

Instructional Video 2. Hardwood Forest, Pacific Spirit Park, Stop 1

If you look around again, we're right inside that place where all of the disturbance about 65 years ago was taking place, and you'll notice that these trees are relatively uniform, the ones that are in the canopy at about the same size. So, you want to really get a chance to identify these. I'm just going to look at one tree, there's one in the middle of the trail here, and it has particular bark, you can see it's fairly light coloured and smooth, and it has a leaf which I'm going to show you, that would have died in the fall, but the best we have are leaves on the ground, and it looks a little bit like this, and so I just want the camera to be able to see that, you can see it's a bit toothed, so that's the leaf that belongs with this tree and if you look around at all of the stems, you can see that that gray colour, that light grayish bark is common, it's the same species as this one. If you can get out your species ID key, and using the leaf, try to identify it, and this by the way is a single leaf, it's not a compound leaf, it's a deciduous tree as well, so [therefore] it is a hardwood species. Go ahead and try to do that. The other tree that is common here in the canopy is another what we can think of as a pioneer or early successional species, and I'm just going to ask the photographer to walk with me over to an example of it, and its these really tall towering individuals, that if you were to be able to see them they have a top a bit like a lollipop; so they grow really straight and tall, very fast, their bark is a little bit more ridged than the other species that I told you about, and their leaf looks a little bit like this. So, you're going to be using this leaf, again these ones fell in the fall but we can still find them on the ground, and you're going to use that to ID it. So, the next thing you want to do is actually look around us and have a look at what's growing in the what we can think of as the understory. Maybe not the small herbaceous or shrubby species, but the intermediate sized trees species that you see, and I want you to just notice that a lot of them have leaves on them and here's an individual that I'd like you to pay attention to, it is our example of an evergreen with scale-like leaves and you're going to be identifying that species in the stop 2, but just notice that these individuals are younger, are smaller, but certainly they stand a good chance in a few decades to potentially become the canopy in this location, and I want you to think back to what this looked like immediately after humans bulldozed and cleared and disturbed the soil here that there would be nothing growing here, and that's basically "Time one" [the beginning of their lives] for the current species in the canopy – that initial species that I showed you, that I want you to ID. So there you go. Good luck with that!