

Lower Mainland Nature Viewing Region

Metro Vancouver Area

Stanley Park (Vancouver)



Second Beach & Pool: photo by Bill Kinkaid



Shelf on Low Tide: photo by Bill Kinkaid

Vancouver's most famous park and a worldwide tourist attraction, the park has cultural activities, historical attractions, recreational activities, gardens, natural areas and walking trails.

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Geographical Description	Coast Mountains, Georgia Basin
Area/ Trail Length	400 hectares, 8.8 km perimeter seawall.
Seasons to Visit	Year round.
Habitat	Mostly second growth coastal western hemlock/western red-cedar, Douglas-fir, red alder/vine maple; sandy, rocky and cobble beaches, natural and artificial wetlands.

**Viewing
Highlights**

The area is mostly second growth but contains several ancient Douglas-firs and western red-cedars.

Many migratory birds in fall/spring, breeding forest birds in summer and a great diversity of winter waterfowl.

A large colony of nesting Pacific Great Blue Herons is located near the entrance and tennis courts on Park Lane north of Beach Avenue.

Several active Bald Eagle nests in old growth Douglas-fir trees.

Easily accessible intertidal marine habitat; the area of the Seawall between Lumberman's Arch and the Girl in the Wetsuit statue has the largest diversity of intertidal marine invertebrates of any accessible waterfront in the lower mainland, particularly good at lowest tides.

Marsh and bog habitat at Beaver Lake.

Lost Lagoon was once an arm of Burrard Inlet but was cut off by the Stanley Park Causeway. It is now a fresh water lake, supporting large numbers of waterfowl especially in winter.

A number of interpretive panels throughout the park explain its natural and human history.

Recently restored wetlands can be seen on the northeast corner of Lost Lagoon and downstream from the Aquarium.

Excellent views of geological features between Ferguson Point and Prospect Point.

**Other
Features**

Vancouver Aquarium has excellent displays of living marine life and carries on many educational, research and rescue programmes. Admission charge. Stanley Park Ecology Society operates the Nature House on Lost Lagoon and offers displays, information and a range of interpretive and conservation programmes.

Main Access	<p>Main vehicle access is from Georgia Street to the northeast, Beach Avenue to the southeast. Pay parking throughout the park.</p> <p>Bus 19 enters the park and terminates near the Vancouver Aquarium; buses 5 Robson and 6 Davie run to Denman Street, three blocks east of the park entrance; bus 23 Beach runs to Denman and Davie; most 200 series buses running on Georgia Street stop at Georgia and Denman.</p>
Secondary Accesses	<p>Vehicle access from Lions Gate Bridge to the west side of the park.</p> <p>There are several foot entry points on the east edge of the park.</p>
Cautions	<p>Do not feed or approach wildlife, especially raccoons, skunks and squirrels</p> <p>Be watchful for cyclists and rollerbladers, especially on the seawall.</p> <p>Most trails are moderately easy, but you should be in reasonably good physical condition and be properly equipped with good hiking footwear, rain gear, food and water.</p> <p>The seawall is over 8 km in total length; be aware that there is no easy access or escape in between Third Beach and Pipeline Road. Also be aware that it may be risky to walk on in winter storms and may be closed due to weather conditions or for rock scaling in spring.</p> <p>Please gently replace any rocks which are moved during your intertidal investigation.</p> <p>Urban crime such as property theft and vandalism and personal assault is uncommon, but be cautious.</p>
Jurisdiction	City of Vancouver – Board of Parks and Recreation; Parks Canada – National Historic Sites
Regulations	No camping or fires. Observe local signs regarding dogs and cycling.
Facilities	<p>Flush toilets and picnic tables in several locations in the park. Note that most of these are on the periphery of the park and there are no facilities on the inner trails.</p> <p>Group picnic sites are available to reserve for a charge.</p> <p>Food is available year-round at the totem poles and at Prospect Point, and seasonally at Second and Third Beaches and at Lumbermen's Arch. There are four full service restaurants in the park and numerous food services on Denman Street and in the West End.</p>
Other Recreational Activities	Playing fields and courts, concerts and theatre at Malkin Bowl.
Other Connections	The Seawall continues as a shoreline path or promenade to downtown via Coal Harbour, and along English Bay and around False Creek.

History Coast Salish people fished and harvested shellfish where the park is now, and at least two villages were situated here. Logging began in the 1860s, but the first motion passed by the new City of Vancouver in 1886 was to establish a park on the site. The park is named for Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor-General of Canada 1888-1893, who dedicated the park in 1889.

FMI City of Vancouver Parks 604-873-7000

Publications Wilderness on the Doorstep - Discovering Nature in Stanley Park. Vancouver Natural History Society, edited by Alison Parkinson, 2006.

Links [Stanley Park Ecology Society](#)
[Vancouver Aquarium](#)
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[Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas](#)

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