
Langley Bog in Derby Reach Park

From 'Derby Reach Regional Park Management Plan 1999'

The Langley Bog is a component of the GVRD's Derby Reach Regional Park and is located in the north Langley township.

The Langley Bog once covered an area of over 525 hectares (1300 acres). It is bounded on the north and east sides by Allard Crescent and it extends west of 208th Avenue. Approximately 75% of the bog has been converted into cranberry fields. Another 15% was mined for peat moss between 1958 and 1980. The remaining 10% is undisturbed bog forest.

Derby Reach Regional Park (GVRD) contains approximately 28 hectares (70 acres) of bog forest and 80 hectares (200 acres) of mined bog, and two bog meadows. Bog meadows are very moist, peat dominated communities located at transition zones. One bog meadow is on the western edge of the pine forest bog and is in a successional stage that indicates it will become pine forest. The other is located on the edge of the upland zone. This area seems to collect more moisture from run-off from the upland and has a high diversity of shrub species. The southern and wettest edge of this bog meadow has a higher concentration of hardhack and fewer sphagnum hummocks, probably as a result of richer mineral and nutrient elements in the water flowing from the gravely upland slope.

The pine forest is dominated by shore pine with an under-storey of Labrador tea as the dominant woody species. Bracken fern, bog cranberry and skunk cabbage are also found. Sphagnum moss covers the peat layer which in places is five metres deep.

The mined bog has a distinctive pattern of channels and ridges. The channels are where the peat was extracted. Deep extraction has left open water. In areas of shallow extraction the surface of the channels have a thin layer of vegetation, predominantly beak rush, over unconsolidated heath peat and a high water table, making the channels unsafe to walk on. The ridges are areas of higher elevations that consist of both typical bog vegetation left untouched during peat extraction and, in places, stumps, root-masses, and other debris, windrowed out of the extraction areas. Some of the channel and ridge patterns are oriented north-south and in other mined areas are east-west.



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