

Bird life is less conspicuous along the trail than it was a month ago, but we always hear yellow warblers, common yellowthroats, catbirds, red-winged blackbirds, veerys, cedar waxwings, and indigo buntings. Killdeer are often seen around the pond, and look carefully along the water's edge for ducks and other species, too.

We're in a season of butterflies. You'll likely see cabbage whites, pearl crescents, summer azures, and occasional larger butterflies like question marks (that's their name because of a silvery curl and dot on the underwings – side photo – that is loosely reminiscent of a question mark) and white and red admirals. Monarch numbers should be increasing; keep an eye out for them. Bullfrogs are hard to see but are easily heard in pond areas, and other wildlife occasionally pops up along the trail: cottontail rabbits, chipmunks, toads, garter snakes, and deer.



The vegetation keeps changing. Multiflora rose, which was abundant two weeks ago, is past flowering, and both honeysuckle and wild grape are producing fruit. Wild parsnip has become abundant along the trail but handle it carefully; in the presence of sunlight (UV), sap from this plant can cause a rash. The prettiest flowers now are Deptford pink, common cinquefoil, spreading dogbane, and hedge bindweed. Both milkweed and thistles are attractive in their own way and draw in numerous pollinators.

The Town of Kirkland is adding a gravel mix to the 1-mile section of the trail north of Dugway Rd (parts may still be muddy), and that section provides walking and observing in an area with new and different habitats! The expansion is thanks to the long-term work and cooperative efforts of Kirkland Trails Inc. and the Town of Kirkland.

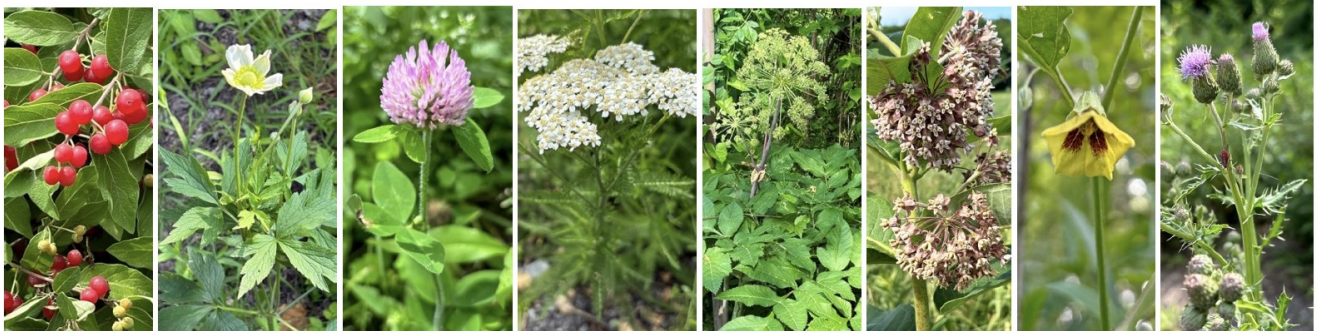
As usual, all photos shown here are from the past couple of weeks.



Cedar waxwing    Chipmunk    Garter snake    Bullfrog    Question mark    Yellow warbler    White admiral



Deptford pink    Spreading dogbane    Cinquefoil    Wild parsnip    Hedge bindweed    Spreading loosestrife    White campion    Mullein



Honeysuckle fruit    Anemone    Red clover    Yarrow    Angelica    Milkweed    Ground cherry    Can. Thistle