BLINKHORN NATURE PARK 20 HA

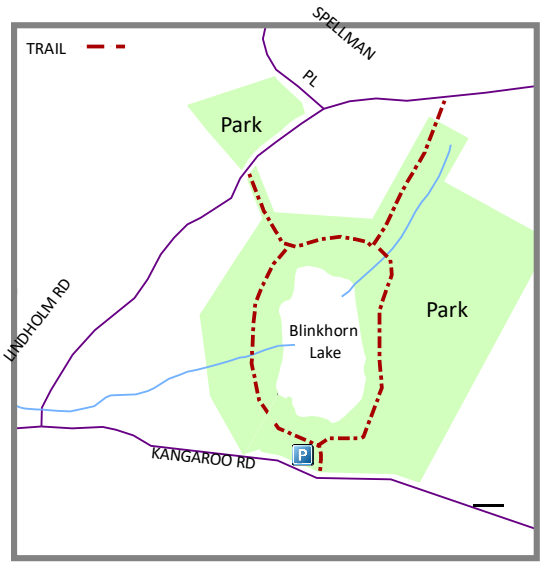
Blinkhorn Nature Park, at the geographic centre of Metchosin, was identified early on for its potential as water supply for the area. But instead of creating a reservoir at Blinkhorn Lake, water was supplied from Sooke Lake. The land was declared surplus and was transferred to the municipality as parkland in 1998.



Today, a 1 km trail fringes the little lake through the forest of Douglas-fir and western red cedar that was logged decades ago. A recent trail work project added gravel to muddy sections, so for the first time it should be an all-season walking and running path. Between the trail and the lake on the south side, just on a small rise there are the remains of a cabin of undetermined age.

The lake's outlet stream on the west side flows into Veitch Creek, and ultimately into the Sooke Basin. Thomas Blinkhorn, born in Sawtry, England, arrived in Metchosin in 1851. Described in one account as "by far the most energetic settler on the island," Blinkhorn partnered with another early European settler, James Cooper, and managed Bilston Farm, the present day site of Metchosin Golf Course and Witty's Lagoon.

James Douglas appointed Blinkhorn the colony's first chief magistrate and justice of the peace for Metchosin district in 1853. A fall through ice into frigid waters impaired his health, and Blinkhorn died in 1856 at the age of 50. The lake and adjacent 259-metre-high Mount Blnkhorn were named for him.



The main access to Blinkhorn Nature Park is from Kangaroo Road, where there's room for several vehicles to park. Two more accesses, without parking, are off Lindholm Road at the north side. **Please stay on the designated trails**