

Stoney Creek Nature Trail



Pick up a free
Nature Guide



Visitor Centre:
250-567-2124

Northern
British Columbia
REGION



TRAIL DETAILS

Trail Distance: 775 m
Trail Rating: **Easy**
Time Estimate: 30 min
Wheelchairs: **Accessible**
Dogs: **On leash. Please pick up after your dog.**
Things to bring: **Binoculars, nature guide, dip net.**

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This well groomed, wide, gravel trail follows Stoney Creek to the confluence of the Nechako River. This area has a long history and is important traditional lands of Saik'uz First Nation. Both sections of this trail have been dedicated to long-time residents of Vanderhoof - Don Schwartz and George Smith. Read the signs along the trail to learn more about the history and flora and fauna of this area. This trail is good for families and is wheelchair accessible.

HOW TO GET THERE

Via Museum: Return to Highway 16 from the Burrard Street Visitor Centre (VC). Turn right and drive west along Highway 16 (First Street) to Pine Street (Kal Tire on the right) and turn left. The Vanderhoof Community Museum is on the right and park in the parking lot. On foot, cross back over the highway and walk along the left hand side of Silvermill Road. Pass over the railroad tracks and the trailhead is ahead on the left.

STONEY CREEK NATURE TRAIL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1. Railroad Tracks:** This railroad track was one of the last stretches of the Grandtrunk Railway to be completed in 1914, just before the grand opening of the trans-Canada line in Fort Fraser. The rail line has train passing nearly every hour transporting lumber, fuels and commercial goods.
- 2. Stop and Look. Fish Habitat!** Stoney Creek is roughly 15km long and flows out of Nulki Lake located in the Saik'uz First Nation Reservation wouth of Vanderhoof. Many fish inhabit the waters below this bridge. Take a few minutes to gaze over the railing and watch for small fish (located near the water's edge or just under the water's surface) to large trout (in the darker deep areas). Fish use floating and submerged plants, rocks, and fallen trees as shelter from predators (birds and larger fish) and from fast flowing water.
- 3. Duckweed:** Aquatic plants, or plants that grow in wet environments, are important for fish, birds and invertebrates as food and shelter. Duckweed is one such plant that floats on the water's surface and is highly efficient at purifying the water, and can act as overhead cover for fish and a landing pad for dragonflies and other invertebrates. However duckweed can become too abundant and outcompete other aquatic plants (take over), and lead to oxygen depletion for fish.
- 4. McIntosh Trail:** Enjoy this 2km off-shoot trail along private property to beautiful views of the Nechako River. Please respect private property!
- 5. Amphibians:** Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that regulate their body temperature using the sun. The Western toad and the wood frog are only amphibians species found in northern BC. Toads prefer drier areas, while frogs can be seen in the water. Watch for them along this trail.
- 6. Floodplains:** When a river breeches its banks, the area that is inundated with water is considered the floodplain. This area, which is often flat and low-lying, often has nutrient rich soils that make good agricultural lands. Here, the floodplain provides habitat for fish.
- 7. Invasive Species:** Invasive species are organisms that are introduced to an area where their natural predators and pathogens do not exist, which allows them to grow uninhibited. Invasive species often take over an area and reduce the number of native plants or animals, which causes environmental and economic harm to the area. There are 21 listed invasive plant species in BC, several of which grow along this trail, including Canada thistle and oxeye daisy.
- 8. Wild Foods:** Many plants that grow in the Nechako area have provided food and medicine for First Nations for centuries. Useful plants you may see on this trail include black twinberry, wild rose, alder, yarrow and soapberry. Refer to [Plants and Medicines of Sophie Thomas](#) for more information.
- 9. Cottonwoods:** Named because of the cottony seeds they produce, black cottonwood trees are widespread across North America. They grow along river banks, gravel bars and low lying areas. They are a deciduous tree (lose their leaves in the fall), and produce buds in the spring that contain a sticky substance that can be used as an ointment for cuts or as a glue.



Continue to the Riverside Park Nature Trail