

NANAIMO ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Prepared By :

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*Keeping Wildlife Wild and
Communities Safe*

CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY



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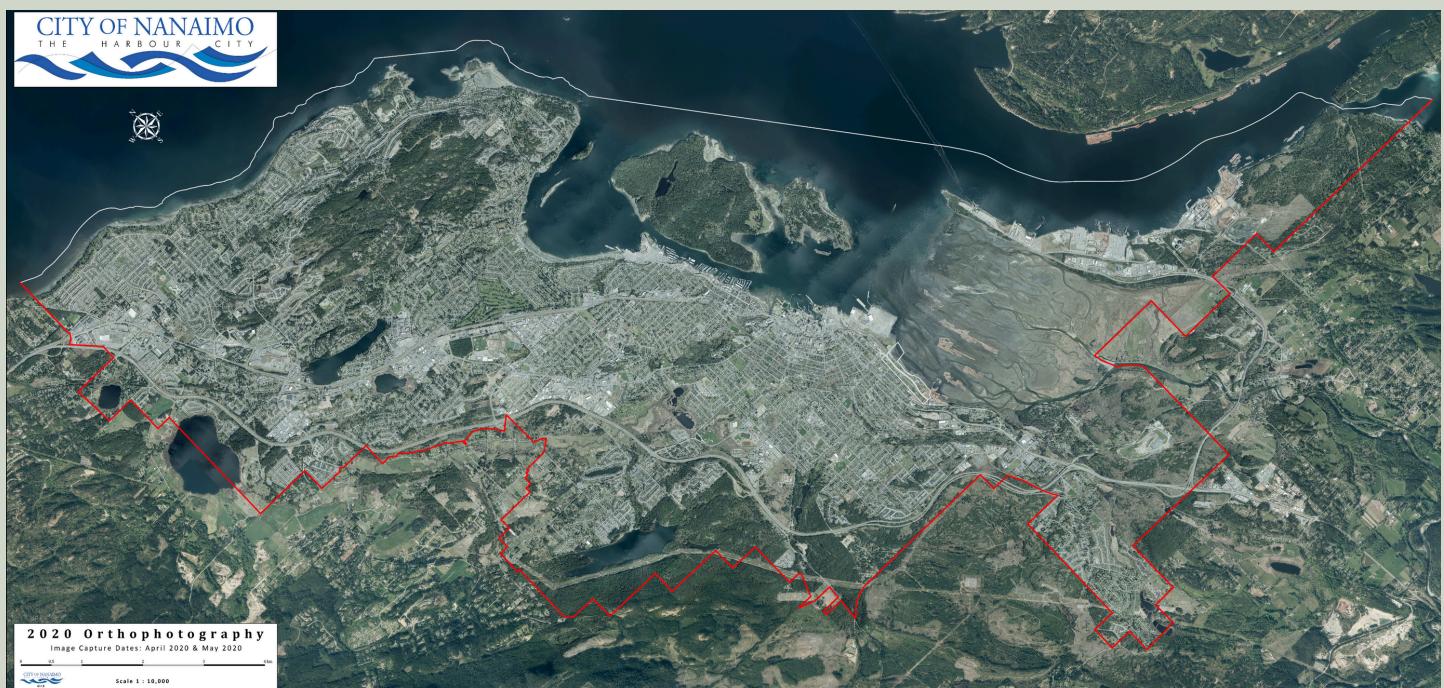
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Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Nanaimo program for the 2025 season between April 15th and November 30th. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator is to assist communities in preventing human-wildlife conflicts through educational programs, collaboration, and community solutions. The following report summarizes key program deliverables over the course of the 2025 season, and will help shape the delivery of the program for the 2026 based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Nanaimo program covers an area of approximately 88.19 square kilometers. The city of Nanaimo, where the program operates, is located within the 2,041.32 square-kilometer Regional District of Nanaimo on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The city's northern boundaries extend to areas around Aulds Road, Schook Road, and Mary Ellen Drive, while the southern boundary lies near the Duke Point Highway and Cinnabar Valley. Notable roads that enter and exit the coverage area include Jinglepot Road and Extension Road.



2025 Highlights

244

Students Educated

3282

Community Members Reached

39

Community Event Booths

327

Bins Tagged

9.0K

Facebook Users Reached

Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1 to October 31 of 2024, a total of 493 wildlife reports had been made to the COS through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>).

Black Bears were the second most reported species to the COS with 205 reports. This was followed by Cougars with 33 reports and superseded by Deer, which were responsible for 232 reports to the COS in 2024 (Figure 2).

Nanaimo has seen a significant decrease in the number of Black Bear reports since the high of 525 reports in 2022 (Figure 1). Factors that may affect this trend include the high number of Black Bears destroyed in 2022 and the implementation of the WildSafeBC program in 2023. Due to time restrictions on data acquisition, these numbers have not been updated to include the 2025 season.

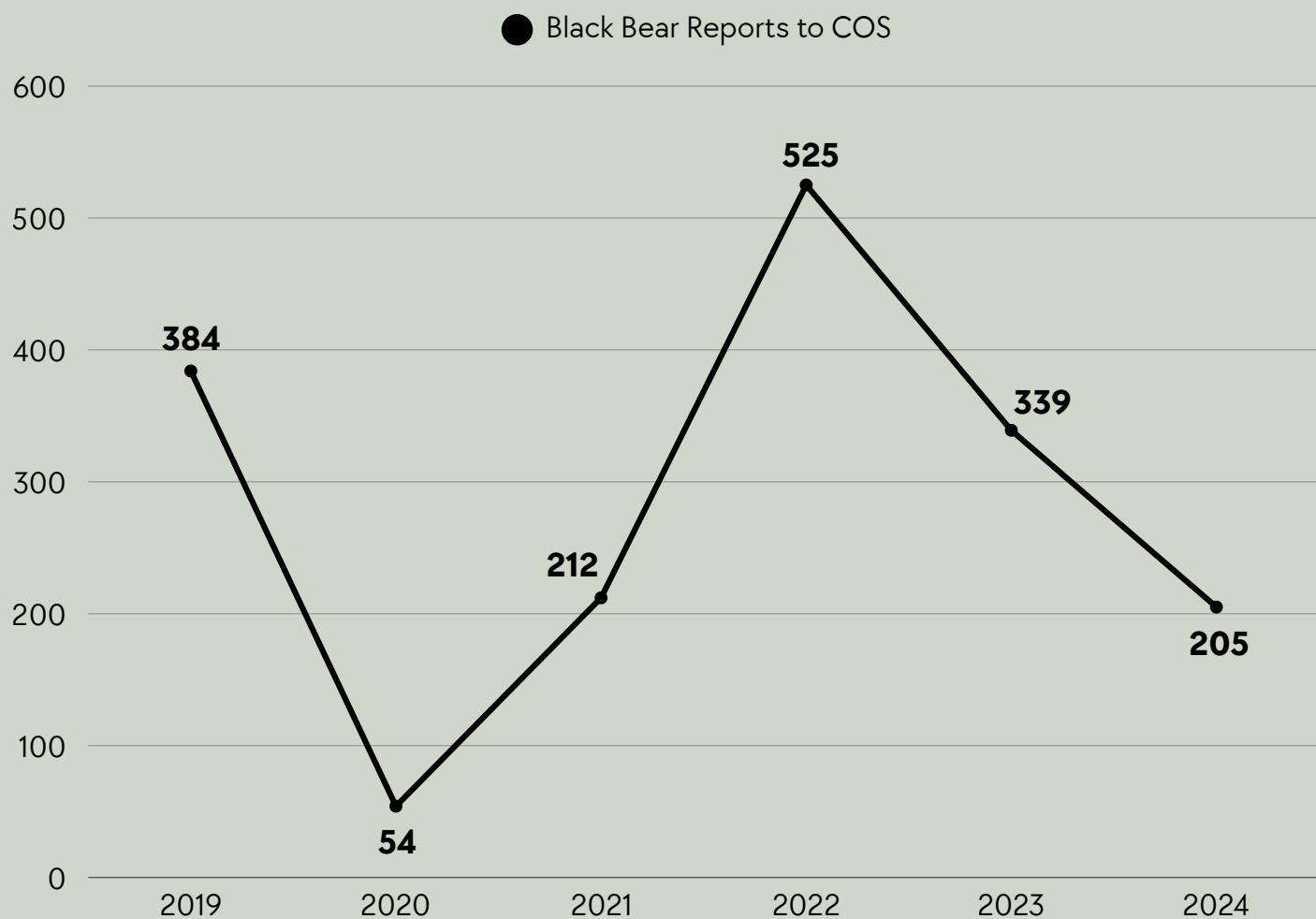


Figure 1. Quantity of Bear Reports to COS over a 6-year Period

Conservation Officer Service Reports

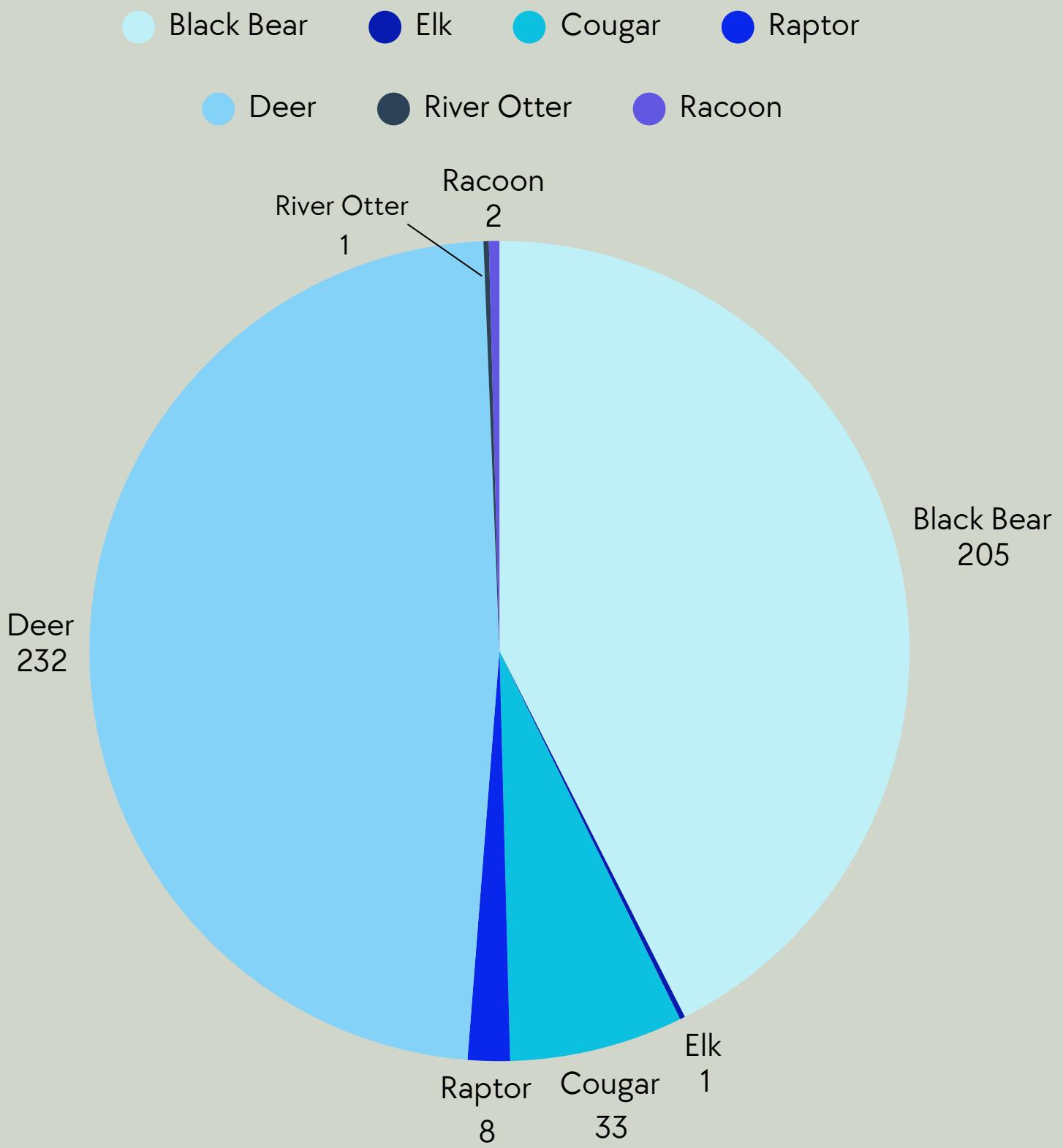


Figure 2. Species Distribution of COS Reports (2024)

WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program introduces students to the concept of human-wildlife conflict and encourages them to take an active role in reducing human-wildlife conflict at home by helping their families identify backyard wildlife attractants. In addition, students learn how to have a safe and respectful relationship with wildlife. The program complements the BC Science K-6 Curriculum and can be easily adapted to older students.

The WildSafeBC Nanaimo Coordinator delivered 15 WRP presentations with 5 elementary schools, 1 summer camp, and the VI Regional Library (Table 1). A total of 244 children throughout Nanaimo became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them. Our reach in the Rangers program expanded to 2 new elementary schools and involved community engagement through student-led educational posters.

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Nanaimo Science	4	28	July 9 th , 16 th , August 13 th
VI Regional Library	2	15	August 22 nd , October 24 th
Syuwenct Elementary School	K - 3	58	October 9 th , November 5 th
Frank J Ney Elementary School	K - 4	83	October 27 th , November 13 th
Chase River Elementary School	4 & 5	21	October 30 th
Pleasant Valley Elementary School	K & 3	39	November 12 th

WildSafe Ranger Program

**WildSafe BC
Rangers Program**

Visited Syuwéñct
Elementary School
Division 6 and 7 classes

Students learned about how people can keep wildlife in the wild so communities are safe and healthy for all animals, including humans. Take a look at Div. 7 Grade 2/3s posters to learn more.

Our community can have neighbourhoods and wild green spaces co-exist in a healthy way.

Vancouver Island Wildlife

We live on an island with animals such as bears, elk, deer, cougars, bats, and marmots. There are many other animals here too. Let's do our part to help them stay protected in the wild and green spaces.

**Natural Food Sources
are Best for Wildlife**

Pick the fruits off the trees and shrubs in your yard so black bears and not invited into your yard. Take down bird feeders between April and November. Feed house cats and dogs indoors.

Volunteers can help you take down fruits.

Display Booths

Display booths provide an opportunity for the public to interact with WildSafeBC educational materials, learn about wildlife safety, discuss attractant management, and explore the program's additional offerings, such as the WildSafe Rangers and bin-tagging programs. In 2025, more than 3,200 community members visited the WildSafeBC booth at 41 events across Nanaimo. These included weekly appearances at the Commercial Street Night Market, the Island Roots Farmers Market, and the Vancouver Island Regional Library (North Branch). The booths served as an accessible resource for residents with wildlife concerns, visitors seeking information, and individuals interested in viewing wildlife artifacts up close.

WildSafeBC also attended VIU's VIUSU FROSH festival, engaging with over 200 new and returning students, many of whom were international students with limited experience navigating British Columbia's wildlife. This outreach ensured students received essential safety information as they settled into the community.



Community Groups - Bear Spray Workshops

Bear spray workshops provide participants with essential knowledge on the effectiveness, safe handling, and practical use of bear spray in both recreational and workplace settings. Instruction covers proper deployment, transportation, storage, and disposal, reinforcing the importance of bear spray as a 97% effective tool for preventing wildlife attacks. In 2025, WildSafeBC delivered two workshops to students in Vancouver Island University's RMOT program, educating 28 participants. This ongoing partnership helps ensure future natural resource professionals feel confident, prepared, and informed when working in wildlife country.

Community Groups - Nanaimo Gleaning Program

In 2025, WildSafeBC Nanaimo established a new partnership with the Nanaimo Gleaning Program to support the reduction of fruit-based wildlife attractants in the community. The WildSafeBC Nanaimo community coordinator completed gleaning training and began coordinating with local farmers and program volunteers to develop a process for addressing unripe or excess fruit on residential properties. While no calls to action were received, the collaboration successfully established the framework for future response and built connections with area farmers. It also supported cross-promotion of educational materials between both programs.



GOT EXTRA FRUIT OR VEGETABLES?

Let us harvest and share the bounty!

The Gleaning Program connects volunteers with crop owners to pick surplus produce and share it with the community.

Contact Us:

Email: gleaning@ncgs.ca; Call: 250-816-4769

Let's make the most of our local harvest!



Community Groups - Wildlife Awareness Presentations

In 2025, WildSafeBC Nanaimo was featured in the City of Nanaimo's Fall/Winter Activity Guide. These wildlife awareness programs are designed for residents and recreationists living or spending time in wildlife country, and they provide information on attractant management and strategies to prevent wildlife encounters. In addition to City-organized presentations, wildlife awareness sessions were also offered to the public through the Vancouver Island Regional Library, North Branch.

A total of five presentations were delivered during the 2025 season, reaching 62 participants who are now better equipped with knowledge about the wildlife species commonly involved in conflicts in B.C.

NANAIMO PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Activity Guide
September 2025 to March 2026



recreation.nanaimo.ca
250-756-5200
Registration starts on Wednesday, August 6 (Aquatics);
Wednesday, August 13 (all other programs)

 CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

WildSafe Adventures NEW

Learn how to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors with WildSafeBC. Discover practical tips to prevent human-wildlife conflicts, including bear behaviour, attractant management and what to do during an encounter. Perfect for families, hikers and nature enthusiasts of all ages. This is a free event, but registration is required.

Sat, Sep 13 | 3:30-4:30 pm | FREE | [151798](#)

Sat, Oct 25 | 3:30-4:30 pm | FREE | [151799](#)

Westwood Lake (second beach)



Bin Tagging

Garbage bin tagging involves placing a highly visible, removable warning sticker on top of curbside containers on the evening before collection day. Over six outings, a total of 327 bins were tagged across four collection zones. These zones were selected based on the volume of reported issues in the area and their overall wildlife-conflict risk.

Two collection zones were revisited for follow-up tagging one month later. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, yellow tags indicate bins tagged during the first outing, and orange tags indicate bins tagged during the second outing. In collection zone 4G5, 98 bins were tagged, including 29 second notices (Figure 4). In collection zone 7G4, 100 bins were tagged, with only 9 second notices (Figure 5). Overall, an average reduction of 81% in early-placed bins was observed for the 2025 season.



Figure 3. Avenza Map of Bin Tagging Conducted in Collection Zone 4G5

Bin Tagging

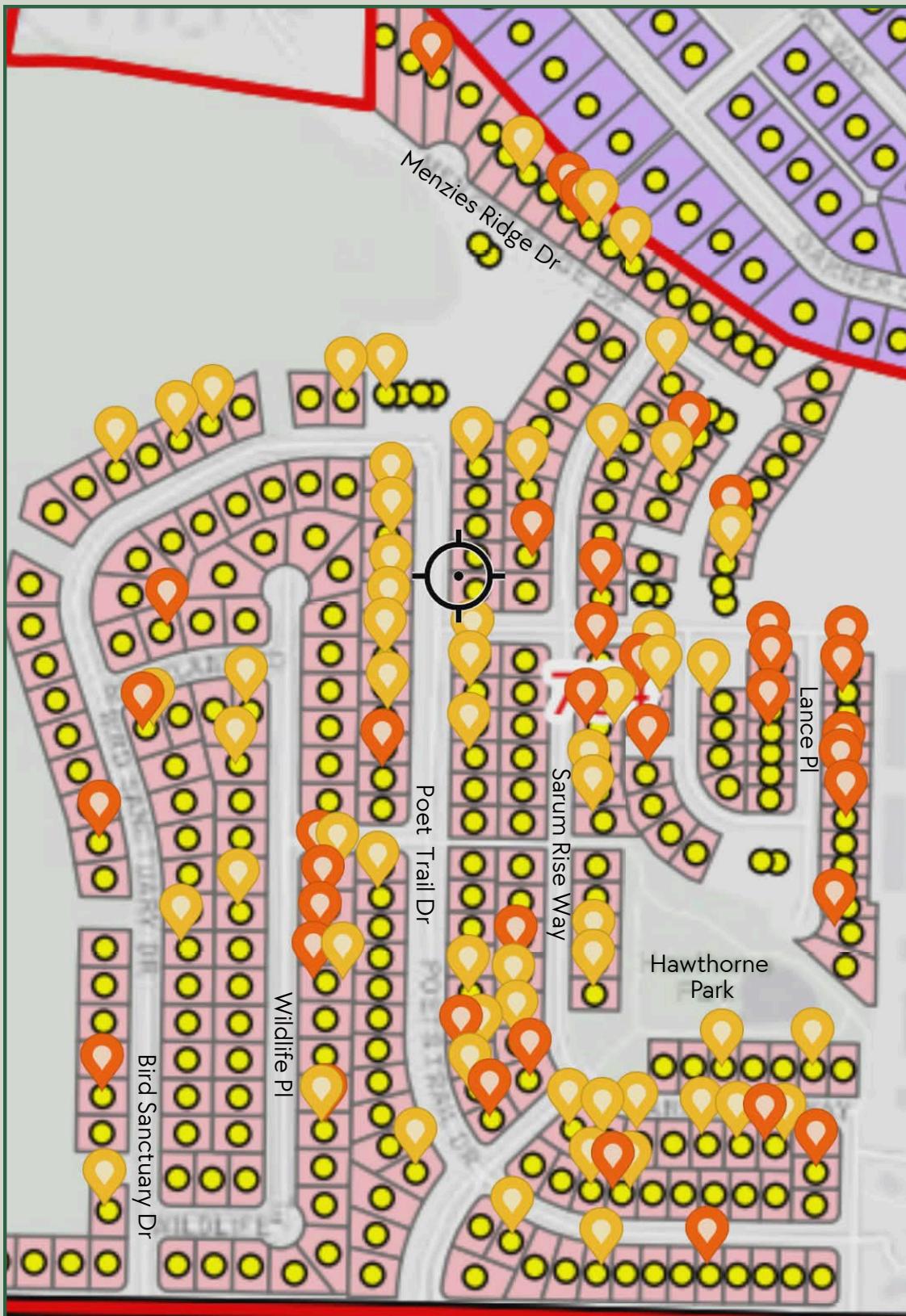


Figure 4. Avenza Map of Bin Tagging Conducted in Collection Zone 7G4

Bin Tagging

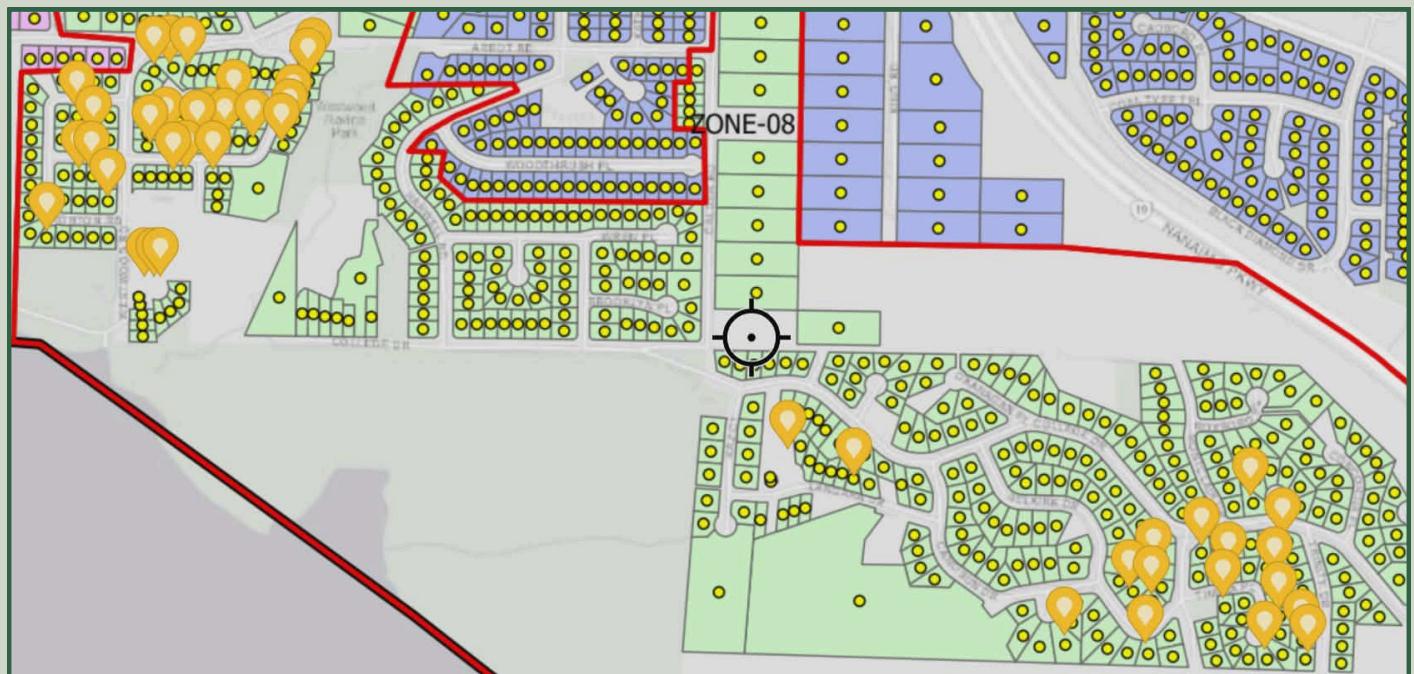


Figure 5. Avenza Map of Bin Tagging Conducted in Collection Zone 8G2

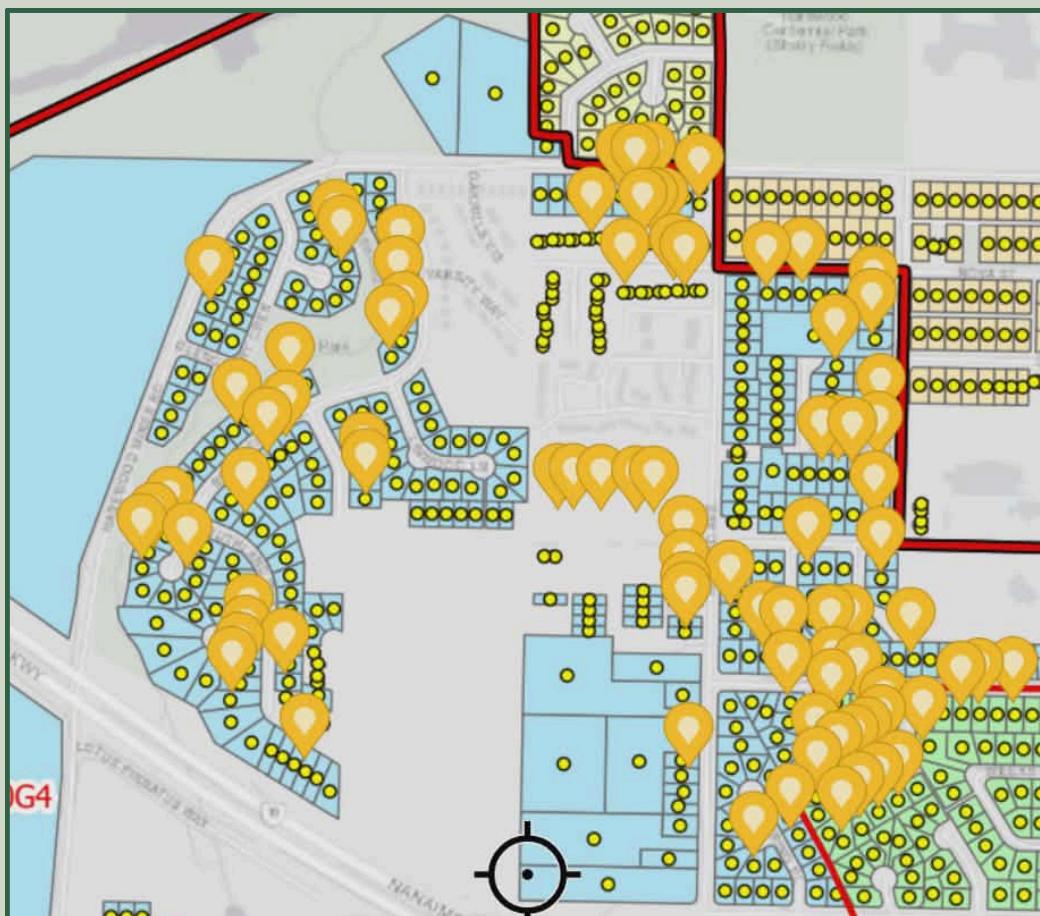


Figure 6. Avenza Map of Bin Tagging Conducted in Collection Zone 10G4

Social Media

The WildSafeBC Nanaimo Facebook page resumed activity on June 15th with an introductory post and demonstrated steady growth throughout the season. The page gained 58 new followers, increasing from 232 on June 15th to 290 by November 20th, 2025. Notably, the largest increase came from the 18–24 age group, historically the page's least represented demographic. This indicates a more balanced and diverse audience reach across the community.

Throughout the season, the Coordinator actively engaged with wildlife-related posts in various neighbourhood Facebook groups, providing education and directing users to WildSafeBC resources. This approach effectively increased visibility and encouraged residents to explore program content. Many posts were shared organically by users into additional groups and personal timelines, further amplifying outreach.

Between June 15th and November 30th, the program produced 60 Facebook posts, 23 of which were shared, collectively reaching 1,600 people and generating 9,000 total views. Most posts reached over 100 users, with the highest-performing post, a feature on the bin-tagging program, reaching approximately 478 people.

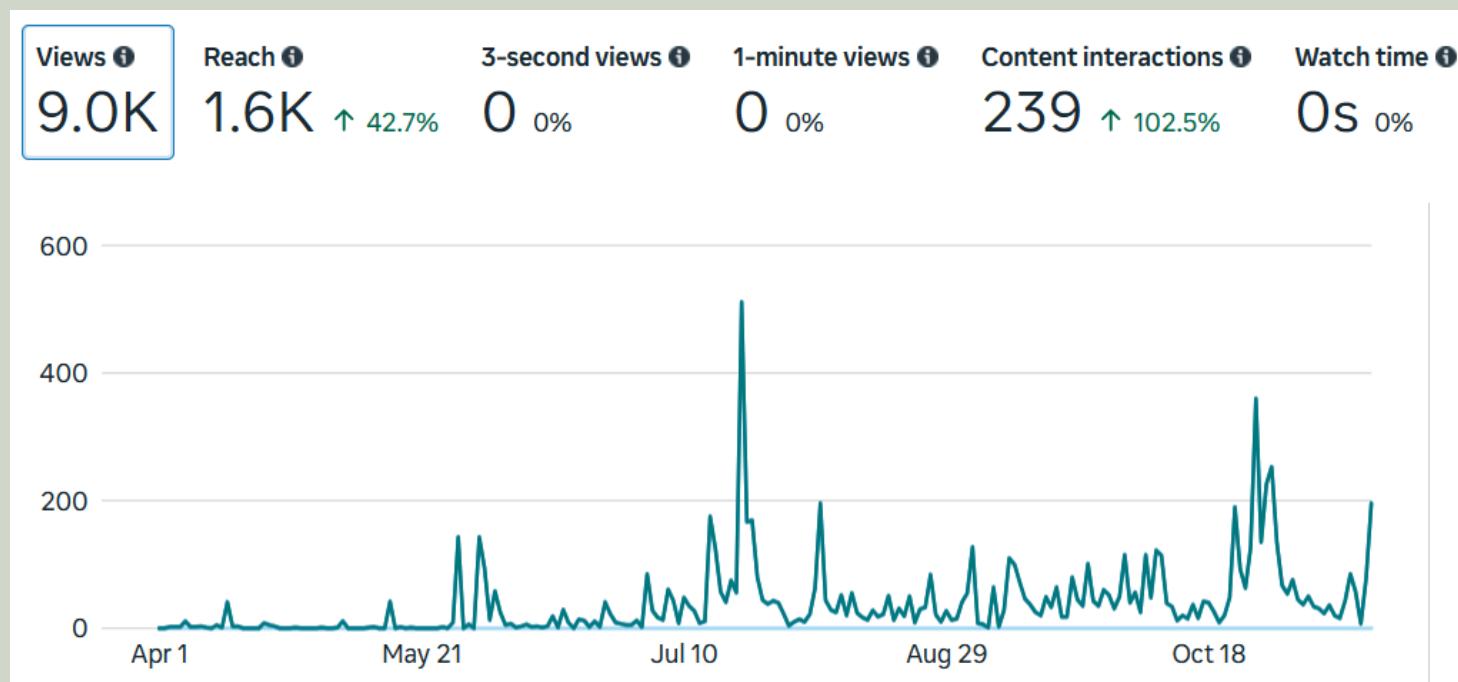


Figure 8. Meta Analytics of WSBC Nanaimo for the 2025 Season.

BC Goes Wild

Throughout September when human-bear conflicts are at their highest in BC, WildSafeBC celebrates its annual BC Goes Wild campaign to acknowledge the spectacular diversity of wildlife in the Province. This year WildSafeBC celebrated its 10th Annual BC Goes Wild Event. In Nanaimo, weekly BC Goes Wild booths were hosted at the Vancouver Island Regional Library - Nanaimo North Branch, providing residents with opportunities to learn about wildlife safety and local species. The campaign also featured colouring and wildlife photography contests, and two wildlife awareness presentations were delivered at Westwood Lake to support community education and engagement.

 WildSafeBC Nanaimo
Published by Kiera Brown · September 1 · [...](#)

Hey Nanaimo!

We're excited to kick off the 10th Annual BC Goes Wild Month starting today! Join in on all the fun this September by using the hashtag **#BCGoesWild** 🐻💜❤️

BC Goes Wild is a month-long celebration of British Columbia's incredible wildlife diversity. Historically, September is a time when human-bear conflicts are at their highest, so let's raise awareness about safely living, working, growing, and playing in wildlife country.

Stay tuned for exciting contests and free events! Everything will be posted on this page, so make sure to give us a follow to stay in the loop!

#WildSafeBC #BCGoesWild #BCGW2025 #BCConservation #Conservation #BCWildlife #Wildlife #HumanWildlifeConflict #WildlifeConflict #WildlifeAwareness #WildlifeSafety #BritishColumbia #BeautifulBC #BCNature #September #BCEvents #Education #Awareness #WildlifeEducation #KeepWildlifeWild #SaveWildlife #wildlifeplanet #preventwildlifeconflicts #wildlifeattractant #GoOutside #Hiking #Camping #outdoors #wildlifephoto



Photo: Janine Brooke

10th Annual BC Goes Wild Month!

- Photography Contest
- Colouring Contest
- FREE Local Events
- and so much more!

Challenges and Future Goals

As WildSafeBC is still a relatively new program within the City of Nanaimo, the 2025 season involved ongoing development and refinement of processes to effectively deliver programming and connect with the public. Building new partnerships and maintaining existing relationships remains essential to the program's long-term success. This year, participation in the WildSafe Rangers school program decreased due to scheduling limitations and seasonal timing; however, strong interest remains within local schools, and outreach expanded to several elementary schools not previously reached.

Improperly managed garbage, fruit trees, bird feeders, and urban livestock continue to be primary sources of human-wildlife conflict in Nanaimo. While many residents are familiar with these issues, others remain unaware of the associated risks. Continued outreach and education are critical to ensuring that community members have the knowledge and tools needed to reduce attractants and stay safe in wildlife country.

Looking ahead, the WildSafeBC Nanaimo Coordinator recommends the following priorities for the 2026 season:

- Continuation of the bin-tagging program, supported by the volunteer team.
- Continued presence at the Commercial Street Market and Island Roots Market.
- Continued collaboration with Vancouver Island Regional Library branches.
- Continued participation in the City of Nanaimo Activity Guide.
- Ongoing and expanded partnerships with elementary schools, youth programs, VIUSU, and Vancouver Island University.

- Increased social media outreach, with a focus on engagement through neighbourhood community pages.
- Expanded public education opportunities related to electric fencing and bear spray.
- Strengthened collaboration and cross-promotion with the Nanaimo Gleaning Program.
- Enhanced efforts to build meaningful communication and shared learning opportunities with the Snuneymuxw First Nation.
- Exploration of a contract extension into the winter months to support public education and the Conservation Officer Service, particularly in response to increased bear reports during November.

Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Nanaimo Coordinator would like to thank the City of Nanaimo, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation for funding the WildSafeBC Nanaimo project. Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program. Thank you to the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, Island Roots, Vancouver Island Regional Library, and Vancouver Island University for allowing the program to run at your venues. Lastly, the WildSafeBC Nanaimo Coordinator would like to send an enormous thank you to all the British Columbia Conservation Foundation staff and fellow provincial WildSafeBC Community Coordinators for their encouragement and support. This program would not be able to succeed without the collaboration of all those mentioned.

Thank You!

