

NATURE-FRIENDLY PARK VISITS

Surrey Parks fosters connections to the outdoors and is committed to building a legacy for future generations. Do your research and follow these guidelines to ensure that you are acting responsibly in these spaces and making environmental stewardship a priority.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities

With the right to use a space comes the responsibility to care for it. Teachers should always model appropriate behaviours and attitudes in parks.

Know where to go

Before visiting any outdoor space, ensure that it is public land with permitted access — not all parkland is open to the public. Learn about the park before taking a group there: refer to **COSMOS** maps, City of Surrey website and signage.

ANIMALS

Give wildlife space

Watch animals from trails and other designated areas, such as bridges and boardwalks, to minimize any unnecessary stress. Do not disturb nests, dens or dams. Do not feed wildlife. Animals are safer and healthier when they don't become accustomed to people.

Pack it in, pack it out

Set an expectation for students to take their litter home with them whenever possible. Do not leave unnatural items in parks (e.g. fairy houses, painted rocks).

Keep out of water

Footsteps can stir up silt in creeks and streams (suffocating fish and destroying fish spawning habitat) and crush salmon eggs lying beneath the gravel. Do not create new trails to access creeks.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Stay on designated trails and open lawn

Many forested areas in Surrey have restricted access to protect their ecological value. Trails are designed to take you to the most interesting places in the park, while reducing impacts to the environment.

Consider your class' impact

Teach students to explore parks without harming trees, other plants and wildlife. Children naturally show concern and care for the environment; foster this by encouraging them to be mindful of their impact on nature.

Let things grow

Leave flowers, berries, mushrooms and leaves for the animals that depend on them, and for others to see.

Leave things how you found them

If you look under rocks and logs, gently return them to their place afterwards. Never remove broken branches or other natural materials; they provide important shelter for bugs and other small animals.

Do not remove natural items from the park

Return sticks, rocks, cones and other natural materials to where you found them. These each play their own role in the forest ecosystem.



Report a problem

Report any problems you encounter (e.g. sharps, biohazardous materials, encampments, large amounts of garbage, vandalism) by submitting a Parks Service Request at surrey.ca/report.

Surrey Parks works together with the community to celebrate nature and protect the environment.

Visit us online to plan your park visits, connect with nearby nature and help your students become stewards of our urban forest.