

Grass Lake Preserve

☐ Your Mission: Send us the name of one bird seen or a photo of a bird around the lake or trail!
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Grass Lake Reserve is a favorite for migratory birds. The reserve is undergoing restoration where invasive plants have been removed and native plants are being restored.

☐ Removal of non-native, invasive plants is a large part of the restoration efforts done in our parks and natural areas.

Can you spy areas where new plants have been planted? These areas once had invasive blackberry. 100's of plants have been planted in their place by volunteers. Native plants provide better habitat for wildlife and are best adapted to our climate.

☐ Find the narrow dirt trail to Lake Louise. Can you find the wood duck box in the tree by the lake?

Wood ducks differ from other water fowl as they live in wooded swamp areas, along streams, forests and beaver ponds. They nest in tree cavities or holes in trees and their ducklings jump from their nest into the water below after hatching.

☐ The reserve's natural habitat supports over 100 bird species.

Urban green spaces, forested parks and other urban natural areas are important for local wildlife. Many of these natural areas provide the three life essentials for wildlife: food, shelter and water. Can you locate all three?

Can you find evidence of a wetland?

☐ Look for plants that like to be wet, like willows and sedges.

Did you know that Lake Louise dries up in summer, but is still a wetland? A wetland has long periods of standing water, soil that is wet and plants that grow in wet soil.

☐ Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of water and land plants and animals. They also provide flood control, filter and clean water and store water in the ground that provides us with drinking water and our streams with water. Wetlands are also the world's best ecosystems for capturing and storing carbon from CO₂.

☐ More restoration can be seen down another dirt path heading back towards the lake. Can you find trees with cages around them?

What is the purpose of the cages? To keep the deer from eating them! Deer love to browse on the new green leaves and needles of trees. Without protection the little trees would never be able to grow tall!

☐ Follow the forest loop trail on the right. You will see different kinds of trees. Can you name any?

Can you find any of these trees? Douglas fir, Western hemlock, Western cedar, big leaf maple, red alder and cascara?

☐ Can you spy homes for small animals in the forest? What animals do you think live here?

Many animals live at Grass Lake Reserve. Here are a few you may encounter: birds, slugs, insects, ants, mice, deer, raccoon, opossum, frogs, squirrels, salamanders and bats!

☐ Can you find any food sources for animals?

The forest has many food sources for wildlife. Can you find: fungi, tree cones, berries, seeds, insects and native plants?