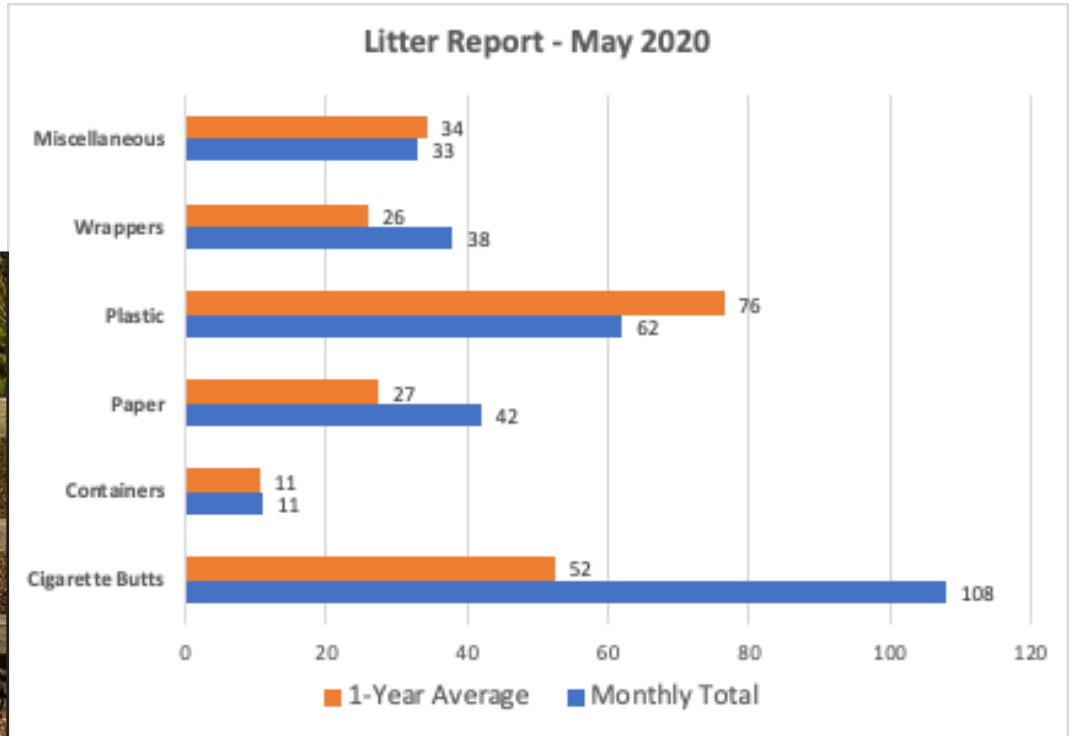


# Stoney Creek Trail Report

## May 2020

As you can see, I am again gathering litter on the Trail after a one-month hiatus. As the chart shows, cigarette butts were obviously not picked up in April. However, it appears that other items were dropped in the litter barrels, thanks to conscientious walkers. It's nice to have had the help.



- Miscellaneous:* clothing, glass, chewing gum, balls & fragments, etc.
- Wrappers:* candy wrappers, foil, cellophane
- Plastic:* doggy poo bags & scraps, plastic bags
- Paper:* tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.
- Containers:* bottles, coffee cups, cans, juice boxes, bottle tops

I'm please to report that during the month of April, when we were all very nervous because the Covid-18 virus was thought to be on the loose everywhere, Trail visitors were very conscientious, observing the social distancing rule even before the signs were posted by the City.



This little “weed” indicates that Bridge Four could use a good cleanup. This bridge and Bridge Five have flat decks and thus do not flush themselves clean when it rains – unlike the other bridges which are arched. This results in a buildup of soil and vegetative matter in which seeds can take root. Perhaps this could lead to decay of the bridge deck as well.

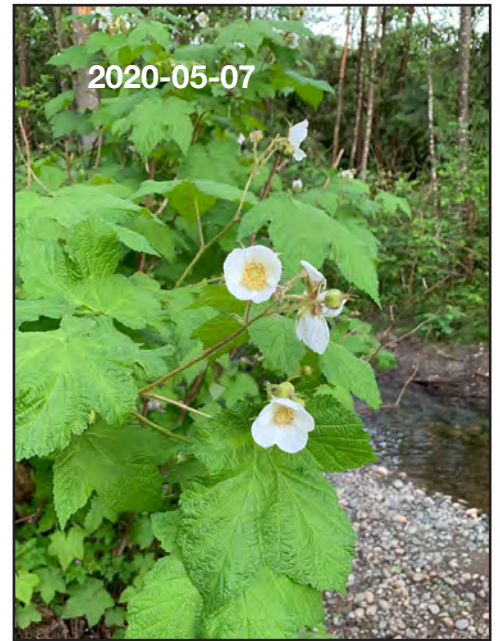
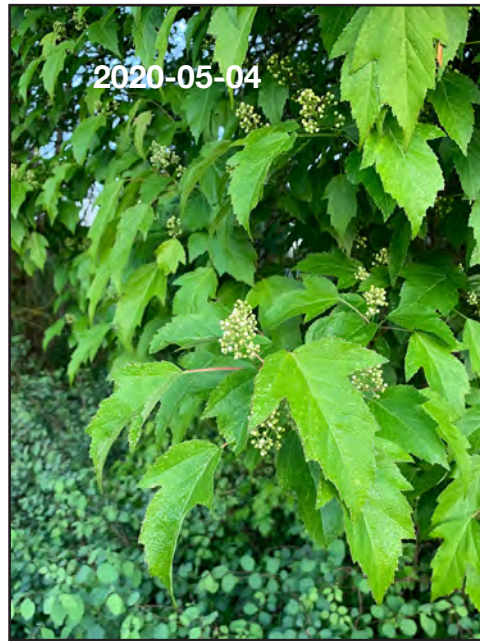
**A few of the more interesting litter items:**



Above, a lost toy and a note of appreciation. Below, lost eyeglasses (how would you find eyeglasses when you can't see without them?!!) and one of the rather silly signs stapled to a cottonwood tree. Oddly, it is signed by one-time City mayor, George Fergusson. Considering these unsightly as well as silly, I took down four of them on two occasions.



And finally, some examples of the many plants that bloom along the Trail in May....



Above, the thornless **cockspur hawthorn**, **amur maple** and **thimbleberry**. The maple has blossoms which broadly cast a wonderful aroma. The **large-leaved avens** (below, left) and **buttercups** (below, right) are very similar, at first glance. There are actually two varieties of buttercup in the photo, the **meadow buttercup** with the deeply indented leaves, and the **creeping buttercup**, which is perhaps more common.



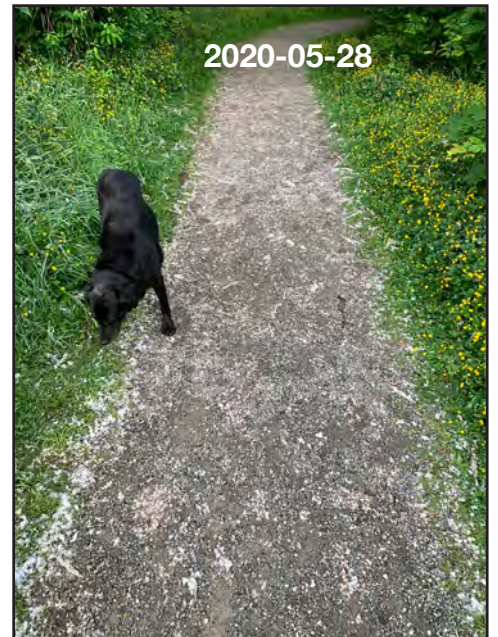
**The western skunk cabbage is just about the first flowering plant to appear in the new year.**

These photos show that one plant has grown from a yellow flower poking its head out of the mud to a bundle of floppy, three-foot-tall leaves in about six weeks.



**Below are examples of Nature's plenty - or should we say "overkill."**

Over the past month, the upper part of the Trail (which I call Hemlock Hill), has been strewn with excessive quantities of fallen **Bigleaf maple** flowers. Then, three weeks later, came the maples' whirligig seeds, followed by cotton from the **black cottonwood** trees nearby.



**by Dave Rutherford, trail volunteer.**