

Capital Bike Presents:

Cedar Hill Discovery Ride

Go By Bike Week 



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Photo by John Holland

www.gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria

About this

May 31 - June 6 2021

Welcome Discovery Riders!

Planning on logging those kms during Go By Bike Week but not sure where to go? We've got you covered!

Without our usual Celebration Stations to visit, Capital Bike has restarted our popular Neighbourhood Rides program with a few special rides released during Go By Bike Week 2021. To complete this Ride, visit the points below, taking pictures at your favourite stops/points of interest, then share them on social media with the hashtag "#GoByBikeWeek2021" to be entered to win prizes. Otherwise, you can send in photo submissions to James@biketowork.ca.

Log This Ride!

Log rides at www.GoByBikeBC.ca ! It's easy! You can even link your Strava account to make tracking kms even easier.

How the rides work:

For each Discovery Ride and Scavenger Hunt we provide both an information sheet including clues and points of interest, as well as a custom Google Map to help make finding the route easier. Find this ride's google map here:

<http://ow.ly/MGpy50ELIY>

This Ride Sponsored By:



Please follow the COVID-19 Provincial Health Officer guidelines and protocols, as well as any local municipal guidelines in your community, while participating in Go By Bike activities.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

Take a ride on some of the quieter side streets of the Cedar Hill neighbourhood, from Quadra Street in the West over to Mt. Tolmie on the east side. Follow our suggested Discovery Ride route and see parks with Camas Meadows, ride scenic multi-use paths, and even challenge yourself to take on some tougher climbs, if you so choose. Enjoy!

1.

Background:

Many major roads in this area can be challenging for commuter and recreational cyclists, as it lacks the AAA bike infrastructure of regions like downtown or the quieter roads of places like nearby Gordon Head. However, the District of Saanich is, thanks in part to advocacy by the GVCC, implementing the “Shelbourne Valley Action Plan” which includes building bike lanes along Shelbourne Street, a major connecting road.



Action item

Take a picture on the road or bike route you feel most comfortable on in this area; perhaps a quiet street, and nice gentle hill to cruise down, or your perfect route for getting to and from work.

Note: this question can be completed at any point in your ride. Be on the lookout for multi-use infrastructure such as the Bowker Creek Greenway, Blenkinsop Greenway, as well as several on street bike lanes along the suggested route for this Discovery Ride.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

- 2. Background:**
- The current geological age is known as the Anthropocene, the age in which human activity dominates the earth. While this has unfortunately meant decline for many wildlife species, some animals benefit from human activity. Among these are mallard ducks, the most abundant duck species in North America, who have thrived in artificial ponds and parks created by humans. One local pond which lies along a popular walking trail is known for its high number of duck residents.



Action item

On your bike ride, find a mallard duck hanging out at a local watering hole and take a picture of it. We recommend the King's Pond along the Cedar Hill Chip Trail, accessible off Queensbury Avenue. Note: bikes are not permitted on the Chip Trail.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

3. **Background:**
- During the First World War (1914-1918) about 6,000 Victorians enlisted in the military, out of a population at the time of only 35,000. One Victoria road, which can be challenging for cyclists, was the first in Canada to be dedicated a memorial road, way back in 1921. It was rededicated in 2018 for the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War.



Action item

Take a photo of the sign for this particular street. Though the street is narrow and can be challenging for cyclists now, it is going to be redone over the next three years, complete with a protected bike lane!

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

4. Background:

This residential area is home to several community associations who work to improve local communities and sponsor community events. The Quadra/Cedar Hill, Mt. Tolmie, and Camosun Community Associations work to improve this neighbourhood. Projects undertaken in recent years by these associations in recent years including a bike repair station, art in local parks, and support for a community kitchen.



Action item:

Find a sign of these volunteer groups' participation in the neighbourhood. You can find a mural at the lovely Horner Park, a directional marker at the top of Mt. Tolmie, the restoration of Bowker Creek which can be seen from the Bowker Creek Greenway, or the Shelbourne Community Kitchen which helps combat food insecurity in a community minded way.

Note:

These clues can be found at any point in your ride, be on the lookout when cycling the Bowker Creek Greenway, passing Horner Park, and Biking up Mt Tolmie if you choose to.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

5. Background:

Many locals are familiar with Galey Farms' assorted collection of attractions, from a corn maze in the fall to a large sphinx that sits just off the Lochside trail. Recently, Galey Farms acquired the world's tallest gnome. At 28 feet tall "Howard" had stood just off highway 19 in Nanoose Bay until he was recently saved from destruction by being moved to Victoria. Howard is currently undergoing repairs, yet other attractions can still be viewed from the greenway.



Action item:

Bike down the Blekinsop Greenway and snap a picture of the Sphinx overlooking the trail.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

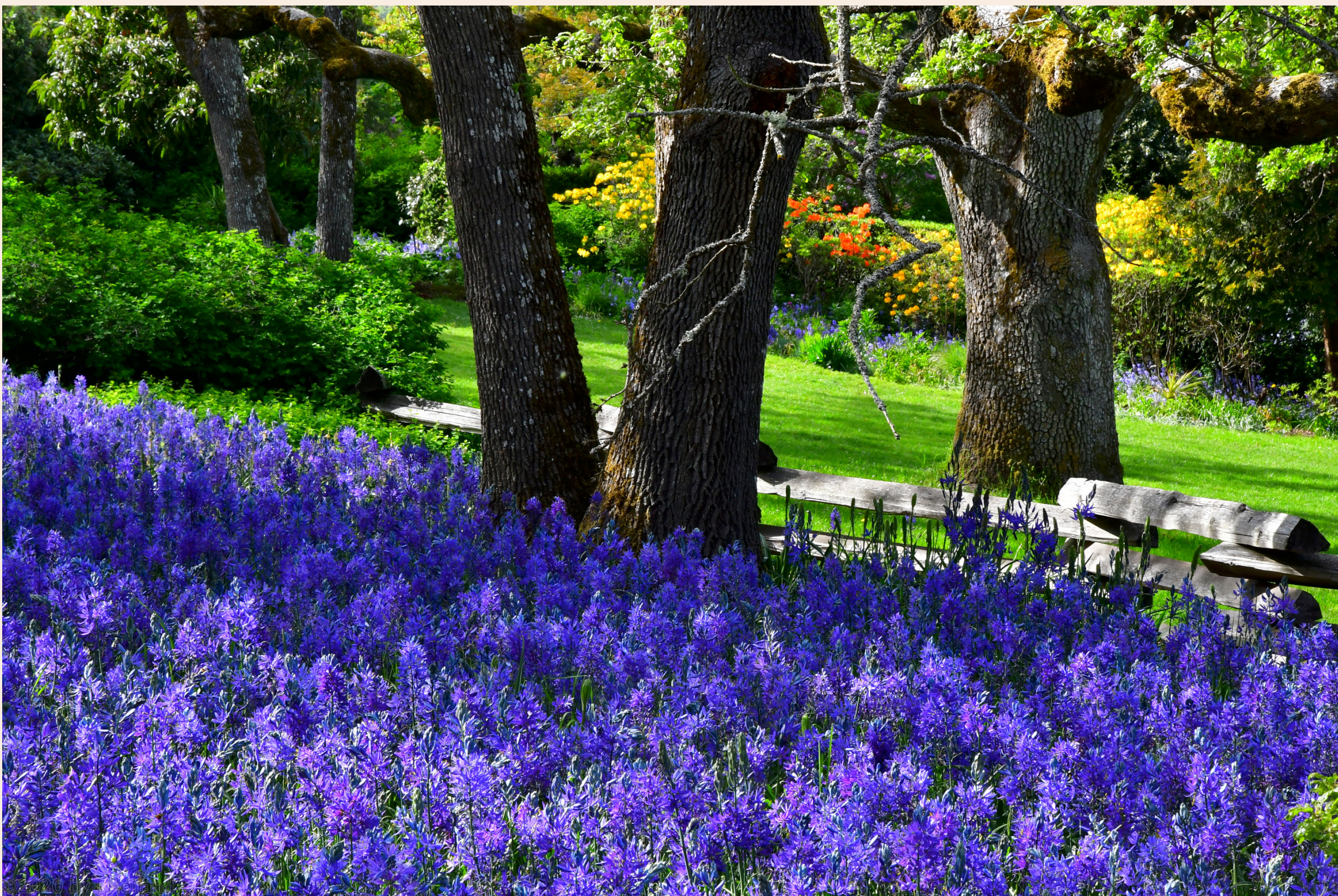
6.

Background:

“Turning meadows into fields of beautiful blue and purple in early spring, Camas flowers are significant to the local ecology and their bulbs were traditionally harvested by the Lekwungen people as a main source of starchy carbohydrates.”

-CRD Community Green Map

Camas, which blooms blue/purple beginning in the spring and into June, used to cover much of Victoria as part of the Garry Oak Meadows that dominated the landscape. Camas can still be found at many greenspaces around Greater Victoria, included at such nearby hidden gems as Playfair Park where a large meadow blooms.

**Action item:**

Visit a local meadow such as Playfair Park and take a picture of Camas in bloom.

Note: Keep a lookout for other Camas flowers in bloom along the Discovery Ride, there are others in addition to Playfair Park.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest

7. Background:

The Provincial Normal School, registered as a Canadian historic place, is notable as it has been almost continually used for education since 1915. The one exception was its conversion into a military hospital during the Second World War. It was then home to the University of Victoria until its move to Gordon Head in 1967. Its name now derives from the Lekwungen name for the Victoria area meaning “where different waters meet and are transformed.”



Action item:

Ride to what was once called the Provincial Normal School and snap a picture of your favourite spot on campus.

Cedar Hill

Points of Interest



Background:

“Cedar Hill” comes from what white settlers initially called Mt Doug, or PKOLS as it is known by local indigenous groups. Cedar Hill was renamed once no cedar trees remained on the logged hill. Speaking of hills, this is a great opportunity to push your limits and conquer a hill that you have had trouble biking in the past.

Action item:

Cycle up a local hill which you’ve found daunting in the past. Since Camosun is near Mt.Tolmie, cyclists may wish to bike up to the top and enjoy a nice view and pleasant ride down the other side (remember to make sure your brakes are in working order!). Other nearby hills to conquer include Cedar Hill Cross Road between Richmond and Gordon Head Road, and Foul Bay Road just south of Landsdowne Road. Take a photo once your ride has been conquered.



An early photo of Pacific Northwest logging of large cedar trees.

You have now come to the end of your Discovery Ride! We hope you enjoyed the bike trip through the neighbourhood streets of Cedar Hill and enjoyed seeing some Camus in bloom, a sphinx, as well as some of the neighbourhood’s best greenspaces and parks. Remember to log your ride at GoByBikeBC.ca and share your photos on social media with [#GoByBikeWeek2021](https://twitter.com/GoByBikeWeek2021) or email them to James@biketowork.ca