



Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association Derby Rag

November 2018

The Beaver Our Ecological Warrior Friend

Beavers are important engineers of our environment.

Weighing up to 60 pounds on average, beavers are the largest rodent found in North America. Well-known for building dams, these creatures make more of a difference to their ecosystem than many people realize. In fact, they're commonly referred to as ecosystem engineers, because of all they do for their surrounding environment.



Creating Wetlands

When beavers make a dam, they slow the flow of water in the stream and, subsequently, a pond or area of wetland is formed. Roughly 85 percent of all native North American fauna rely on wetlands, so they're extremely important to the ecosystem. These wetlands also slow the runoff of rains, thereby storing water that would otherwise be lost.

Tree Cutting

When beavers fell trees to make dams and lodges, they have a positive effect on their ecosystem. After felling trees, the stumps grow new shoots, which are unappetizing to beavers but are the ideal food for other animals. When they cut down trees, they also bring more light to the forest floor, which allows trees that need a lot of light to grow an opportunity to thrive. This encourages diversity of plant life.

Sediment and Water Filtration

When a dam slows the water and creates a pond or wetland, it also slows the movement of the sediment in the stream and causes it to build up in the pond. This nutrient-rich sediment either provides food for those creatures who live at the bottom of the pond or slowly seeps into the surrounding soil. Once the beavers move on and their dam breaks down, the water will drain, leaving behind an extremely lush meadow full of rich soil. Dams also filter the water that runs through, improving its quality.

Biodiversity

The ecosystem engineering that beavers carry out in their habitat has a positive influence on local flora and fauna and greatly increases biodiversity. Studies have shown there is likely to be a greater abundance of birds, reptiles and plant life in areas modified by beavers. Beavers tend to make their ecosystems more complex, and therefore a number of species may rely on them and the way they engineer the environment.

Keep your eye out for our resident beaver on the Houston Trail in Derby Reach Regional Park!



DRBIPA Ambassador Program Opportunity



FORT LANGLEY

Looking for...
Enthusiastic individuals to
become **Park Ambassadors** for
the Fort Langley regional parks,
working alongside the Derby
Reach/ Brae Island Parks
Association and Metro
Vancouver Regional Parks.

WHAT IS A PARK AMBASSADOR?

Help support our parks and local
community by assisting in
volunteer activities such as:

- Planting new growth, and
removing invasive species from
Derby Reach and Brae Island
- Help maintain and develop the
heritage apple orchard
- Encourage park use, park
cleanliness, and park etiquette
by users
- Assist in installation and
monitoring of bird boxes



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

SIGN UP TO BE NOTIFIED OF UPCOMING
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH PLENTY OF
NOTICE AND DETAILS IN ADVANCE.

TO REGISTER OR TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT
US:

OUTREACH@DRBIPA.ORG

