

The Value of Urban Wildlife

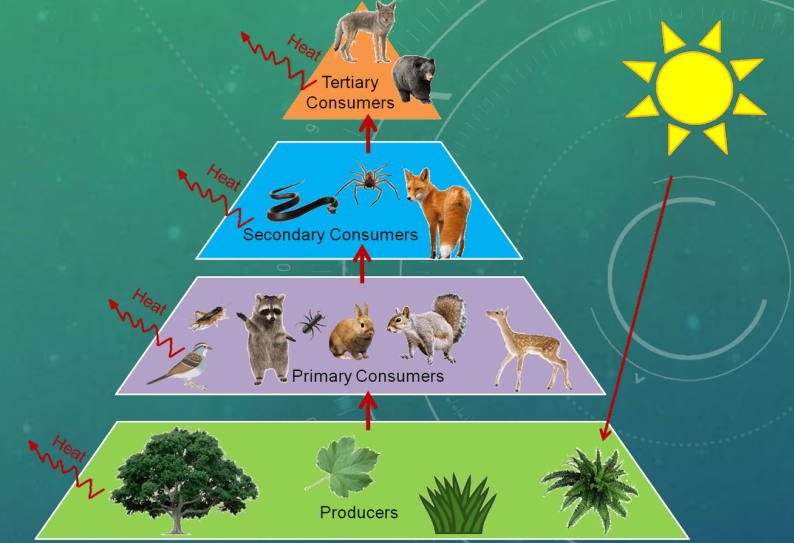
- ENVS 210 Class Project
- UNBC



Chris Ainsley, Racheal Banyin, Elias Beach, Christy Blackburne, Deborah Chilanga, Trinity Chisholm, Harley Cunningham, Kyla Gullacher, Jasnpreet Kaur, Myriah Keays, Arion Lander, Erica LePage, Madison McCann, Kayla McNeil, Paisley Nelson, Terell Peters, Olga Pickard, Connie Pokiak, George Prince, Ravneet Saini, Charlie Stewart, Eri Sudo-Rustad, Luthien Thielmann, Arianna Webb, Samantha West

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

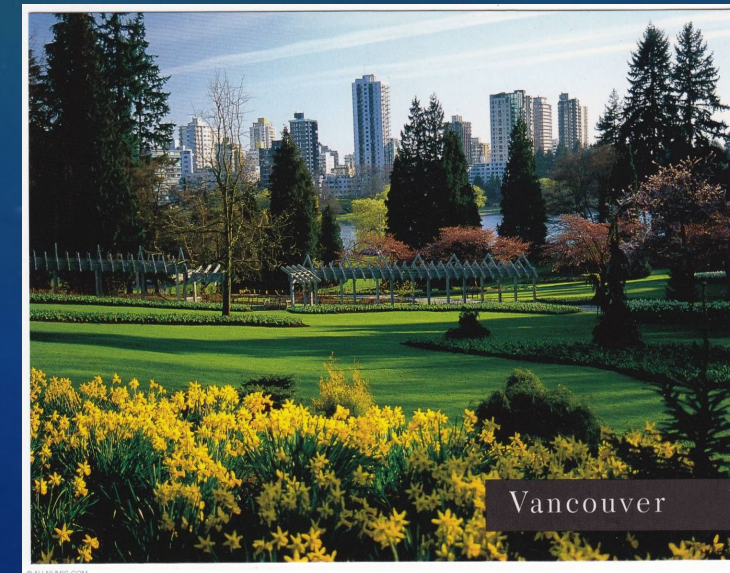
Wildlife and green spaces play a vital role in urban settings, offering a myriad of benefits to both urban residents and the environment.



Herbicides and pesticides bioaccumulate inside organisms, and can result in a multitude of detrimental health effects



Prince George can learn from other municipalities who have already limited or banned the use of pests/herbs on city parks and residential areas such as Vancouver, Kelowna, Terrace.



There are a variety of other land management methods such as goatscaping, mechanical control, "do nothing" and garden design.

Ecodevelopment Considerations

Ecodevelopment - connection to biodiversity

- Habitat fragmentation
- Balanced ecosystems
- Human safety

Ecosystem Services

- **Supply**
 - Urban agriculture
 - Water filtration & management
- **Regulation**
 - Air quality
 - Soil formation/nutrient cycling
 - Reducing asphalt repairs
- **Cultural**
 - Recreation
 - Aesthetic value

Species Interactions and Pest Management

- Keystone species
- Biocontrol
- Inter and Intra-species interactions

Economic Benefits/Incentives

- **Job creation**
 - Ecotourism
 - Wildlife Recreation
- **Property value**
 - Increase to property values
 - Increase in tax revenue

Urban Wildlife; Recreation and Education

How could PG improve in
community education and
safety regarding wildlife

1. Bear/moose attractants

- Organise groups to harvest fruit within city limits
- Strict ticketing of community members who grow or leave bear/moose attractants on their property
- Moose attractants: Red osier dogwood, Cottonwood, Willow, and Highbush cranberry
- Replacement plants: Goat's beard, Arrowwood, Pacific ninebark, and Baldhip rose

2. Community-wide wildlife infrastructure

- Council to offer bear proof garbage cans or locks (look into budgeting/fundraising)

3. Education

- Children taught about wildlife safety within school
- Community wide education regarding off leash pet etiquette and safety (more than park signs)
- Public lists of wildlife attractants for citizens to avoid

4. Council responsibilities

- Prevent unnecessary developments within green spaces
- Implement "people free times" on trails that are frequented by wildlife
- Encourage landscapers to be aware of wildlife attractants to avoid when decorating spaces with greenery

Becoming a Bear Smart Community

Prince George: The deadliest community in BC for black bears.

Becoming a Bear Smart community would allow the City of Prince George and Conservation Officers to better manage and respond to human-bear conflicts.

Recommendations:

- Implementing continued and consistent educational programs in schools and elsewhere.
- Fruit tree incentive program.
- Better waste management and food compost programs through collaboration with the Regional District.
- Municipal employee responsible for human and wildlife conflict prevention.



THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE TO MENTAL HEALTH

Why is wildlife necessary in urban areas?

- Helps relieve stress
- Being around nature is a coping mechanism for some people
- Reduces the possibility of having depression
- It adds to the beauty of the place

How can wildlife be conserved?

- Using alternative ways to develop the city
- Awareness campaigns to inform people more about the importance of wildlife and the greenspaces around them

Wildlife Corridors in Prince George, BC

Summary

The rapid expansion of urban developments in Prince George has made greenspace and critical wildlife infrastructure fragmented and insufficient. Our study conducted surveys collecting citizen sentiment and feedback of greenspace and wildlife in Prince George. Findings from the study were used to create and inform recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. Protecting greenspace in Prince George
2. Reevaluating existing corridors
3. Monitor wildlife corridors to ensure success

Thank you!

