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# Nesting Bald Eagles in the City of Vancouver 2004

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A young eagle on top of its nest tree in Stanley Park, 2004

Photo Credit: Eco-Conservation Society Japan

## A Summary Of Bald Eagle Nesting Activity

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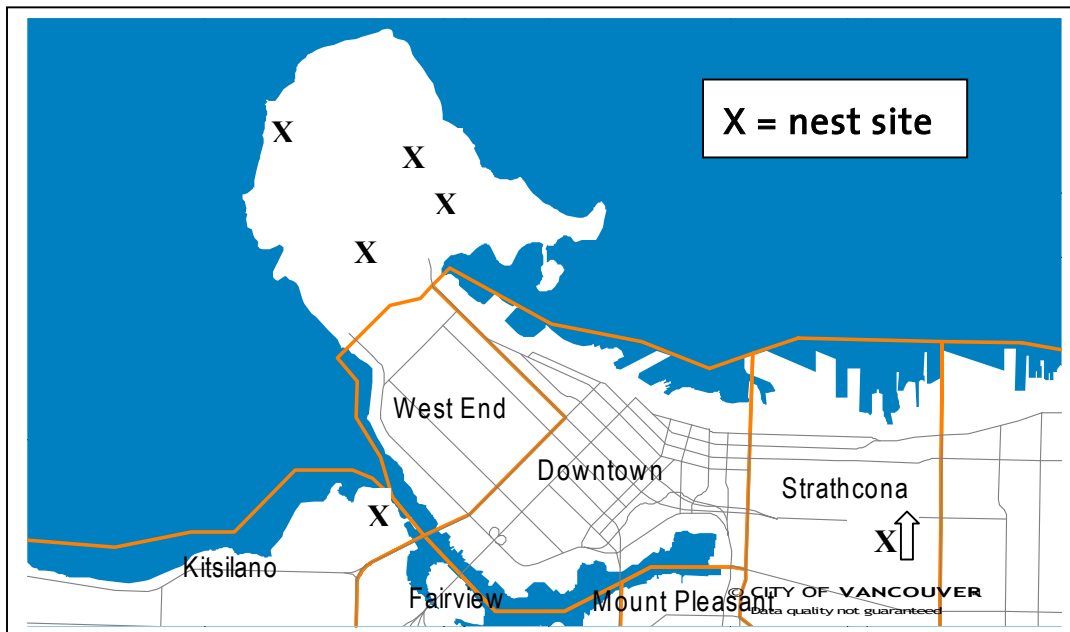
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# The 2004 Bald Eagle Nesting Season in 100 words

The emergence of bald eagles as an urban species in the City of Vancouver is fascinating. Bald Eagles are adapting to city life with ease, raising their young on a crow, rock dove (pigeons), gull and fish diet, and nesting in areas outside of traditional and established forest. The Stanley Park Ecology Society monitored six eagle nests in Vancouver in 2004: four nests in Stanley Park, one in Strathcona Park and one in Vanier Park. The Ecology Society plans to increase our study of Bald Eagle nest sites next year, undoubtedly increasing our sense of appreciation of them as well.

## Bald Eagle Nests in this Report



## Stanley Park Nest Summaries

(maps to each nest available at [www.stanleyparkecology.ca](http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca))

Each of the 4 nests in Stanley Park is located in the upper portions of a coniferous tree. Three are in comparably low human usage areas of the park while one overlooks an active and busy area. Park visitors expressed their admiration and interest in the nesting eagles throughout the season and spent a good deal of time positioning themselves for a clear view. Volunteers invested more than 140 hours monitoring the eagle nests in Stanley Park.

## **The Dining Pavilion Nest**

This is the most public of the park nests, located between the Dining Pavilion and Malkin Bowl (Theatre Under the Stars), and was the most productive nest in 2004.

Two eaglets successfully fledged from this nest; eagles typically raise one young per year. These eaglets thrived on a bird-based diet. Plenty of crow, rock dove (pigeon) and sea gull feathers were regularly found scattered under the nest, as were pellets and avian bones. Adult eagles were frequently seen and heard at or near the nest throughout the nesting process. The concerts and performances held at the Malkin Bowl had no discernable impact on the eagles in 2004.

## **The Pipeline Road Nest**

This nest, located on the east side of Pipeline Road, is in an area with comparably low human usage, across from Beaver Lake. The Pipeline Road nest produced one eaglet in 2004. A good number of avian bones and feathers were found in the vicinity throughout the nesting season and the adults were commonly seen perched on the top of nearby trees and flying to and from Beaver Lake.

## **The Cathedral Trail Nest**

This nest is north of Lost Lagoon, located meters east of the Cathedral and Lees Trail junction. There were regular sightings of adult eagles in and around the nest and one eaglet successfully fledged. Eagle sightings and vocalizations were heard throughout the nesting season as well.

## **Merilees Trail Nest**

This nest is just off Merilees Trail between Siwash Rock and Prospect Point. The eagles spent 2004 building their current nest about 100 meters from where their previous, now dismantled, nest was located. The adult eagles were dedicated in their work and were frequently seen bringing pieces of the old nest to the new one. However, despite their effort in building the new nest, and regular adult Bald Eagle sightings in the area, no eaglets were produced. The adults were not observed incubating in the new nest either.

## Vanier and Strathcona Park Nest Summaries

(maps to each nest available at [www.stanleyparkecology.ca](http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca))

Both of these nests are distinctly urban in nature. They are both in deciduous trees and are much lower than eagle nests traditionally are. They are in areas with a lot of human activity and generated noise, be it traffic, events or machinery. Volunteers invested more than 50 hours monitoring these nests.

### Strathcona Park Nest

Strathcona Park separates a residential area from an industrial one. This pair of bald eagles was very active in their nest building in March and April, and the adult eagles regularly perched on a neighbourhood church roof as well. Gull feathers were commonly found underneath the nest. From May onwards, however, the eagles were rarely seen, either at or near the nest. No eaglets were produced in this nest in 2004.

### Vanier Park Nest

The Vanier Park Nest is the most oddly located of the nests, overhanging a 4-way stop in Vanier Park, near the location of the Children's Festival and Bard on the Beach. Despite regular eagle sightings throughout the spring and summer, no eaglets were seen at this nest. Adults were not observed incubating in the nest either.

## Recommendations

- Expand monitoring program to include additional Bald Eagle nests in the City of Vancouver
- Increase awareness of nests to park users and visitors