

NATIVE VASCULAR PLANTS OBSERVED IN ERMINESKIN PARK, PARKSVILLE WETLANDS.

From the railroad tracks to Coldwater Road, on June 24, 2023.

By Terry Taylor, Karen Romanyk, Iris Bitterlich, Adrian Limpus, and Laura Gilbert.

TREES:

<i>Abies grandis</i>	grand fir
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	big leaf maple
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	red alder
<i>Frangula purshiana</i> (<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>)	cascara
<i>Malus fusca</i>	Pacific crab apple
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i>	shore pine
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	trembling aspen
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	bitter cherry
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<i>Salix lasiandra</i> (<i>S. lucida</i>)	Pacific willow
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	western redcedar

SHRUBS:

<i>Berberis nervosa</i> (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	low Oregon grape
<i>Cornus occidentalis</i> (<i>C. stolonifera</i>)	red osier dogwood
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	ocean spray
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	orange honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	black twinberry
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i>	coast black gooseberry
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka rose
<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	black raspberry
<i>Rubus nutkanus</i> (<i>R. parviflorus</i>)	thimbleberry
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	salmonberry
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	trailing blackberry
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	Sitka willow
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>	coast red elderberry
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	hardhack
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> var. <i>glabratus</i>	snowberry, waxberry
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	evergreen huckleberry
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	red huckleberry

HERBACEOUS PLANTS:

<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	vanilla leaf
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	pearly everlasting
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	red columbine

Campanula scouleri	Scouler's hairbell
Cardamine breweri	Brewer's bitter cress
Chamaenerion angustifolium (Epilobium angust.)	fireweed
Claytonia sibirica (Montia sibirica)	Siberian miner's lettuce
Dicentra formosa	bleeding heart
Epilobium ciliatum	purple leaved willow herb
Erythranthe guttata (Mimulus guttatus)	yellow monkey flower
Erythranthe ptilota (Mimulus moschatus)	musk flower
Galium aparine	cleavers
Galium trifidum	small bedstraw
Galium triflorum	sweet scented bedstraw
Geum macrophyllum	large leaved avens
Lysichiton americanum	skunk cabbage
Lysimachia latifolia (Trientalis latifolia)	star flower
Maianthemum stellatum (Smilacina stellata)	star flowered Solomon's seal
Myosotis laxa	small flower forget me not
Nemophila parviflora	small flowered grove lover
Oenanthe sarmentosa	water parsley
Osmorhiza berteroi (O. chilensis)	mountain sweet cicely
Ranunculus uncinatus	little buttercup
Sanicula crassicaulis	Pacific sanicle
Stachys cooleyae (S. chamissonis)	Cooley's hedge nettle
Stellaria crispa	crisped starwort
Tellima grandiflora	fringe cup
Tiarella trifoliata var. trifoliata	three leaf foamflower
Trillium ovatum	trillium
Urtica dioica	stinging nettle
Veronica americana (V. beccabunga var. am.)	American brook lime
Vicia americana	American vetch

GRASSES AND ALLIES:

Carex hendersonii	Henderson's sedge
Carex leptopoda (C. deweyana var. leptopoda)	Dewey's sedge
Carex obnupta	slough sedge, basket sedge
Carex scoparia	pointed broom sedge
Deschampsia elongata	slender hair grass
Glyceria elata	tall manna grass
Juncus ensifolius	dagger leaf rush
Luzula comosa var. laxa	pale woodrush
Scirpus microcarpus	small fruit bulrush

FERNS AND ALLIES:

Athyrium filix-femina ssp. cyclosum	lady fern
Dryopteris expansa	spiny wood fern
Equisetum telmateia ssp. braunii	giant horsetail
Polypodium glycyrriza	licorice fern
Polystichum munitum	sword fern
Pteridium aquilinum ssp. pubescens	bracken fern

Taxonomy is based on the second edition of Flora of the Pacific Northwest published in 2018. Older more familiar synonyms are in brackets.

This list records the native plants we observed by walking the trails during a six hour period on this single day. There will be more plants present in this site than those listed. Some will be in areas away from the trails. Others will not be present at this time of year, or this year, and others will be those we missed. No attempt was made to record abundance of species. Some of these are dominants, and others were single plants. Further, more thorough inventories would be of value, and gps mapping of rare and significant species is also recommended.

Carex scoparia and *Cardamine breweri* are yellow listed by the BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer.

The wetland was showing the result of extreme drought, even though it was still only June. It is highly recommended that there be an attempt to maintain water in this wetland. We also wondered if the trail system is interfering with drainage. A hydrologic study should be done to ascertain if that is the case, and if water is being drained from the site. If so, a professional hydrologist would be able to recommend restorative measures. We also wondered if the water supply aquifer is being compromised.

The aspen stand is a significant feature. Although aspens occur on eastern Vancouver Island, larger stands are uncommon. Those found on Vancouver Island and in the Fraser Valley are genetically different from those in the Interior, and are sometimes referred to as var. *vancouveriana*. It is believed they reached Vancouver Island during the Hypsithermal Period, a warm period 10,000 to 6,000 years ago, and have not interbred with other aspens since that time.