

**Station 10.** Just a few years ago a big wind blew down lots of these trees. Can you see any trees lying on the ground? Listen carefully – can you hear the wind? Some days there is no wind and other days the wind is really loud.

Shh quiet...birds love to chirp and sing when they can see each other. Can you hear any birds chirping and singing? If you are really quiet you might get to see the bird that is chirping.



*I wonder why birds like to live in trees next to a field.*

As you move down the trail look for a big pile of pine cone pieces, tree needles and dirt. You will need to look really hard. The big pile is next to the trunk of a big Douglas fir tree – the kind of tree with really bumpy bark. Can you see the black ants that live in the big pile? That pile is their home. This is where they take care of their baby ants.

*I wonder how little tiny ants can build such a big house.*

**Station 11.** Wow. Look how many big leaves are growing out of the ground! These leaves are ferns. Ferns grow on the ground in a forest. Do you know of any animal that might like to hide under the fern leaves? When a forest grows up and the trees get older more plants start growing on the ground. Many years from now there will lots and lots of plants growing out of the ground. The trail we are on will be like a tunnel through all the plants!

*I wonder what happens when a tree falls over on top of the ferns.*

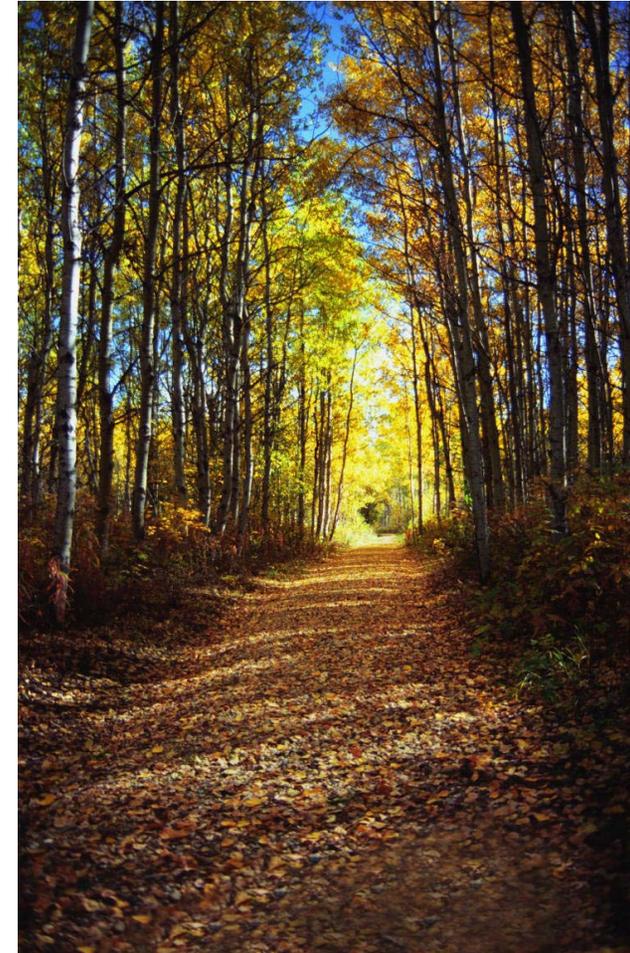
**Station 12.** Stop. Look all around. See if you can spot the stump of a great tree. A stump still has roots in the ground even though the top of the tree was cut down. This tree was cut down to build the big red barn. Do you notice any black color on the stump? What makes wood turn black? Fire! Sometimes the men who cut the trees down burned all the parts of the tree they did not need. The black color is from a fire that burned a very long time ago.

*I wonder if there was a lot of smoke when the great stump burned.*

City of Lynden Parks Department

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## Berthusen Park Wonder Trail



## Children's Interpretive Trail

## Berthusen Park Wonder Trail

The intention of this Children's Walking Trail Guide is to instill a sense of wonder and delight in children. It is designed to be read aloud by a parent, companion or teacher. Take time to pause look around and listen – letting the child(ren) respond with their discoveries.

The trail has 12 stations over 2/3 mile; the minimum time it takes is about 40 minutes - spending a few minutes at each station.

With a subtle understanding of what is around them we can plant the seeds of tomorrow's caretakers.

Colleen Unema



**Station 1.** Look at that tall tree. It is a cedar tree. It has been growing for a very long time. Cedar trees have brown bark that looks like long strips. Can you see the brown strips? The brown part that you can

see is the bark. The bark protects the inside of the tree. There is another type of tree in this forest. Can you spot another tall tree that is different from the cedar tree? Look at the bark of that tree – do you notice two different kinds of bark? See if you can spot the bark that looks really bumpy and rough. Those tall trees with rough bumpy bark are called Douglas fir trees. The Douglas fir and cedar trees need lots of water to grow this big.

*I wonder where they get the water from.*

**Station 2.** Look out into the forest. Can you see for a long ways? In a forest, trees do not grow all alone. There are lots of plants that grow close to the ground. There are even



plants and shrubs that grow taller than people but not as tall as the trees. These tall and short plants make it hard to see through the forest. Animals like it when they can hide in this type of forest.

Can you spot a fern?

Can you spot a skinny tree that has big flat green leaves? That kind of tree is called a vine maple tree?

*I wonder why animals like to live in this forest.*

**Station 3.** Can you spot ferns growing on those skinny trees (the ones called vine maples)? These ferns can grow without having their roots in the dirt. Isn't that amazing? See how many you can count on just one tree.

*I wonder how they started growing on a tree way up in the air like that.*

**Station 4.** It took a big wind to blow that big tree down. Look for the roots of the tree. You can see how the roots were pulled right out of the ground. When this big tree and its roots rot away – it will leave behind food for new ferns, bushes and vine maple trees.

*I wonder if there is a big noise when a huge tree falls to the ground.*

**Station 5.** When one tree falls over – like in a big storm – it will hit other trees nearby. Sometimes they both tumble to the ground. Can you see any trees that have made other trees fall over? When a bunch of trees fall over the sunshine can reach all the way to the ground. Look up, can you see the sky where the trees have fallen over?

*I wonder if more plants can grow where there is more sunshine. (It is a longer distance between post 5 and 6 – stay on main trail.)*

**Station 6.** Some tall trees die standing up! Look around the forest for a dead tree that is still standing straight and tall. If you look closely you might see a hole in the tree – lots of animals need those holes to make nests for their babies. Have you ever seen a raccoon? They love to nest in the holes of a big tall tree. Some people call these old trees “snags.” It doesn't matter what you call it – these old trees are very important for the birds and animals to make nests for their babies. Look for more snags as you walk along this trail.

*I wonder what other animals might like to live in a tall dead tree.*

**Station 7.** As you leave the forest of very old trees – look straight ahead – do you see that big tree lying on the ground? As that tree rots and turns back to dirt lots of plants will use it for food. Do you see any plants growing on top of that tree? It is really important not to sit on logs that are laying down because you might kill the plants that are growing on it. Sometimes baby trees grow on top of fallen trees!

*I wonder why they call those big fallen trees “nurse logs.”*

**Station 8.** Not very long ago people drove cars, campers and trailers on this old road. No one is allowed to drive or camp here any more. Can you see the old road? Can you feel how hard the ground is? The plants have a hard time getting their roots in such hard ground.

*I wonder how we could make this area a forest again.*

**Station 9.** Many years ago all the trees growing here were cut down to build the big red barn. The barn you see when you come into the park. This park once belonged to a family who used the trees to build their house and a barn for all their animals. They loved this land.



After they cut down the trees they planted baby trees. Look around, can you see how tall and strong the baby trees are now? They will grow bigger and bigger for many more years.

*I wonder if these trees will get really big and old.*