



**Stoney Creek Trail Report  
No. 78 - September 2025**



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The front page photo was taken during the annual August sediment removal operation in the Pond on the 20th. Unfortunately, I've been unable to find out which aquatic critters were affected or the amount of gravel hauled away.

The City Parks crew have been busy taking care of the trail. Especially appreciated by myself was the filling in of the gaps under the steel ramp plates on the bridges. No more spine-jarring bumps while riding the scooter! The results will no doubt be appreciated by mothers pushing strollers as well.



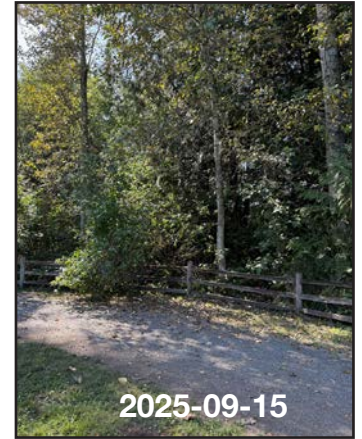
Fence broken



Strewn with debris



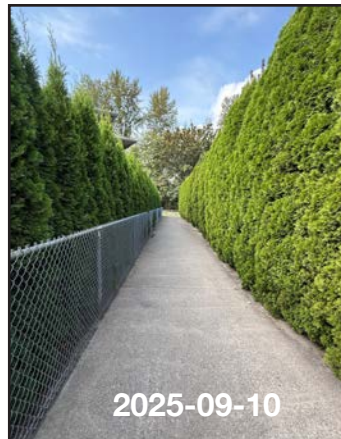
Ramps smoothed



Tree down



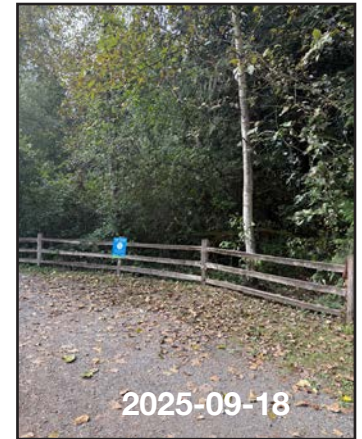
Fence fixed



Blown clear



Margin trimmed



Tree removed

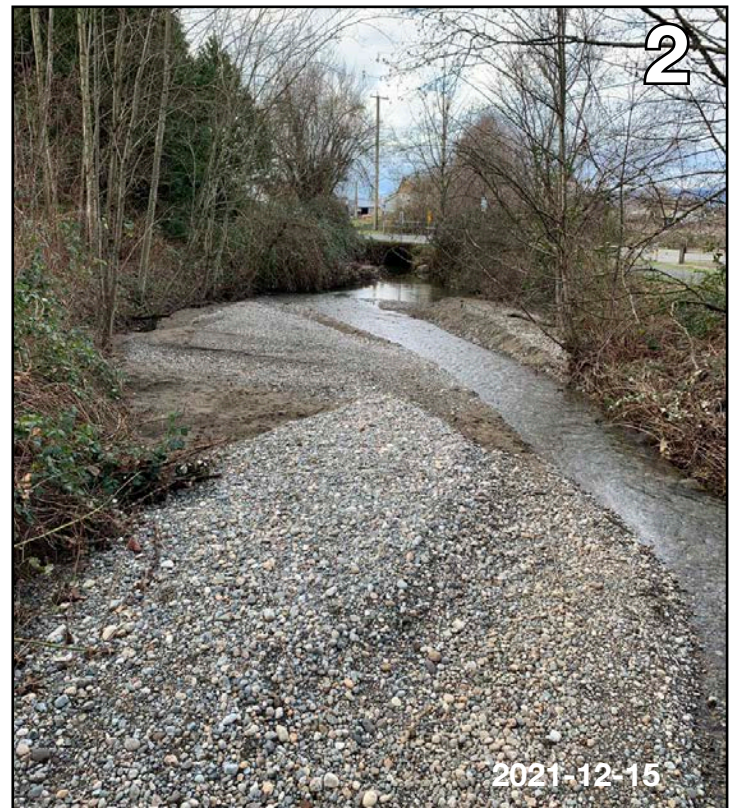


On the 19th, a **macroinvertebrate survey** was carried out in Stoney Creek by volunteers from the ARPSES fish hatchery. (Macroinvertebrates are the main food supply of juvenile salmon). Once again, they were guided by **ZoAnn Morten** from [Pacific Streamkeepers](#).

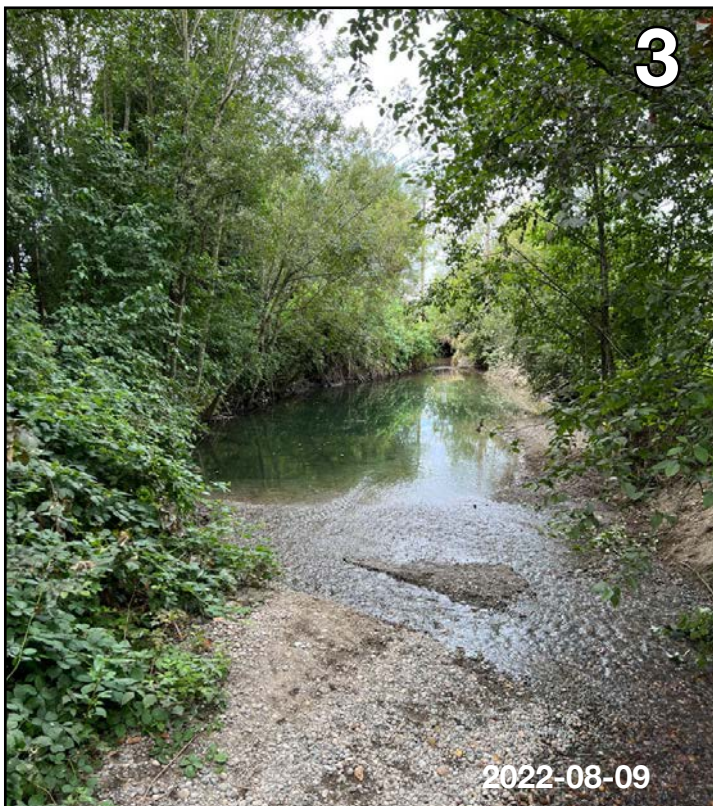
See the results on the [ARPSES website](#).



## Pond excavation 1/3

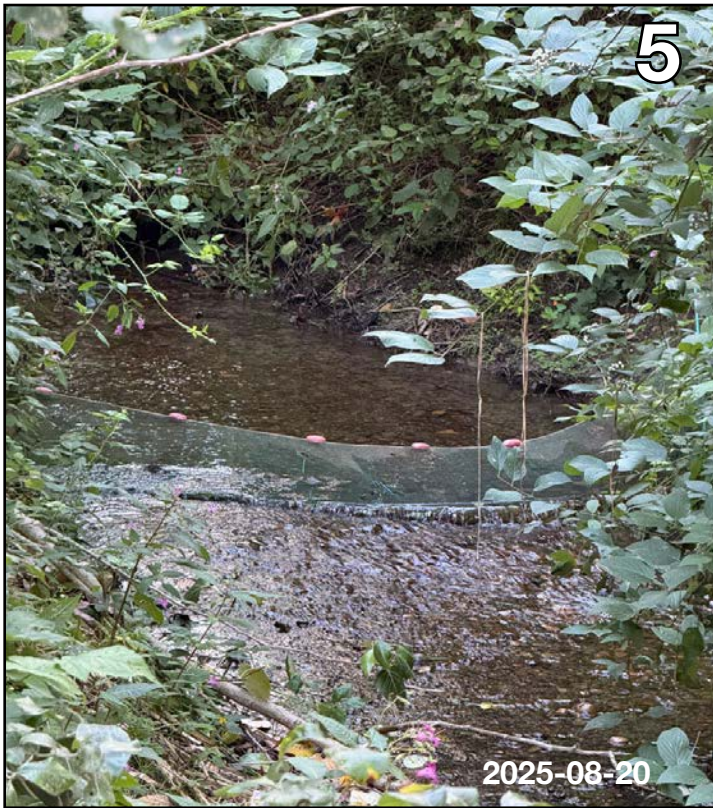


A look back at the Pond four years ago **(1)** before the infamous Atmospheric River of November, 2021, and **(2)** a month after that deluge. The Pond has been gradually filling with gravel since then. On the left, **(3)** its appearance after the August excavation three years ago, the summer after the flood, and on the right, **(4)** earlier this year before excavation.

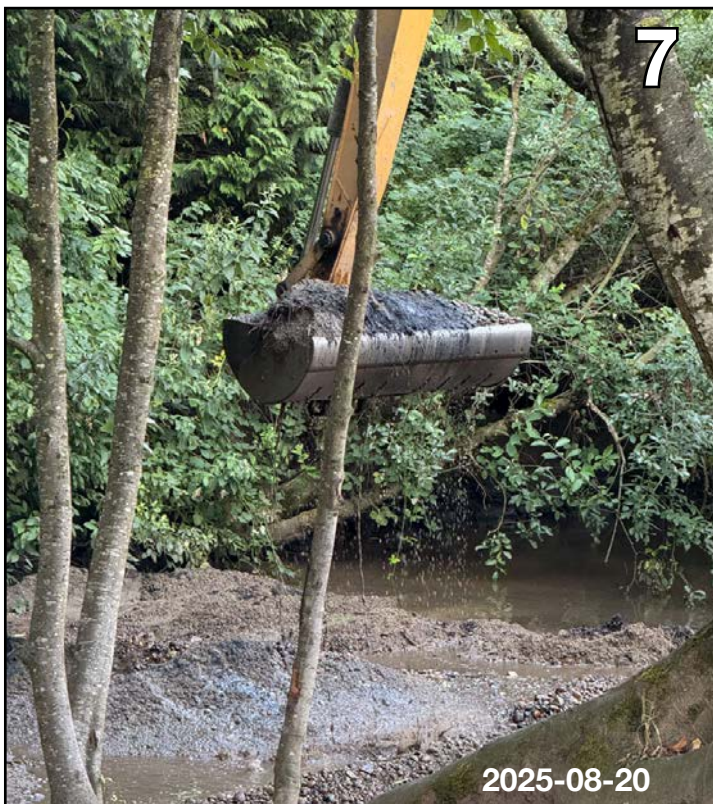




## Pond excavation 2/3

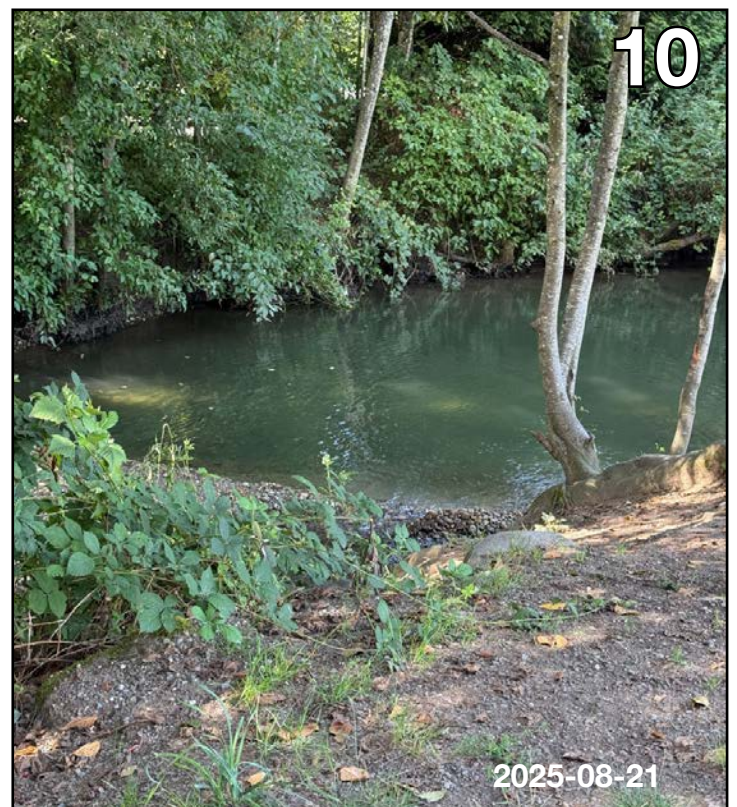


This year the job began as usual, with electrically stunning ("e-fishing") the aquatic life in the pond enabling their removal to safe areas behind net barriers **(5)** above and below the work area. **(6)** the sediment was trucked over to Valley Road and dumped. As work progressed **(7)**, the water quality was **(8)** monitored by a representative from AquaTerra Environmental.



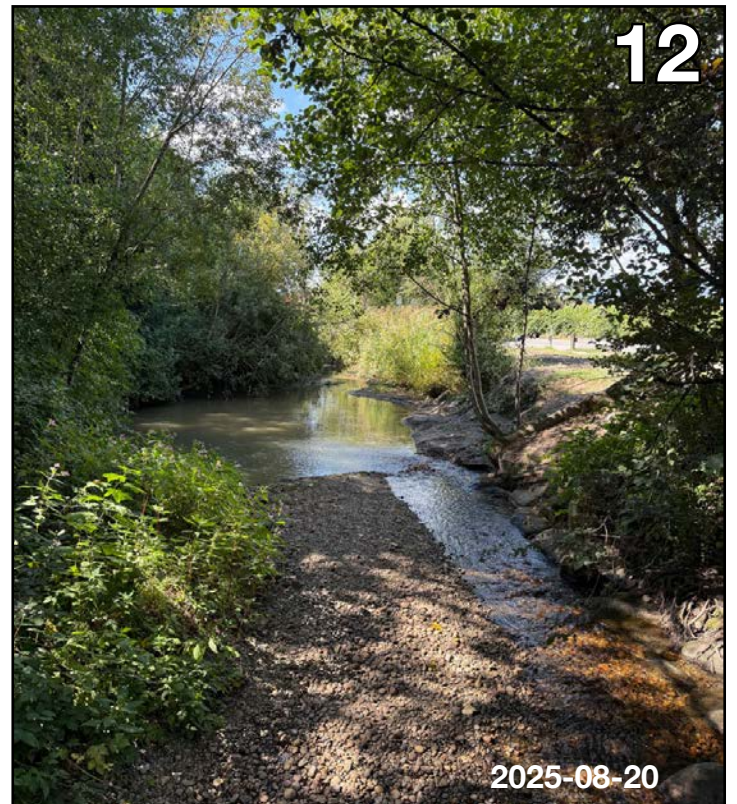


## Pond excavation 3/3



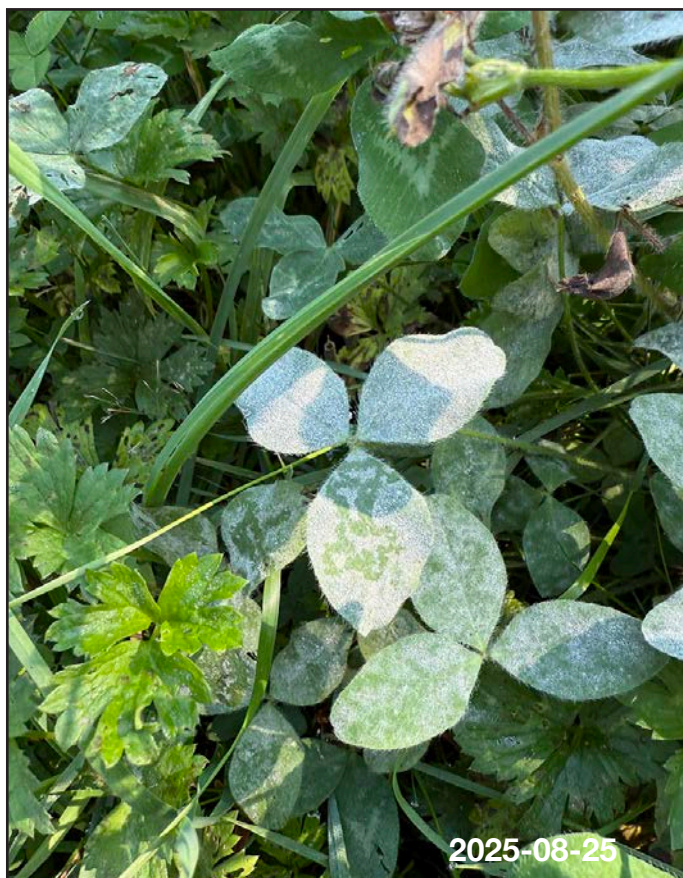
**Above:** these two photos show the water turbidity (9) shortly after excavation, and (10) how much it had cleared 24 hours later.

**Below:** a comparison of the amount of gravel that had built up by April this year (11) before the recent excavation, and (12) after the work was done. It is obvious that a great deal of gravel remains.





## An observation on Hemlock Hill



**Powdery mildew fungus** (*Erysiphe trifolii*) is a very common disease of red clover. It appears as a white, dusty coating, like flour on the upper surface of leaves. It usually appears in late summer and early fall, particularly during warm, dry weather and humid nights.

More cosmetic than lethal, it rarely kills but can reduce the quality and palatability of clover that is used as livestock forage.

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**Clovers are perennial plants** and members of the bean family, *Fabaceae*. The word ***Trifolium*** derives from the Latin "tres" (three) and "folium" (leaf).

**White clover** has the Latin name *Trifolium repens* ("creeping") because it has runners that creep along the ground. **Red clover**, named *Trifolium pratense* ("meadow"), grows from a tap root. It's more upright and taller than White clover, but shorter-lived.

Red clover is native to Eurasia and Northern Africa, while White clover originally came from Europe.

In agriculture, both Red and White make very good livestock fodder (although Red won't survive trampling and repeated grazing). White also tolerates wet soil better. Both species enrich soil through nitrogen fixation and both are excellent sources of nectar, especially for bees of all kinds.



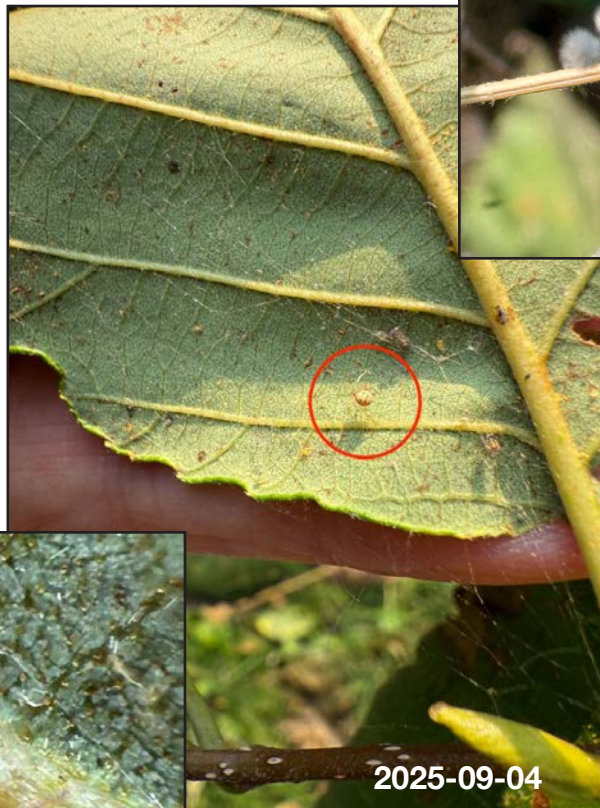


## More observations on Hemlock Hill

Last month I published a feature on **Cleavers** and I wanted to do a follow-up showing the end of its life cycle this month. So, up on the Hill, I took a photo of its tiny **seed pods**. As you can see, they occur in pairs and are each about the size of a peppercorn. Of course, their hooked bristles indicate they are hitchhikers, like all burrs.



While looking for the insects that have eaten holes in almost all the leaves of the alder trees along the trail, I noticed that every leaf I examined had a **yellow powder** on its underside.



Later, back at home, my research told me that the unsightly powder is a fungus, or rust, named *Melampsoridium Alni*. It's a sign that these trees are **under stress**, probably due to drought.



**There was more to discover.** Looking more closely at the underside of another alder leaf, I spotted a tiny moving white speck. It was a spider only 3—4 mm long. Using an app on my iPhone, I identified it as a Cobweb spider (*Theridion varians*), a species that builds irregular shaped webs rather than the circular ones of Orb-weaver spiders (*Araneus diadematus*).



## Unusual litter items



1. Surprisingly, this pricey **Smart4U helmet**—LED lights and all—was left for more than a day on a bridge handrail.

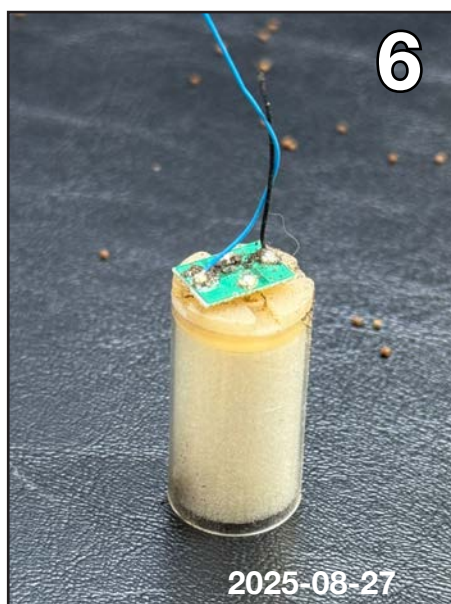
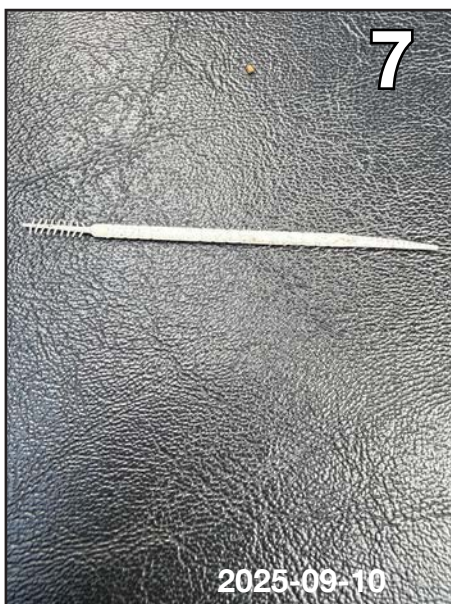
2. A small **dip net** was left beside the Pond. It was likely used for entertainment at the expense of the salmon fry.

3. On Bridge 6, these two small **plastic cones** are used for...?

4. This is one of over 20 **copper coloured cigarette butts** that have been discarded near the southern end of the trail since May. They are from Chinese-made premium "Huanghelou 1916" cigarettes (*not available in Canada*).

5, 6. These mysterious **electronic devices** were discarded in the Hearthstone entrance and under Sadie's bench....

7. Another oddity, a small plastic "needle" dropped on the Straightaway path may be some kind of cleaning tool.





## Odds & Ends 1/2



1. This **dog collar**, found at the Nursery Tree, had a tag with the name **Nikita** attached.

2. A heavy-duty **Carhartt leash** was left near John's bench. (Both items were soon reclaimed).

3. A close look at a photo of another 8 cm-long **elephant hawk moth caterpillar** reveals what is called its "trunk."

4. An **Asian lady beetle** has its head and legs retracted.

5. An opportunistic **yellowjacket** wasp has found a treasure—a morsel of meat near the Latimer St. entrance.

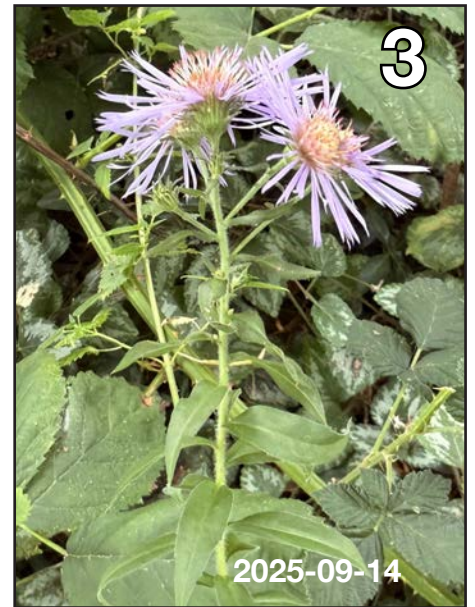
6. Wandering **woolly bear** caterpillars have been plentiful, especially on Hemlock Hill. They are the larvae of the Isabella tiger moth.

7. A moisture loving **black slug** struggles to move in the parched grass.





## Odds & Ends 2/2



1. **Herb robert**, an invasive annual plant, turns beautiful pastel colours as it dies.

2. These are the berries of the **highbush cranberry** on the Straightaway.

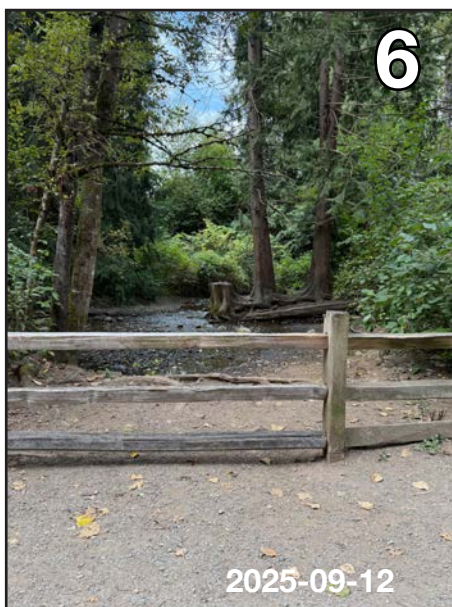
3. A **great northern aster** growing on Hemlock Hill is a late bloomer, from August through September.

4. A **white campion**, one of several back yard escapees on the Hill, has managed to survive amidst the blackberries.

5. The "classroom" of one of the **Wild Wonder** groups has been moved to a new location up on Hemlock Hill. The instructors have prepared a path for the students so they can make their way down the steep hill to the Creek.

6. The **Nursery Tree** is now behind a fence.

7. This small bit of **stercus avis** is in the form of a bubble.





## A Dog!

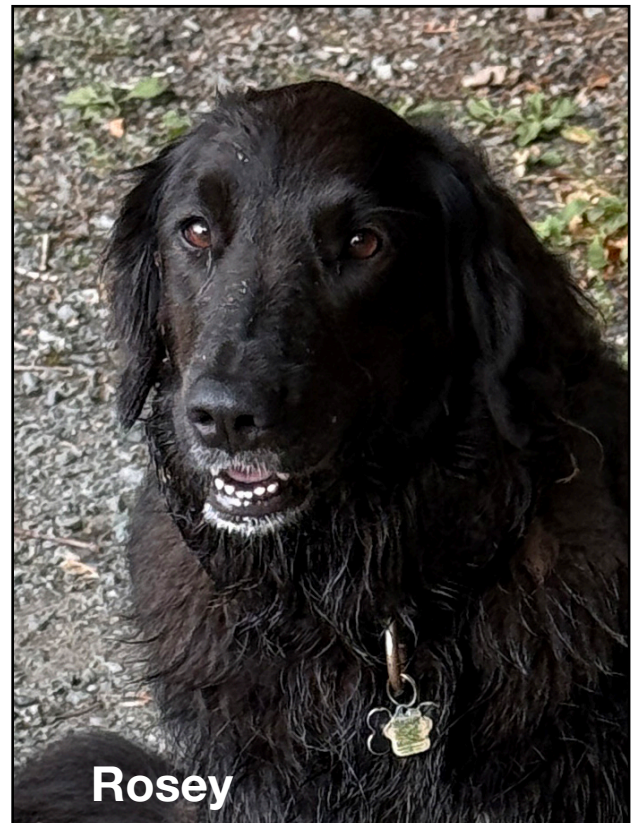


"**Rosey** is a five-year-old rough Collie retriever. She came to us as a puppy from a farm in Vernon.

"She loves coming to Bateman Park and cooling off a little in the stream when it's safe for the salmon. In her mind, she practically owns the park, and happily traipses off into the woods to sniff about.

"She loves her people friends even more than her doggy friends!

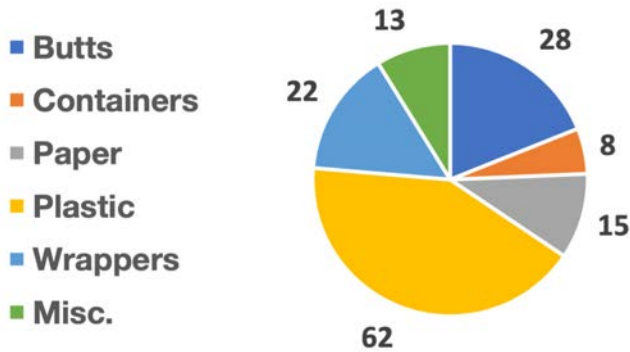
"We are grateful for the dog off-leash areas of Bateman Park!"



**Rosey**



### Litter Tally September 2025



Total litter items = 148

**Containers:** bottles, bottle tops, cans, coffee cups, lids, juice boxes.

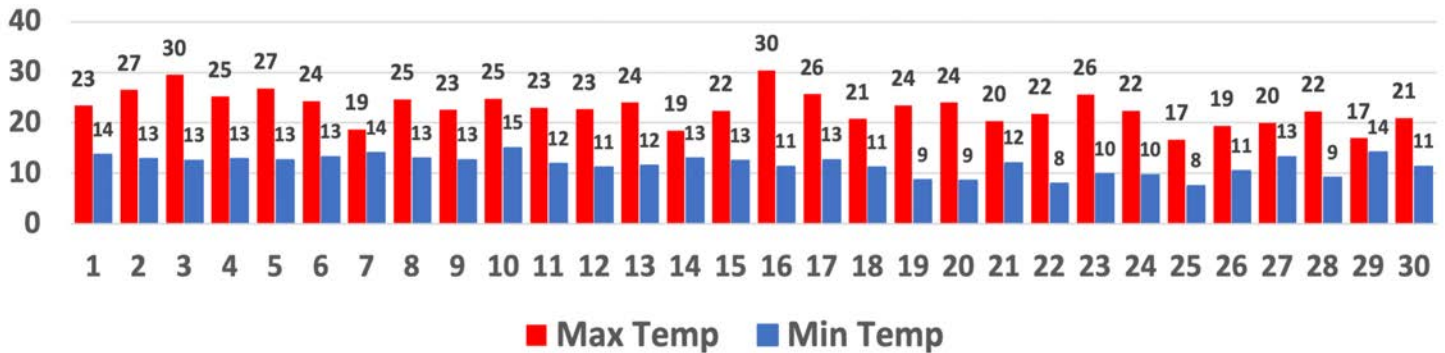
**Paper:** tissues, napkins, posters, newspaper, receipts, cardboard, etc.

**Plastic:** dog waste bags & shreds, other items made of plastic.

**Wrappers:** candy wrappers, foil, cellophane.

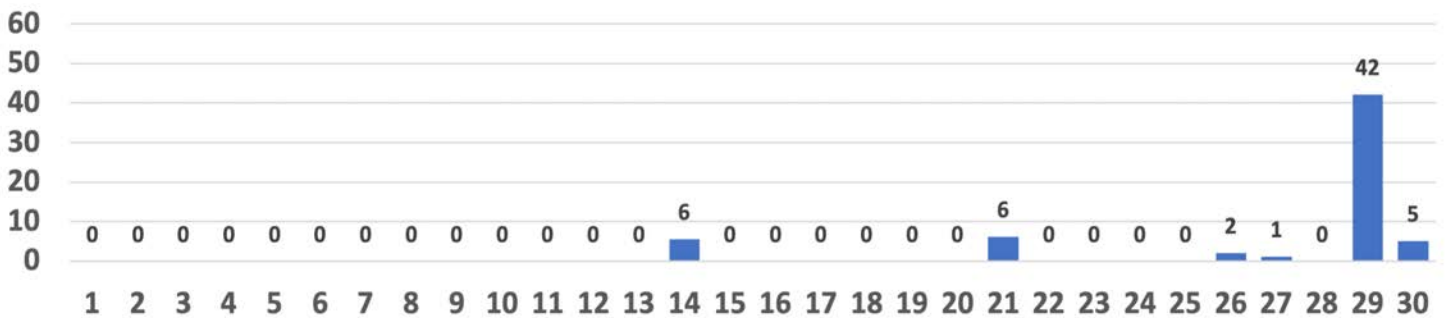
**Miscellaneous:** clothing, glass, chewing gum, dog balls & fragments, etc.

### Air temperature at YXX September 2025 (°C)



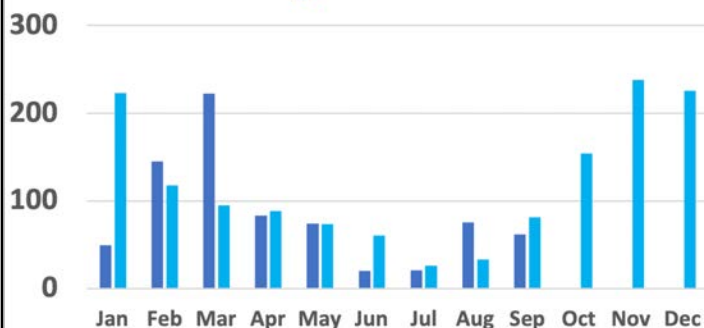
### Precipitation at YXX September 2025

Total = 62.1 mm



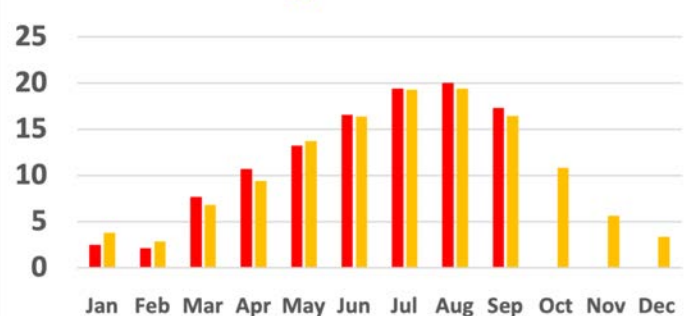
### Precipitation in 2025 (mm)

Average: 2019-2024



### Average Temperatures in 2025

Average: 2019-2024





For convenience, I use these custom place-names:

