



Fishtrap Creek Park is a park in the city of Abbotsford. It is located on Maclure Road. This park is quite popular as it has the following: trail, picnic shelters, sightseeing viewpoints, playgrounds, baseball diamond, creek with various wildlife and also is a stormwater storage basin. The whole catchment area of the park is described to be ~3000 hectares. I visited on April 20th which was a warm sunny day. When I went there I noticed that there were ducks in the creek and I could hear lot's of birds chirping in the trail. As I walked down the trail I also saw squirrels. The area that specifically interested me was near the picnic shelter as I noticed that compared to the rest of the park this area lacked biodiversity it did not have any birds here and in addition to monoculture grass there were only 3 other plant species present which I identified to be douglas fir, red cedar, and dawn redwood. The elevation was higher at the picnic area and it gradually sloped downwards as you reached the creek.

The questions that came to my mind based on these observations are

- 1) What is the reason behind the lack of plant species in this specific area could it be due to disturbance caused by humans. So my question is how does human disturbance, such as foot traffic and trampling, affect plant species diversity and abundance in the area near the picnic shelter.
- 2) Also, I noticed that in addition to grass there were 3 other plant species growing in this area, what is the reason behind this are these species more resilient and able to grow better in areas with increased disturbance.

- 3) Lastly, I observed that this area lacked birds and ducks which were abundant in other areas of the park. Could this be due to a lack of plant species.



