

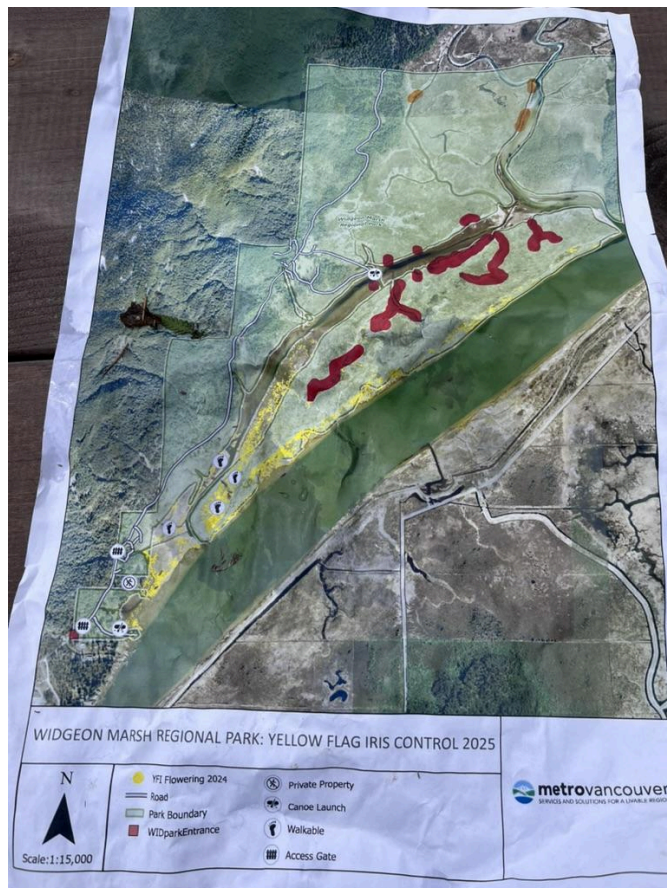
Conservation update June 2026

1. James Bay Prevost Island May 26, 2026, BROOM Busting

Six SKABC members launched from Mayne Island on a kayak trip to Prevost on Friday. On Saturday, the Resource Management Officer and Ecology team of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada (Eleanor, Pipp and Zach) joined us. They gave us a brief Inservice on the best practices for removing Scotch Broom. This was SKABC Conservation's first collaboration with the Gulf Island Reserve. We focused on the bluff for tents near the meadow removing 10 feet by 80 feet swath of Scotch Broom. The Ecology team appreciated our initiative and expressed their desire to collaborate again next year. Sunday morning's windy conditions prompted us to wait until the winds subsided before the short paddle to Salt Spring Island.

2. Yellow Flag Iris removal in Widgeon Creek

For the third year, 8 SKABC members, in partnership with Metro Vancouver Natural Resource Management, cut and bagged the invasive Yellow Flag Iris flowers and seed pods. We can really see a decrease in the Yellow Flag Iris population with only smaller, more isolated patches. This decrease has been confirmed with a drone survey Metro Vancouver does of the area. Again, Metro Vancouver appreciates the help and stewardship of SKABC and would like to have more of these events this season. I posted to SKABC a second Iris removal as Metro Vancouver invite as I am unavailable to lead a second trip.



Yellow lines areas of Iris infestation and red area of this year's removal.

3. Installation of Bear Caches and Signage at Simson Park with Elyse Guzek, Lower Sunshine Coast Park Ranger and crew.

Nick and Cynthia took the ferry over Saturday, June 6, 2026, to meet with the BC Park Ranger, two student Rangers, and two seasonal staff members. We transported the Bear Caches and various supplies to the two sites by boat to Simson Park. Over two days with Park support we installed the bear caches on concrete post holders to avoid disturbing the soil and two no-fire signs at Farm Bay and Pebbly Beach. A beach clean-up of large items at each site was done. A new Yellow Flag Iris infestation was removed from Farm Bay. The Rangers brushed the campsites and some of the trails. A danger tree assessment was done by the Park Ranger at the two sites. Nick, Cynthia and the two student rangers camped overnight at Pebbly Beach. We were able to install some temporary trail signage, but more needs to be done.

The 3 picnic tables and 2 bear caches had the SKABC plaques attached. A very productive weekend. Cynthia and Nick returned on Sunday.





