

# Kennydell Park

☐ Your Mission: Can you find and identify any aquatic insects living among the rocks in the creek or flying around the lake, like dragonflies? Send us a photo or the name of what you find!  
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Park in the lot on the east side of Fairview Road, where the sports fields are and follow the trail that goes under the road.

☐ Black lake and the surrounding area has a long history of use.

Native American tribes that resided in the area used the river as a common navigation trail between Puget Sound and the Chehalis River. Early settlers did as well. The area was one of big timber and prairies providing many available food resources and shelter to those who lived here.

☐ Fish Pond Creek Trail and stream bugs: Can you find any wiggly insects under the rocks?

One of the best ways to determine how healthy a stream is for salmon, is to look at the population of aquatic insects or stream bugs and other aquatic organisms, such as snails, worms, and crayfish.

Benthic macro-invertebrates:

☐ Benthic means "bottom of a body of water" and macro-invertebrate means you can see the insect with your eye and insect has no backbone.

These are also called stream bugs and are used as bio-indicators of water quality as they are sensitive to environmental changes. Did you see any?

☐ How are stream bugs indicators of water quality?

Some species of stream bugs are more tolerant of pollution and warm water. A healthy stream has trees for shade and its waters are clean and cold, essential for salmon and the stream bugs they eat!

☐ Find the culvert or pipe that lets the stream flow under the creek.

Turn over rocks in the stream, did you find any stream insects? The easiest way to identify a stream bug is to first look at its tail. If it has 2 tails, it is usually a stonefly larva, and if it has 3 tails, it is usually a mayfly larva.

☐ Walk through the culvert and find the picnic area. Can you detect trees shading the stream?

Native trees and shrubs growing along a stream provide cover or shade for the stream. This helps to keep the water cold for salmon, stream bugs and other aquatic life.

☐ Taking the road to the right sleuth out the way to the swim beach. Keep an eye out for dragonflies and damselflies!

The adult insects flying around the lake will lay eggs on the stems of water plants. The eggs will hatch into gilled larvae that will grow and shed their exoskeletons several times before turning into adults with wings.

☐ Can you tell the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly?

Adult dragonflies usually rest with their wings spread open, whereas adult damselflies usually rest with their wings closed.

☐ Did you know that aquatic insects living in lakes and ponds are different than those living in streams? Ponds and lakes are usually warmer and have less oxygen in the water due to their stillness. The insects living in lakes and ponds are more tolerant of these factors.