

# SOMENOS MARSH CONSERVATION AREA TRAILS & FACILITIES

## Viewing Areas

- 1 Drinkwater Dock**
  - Includes elevated walkway & viewing platform
  - Year-round waterfowl, songbirds & mammals
  - Canoe & kayak launch

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- 2 Cowichan Regional Visitor Centre & BC Forest Discovery Centre**
  - Wildlife viewing opportunities are numerous but limited by seasonal opening hours
  - Visit [www.bcforestdiscoverycentre.com](http://www.bcforestdiscoverycentre.com) for information about the discovery centre

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- 3 Ducks Unlimited Nesting Area**
  - Year-round viewing & great spot for herons, swans & the occasional Northern Harrier

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- 4 Open Air Classroom & Watt's Walk**
  - Includes boardwalk & viewing platforms
  - Best viewing in winter when fields are flooded
  - Wheelchair access

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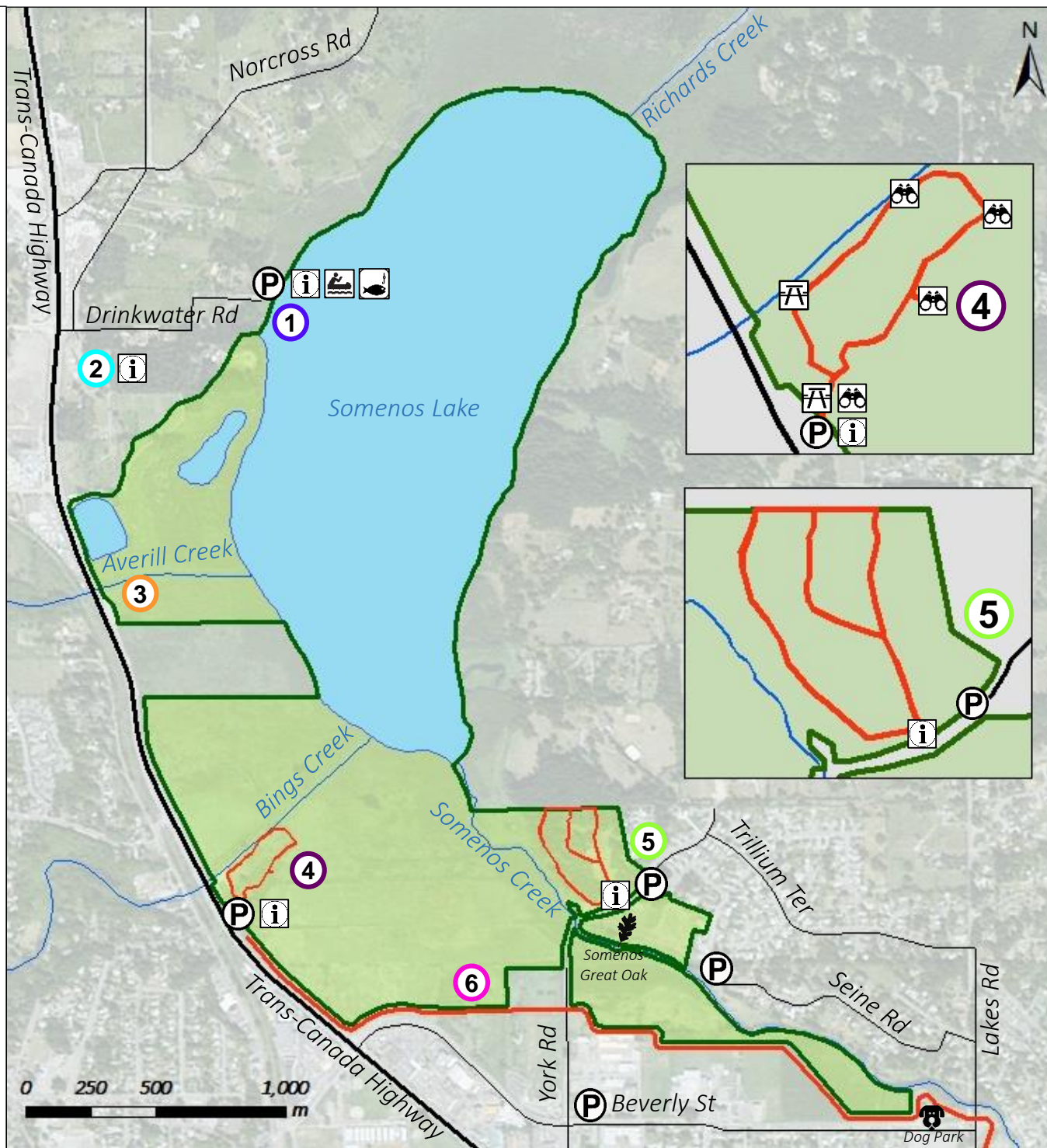
- 5 Somenos Garry Oak Protected Area**
  - Excellent wildlife viewing year-round
  - Rare wildflowers in the Garry Oak meadow bloom from April on
  - Look for one of the largest Garry Oaks in BC, the Somenos Great Oak 🌳

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- 6 Dike Trail**
  - Best viewing along here when water is high

## Map Legend

Parking	Table
Information Sign	Fishing
Canoe Launch	Roads
Observation Platform	Creeks
Conservation Area	Trails



## Interesting Facts about Somenos Marsh

- Somenos is home to many mammals including: Beaver, Muskrat, Deer, River Otter, Raccoon, and an occasional Black Bear or Roosevelt Elk.
- Over 200 species of birds can be found in the Somenos areas including: Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Northern Shoveler, Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Widgeon, and Ring-Necked Duck.



Trumpeter Swans



Tree Swallows

- Somenos Marsh is the site of two historical Cowichan villages - S'amuna and Kwa'mutsun. This area remains important to Cowichan Tribes who recognize the importance of Somenos watershed for salmon species, particularly Coho; and continue to protect important burial sites like Ye'yumnuts where archaeological evidence has dated features to 5,000 years before present.
- Deep soil Garry Oaks found in Somenos are the rarest variety of Garry Oak in BC. One of the largest Garry Oaks in BC, the Great Oak, can be found in the protected area and is featured on the front of the brochure.
- Somenos is home to the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest population of over-wintering Trumpeter Swans on Van. Isl.
- Somenos is part of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in Canada ([ibacanada.com](http://ibacanada.com)).

## About the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society

### PURPOSE

- to **restore** the marsh to a more natural state
- to **promote** public education and information
- to **protect** and conserve wildlife habitat

### OUR PARTNERS

The SMCA is cared for by a committee of land managers who work in a partnership which include:

Cowichan Tribes  
The Nature Trust of BC  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Cowichan Valley Naturalists  
Province of British Columbia  
Municipality of North Cowichan  
Van. Isl. Conservation Land Management Program

### Please Join the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society

Thank-you for your interest in the Somenos Marsh Conservation Area. Visit [www.somenosmarsh.com](http://www.somenosmarsh.com) for a membership application, to donate, and for volunteer opportunities such as nest box programs, public education, invasive species/habitat restoration, and water quality monitoring (citizen science).

### Contact Us

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[www.wildwingsfestival.com](http://www.wildwingsfestival.com)

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# Visitors Guide



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