural Saanich, the sparkling lights of Victoria, and in the distance, the Olympic and Cascade Mountains of Washington State.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times, except on designated leash optional trails (see map).

Seasonal Restrictions: Dogs not allowed May 1 - August 31 in park areas north of Cordova Bay Road & on beach except for asphalt road and parking lot.

PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) beach is a long sandy beach and accessed via trail from the Beach Parking Lot near the Cordova Bay/Cedar Hill/Ash intersection. Washrooms, a playground, picnic areas and an interpretive sign are here as well.

In 1942, Emily Carr claimed to have had a vision while visiting a friend in Vancouver. The vision inspired her to return immediately to PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) where she felt the *"forest had something to tell her"*. There, for a few weeks in August of that year, she painted her last works which were both mystical and enchanting.



Google map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/4EoEppXKASq>

PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) Trails:

Come to the park to enjoy the [extensive trail system](#) named after the early settlers and farms in the area – it is likely they established some of them. Use the difficulty rating system to plan your hike:



From one of the many parking areas, a variety of trails will lead you through the forest, around the base of the summit, up to the spectacular view at the mountaintop or down to the secluded, sandy beach.

[Churchill Drive](#) is the paved road leading to the summit. We keep Churchill Drive, the paved road leading to the summit, closed to vehicles until noon seven days a week to promote a more active, enjoyable leisure experience for pedestrians, families and cyclists. You can drive to the summit from noon each day until just after dusk.

No parking is allowed at any time along the side of Churchill Drive (subject to fine). Only park in designated parking stalls in any portion of Mount Douglas Park. The beach lot has a lot of spots - we recommend this as the primary parking location if you drive to the park.

You can drive to the summit from noon most days until just after dusk. If snowy or icy, the road will remain closed to vehicle traffic. Churchill Drive will also remain closed 24 hours per day on holidays and over long weekends.

Please note: during gate closures maintenance crews still require access to the road.

We installed elevation and distance markers as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations. Take the 1,500m hike from the Churchill parking lot gate 42m above sea level to the summit parking lot 202m for a 160m climb. If you go right to the summit at the geographic marker, it is 225m.

Trail Etiquette:

- Respect plants, wildlife and private property.
- Keep our parks and trails clean – follow a pack it in, pack it out/leave no trace philosophy. If needed, put litter in the waste containers. Do not dispose trash or throw animal waste bags to the side of the trails. Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but memories.
- No smoking as per the [CRD Clean Air Bylaw](#) is permitted in any park or public space.
- Watch for and respect horseback riders as horses may easily startle.
- Keeps dogs on-leash in all areas of the park except for designated leash-optional trails which include Glendenning, and portions of the Whittaker and Maddock Trails (see map on last page).
- Please pick up after your pet and deposit bags in waste containers or take it home with you to dispose of properly.
- No dogs on the beach or around the playground and lower/beach parking area ("area bounded by Cordova Bay Rd, Ash Rd, Douglas Creek, the natural boundary of the ocean and the northwesterly boundary of the park, EXCEPT the asphalt road surface lying to the northwest of the picnic area between the two gates" - [Animal Bylaw](#)).
- Cycle only on paved roads or pathways, cycling is not allowed on any gravel or bare earth trail in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park).
- The park is home to numerous delicate ecosystems, ranging from the rocky outcrops at the summit to the areas between the tide lines on the beach. Please respect PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) and help preserve these vulnerable habitats by sticking to designated trails when hiking and ensuring dogs stay on them.

Picnic Areas:

There are [two large picnic areas](#) near the parking lot down at the beach area parking lot.

Area A is near the playground and has five (5) extra-long picnic tables (seats 16 persons each) as well as two (2) regular sized picnic tables (seats 10 persons each) available. Up to 100 persons can have a seat.

Area B is located in the treed area above the ocean. There are three (3) regular sized picnic tables and one (1) extra-long picnic table available. Nearly 50 people can have a seat here!

You can reserve picnic areas through our [park permit system](#). Unreserved tables are available on a first come basis with the understanding that any reservations will be able to ask you to relocate.

Please identify which area(s) you wish to reserve when making a park permit reservation. Garbage, recycling and/or compostable materials need to be disposed of properly (i.e., take it home after your event) and picnic areas cleaned up after use.



Washroom Facilities:

There is a main washroom building located in the Beach Parking Lot and there are two satellite seasonal portable washrooms located at the Churchill Drive Parking Lot and at the Summit Parking Lot.





Regulations for Dogs

Dog Regulation
Signage for
PKOLS

– in effect
November 2023



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