

We are the Coquitlam River Watershed Society

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education, and advisory action.

We're fortunate to live alongside natural areas and diverse wildlife. When recreating in the outdoors, follow these best practices to show your respect for animals, and ensure that wildlife and people can continue to co-exist together.



Parks Canada Tips to Respect Wildlife:
parks.canada.ca/voyage-travel/conseils-tips/faune-wildlife



Guidelines for Photographers:
wildsafebc.com/resources/photography-ethics



Reducing Conflict Where We Play:
wildsafebc.com/learn/play



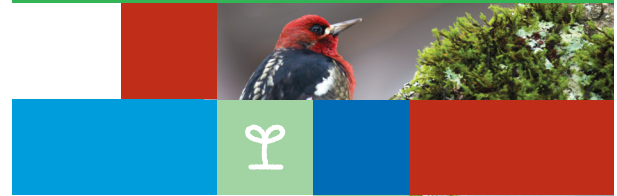
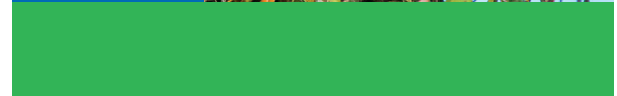
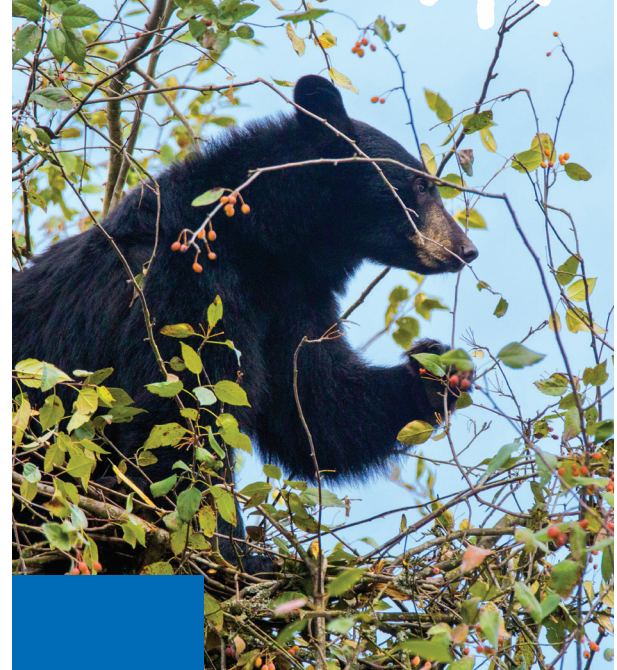
Coexisting with Urban Wildlife:
spca.bc.ca/ways-to-help/take-action/urban-wildlife



Fire Incident Reporting:
gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/fire-safety/fire-reporting

This pamphlet is brought to you by the Coquitlam River Watershed Society.
coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

With support from the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program of BC Hydro.



Pack it in, Pack it Out!



Left behind food, garbage and dog waste (in or out of a bag) can be ingested by animals, pollute rivers, and accumulate if left unchecked.

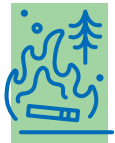


When animals are attracted by waste, they can become habituated to humans, leading to dangerous encounters for people, and to distress and sometimes death for an animal.



Most trash is found at the trailheads. Make sure to finish the job by disposing of your garbage and dog waste in a designated bin, or take it with you.

Don't let Nature go up in Smoke!



A spark from a fire or from a butt of a cigarette or joint can quickly get out of control. Even near water, sparks can easily ignite dry vegetation. When camping at designated sites, make sure you are aware of fire ban regulations. Smoking and vaping are illegal in parks.

Let it Flow



Watercourses throughout the Coquitlam River Watershed bring fish and wildlife, fresh water and natural beauty to our region. We all enjoy recreating alongside watercourses, but some forms of recreation can be harmful to a rivers and creeks.



Rock dams can leave fish and insects trapped in warm pools. Building rock sculptures can disrupt and harm invertebrates that feed juvenile salmon. Moving rocks, and scrambling along banks can increase erosion and reduce water clarity and quality. When visiting the river avoid altering water flows and the landscape as much as possible.



During spawning season (from September – May), protect spawning salmon and their underwater nests (called redds) by keeping yourself and your dog out of the river.



Keep Wildlife Wild



We all love seeing wild animals and perhaps even snapping a photograph. But make sure that your behaviour isn't causing wildlife to change their natural behaviour or feeding habits. Feeding or attracting wildlife can lead to problem behaviour. Approaching wild animals can put you in danger, cause them stress, and can put the animal or its offspring at risk. Show your respect for animals by keeping a safe distance.

Follow these best practices to protect yourself and wildlife:

- > Make sure smelly food items are contained and stored.
- > Stay 100 metres (about a football field) away from large animals such as bears.
- > Keep yourself and your dog out of watercourses during salmon spawning (from September – May).
- > Never attempt to photograph humans and wildlife together or take a selfie with a wild animal.
- > Leave your drone at home (drones can disturb or stress wildlife).
- > Slow your roll – fast bikes or ebikes can frighten animals and damage trails.
- > Stay on designated trails and respect area closures to keep plants and wildlife safe.
- > Follow posted guidelines and keep your dog on-leash.
- > Carry bear spray with you and know how to use it.
- > When picking berries or wild foods, take care not to interfere with wildlife that may be eating nearby. Avoid trampling plants, disturbing nests, and overharvesting.