

Winter Birding

Teacher Information



Photo: Don Enright

Lost Lagoon hosts a wide variety of over-wintering bird species in the park.

Flock to Stanley Park with your students to explore the Park's birds! Use binoculars, learn how to identify winter bird species, and discover their many adaptations to survive the winters!

For grades K-3, Winter Birding is a one-and-a-half-hour program.

For grades 4-7, Winter Birding is a two-hour program.

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Phone

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On the Web

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Curriculum Connections

Winter Birding is a place-based program that directly relates to the grade K-7 science curricula. Below, you'll find some big ideas and curricular competencies that will be addressed.

You may contact us for a more detailed list for your grade if you wish.

Big Ideas:

Kindergarten

- Plants and animals have observable features
- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things

Grade 1

- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment
- Observable patterns and cycles occur in the local sky and landscape

Grade 2

- All living things have a life cycle
- Water is essential to all living things, and it cycles through the environment.

Grade 3

- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems

Grade 4

- All living things and their environment are interdependent

Grade 5

- Multicellular organisms have organ systems that enable them to survive and interact within their environment

Grade 6

- Multicellular organisms rely on internal systems to survive, reproduce, and interact with their environment

Grade 7

- The theory of evolution by natural selection provides an explanation for the diversity and survival of living things

Curricular Competencies:

Kindergarten to Grade 7

- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Make observations in familiar or unfamiliar contexts
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Express and reflect on personal experiences of place



Essential Teacher Information

Payment

Payment not made through our booking system is due a minimum of two weeks prior to your program date. Payment by cheque can be sent to the address on Page 1. Please make cheques out to the Stanley Park Ecology Society and mark them with your invoice number, school name and program date. A \$25 fee will be charged for all cheques returned NSF.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made before 4 weeks from the booking date will receive a full refund, minus a \$15 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations within 4 weeks of program dates. Participants whose programs are cancelled due to weather will receive a credit refund.

Be Prepared

Our programs run rain or shine and are held entirely outside. Students will be learning through hands-on activities, getting a bit dirty and possibly wet (especially shoes). Please review the enclosed 'what to wear' list with your students prior to their park visit (see page 7). Due to the variable walking terrain, appropriate footwear is required.

Adult Assistance

We require the assistance of a minimum of two and a **maximum of four adults**. This excludes all one-on-one adult assistance. These adults are invited to participate in all activities and asked to help maintain discipline in the group. Please ensure adults turn off cell phones and refrain from having distracting conversations.

Arriving for the Program

Please arrive 15 minutes before the program time in order to have a washroom break, snacks and division into groups. Programs do not stop for washroom and snack breaks as there is no access to facilities during the program. SPES educators will greet you at the meeting location at the designated start time. If you are running late, please call the School Programs cell phone at 236-867-1564 to let us know.

Continued on following page



Essential Teacher Information

Transportation and Meeting Site

The meeting site for this program is on the top of the Stanley Park Nature House on Lost Lagoon (see map on page 6). This site is easily accessed by the #19 Stanley Park public bus, school buses, or private vehicles and a quick 10-15 minute walk to the lagoon.

Photography

We recognize that photos are a great way for classes to document their fieldtrips, and so we allow photos during our programs; however it is our policy at SPES School Programs that no videos are to be taken of/during our programs.

Pay Parking

Pay parking is in effect at all times in Stanley Park. The rates from April 1st - September 30th are \$4.25 for 1 hour or \$15.25 per day per vehicle and from October 1st - March 31st are \$3.25 for 1 hour or \$8.25 per day. Rates are set by the Park Board and are subject to change. Cash and credit cards are accepted at the ticket machines.

Winter Birding Checklist

To Do Before Winter Birding:

- Read this Teacher Information Package carefully
- Arrange transportation to arrive 15 minutes before your program start time
- Send 'Essential Parent Information' home (page 7)
- Review 'Park Etiquette' with students (page 5)
- Review 'What to Wear' with students (page 7)
- Send payment a minimum of two weeks prior to your program



Park Etiquette for Students

Stanley Park is a protected area that is home to many amazing living and nonliving things. We are lucky to be able to visit this area, but we must remember that Stanley Park is where these living things make their homes. As visitors to these organisms' homes we should tread carefully and act with respect.

To ensure the best possible experience for students and the Park's plants and animals, please take the time to review these guidelines with students before your Park visit.

1. Bring an open mind and your curiosity.

In our outdoor classroom, we'll engage all of our senses while exploring nature. There will be times for listening to instructions, when students will be invited to raise their hands and ask questions. There will also be times when students are given challenges to complete while exploring or sharing stories with their friends.

2. Take only photos and memories.

Every single leaf, flower, shell, stone and berry is an important part of the web of life in the Park. If we remove items from Stanley Park we are removing potential shelter and food for living things. Students should leave everything as they find it.

3. Leave only soft footprints (not garbage).

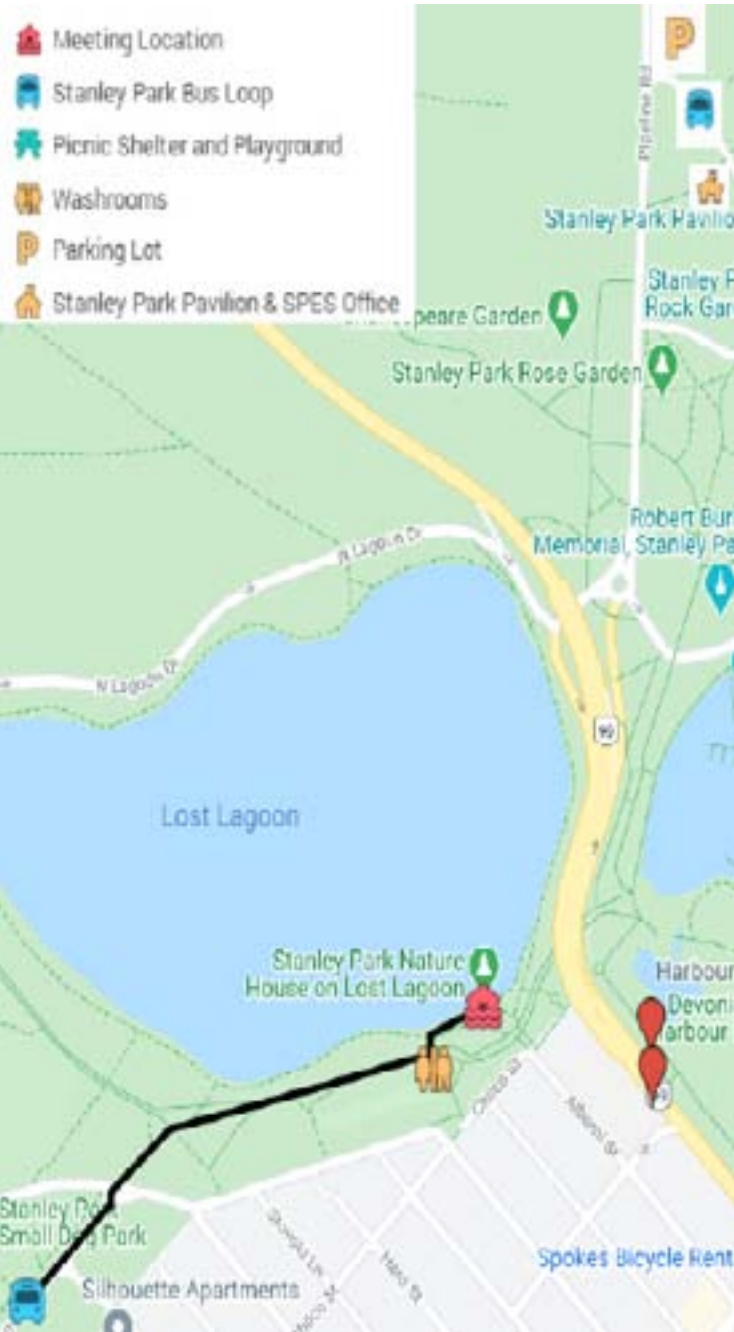
The animals of the Park have all the food they need. Human food can make them sick, create dependence on humans, and lead to aggressive behaviour or overpopulation. Please ask students to ensure all garbage is disposed of properly. Even small crumbs shouldn't be left for animals to find.

4. Explore with respect.

Let us lead your adventure on and off trail in the Park; students should not be ahead of their leader. There will be opportunities to gently touch safe plants in the Park. You might be hugging trees, smelling leaves or just moving them to get a look from a different angle. However birds and mammals like raccoons and squirrels, while cute and often accustomed to humans, should not be touched. These are still wild animals and we want them to stay that way.



Map and Directions



Driving Directions from Vancouver

- Travel northwest on Alberni St.
- Turn left at Denman St.
- Turn right on Beach Ave
- Take a slight right on Park Ln
- The parking lot will be located on your right
- Walk northeast along Park Ln, follow path through the Rhododendron Gardens and along Lost Lagoon until you get to the washrooms near the Nature House.

Public Transit Directions

- Take the #19 bus westbound along Georgia Street and get off before you enter the park, at Gilford Street.
- Walk towards Stanley Park, turn left under the covered walkway and follow the path toward the washrooms. SPES educators will meet you there.

For interactive directions, this map is also available at <http://ow.ly/pUTTS>



Essential Parent Information

Field Trip Date: _____

Your child will be visiting Stanley Park for Winter Birding led by the Stanley Park Ecology Society.

During Winter Birding program your child will get an introduction to birding. We will be looking for birds along the Lost Lagoon trail and visit the Nature House to discover the adaptations these magnificent winged creatures have.

Most of the program will be held outside, rain or shine. To help make this an exciting and memorable experience for your child, we strongly recommend that he/she wear the following items listed below. It is always colder in the forest, even on a sunny day. Your child should be prepared to get a bit dirty and possibly wet, especially his or her shoes! If it is raining on the day of the program, it is especially important to dress well to keep the field trip fun.

What to wear and bring to Winter Birding:

- T-shirt, long sleeved shirt and sweater
- Long pants - no dresses please!
- Good walking shoes that you don't mind getting wet or muddy. NO flip flops or sandals!
- If sunny: Sunscreen and hat
- If raining: Waterproof jacket with hood or hat
- If cold: Warm gloves and a hat
- Refillable water bottle
- Please, no umbrellas! In a large group, umbrellas can block the view for your child's classmates and can accidentally poke someone in the eye.
- Avoid clothes made of cotton on rainy days. Cotton can be very cold when wet. Wear wool or synthetic clothes whenever possible.
- Mask - A portion of this program will be held inside the Nature House. Masks will be required for safety purposes.

In addition to school programs, the Stanley Park Ecology Society also offers fun, interactive forest and wildlife walks as well as online programs for families and adults.

Visit us at www.stanleyparkecology.ca for more information about the work of the Stanley Park Ecology Society and becoming a member.

