"Trees have long thoughts, long-breathing and restful... Whoever has learned how to listen to trees no longer wants to be a tree. He wants to be nothing except what he is. That is home. That is happiness." -- Hermann Hesse

CONNECT WITH THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

During these unusual times, self-care through exercise, mindfulness and connecting with nature is especially important. This is a simple mindfulness practice that you can do during a walk in your neighborhood, your yard, or even simply looking out a window at a favorite tree.

During your practice, pause occasionally and take a moment to find a comfortable place to sit or stand. Take a few deep breaths and allow yourself to reflect upon this week’s theme of joy. You might journal or sketch if you like.

WHILE ON YOUR STROLL

Remember that awareness comes through your physical senses (touch, taste, smell, sight, hearing), internal senses (what’s happening within your body), intuitive senses and emotional senses.

1 FIND
a small area to focus your attention on. Allow yourself to be drawn curiously into its small world. What aspects attract you most — its colors, shapes, smells, textures?

2 IMAGINE
this might be your whole world... Who might you be? What senses are giving you the most joy in this new existence?

3 WHAT
in your life is sparking joy for you today?

This activity is based on the Strolls for Well-Being — a free community program offered by Bloedel Reserve to promote overall well-being through connection with nature. For more information, visit bloedelreserve.org.

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