

2026 FAUNTLEROY CREEK STONEFLY EXOSKELETON SURVEY

Urban Nature Preschool, April 23, 2026

A group of 11 students and 2 teachers from Urban Nature Preschool performed the annual stonefly exoskeleton survey in lower Fauntleroy Creek, aided by watershed volunteers Alana Khayat, Ann Dunbar, Judy Pickens, and Tom Trulin (photographer).

Judy led a discussion about stonefly behavior and study protocol. Four teams of students then took worksheets down to the designated study area to count exoskeletons on bridges, fences, and trees and to measure 10 exoskeleton torsos of those counted. Students were equipped with magnifying glasses to closely inspect exoskeleton specimens and volunteers took notes. After counting and measuring the exoskeletons, the students reconvened to present their findings and make observations over lunch. Three exoskeletons were carefully collected for closer inspection in the classroom. Students were a very engaged group and contributed interesting observations and theories.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

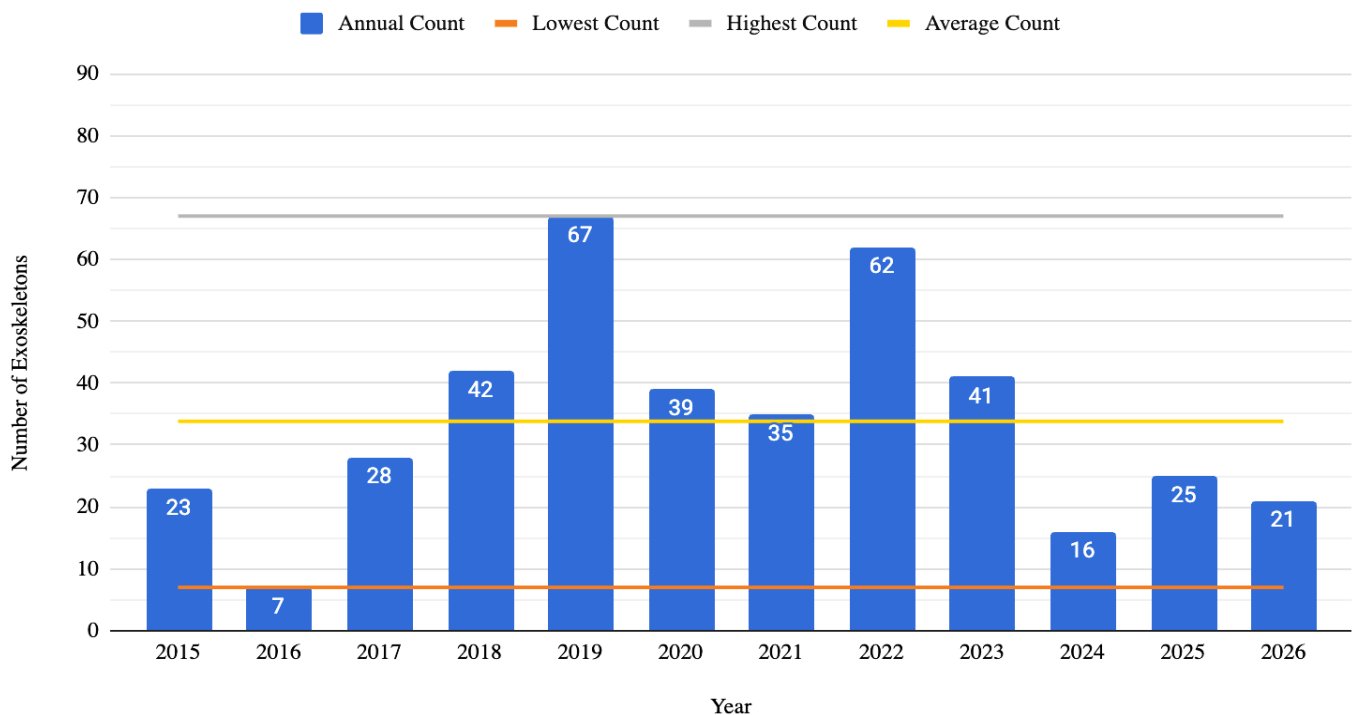
The weather was partly cloudy, 48 degrees F, and dry during the activity.

FINDINGS

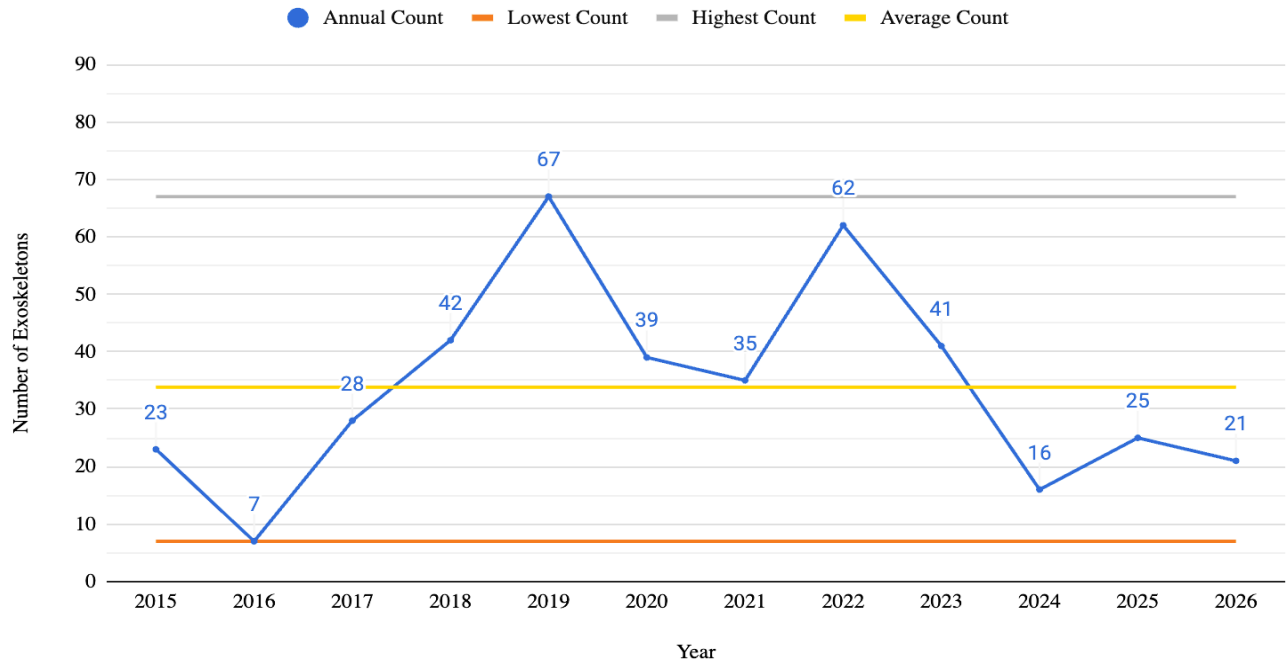
Stonefly Exoskeleton Counts

The total exoskeleton count was 21: 6 on trees, 14 on bridges, and 1 on a fence. Counts from the past 10 years are visualized along with this year's count in a bar graph and a line graph as follows:

Exoskeleton Counts 2015-2026



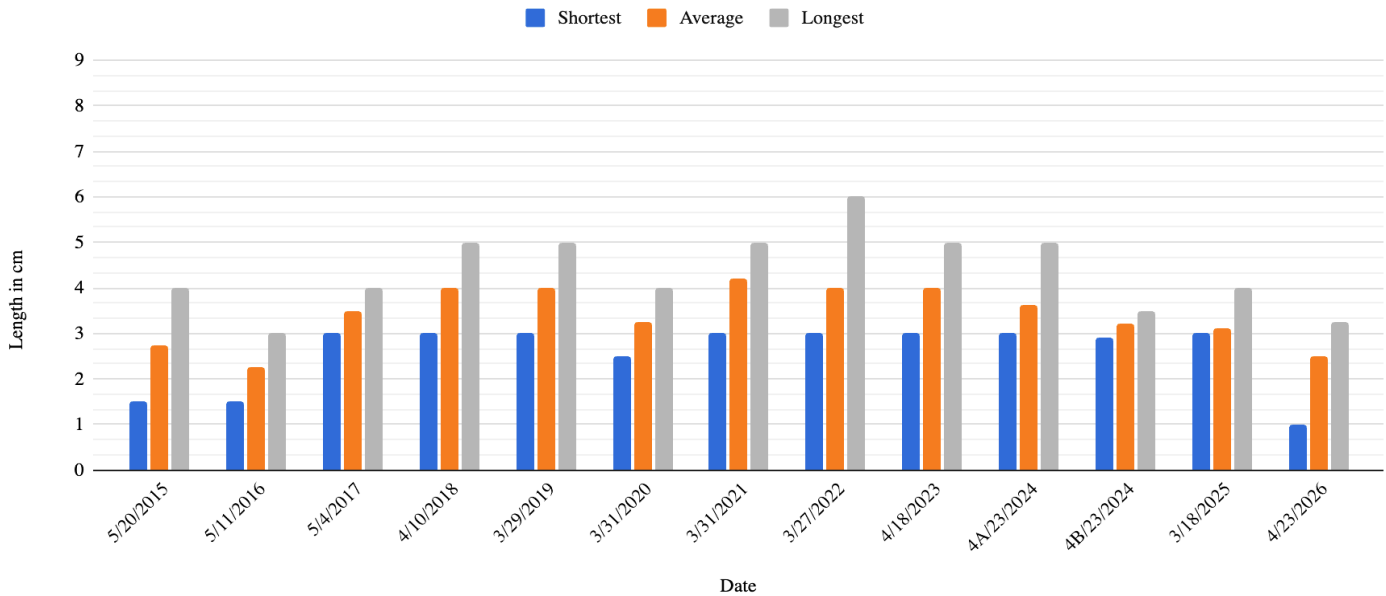
Exoskeleton Counts 2015-2026



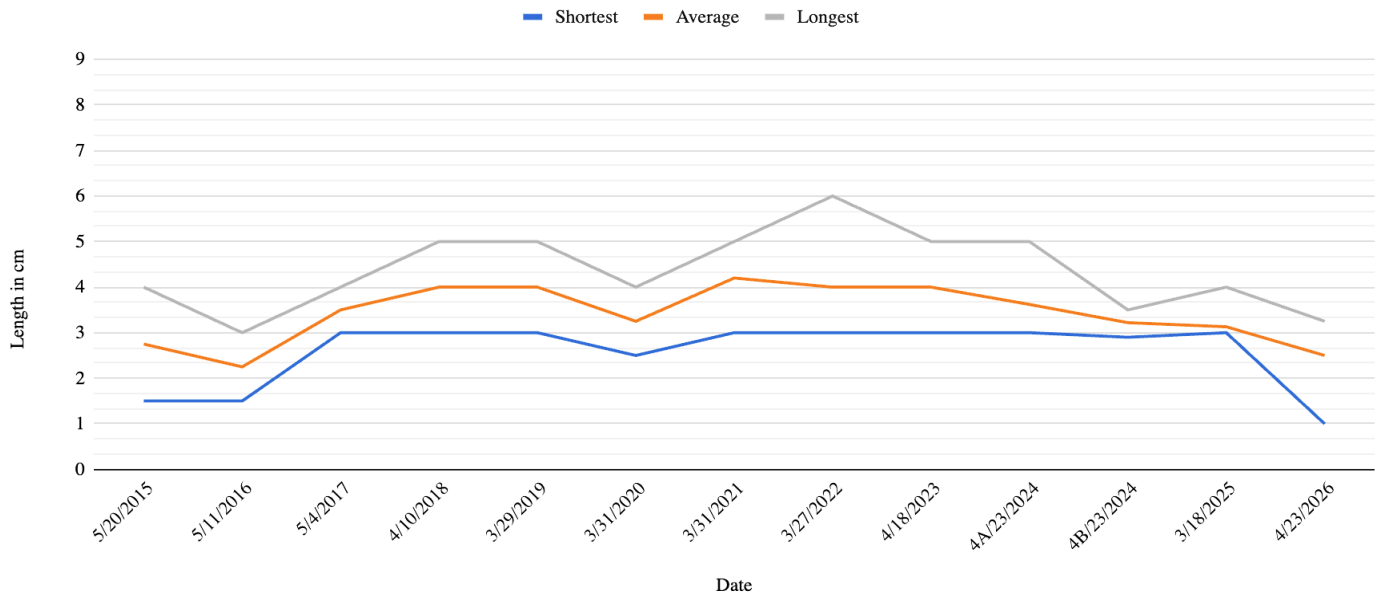
Stonefly Exoskeleton Size

The shortest torso of the 10 measured was 1 cm and the longest was 3.25 cm, for an average of 2.5 cm. Shortest, average, and longest torso lengths from the past 10 years are visualized along with this year's measurements in a bar graph and a line graph as follows:

Stonefly Exoskeleton Length 2015-2026



Stonefly Exoskeleton Length 2015-2026



OBSERVATIONS

- Scheduling this survey so late in the stonefly season might have resulted in a lower count.
- No moving stoneflies were observed, but one found on bridge C had not yet molted.
- As has usually been the case over the course of this study, most exoskeletons found on trees were on the large horse chestnut near the fish ladder. Most of the exoskeletons found on bridges were on bridge D, the westernmost bridge in the study area and the one closest to the fish ladder.