

LBA Park

☐ Your Mission: Locate a large tree found in the park that you can photograph looking far up into its branches.

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Urban parks provide essential habitat for local wildlife and provide a nature outlet for humans too! In this scavenger hunt, you will use all your senses to learn about the forest.

☐ This trail wanders through a second growth native forest. What does it mean to be second growth?

Once the trees in this forest were harvested and the next generation of trees are referred to as second growth. Some of these trees may be 3 generations or third growth.

☐ Can you identify native plants along the way?

Plants like Indian plum, salmon berry, evergreen huckleberry or salal. What do they have in common? Fruits or berries!

☐ Seek out dead or fallen trees. These are called snags.

Snags are rotting, dead standing trees and dead trees lying on the ground. Snags provide homes for many animals; insects for birds to eat, homes for salamanders and nesting places for birds, squirrels and raccoons and perches for owls and eagles.

☐ Can you find any dead trees with holes? What animal makes these holes? Woodpeckers!

The small round holes are made by small woodpeckers. The larger rectangular holes are made by pileated woodpeckers. They are our largest woodpecker.

☐ What do you hear? Any great horned owls?

If you are very quiet and very lucky, you may hear the great horned owls that lives here. can you hear them calling back and forth to each other? The great horned owl is our largest owl. It has ear tufts giving it its name and big yellow eyes. Or you may hear a woodpecker drumming for insects to eat!

☐ What do you smell? Any water or wet soil, decomposing leaves?

Throughout the forest, there are small spring-water streams coming out of the ground making the trail wet in places. Also forested wetlands where water pools during the wet part of the year.

Can you smell the wet soils?

☐ Can you feel and see the difference between the tree species? Touch them to compare.

Notice some trees have different barks from each other. Can you feel the difference? Can you find and identify trees with smooth and rough bark? Trees you will find include red alder, big leaf maple, Douglas fir and Western red cedar.

☐ What grows lush and green and likes it mostly shady and wet? Moss! Moss on the ground. Moss on the trees. Moss on the rocks. Even moss on sidewalks and rooftops. Moss grows everywhere there is water and sunlight!

Moss has no true roots, flowers or fruit and their leaves are only one cell thick! Moss is cool!

☐ Did you find the three life essentials for survival today? Can you name all three? Food, Water and Shelter! All animals need these three essentials. What animals live here? What would they eat and where would they sleep or have their babies?