



Wildlife & Personal Safety in Burnaby Parks & Trails

Personal Safety Tips

A walk in a park or along a nature trail is a great way to get away from the bustle of city life, but it doesn't mean leaving your "street smarts" behind. Have a safe and relaxing walk, jog or hike through Burnaby's amazing system of parks and trails.

- » Carry a mobile phone and a whistle with you. Leave earbuds and valuables at home.
- » Bring a dog with you if you have one; just remember to keep them on leash unless you are in a designated off-leash area.
- » Let someone know where you're going and how long you'll be.
- » Avoid secluded or isolate routes or shortcuts, exploring new areas with a friend.
- » Be prepared. Take note of places along your route where you could get help if you needed it.
- » If you feel uncomfortable about a situation, pay attention to that feeling and leave the area. If you think you're being followed, go to the nearest home or business.
- » Enjoy parks and trails during open hours, dawn to dusk.

Report suspicious behaviour to the police or park employees.

Emergency: 911 | Non-Emergency: 604-294-7922

Wildlife in Burnaby Parks

Burnaby parks are natural areas that are home to various wildlife species. Spending time in our parks increases your likelihood of encountering wild animals. Although seeing wildlife in the city is interesting and exciting, keep in mind these animals are wild, and to ensure their safety, they need to stay "wild". If you love wildlife, the best thing you can do is leave them alone. Never feed or otherwise try to attract them.

It is important that any interaction you have with wildlife does not cause or lead to conflict situations. Wildlife that become conditioned to people and non-natural food, develop habits and behaviour that may lead to human-wildlife conflicts. These threaten public safety or result in property damage, and may result in animals being destroyed.

All wildlife in Burnaby parks, and certain species on private property, is protected through the BC Wildlife Act, city bylaws and federal legislation. It is unlawful to conduct any type of activity that is deemed harmful or to kill or trap wildlife, or destroy their "homes" or harm their nests, eggs or young. As City staff we promote respecting and protecting all wildlife species and conserving their habitat.

What To Do If You Observe Dangerous Wildlife

If you observe dangerous wildlife in an urban area involved in any of the following activities, please report the incident to the provincial Conservation Office Service's 24 hour, toll free call centre at 1-877-952-7277(RAPP):

- » Accessing garbage or other human supplied food sources.
- » Instances where wildlife cannot be easily scared off.
- » Bears or coyotes in a public location like a city park or school during daylight hours.
- » When a cougar is seen in any urban area.



Wildlife in Burnaby Parks

Coyotes

Coyotes are well-adapted to Burnaby's urban environment and are often seen in parks, school grounds, golf courses and our neighbourhoods. They are naturally afraid of people but can become habituated when fed and treated like pets; this can result in aggressive behaviour.

If You Encounter a Coyote... Be Big, Brave & Loud

- » Stand tall with arms overhead.
- » Stand your ground and never run away.
- » Yell "go away" and throw sticks and rocks if necessary.

Co-Existing with Coyotes

- » Never feed. Deliberate feeding is the main cause of aggressive behaviour in coyotes and it's illegal under the provincial wildlife act to feed them. If you see someone feeding a coyote please report it.
- » Spread the word. Talk to your neighbours about co-existing with coyotes and report any coyote sightings.

The Co-existing with Coyotes program provides an information phone line and other education and outreach opportunities for Burnaby residents.

Report sightings to 604-681-WILD (9453) or email coyotes@stanleyparkecology.ca

For more information: www.stanleyparkecology.ca

Nuisance Wildlife

Beavers, Birds, Racoons, Squirrels & Skunks

You may encounter wildlife in parks that are not considered dangerous. Regardless, these animals are **wildlife** and human interaction with them should still be respectful and thoughtful; these species should not be fed and attracted. Habituation to humans and non-natural foods lead to habits and behaviour that can be detrimental to the animal. If you see these animals in the park, please leave them alone and be respectful when viewing them from a distance.

For more information: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/

Wildcats

There are two types of wildcats that have been reported in Burnaby: cougar (also known as mountain lion) and bobcat. Although sightings of these species are becoming more frequent, cougar occurrences in Burnaby are rare. Care should be taken if you encounter these animals as cougars have been known to attack humans and bobcats may see pets as prey.

Following some general guidelines may help reduce the risk of conflict and prepare you in the unlikely event of an attack.

If You Encounter a Wildcat...

- » Never approach. Although wildcats normally avoid confrontation, all wild animals are unpredictable.
- » Remain calm and keep the wildcat in view. Talk to the cat in a confident voice.
- » Pick up small children immediately.
- » Stand tall and appear as large as possible, keeping the wildcat in front of you at all times.
- » Back away slowly (never turn your back or run).
- » Ensure the wildcat has a clear avenue of escape.

The provincial Conservation Office Service manages all wildcat issues, though the City of Burnaby logs wildcat sightings.

Report all wildcat sightings to: 1-877-952-7277

Email: engineering@burnaby.ca

For more information: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/
or www.wildsafebc.com

Black Bears

Bears are naturally curious and are attracted by food and garbage. They are ruled by their stomachs therefore if they cannot find food easily, they generally leave the area. Foraging in urban neighbourhoods is a learned behaviour that threatens the safety of both the bears and the residents of that community. It's important we do our part in keeping garbage and other attractants like bird feeders and compost away from bears to prevent them from lingering in our urban areas.

If You Encounter a Bear...

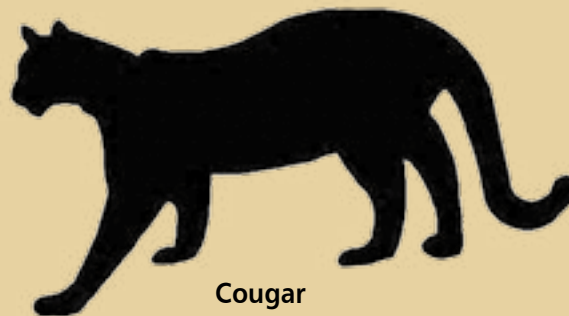
- » Remain calm.
- » Face the bear without making eye contact and back away slowly. Never approach, chase or run away from the bear.
- » Stand tall with your arms overhead, talk in a gruff voice, and look for a weapon such as a rock or stick.
- » If the bear makes blowing or snorting noises and then charges and veers off at the last second this is likely defensive behaviour so continue to back away.
- » If an attack does occur, fighting back has proven effective in some cases.

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Cougar



Bobcat



Domestic Cat
(for size comparison)