

Nature in the City



Mention the word “city”, and you can imagine concrete towers, asphalt highways and smog. While this might not be a quiet forest, finding nature in a city can be as easy as walking down a sidewalk.

Buildings often use local kinds of stone for both strength and beauty. Limestone blocks display fossils of ancient coral reefs, while granite has crystals from when the rock first cooled. You can also find stone from other countries, such as polished marble from Italy.

Trees are very important to cities. They clean the air, shade homes, provide nesting places for wildlife, and help block out noise. Also, many trees look and even smell good, which improves city living. See how many trees you can identify around a city block.

Cities are filled with wildlife, if you watch for it. Squirrels, gophers and woodchucks live in the green strips between busy highways. Deer, skunks, raccoons and even bats find homes in city parks and gardens. Cemeteries offer shelter to many birds and wildlife. Bridges become nest sites for swallows. Even peregrine falcons use skyscrapers as substitute cliffs for raising a family.

Indoor gardens, museums and zoos provide a chance to see plants and animals from around the world.

If you use your Cub eyes, you really can find nature in the “concrete jungle” called cities!

