

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Ensure you have the right knowledge, tools and confidence to take your students outdoors and into parks! Review this helpful checklist before heading out:

KNOW WHERE TO GO

Find out which parks are closest to your school. Refer to COSMOS, the City of Surrey Mapping Online System, to learn which areas of the park are open to the public. Note that open lawn areas are perfect places to play and gather, while natural areas (such as forests and wetlands) are protected for their ecological value and have no public access other than on designated trails. Find a map of your park's designated trails and paths on COSMOS.

See **COSMOS Tips**

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Familiarize yourself with your responsibilities before visiting a park with your class. This will not only keep you safe but also ensure that you are minimizing your environmental impacts. Remember to:

- stay on designated trails and paths,
- give wildlife and their nests the space they need,
- leave flowers and other plants to grow,
- not leave any art or other unnatural items behind, and
- not collect or harvest natural items from the park.

See **Nature-Friendly Park Visits**

DO A SITE VISIT

Try to visit the park before taking your class there. Familiarize yourself with the walk there, the park's trail system, and any posted signage. This is also a chance to scope out a gathering place and brainstorm activities that are appropriate for the space. Consider how others may be using the park and any spatial conflicts.

INCORPORATE A SAFETY ROUTINE

Before beginning any outdoor activity, conduct a site safety sweep to identify possible hazards. Scan the ground, shrubs, around picnic tables and benches, and in the washrooms. Don't forget to look up in the canopy for detached hanging branches and unnaturally leaning trees.

CHECK IN WITH YOUR SCHOOL TEAM

If you are considering taking your class outdoors, other teachers at your school may be too! Check in with them to see how they are using outdoor spaces and how you can support each other.



BRIEF YOUR STUDENTS

Review expectations for appropriate behaviour, responsibilities, and risks when visiting a park. Include your students in a risk assessment or practise identifying hazards as a reminder to always be aware of your surroundings. Remind students that they are sharing this space with wildlife and to respect these special places.

See **Awareness Building Activities**



CHECK OUT OUR FREE RESOURCES

Whether you're just getting started, looking for inspiration or building out your own activities, visit our website for a variety of K-7 resources to support your students' learning outdoors.



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.

