



Gerald Island Spring Itinerary & Important Information

September 25-28th, 2025



A quick nap, April 2025

Before All Else:

- ☐ [Online Waiver Form](#)
- ☐ [Volunteer Medical Form](#)

Objective

Remove invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberry that is suffocating trees and coastal wood ferns on Gerald Island.

Background Info

First Nation: When you come to Gerald Island, you are paddling in the Traditional Territory of the Snaw-naw-as First Nation. Each year we reach out to members from Snaw-naw-as to invite them to join us. Please reach out too if you have personal friends from Snaw-naw-as. There is a chance that some members may be joining us this year and we are excited about this.

Land Tenure: Gerald Island is a BC Marine Park. We work closely with the regional head ranger, Etienne Beaudet regarding the safety and operations of the project. Etienne may also be joining us. All participants will be asked to participate in a safety and sensitive plants briefing prior before starting to work on the island.

BC Marine Trails Stewardship Project Leads

- **Sam Cutcliffe** scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org
 - Sam is our communications and stewardship coordinator. Reach out to him for any event questions, pre-event logistics, or inquiries. He will be looking forward to receiving your event comments and photos.
- **Susie Youle**, syoule@bcmarinetrails.org
 - Susie will be meeting volunteers at the launch site. If you need help on the Vancouver Island side, reach out to Susie.
- **Gene Gapsis and Allen Edwin will be your main hosts on Gerald Island**
 - Gene will be welcoming you and giving you an introduction to the island and a safety talk. Allen will ensure tarps are up and equipment is working. Hannah will be taking photos and Kirstin has offered to be the onsite first aid designate even though many of you also have current or expired first aid credentials. As everyone will be busy once on the island, reach out to Susie via email or cell phone and she can contact the island hosts. Hosts will monitor via VHF radio (channel 69) if they have been asked to watch out for your arrival.

Project Logistics

Travelling to/from Gerald Island

Volunteer preparedness: This is a BYOFW event (bring your own food and water). All participants will be expected to transport themselves and their gear (gloves, clothing, footwear, water, food, camping equipment) to Gerald Island. Snacks, hot chocolate, coffee, and tea will be available in the group bin. Please feel free to bring additional snacks, candy, etc. to share with the group.

Potential Hazards: Boat traffic, wind chop, fog. It is a short 20 minute paddle from the end of Oak Leaf Drive at the Es-hw Sme~nts Community Park launch site (a 200m walk to the

beach on a wide trail). If you would like to paddle with a group, paddlers meet at Oakleaf Drive/Es-hw Sme~nts Park at 7:45 am for an 8:30 am departure.

If you would like to launch and cross with other participants, please email Susie Youle at syoule@bcmarinetrails.org.

Launch Options and Overnight Parking:

- **Oakleaf Drive/Es-hw Sme~nts [Community Park](#) (Shortest paddle)** - Turn from Dolphin Drive in Nanoose Bay onto Oakleaf Drive and continue to the end of the road. There is a pit toilet at the trailhead. Follow the park trail to launch from the beach on the left before the point. This is the shortest paddle (0.6 nm or just over 1 km) and the daily meeting spot for group launching. You do not need a parking pass if you park in the cul-de-sac or along the road. Even though day paddlers may park in the community park's parking lot, this park is heavily used by people with varying abilities so we ask that you unload at the trailhead and then move your car to park along the street.
- **Blueback Drive/[Blueback Community Park](#) (Shortest launch, longer paddle)** - This launch site is roughly a 2nm (4 km) paddle to Gerald Island. Anyone parking overnight at Blueback Drive **WILL** require a parking pass. Please arrange to get one from Susie or me and remember to display your parking pass in your vehicle.

The map shows two crossing options: Oak Leaf/Es-hw Sme-nts is .5 nm straight across; Blueback is 2nm following the shoreline and then straight across. See BCMT map for more information on location and distance. <https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/member-map/>



Trip Itinerary for September 25, 26, 27 (see Sept 28 below)

On Gerald Island, we will have daily morning check-ins at 9:00 am and an afternoon check-in around 1:00 pm for anyone arriving later, especially on the first day. During check-ins we go over the following items:

- Ensure that volunteers have signed the BC Parks Waiver and Photo Release upon arrival.
- Check that your BCMT waiver and medical forms were completed online.
- Review safety tips for use and storage of tools.
- Review invasive species we are removing and show examples of sensitive plants (coastal wood fern, prickly pear, reindeer lichen).
- We start working about 9:00 am, taking breaks and lunch as needed, and we stop working by about 4:00 pm.

September 28th Complete Team Wrap up Tasks by 3:00 pm

- Remove the remainder of pulled ivy from the woods and burn it (if there is not a fire ban). Ensure fire is completely extinguished.
- Prepare latrine, tarps, tools, camp gear for Cliff, our skiff support, to take out.
- Final sweep of the island to ensure the BC Marine Trails Code of Conduct has been followed and no personal belongings or BCMT equipment has been forgotten.
- Record final data points on the extent of English ivy and Himalayan blackberry removal.

Invasive Removal & Burning

If fire bans are lifted, and with wind and weather conditions permitting, we will burn the piles of invasive ivy and blackberry brambles in the intertidal zone. If this is not possible, we will store the ivy and blackberry brambles on a tarp and cover it with a second tarp until conditions improve and burning is possible.

Removal Sites

Group leaders will measure the extent of English ivy before and after this event either using a GPS or phone photos if GPS is not available.

This map is from April 2025, showing remaining areas of dense ivy (blue shapes). Targets for the fall clean will be climbing ivy on the north beach, and the remaining patch of density along the east-west trail on the south end of the island.



Checklist:

- ☐ Have you completed the [Online Waiver Form](#)?
- ☐ Have you completed the online [Volunteer Medical Form](#)?
- ☐ Do you have your personal gear and safety equipment for kayaking and working (see list below)?
- ☐ Do you have adequate food, water, and cooking supplies?
- ☐ When you arrive at the island, please check in with Gene to sign the BC Parks Waiver and Photo Release form. After you unload your kayak and settle in, Gene, Hannah or Allan will give you a safety orientation and show you where to find tools, first aid, toilet, and work areas. You choose where you work and with whom.

Personal Packing List - Day-trip and Overnight Participants (this is a guide)

Essential Personal Paddling Gear Everybody must have all Transport Canada required safety gear to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kayak (single or double)• Paddle and 1 extra paddle/kayak• Spray skirt• Throw bag or tow belt• Paddle float• Pump and sponge or absorbent cloth• PFD (w/whistle)• Paddling Jacket and pants (or dry top and pants) or Dry/wetsuit• Pogies/Neoprene Gloves (optional)• Footwear for paddling (your feet will likely get wet)• Chart in waterproof case with carabiner attachments (optional)• Deck compass or compass w/lanyard (optional)• 2 water bottles - filled and with carabiner• Lunch and snacks• Change of clothes, hat
Essential Personal Work Gear and Overnight Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal food and water for the time you are spending on Gerald Island- There is no water on Gerald Island. Please bring what water you need for drinking and cooking plus a bit extra as back up (3-5 L/person/day). Empty milk jugs or wine bladders work well for water.• Work clothes, gloves, safety glasses, hat• Personal work tools (clippers, saw, gloves) - BCMT brings the heavy tools• Rubber boots or hiking shoes/boots (for camp)• Top + bottom layers for paddling and for camp (wool, synthetic polypro,etc). Cotton will not keep you warm, especially if it gets wet.• Fleece jacket and/or synthetic warm puff jacket (for camp)• 2 Toques• Rain jacket and rain pants (for camp)• Sunscreen, lip screen, sun hat, sunglasses.• Toiletries (comb, toothbrush, toothpaste) and personal toilet supplies (TP, soap, hand sanitizer, ziplock or garbage bag to pack out used TP).• Ikea Bag (for packing gear from kayak to campsite)• Small personal first aid kit (BCMT has a large one)• Personal medications, bring extra as a precaution.• Watch and/or cell phone

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp chair or cushion • Sleeping bag • Sleeping pad • Tent and tarp (share if possible to reduce footprint) • Dry bags (5/10/15L for sleeping gear, clothes, etc) • Large garbage bags (to line stuff sacks if you don't have drybags) • Ziploc bags (for small items- headlamp, fieldbook, etc.) • Knife, fork, spoon, bowl, cup, pot, soap and scrubber • Stove, lighter, and fuel • Thermos- we say optional, but it's really nice to have!
Optional Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binoculars, camera, book, card game • Write in the Rain or notebook in Ziploc bag, pencil(s)/pen(s) • Chocolate, Cookies + Candy (for sharing!)

BCMT Equipment List

Trip leader(s) will coordinate with Cliff Walker to bring group tarp, ivy tarps, latrine, heavier tools, extra water by boat from Beachcomber Marina to Gerald Island so it is on site before volunteers arrive.

Tools	Usage	Start	End
Gardening Gloves	Hand protection	12 pairs + 2 heavier gloves	
Eye Protection	Protection from salal and blackberries	7 pairs	
Hand Clippers	Clearing path, cutting ivy	6	
Pruning Shears (loppers)	Cutting larger ivy, roots	4 long; 6 short-handled	
Serrated Blades (saws)	Cutting through thick roots	3 + 1 small chainsaw	
Pulaskis = fire ax	Breaking roots of ivy	3 (2 yellow, 1 wood)	
Mattocks = pickaxe	Pulling up mats of ivy	3 (2 red, 1 wood)	
Shovel	Moving ivy, prying off roots	1 (need to buy one)	
Rake	Raking area where ivy is stored	2 (grass and garden)	
Pitchfork	Throwing ivy into the fire	1	
2 Large Tarps & Twine; group tarp & ropes	1 for toilet area; 1 for kitchen area (large tarps for storing ivy)	2 tarps, 250' twine, nylon tarp & ropes	
Ivy Tarps & Ropes	For pulling ivy to storage/fire	8 + duct tape for holes	
Fire Starter & Lighter	For burning ivy	1/day	
Latrine Kit	container, bags, sanitizing wipes, toilet paper, nitrile gloves	4 rolls TP, 4 waste bags, 4 extra garbage bags	
Contractor bags	For collecting debris	8 bags	
Flagging tape	Delineating sensitive plants	1 roll	
Safety vests	Quick identification of leaders	6	
Hammer	For posting signage	1 + nails	
Kitchen tongs	For cookies	3	
Treats (tea, goodies)	Tea, hot chocolate, candies, cookies	Variety	
Coleman burner & fuel	For group beverages	1	
Extra Water Container	Extra water for group needs	1 x 20 L (fill with water!)	
Wilderness First Aid Kit	Including Benadryl for stings	2 (stored in kitchen bin)	
Kayak repair kit	At minimum, duct tape available	Leader have some items	
Cell phones, VHF radios	VHF channel 69.	Leaders bring	

Forms Trip leads review the Trip Leader Checklist and ensure gear gets to site.	Completed Volunteer Medical Forms and Waivers for BCMT with extra blank BCMT forms; BCParks waiver & photo permission (complete on site)	Binder is kept in the group bin; forms are printed before departure so please ensure they are submitted by Sept. 22.	
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