



Gerald Island Spring Itinerary & Important Information

April 15-20, 2026



Volunteer crew, April, 2024

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 territories of the Snaw-naw-as First Nations. Each year we reach out to members from Snaw-naw-as to invite them to join us and we are excited that some members may be joining us this year. If you have personal friends from Snaw-naw-as, please reach out to invite them to join you.

Land Tenure: Gerald Island is a BC Marine Park. We work closely with the Arrowsmith Area Supervisor, Edward Tennisco regarding the safety and operations of the project. 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

- Karina Younk kyounk@bcmarinetrails.org 250-616-7653 (cell) pre-event
- Sam Cutcliffe scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org 902-213-3039 (cell) on-site
- Susie Youle syoule@bcmarinetrails.org 250-327-8041 (cell) parking/travel

Reach out pre-trip via email or cell phone. Once the event begins, reach out via cellphone and/or VHF radio (channel 69).

Project Logistics

Kayaking 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 need more time to prepare, come earlier!**

If you would like to launch and cross with other participants, please email Susie Youle at syoule@bcmarinetrails.org. Should your plans change or you are delayed, contact Susie on her cell phone at 250-327-8041 so the group isn't waiting for you to arrive.

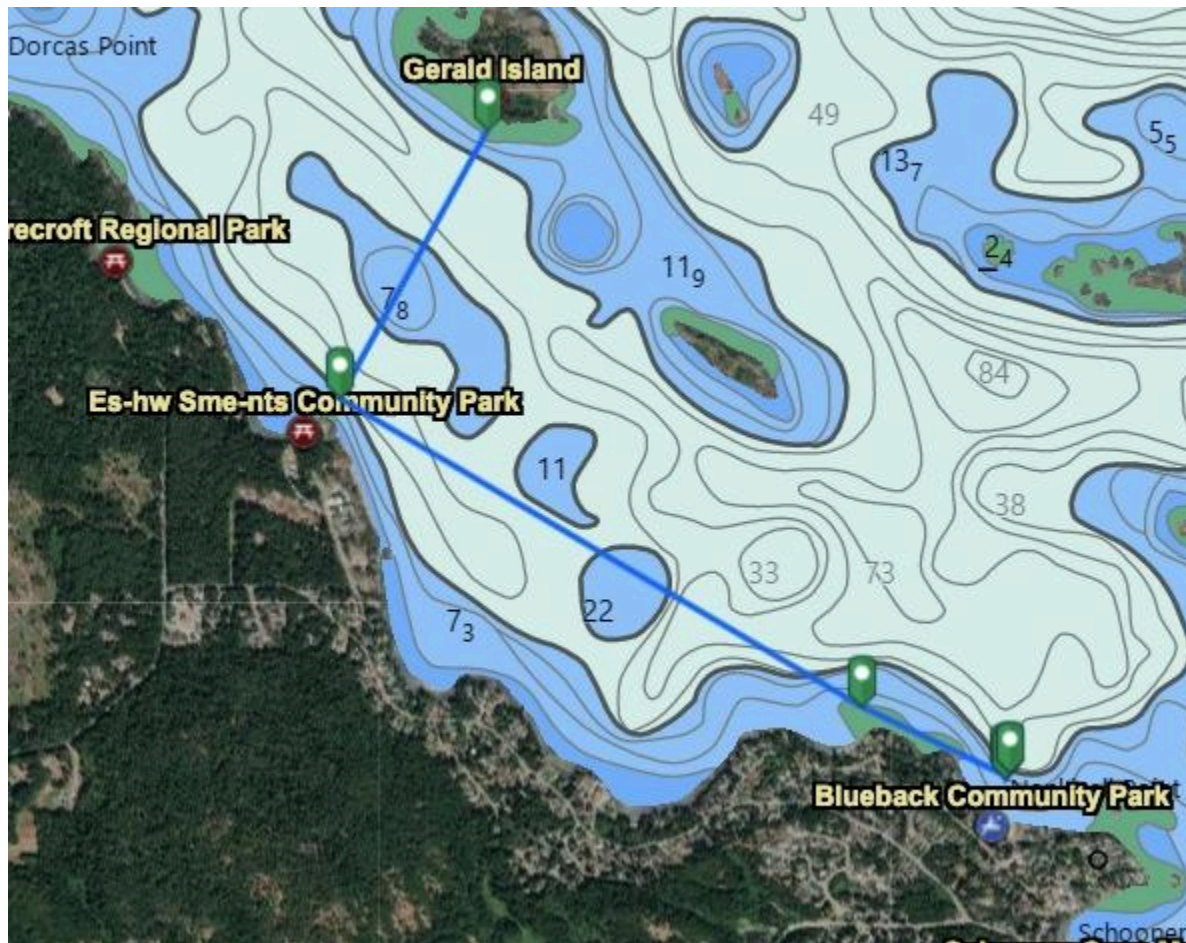
Launch Options and Overnight Parking:

- **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 you to 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 and remember to display your parking pass in your vehicle.

The map shows two crossing options: Oak Leaf/Es-hw Sme-nts is 0.5 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 April 15-20

- 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:
 - 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).
 - Ensure volunteers sign the BC Parks Photo Release upon arrival.
- We start working about 9:00 am, taking breaks and lunch as needed, and we stop working by about 4:00 pm.

April 20 Complete Team Wrap up Tasks by 3:00 pm

- 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

In the spring, there are generally no burn restrictions, so 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 this spring will be the climbing ivy on the north beach, and the remaining ivy patches along the east-west trail on the south end of the island.



Volunteer 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?
- Do you have adequate food, water, and cooking supplies?
- When you arrive at the island, check in with either Sam or Karina to sign the BC Parks Photo Release. After you unload your kayak and settle in, one of us will give you a short safety orientation and show you where to find tools, first aid, toilet, and work areas. Then you can choose where you work and with whom.

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

<p>Essential Personal Paddling Gear</p> <p>Everybody must have all Transport Canada required safety gear to participate.</p>	<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
<p>Essential Personal Work Gear and Overnight Gear</p>	<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) - 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, 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 • Camp chair or cushion • Sleeping bag and sleeping pad

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent and tarp (share where 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 Group Equipment List (we bring this equipment)

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

Tools	Usage	Start	End
Heavy Duty Gloves	Hand protection	7 pairs	
Eye Protection	Protection from salal and blackberries	6 pairs	
Hand Clippers	Clearing path, cutting ivy	5	
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 + 1 head only)	
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,	1	
Pitchfork	Throwing ivy into the fire	1	
2 Large Tarps & Twine	1 for toilet area; 1 for kitchen area (use at end for storing ivy)	2 tarps, 250' twine	
Ivy Tarps & Ropes	For pulling ivy to storage/fire	5 (check condition)	
Fire Starter & Lighter	For burning ivy	1/day	
Latrine	+ bags, sanitizing wipes, toilet paper	6 rolls, 1 waste bag	
Contractor bags, gloves	For collecting debris and toilet bags	18 bags; Box of gloves	
Flagging tape	Delineating sensitive plants	2 rolls	
Safety vests	Quick identification of leaders	6	
Hammer & nails	For posting signage	1	
Kitchen tongs	For cookies	3	
Tea, hot chocolate	For group beverages	Variety (buy)	
Cookies, chocolate	For group snacking	Variety (buy)	
Water Container (filled)	Extra water for group needs	1 x 20 L	
Wilderness First Aid Kit	Include Benadryl for stings	1 (stored in kitchen bin)	
Flare gun and flares	(for other locations add bear spray)	1 in dry bag	
Kayak repair kit	Unexpected repair needs	1	
Cell phones, VHF radios	Working channel 69 (if not in use).	2 of each	
Forms: Trip leads will review the Trip Leader Checklist and ensure this gear is on site.	Completed Volunteer Medical Forms and Waivers for BCMT with extra blank BCMT forms BCP photo release (complete on site)		