

Environmental Status Field Report

Learning Target: *I can experience and interpret the local environment to begin to make a field report on the environmental status of an area.*

Assignment: Saanich Parks has hired you as an environmental consultant to assess the area of the duck pond at Beckwith Park. Before you begin a thorough investigation of the water quality in the pond, you must do a survey of the area first.

Your task as you walk around the duck pond:

- Setup your science notebook using the guidelines ABC, 123, Picture/Diagram
- Note the park use and activity (such as recreation, dog walkers, etc)
- Identify and list animal or plant species in the area
- Observe your surroundings and list possible sources of pollutants (such as residential, industrial, agricultural, etc)
- Identify any environmental impacts that are negative or beneficial (such as restoration, fencing, domestic animals disturbance, etc)
- List any wonders or questions you might have

Watershed & Pollution Vocabulary

- **Watershed** - the entire geographical area drained by a river and its tributaries; an area where all water runoff converges and eventually flows into the same outlet (lake, ocean or sea)
- **Surface water** - any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, and creeks. The ocean is also considered surface water
- **Groundwater** - water found underground in an aquifer.
- **Pollution** - undesirable state of the natural environment being contaminated with harmful substances as a consequence of human activities
- **Inorganic pollutant** - a pollutant of mineral origin and not of basically carbon structure
- **Organic pollutant** - a plant- or animal-produced pollutant containing mainly carbon, hydrogen and oxygen
- **Point source pollution** - water pollution sources that may be traced to a specific source, such as a sewer line or a discharge pipe of an industrial facility
- **Non-point source pollution** - pollution that cannot be tied to a single, identifiable source (nitrate pollution from agriculture is non-point source pollution, since a single source can't be identified)
- **Runoff** - overflow of fluid from a farm, urban area, or industrial factory.
- **Storm sewer** - a system of pipes (separate from sanitary sewers) that carry only water runoff from building and land surfaces
- **Ecosystem** - a community of plants, animals and other organisms and all the interacting parts of their environment (air, water, soil, etc) that live, feed, reproduce and work together as a system
- **Environmental impact** - Any change to the living and non-living natural surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives and interacts together. These impacts can be negative or beneficial, and can be created by an industry, project or individual
- **Environmental restoration** - The process of assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been damaged, degraded, or destroyed



This resource is part of the BC Urban Streams & Watersheds lesson plans, assembled in 2025. Learn more and download additional resources at www.engagewithnbs.ca/for-schools

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