



# Alert Bay Ecological Park

The park, formerly known as “Gator Gardens” in the 1980’s was renamed in 1998 to “Ecological Park” provides a paradise for Bird-watchers and botanists. The marsh itself is fed by an underground fresh water springs. The Park has a series of trails to take one around forested area.

A boardwalk across the marsh allows visitors a close-up look at the swamps ecosystem. Cedar snags, hemlocks and pine trees draped with “witches hair” moss give the park its eerie charm and beauty.

The piercing cry of the stately bald eagle, a frequent visitor to the Park and the clattering and clucking of ravens and crows are examples of sounds visitor will experience.

The Ecological Park originated with Spencer and Huson’s decision to change from a Fish Saltery in 1870 to a Fish Cannery in 1881, the building was next to BC Ferry terminal. They built a dam part way up the hill to store fresh water for the cannery building. It took five years for the top of the hill to flood thus killing the trees. The Cannery building was purchased by BC Packers, a commercial fishing company, in 1902, they continued to can fish until approximately 1941. The building then became a net loft for those who fished for BC Packers.

Although the building was taken down January 2003 by BC Packers, the dam remains part way up the hill and the top continues to bubble up from under the ground faster then it runs down the hill.

The Alert Bay Campground is adjacent to the park offers full facilities at reasonable rates.



## Alert Bay Visitor Centre

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Skunk Cabbage/  
Lysichiton  
Camtschatcense



Red Alder/*Alnus  
Rubra*



Salal/*Gaultheria  
Shallon*



Bunchberry/  
*Cornus Canadensis*



Bracken Fern/  
*Pteridium Aquilinum*

Please refer to our  
Visitor Services Map for a  
detailed trail map.  
Available online or at our  
Visitor Centre

