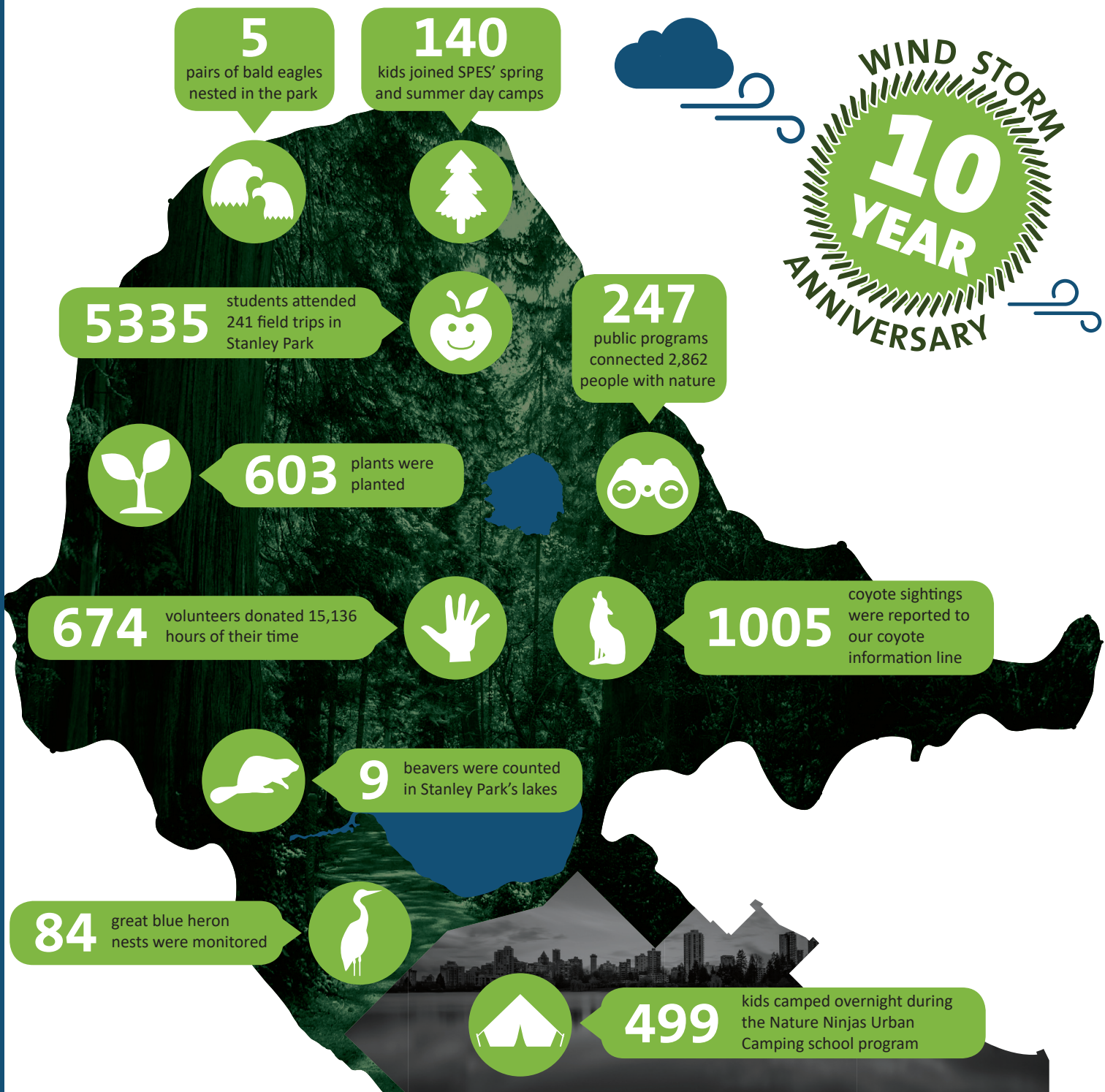


2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Stanley Park Ecology Society promotes awareness of and in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative

EDUCATION



Grades 3 to 7 students helped SPES' Conservation Department build a better picture of biodiversity in Beaver Lake. During their "Wetland Wildlife" programs with SPES, students gathered data on types and relative abundance of aquatic invertebrates found in the lake. From this baseline, we can track changes and trends in invertebrate populations – many species of which indicate water quality.

During the summer of 2016, 35 EcoRangers volunteered 1,573 hours as roving interpreters in Stanley Park. 7055 Park visitors benefited from the EcoRangers' knowledge of the Park's natural history and its bylaws – including keeping dogs on leashes and not feeding wildlife. EcoRangers helped keep the Park safe by informing Park Rangers of discarded syringes, illegal campsites (including a burning campfire), and refuse.

In support of both our mission and Canadian reconciliation, SPES introduced a variety of initiatives in 2016/17. Staff participated in reconciliation workshops, our stewardship activities operated under the guidance of the city's first ever staff archaeologist, and we launched a variety of indigenous-centric programmes led by First Nations guides: 53 ethnobotany walks, 3 traditional medicine-making workshops, and 3 seasonal dinners inspired by First Nations' traditions.

SPES partnered with Vancouver Park Board for a third season of the online Heron Cam in Stanley Park. The viewer-operated camera provided a live, close up look at select Pacific great blue heron nests in one of North America's largest urban colonies. SPES experts answered online questions about the birds and provided the natural history information for the Park Board's social media posts about the colony. 32 heron nests were "adopted" by the public to help SPES protect, monitor and sustain the colony.

SPES led 7 teacher workshops – one with Science World – and presented at the international *Children and Nature Network* conference in Vancouver and the national *Heart of the City* conference in Calgary.



Richard King

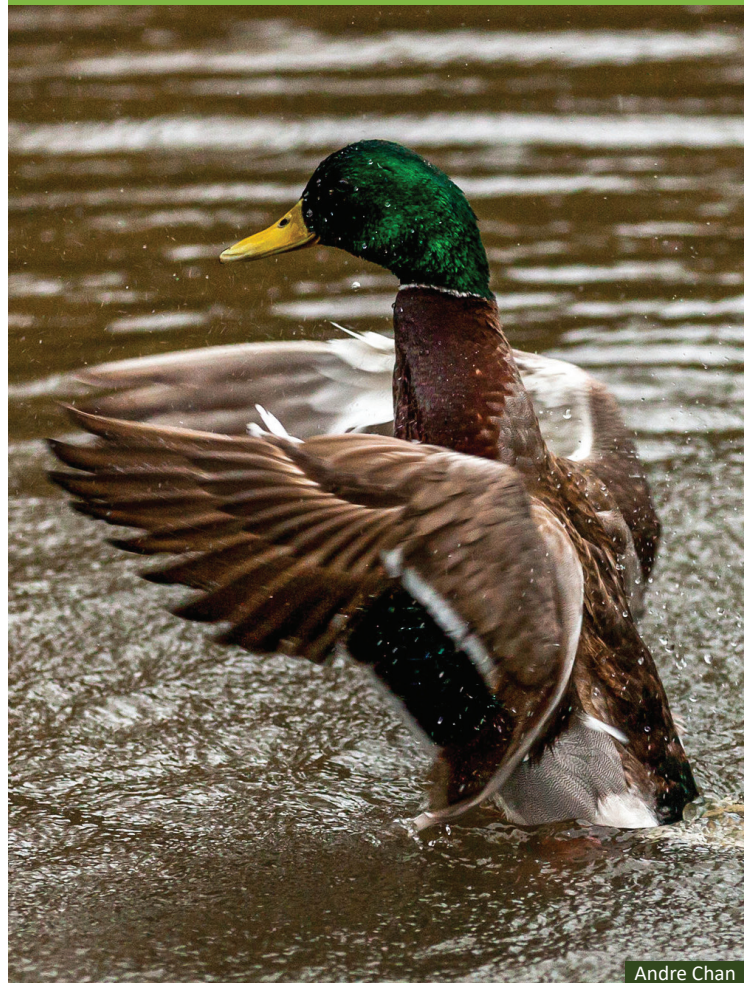
RESEARCH



SPES engaged a UBC honours student to conduct a population trend analysis for song birds and water birds in Stanley Park. Based on 10 years of survey data since 2006, the analysis revealed, among many other findings, a decline in the abundance of mallard ducks on Lost Lagoon but an increase at Beaver Lake. This work will contribute to SPES' current update of the State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park.

BCIT Environmental Restoration students partnered with SPES to conduct a feasibility study in Stanley Park. They determined that the habitat of native Pacific chorus frogs could be enhanced without supporting invasive green frog and bullfrog populations which share chorus frog habitat in the Stanley Park Railway ponds. Native hardhack plants could, the students predict, be planted around the ponds to support the chorus frogs' breeding season. Later, water levels in the ponds can be dropped to discourage the invasive frog species.

SPES bat surveys monitor the timing of the fall arrival of bats to the Stanley Park Dining Pavilion colony, their population numbers, and when the bats leave the colony in the spring. In 2016/17 we recorded a colony high of 341 bats. SPES provides data from our surveys to Dr. Cori Lausen, research biologist and bat specialist. Cori is studying winter bat ecology to prepare the west for the arrival of White Nose Syndrome, a deadly disease impacting bat populations across North America.



Andre Chan

respect for the natural world and plays a leadership role in education, research and conservation.



Vanessa Smith

CONSERVATION



SPES conducted important wildlife surveys to collect baseline data on "Species of Significance" in Stanley Park. Inaugural beaver population surveys recorded 9 beavers in Stanley Park; we tagged the Park's 53 barn swallow nests for more effective surveying in the mounted police horse stables; and during monthly amphibian surveys, we observed northwestern salamanders at every life stage, located long-toed salamander egg masses, and detected the calls of at least three Pacific chorus frogs – a species at risk.

Under the "HSBC Freshwater Initiatives in Stanley Park" grant, 17 HSBC employees helped to restore riparian habitat in Ceperley Meadow: They dug up invasive yellow flag iris plants and planted 240 wetland plants to enhance waterfowl habitat and stabilize the banks of Ceperley Creek.

Volunteers supported SPES habitat enhancement efforts by generating maps of invasive plant locations. The mappers recorded approximately 5,753 invasive plant locations during 660 hours of trail walking. 219 volunteer stewardship events used the maps to remove 2254 m³ of invasive plants in the Park – enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool!

SPES' Urban Wildlife Coordinator partnered with the UBC Animal Welfare Program to test wildlife cameras in Stanley Park and at Jericho Beach for a study aimed at reducing human-coyote conflict in urban areas. The cameras *did* reliably record the presence or absence of coyotes in select areas, and non-lethal deterrent devices will now be tested in the areas frequented by coyotes.

A Decade In Review

In the wake of the 2006 windstorm and restoration for which this year marked a tenth anniversary, there have been numerous significant milestones in the evolution and growth of Stanley Park Ecology Society: Our Conservation Department, launched in 2007, is a proactive leader in habitat enhancement and ecological monitoring. Our Education departments have each doubled in man hours and outcomes. We have experienced a dramatic uptake of media approaching SPES on diverse ecological issues. And, notably this year, there has been a sizeable increase in the number of conferences in which SPES staff have participated, planned and presented ranging locally to Calgary and Minneapolis.

In such a large and dense urban park, our programs and projects may often be camouflaged, yet we are encouraged that our work is recognized and valued by ever widening circles! Our Board of Directors and staff are grateful for the support of our partners, members, donors, and funders.

Patricia Thomson,
Executive Director



Michael Schmidt

WINDSTORM: 10 YEARS LATER



2016 marked the 10 year anniversary of the December 15, 2006 windstorm. While it flattened over 40 ha of Stanley Park forest, the storm blew in a new regime of forest management in Stanley Park and launched SPES' Conservation Department. In the aftermath of the storm, SPES:

- contributed to a new Forest Management Plan
- helped plant 16,000 saplings— some now over 2m tall
- created SPES' Conservation Manager, Stewardship Coordinator and Technician positions
- mapped Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and pre-storm invasive plant locations
- identified Species at Risk
- detailed Best Management Practices to support wildlife in the Park
- compiled the city's first "State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park"

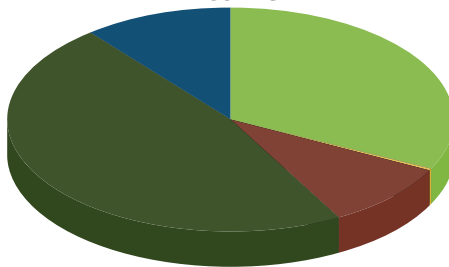
As we reflect on the restoration and management of Stanley Park since 2006, SPES will continue to advocate for a collaborative and scientifically sound approach to conserving this world renowned park for generations to come.

Board of Directors 2016-17

Patricia Stevens President
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Brian Herrin Secretary
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Michael Lloyd Treasurer 2017
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Jude Grass
Helmut Hager
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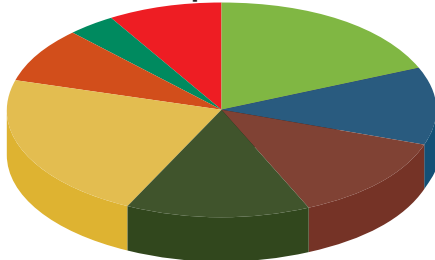
Please consider supporting our education, research and conservation work in Stanley Park. Donate at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13157>

Income



Grants and Wage Subsidies 32.4%	Donations and Membership Dues 9.3%	Fundraising, Sales and Services 10.8%
Interest 0.3%	Program Fees 47.2%	

Expenses



Conservation Programs 16.7%	Ecological Stewardship 11.4%	School Programs 19.6%	Concession Operations 3.1%
Urban Wildlife Programs 10.2%	Public Education & Outreach 24.2%	Urban Camping 7.3%	Other 7.5%

Statement Of Activities

Support and Revenue	
Grants and Wage Subsidies	\$234,255
Interest	\$2,534
Donations and Membership Dues	\$67,219
Program Fees	\$341,112
Fundraising, Sales & Services	\$77,887
TOTAL	\$723,007

Expenses	
Financial Service Charges	\$5,146
Program supplies & equipment	\$53,507
Cost of goods sold	\$5,672
Administrative supplies, services, support	\$15,054
Wages and benefits	\$641,030
Professional fees	\$7,456
TOTAL	\$727,865
Net ordinary income	-\$4,858

Statement Of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash - unrestricted	\$188,198
Cash - restricted	\$100,000
Accounts Receivable	\$20,401
Grants Receivable	\$6,424
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,912
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$3,580
TOTAL	\$321,515

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$5,463
Wages payable	\$52,380
Sales taxes payable	\$865
Deferred Income	\$144,128
TOTAL	\$202,836

Assets	
Internally restricted	\$100,000
Unrestricted	\$15,099
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	\$3,580
TOTAL Liabilities & Net Assets	\$321,515

The complete unaudited financial statements can be obtained through SPES for \$1 per page. The unaudited financial statements contain notes that provide additional relevant information to the financial information contained in the annual report.

SIGNIFICANT SUPPORTERS



We are also grateful to our individual donors who contributed to our conservation and public education efforts in 2016/17.

Thank you!

**STANLEY
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SOCIETY**

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