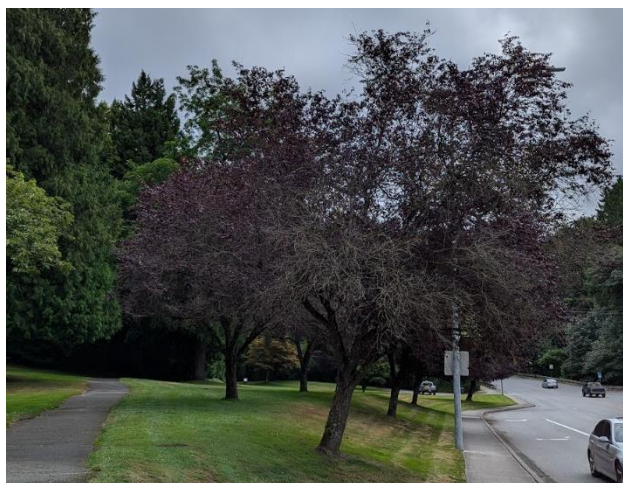


MCCA Projects

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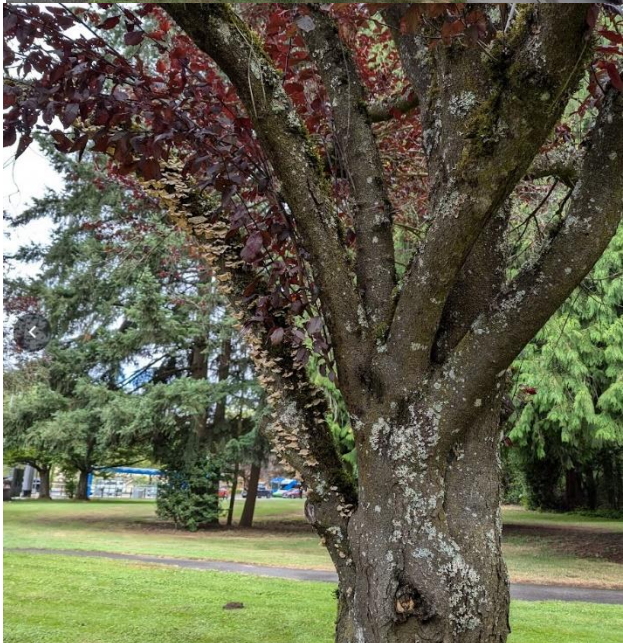
Fish Ladder Park Tree Work

Fish Ladder Park is located at the corner of HWY 527 and Mill Creek Road and serves visually as the main entrance to MCCA. The park's east side (directly across from The Laurels entrance) is lined with Thundercloud Plum trees that are looking past their prime.



The plum trees have many dead spots. We asked Taylor's Tree Service to examine them to see if they would benefit from hard pruning, but the trees are too old and diseased for this to work well.

According to various online sources, the Thundercloud Plum has a life span of about 20 years, which these trees passed long ago. After a close inspection of the trees, Craig and I noticed that a few of them were leaning toward the street and a few of them had some rot issues, as in the picture below. We have lost a few of these trees in recent years due to wind and snow. Even if we do nothing, we will eventually lose more trees.



Since these trees are well past their prime and are starting to fail in windstorms and under snow loads, we will remove the six Thundercloud Plum trees and replace them with a line of Armstrong Maples (or similar tree), which are thriving at other locations in MCCA. The new trees will be planted in the fall after we can schedule the stump grinding.

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Critter Corridor

If you live in Huckleberry division, you may have noticed we've begun clearing the large triangle-shaped common area between lots 77 and 78. This space was overgrown with Himalayan blackberries, invasive plants, dumped landscape debris and garbage. Our goal is to clear the area of brush and debris and provide a safe forage area for small critters like birds, squirrels, and pollinators.

The Noxious Weed Committee is busy removing weeds and spreading wood chips. We look forward to planting this area in the fall. Specific forage plants like cascara, red flowering currant, and a Garry oak will be planted in fall 2024. Having an environmentally themed purpose that's beneficial to animals, coupled with our clearing projects, is not only good for the environment but also good for our residents and their children, who will hopefully experience some memorable wildlife sightings or take a few pictures of happy wildlife stopping to feed and rest at our critter corridor.

As a reminder, please do not feed wildlife in our community. These critters are healthiest when left to rely on the natural food sources provided in this space. Introducing human food to wildlife will attract rats, raccoons, and other undesirable animals to the neighborhood.



Location of the Critter Corridor Project in Huckleberry