

Stanley Park Environmental Art - Semi-permanent Works: July 2010 Update

As summer has finally arrived, another look at the semi-permanent art works has uncovered some new growth. The art works themselves do not look dramatically different from how they appeared in the winter, but their surroundings have definitely filled in with vegetation and wildlife. At this time of year there is a lot of plant growth and breeding birds at all of the sites and most of the fruiting shrubs are producing an abundance of berries.

Bird Use

Birds are using the art as perching and feeding sites. American robins and northwestern crows were seen landing on *K'Ayacht'n!*, but they are probably using all of the art work at some point.

Two of the pieces may be used by birds as nesting material *Entwined* and *Cozy* showed no direct evidence of being used in this way, but

the chances of this happening seem likely because they contain fibres which is desirable nesting material.

Invertebrate Use

Spiders were seen to be using all of the art works as platforms from which to build webs. The most used piece was *Listen* as the dry interior makes a perfect home for these creatures.





Spider mites were seen on many of the pieces and these small creatures were not observed in the winter months.

Sow bugs were seen at most of the sites as well. They feed on decaying wood and live under all of the art works with the exception of *Entwined*. Centipedes, worms, slugs and ants were also seen living under the wood rounds of *Cozy*.

The exoskeleton of one beetle was found on *K'Ayacht'ni*. Over time the decomposition of the wooden art works will likely be aided by wood boring beetles.



Several flies were seen resting on *Listen*.



Plant Growth

Plants are not yet colonizing most of the art works as it seems too soon for this to occur. Over time as the pieces decompose and soil begins to build up, the many seeds that are already falling on them from the overhanging vegetation and on the wind, will have a chance to germinate.





Because *K'Ayacht'n!* was designed to contain soil, it has a few plants growing on it already. Huckleberry plants are growing along with a few weedy species.

Cozy has begun to decompose more rapidly than the rest and it also has the most plant growth. There are red elderberry, salmonberry and grasses growing up through the piece.

It is likely to take several more years for some of these pieces to begin decomposing more rapidly. All of the art work, with the exception of *Cozy*, looked very much intact and did not show signs that they had deteriorated significantly in the last year.

