

Four Great Walks

Victoria, Richmond & Toronto COMPILED BY SUZANNE DOYLE-INGRAM AND SOPHIE KEATS

1. GALLOPING GOOSE TRAIL



Club Dog dog walkers on the Galloping Goose.

Vancouver Island has many beautiful areas where you can walk with your dog. The Galloping Goose Trail, otherwise known as "The Goose," is a 57-km former railway line that is now a regional trail. If it isn't a motorized vehicle, you can use it on the trail, so be aware that anything from horses to bikes to babes in strollers could be encountered. The Goose also gives you a look at just about every type of landscape to be seen on southern Vancouver Island: a quiet cove, a hidden lake, rocky outcrops, marshland, canyon land, skunk-cabbage swampland, tall Douglas fir forest, Garry oak and arbutus woodland, rural farmland, urban back streets and waterways. Galloping Goose trail starts at the Johnston Street Bridge in downtown Victoria and ends in Sooke. Future plans include expansion of the Goose into a regional trail system that will continue up Lochside Drive and on to Sidney. While walking with your dog, stay along the right-hand shoulder of the trail, and dogs must be on a short leash. And don't forget to please pick up after your dog. For detailed maps, see www.crd.bc.ca/parks/pdf/galgose3.pdf. (Information generously provided by Jim Mulchinock, Information Coordinator for CRD Parks.)

2. DALLAS ROAD

At the south end of Dallas Road in Victoria, just past Beacon Hill Park, there is a great place where dogs meet to run and play together. Dallas Road overlooks the bluff and although the view is gorgeous and the smell of salt water intoxicating, it can be quite windy and deceptively cold so watch out. There is no fence between the park area and road so you should have voice control over your dog if he is to be off leash. Parking is available and poopbags are supplied.

3. FRASER RIVER DIKE

Richmond has 80 km of trails along the various dikes, which are all shared by joggers, cyclists, dog walkers and others. The West Dike Trail will give particularly interesting looks at various types of vegetation, birds and other wildlife. Enter at the foot of Blundell, Francis or Williams Roads. Along this walk you'll also find washrooms, picnic tables and poopbags supplied. Dogs will generally need to be leashed.

4. SUNNYBROOK PARK, TORONTO

GETTING THERE: Sunnybrook Park is located northeast of Toronto's city centre, in the community of North York. You can enter off Leslie Street, near the corner of Eglinton Avenue East. Parking is available. **THE TRAIL:** There are several tree-lined trails with some beautiful sugar maple and hemlock trees. The trails wind around, crossing wooden bridges over a number of small streams. Watch out for chipmunks and speeding cyclists. If you would rather an alternative to the trails there are also several large grassy park/picnic areas. (Dogs are permitted on leash.)



Share
the Happiness

Natural-Plus
Pet Food & Supplies

Natural is Beautiful

Best Selection in Lower Mainland

- Specializing in **Raw Diet**
- Human Grade **Organic** Dog & Cat Food
- **Holistic** Supplements
- Awesome Organic Treats
- Pet Care & Training Books
- **Knowledgeable & Friendly Staff**



Open 7 Days a Week
Mon-Thu 9-7, Fri 9-9, Sat 9-6, Sun/Hol 10-5
1644 Bridgman Ave. (at Marine Dr.)
North Vancouver Tel: 604.983.2706

www.naturalpluspetsupplies.com