

Connecting People with NatureFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEVancouver, BC
Specialist
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coyotes@stanleyparkecology.ca**PROSPECT POINT BALD EAGLES REBUILD AFTER WINDSTORM**

Bald Eagles mate for life and faithfully return to the same nest site year after year. The windstorm that hit Vancouver on December 15th 2006 caused some 10,000 trees to fall in Stanley Park, including one of the four eagle nest trees located in the Park.

As Prospect Point was one of the hardest hit areas of the Park, there are few trees left that are large enough to support eagle nests, which can weigh up to one ton. Nevertheless, the Prospect Point pair of eagles are picking up the pieces. Within weeks they began rebuilding in a large dead tree that is one of the few survivors of the hurricane force winds.

This aged tree is not entirely new to them, as they nested in it prior to 2004.

The eagle nests in Vancouver are monitored throughout the year by the Stanley Park Ecology Society. Their Urban Wildlife Specialist, Robyn Worcester, recaps, *"This pair of eagles has only produced one fledgling (successful chick) in the past three seasons, but this year we will have a much better view of their attempt to reproduce."*

The Prospect Point eagles can be observed carrying sticks and weaving them into a nest. They have even been observed mating. They will likely lay their eggs in late March and chicks may hopefully be observed in early May.

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The nest is clearly visible now, located just west of Park Drive about a 10 min walk south from Prospect Point.

Of the 15 Bald Eagle nests in Vancouver and the four in Stanley Park, this nest will provide the best view for people who want to observe nesting eagles up close. These urban eagles are quite tolerant of human onlookers and in Vancouver many pairs nest in public parks and people's backyards.

Last year, eagle pairs successfully raised about 15 chicks in the Vancouver area.

Wind is a necessary and usual force shaping our West coast ecosystems, but this storm was unusual in that it hit a large urban Park that is so loved by Vancouverites and people from all over the world.

“Although the effects of the storm appear devastating to see, it is a natural part of our Coastal forest and the organisms that inhabit this Park are quickly adapting to the changes. The pair of Bald Eagles that nest at Prospect Point are a great example of this.” says Robyn Worcester.

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Background:

Founded in 1988, the non-profit Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) promotes awareness of and respect for the natural world by playing a leadership role in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation.

As a Park Partner of Vancouver Park Board, SPES operates the Lost Lagoon Nature House, monitors urban wildlife, operates popular school and public education programs, and champions invasive plant removal projects in Stanley Park.

- More than 7 million people visit Stanley Park every year

For more information on programs, visit www.stanleyparkecology.ca



**Photos of the
Prospect Point
Eagles
by Robyn
Worcester,
Stanley Park
Ecology Society**

