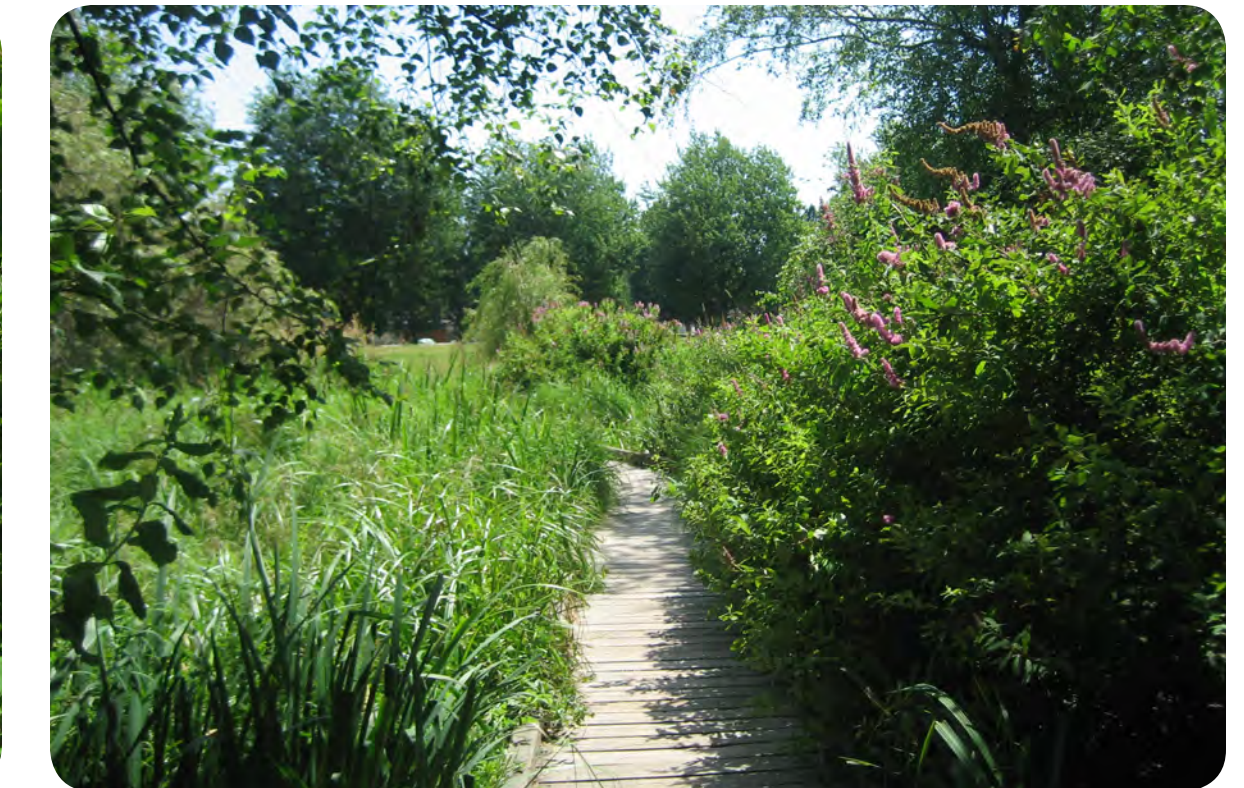


Ecology



Did you Know?

In the past, Trout Lake was a natural peat bog fed by four natural streams. At that time there were so many trout in the lake that the water flume to Hastings Mill was often clogged by fish. As the city grew, the streams were diverted into underground stormwater pipes. Most rainfall in the Trout Lake watershed now drains through the stormwater system to Burrard Inlet.



Some information about ecology in John Hendry Park today:

- Much of the park is lawn, which is species and habitat-poor
- There are many mature, semi-mature and young trees including maples, weeping willow, oak, birch, cherry and spruce
- Invasive plants, including bindweed and Himalayan blackberry are present, especially around the lake
- Trout Lake could potentially support turtles and pond-breeding amphibians, but their presence is not confirmed
- 32 different bird species have been recorded in the park
- Two bird species at risk, barn swallow and great blue heron, have been recorded in the park
- Trout Lake is used by bird species for breeding and by waterfowl for foraging along the edges
- It is suspected that ducks, geese and gulls contribute to poor water quality in the lake
- Historically, black bear, cougar, deer, elk, grey wolf and American beaver were present in the park, but none of these exist there today due to the urban context
- The park is known to be used by raccoons and striped skunks. It is also likely used by foraging and commuting bats, eastern grey squirrels, and possibly the occasional coyote
- In the 1800s China Creek, into which Trout Lake used to flow, was used by migrating chum salmon, coho salmon and rainbow trout
- The lake has been stocked with Trout as recently as 2006. Other fish communities are non-native, including black crappie, bluegill and possibly carp

Share Your Ideas & Knowledge About the Park's Ecology

*Do you know something the park's ecology?
Do you have an idea about what should be
protected or improved?
Write it on a sticky and share it here.*

