



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #7

Environmental Stewardship Examples



Saanich has begun a process to create the Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework that includes enhancing stewardship opportunities. This factsheet highlights examples of local partnerships and stewardship programs that range from simple steps, like registering in the 2021 City Nature Challenge, to full scale integration like that undertaken by Toronto ([see page 5](#)).

Stewardship Examples are organized in this factsheet into the following categories:

- [Local Government-led Stewardship Programs for Private Land](#)
- [Local Government-led Community Stewardship Programs for Public Land](#)
- [Local Government-led Education and Awareness](#)
- [Local Partnership Programs](#)
- [Community-led Stewardship Programs](#)
- [Local Government Stewardship Funding Programs](#)
- [Stewardship Programs that Governments can Adopt](#)

Local Government-led Stewardship Programs for Private Land:

There are many examples of local governments providing leadership and support in preserving biodiversity on private lands. These initiatives often include support for the use of native landscaping. Some local governments focus on supporting pollinators, but in general promote the use of native plants for biodiversity conservation and as habitat for native wildlife.

Saanich Examples:

Programs and support for stewardship on private lands include the Naturescape Program saanich.ca/naturescape, the Native Plant Salvage Program saanich.ca/environment and invasive species outreach and Knotweed treatment program saanich.ca/invasives

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program (Broward County, Florida): <https://www.broward.org/NatureScope>
- Richmond Nectar Trail (Be a bee ambassador!): <https://www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/communityaction/nectartrail.htm?PageMode=HTML>
- Building Climate Resilience in the Okanagan: A Homeowner's Resource Guide (Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen): http://www.soreb.org/PublicSitesIncludes/documents/south_okeganagan/BuildingClimateResilience.pdf
- Pollinator Challenge (City of Austin, TX): <https://austintexas.gov/online-form/pollinator-challenge>
- Portland Ecoroofs Program: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/44422>
- Native Plant Certificates (City of Portland) <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/65509>
- Gardening with Native and Drought Tolerant Plants (Municipality of North Cowichan) https://www.northcowichan.ca/EN/main/departments/environmental-services/native-plants/Native_Drought_Tolerant_Gardening.html



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #7

Environmental Stewardship Examples



Local Government-led Community Stewardship Programs for Public Land:

Local governments can lead by example: establishing stewardship programs on the public lands they are responsible for. These programs engage residents in efforts to improve biodiversity, address invasive species, and create more liveable communities.

Saanich Examples:

Saanich's Pulling Together program (www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/parks/natural-areas/volunteer-for-pulling-together.html) and Boulevard Tree initiatives (<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/natural-environment/trees/partnership-tree-planting-program.html>) are examples of public land initiatives.

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Adopt-a-Rain-Garden Program (Delta): <http://www.delta.ca/environment-sustainability/environmental-initiatives/rain-gardens>
- Ecological Restoration Team and Newsletter (Metro Vancouver): <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/get-involved/volunteer/Pages/default.aspx>
- Adopt-a-Stream program (City of Kelowna): <https://www.kelowna.ca/our-community/environment/adopt-stream-program>
- Plant Trees in the City (City of Portland): <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/63491>
- Community Watershed Stewardship Program (City of Portland) <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/43077>

Local Government-led Education and Awareness:

There are a multitude of education and awareness programs being implemented by local governments to provide residents with the tools to be stewards in their communities, such as becoming engaged in protecting species and habitats. These initiatives range from providing simple factsheets to more significant partner and mentorship programs.

Saanich Examples:

Educational outreach for Saanich's Naturescape Program (saanich.ca/naturescape), the Our Backyard newsletter (saanich.ca/ourbackyard), and the annual Environmental Awards (saanich.ca/enviroawards) support environmental awareness and educational outreach in Saanich.

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Community Stewardship Awards (The Islands Trust Council): <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-awards/>
- Sustainability Leadership Awards (City of Nelson): <https://www.nelson.ca/591/Sustainability-Leadership-Awards>
- Earth Day Youth Summit (City of Richmond): <https://www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/communityaction/earthday-youth.htm?PageMode=HTML>
- Kitchener Natural Areas Program: <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/city-services/kitchener-natural-areas-program.aspx#>
- Bee City Initiatives (City of Kitchener): <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/city-services/bee-city-kitchener.aspx#>
- Pollinator Projects and pledge (City of Vaughan): <https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/environmental-sustainability/Pages/Pollinator-Projects.aspx>
- Biokit for New Canadian immigrants (City of Edmonton): https://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_events/documents/PDF/Edmonton_BioKitLOW.pdf
- Environmental Learning Backpacks — EnviroPacks (City of Markham): <https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/neighbourhood-services/environmental-conservation/enviro-packs/enviro-packs>
- Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative (City of Austin, TX): <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/cities-connecting-children-nature-initiative>



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #7

Environmental Stewardship Examples



Local Partnership Programs:

Creating partnerships with local non-profits or similar initiatives increases the overall capacity and stewardship support in a community, building on the strengths of various community partners.

Saanich Example:

The relationship between Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society and Saanich is a good partnership example. Through funding and land provided by the municipality, the non-profit manages the day-to-day activities of the sanctuary, including running the Nature Centre, maintaining the trails, and actively improving the habitat quality of the sanctuary through invasive species removal and other initiatives.

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS): <https://www.leps.bc.ca/>
- Jasper Environmental Stewardship: <https://www.jasper-alberta.com/Archive/ViewFile/Item/25>
- Canada's First Pollination Park (City of Guelph): <https://guelph.ca/living/recreation/parks/community-and-pollinator-gardens/get-involved-in-community-gardens/eastview-pollinator-habitat/>
- Project Healthy Harbour (Town of Gibsons): <https://gibsons.ca/sustainability/natural-assets/project-healthy-harbour/>
- Nature Centre (Kid's Programs, Teacher Resources, Natural Leaders Project) (City of Lethbridge and Helen Schuler Nature Centre): <https://www.lethbridge.ca/Things-To-Do/Nature-Centre/Pages/default.aspx>

Community-led Stewardship Programs:

There are numerous examples of strong community-led initiatives that benefit municipalities and address stewardship goals. Some of these examples involve establishing activities that bring visitors to the region, meeting tourism goals as well as stewardship goals. Others engage the public in lands conservation,

ecological restoration, education and other stewardship initiatives on public and conservation lands.

Saanich Example:

The local land trust, Habitat Acquisition Trust, has undertaken their Good Neighbours Project (<https://www.hat.bc.ca/good-neighbours-projects>) in the District of Saanich a number of times: around Swan Lake Christmas Hill, the Todd Creek Watershed, the Colquitz River, and Durrell Creek. Each effort was supported by Saanich through funding and promotion to residents in an effort to facilitate the stewardship goals of the project.

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Feed the Bees (Delta): <https://feedthebees.org/about>
- Whistler BioBlitz partnership with the Whistler Naturalists (iNaturalist): <https://www.whistlernaturalists.ca/bioblitz-2019> <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/whistler-to-pemberton-bioblitz-2019>
- Brant Wildlife Festival (Parksville/Qualicum): <https://brantfestival.bc.ca/about/>
- Meadowlark Nature Festival (Penticton/Okanagan): <https://meadowlarkfestival.ca/supporters/>
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS) Program: <https://www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/wildlife-tree-stewardship/>
- West Vancouver Streamkeepers Society: <https://www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca/>
- West Kootenay EcoSociety: <https://www.ecosociety.ca/>
- Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (Duncan): www.somenosmarsh.com
- Quamichan Lake Stewardship Committee: www.quamichanlake.ca
- Stewardship Pemberton Society: <http://www.stewardshippemberton.com/>



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #7

Environmental Stewardship Examples



Local Government Stewardship Funding Programs:

Local governments may have funding opportunities to help the community accomplish conservation goals. Funding projects that are actioned by local community groups or concerned citizens are also another way to educate and engage residents.

Saanich Example:

Saanich offers funding through its Community Grants Program (<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-grants.html>) that can be used in a number of ways by residents, including stewardship initiatives.

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Community Enrichment Program (Whistler): <https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/grants-funding/community-enrichment-program>
- Environmental Legacy Fund (Whistler): <https://whistlerfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Environmental-Legacy-Fund-Grants-Application-Guide.pdf>
- PollinateTO Community Grants (Toronto): <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/pollinateto-community-grants/>
- Nature in the City Grants (City of Fort Collins): <https://www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity/>
- Community Building Grants (District of North Vancouver): <https://www.dnv.org/programs-and-services/community-building-grants-connecting-neighbours-and-communities>

Stewardship Programs that Governments can Adopt:

Local governments can sign on to various stewardship programs to meet their goals and as an accountable way to achieving measurable results. These are programs that are already designed and can easily be adopted.

Saanich Example:

The adoption of the CRD Model Pesticide Bylaw

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/news/article/2008/03/10/go-pesticide-free>. More information about it is available here: saanich.ca/pesticide

Examples From Other Jurisdictions:

- Canada-wide Pollinator Protection Pledge (Bee City Canada): <https://beecitycanada.org/pollinator-pledge/>
- Bat-Friendly Communities Program (Community Bat Programs of BC): <https://www.bcbats.ca/index.php/get-involved/bat-friendly-communities>
- Richmond City Nature Challenge (Richmond - iNaturalist): <https://www.richmond.ca/sustainability/stewardship/communityaction/city-nature-challenge.htm>
- Xerces Model Policy To Protect Pollinators (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation): <https://xerces.org/pesticides/model-local-resolution>
- Bumble Bee Watch (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation): <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>
- City Nature Challenge and Education Toolkit (uses iNaturalist): <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>
- Green Shores <https://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/green-shores-home/>
- Cats & Birds Program <https://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/cats-and-birds/cats-and-birds-for-local-government/>
- The Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up <https://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/>

Other Related Programs:

- Biophilic Cities: <https://www.biophiliccities.org/>
- The WILD Cities Campaign: <https://wildcities.org/>
- Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI): <https://mnai.ca/>
- The Urban Biodiversity Hub (UBHub): <https://www.ubhub.org/>
- Urban Wildlife Information Network: <https://urbanwildlifeinfo.org/>



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #7

Environmental Stewardship Examples



Local Government Stewardship Leader Profile: Toronto

Toronto's commitment to maintaining biological diversity within an urban setting is impressive and provides an excellent example highlighting what is possible when a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is adopted and implemented. (Biodiversity in the City): Wild, Connected And Diverse: A Biodiversity Strategy For Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-136906.pdf>

The city's efforts include programs and strategies to support landowners to minimize their impacts and access funding to enhance biodiversity:

- Green Roof Bylaw and the Eco-roof Incentive Program: <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/green-your-roof/>
- Toronto Pollinator Protection Strategy (grants and education): <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmentally-friendly-city-initiatives/reports-plans-policies-research/draft-pollinator-strategy/>
- Cats in the City (bylaws/license and education): <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/animals-pets/pets-in-the-city/cats-in-the-city/>

Toronto's strategy includes recommendations for public land.

- Toronto Ravine Strategy <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/9183-TorontoRavineStrategy.pdf>
- Sustaining & Expanding the Urban Forest: Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan 2012-2022 https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/8e0e-Strategic-Forest-Management-Plan-2012_22.pdf

Toronto is within a major bird migratory corridor. Their Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines provide strategies to make new and existing buildings less dangerous for migratory birds.

- Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/design-guidelines/bird-friendly-guidelines/>

Similar to Saanich's Pulling Together program, Toronto has a Community Stewardship Program that

encourages people to get involved with improving parks and other greenspaces through invasive removal, native plantings, citizen science ecological monitoring and more:

- Community Stewardship Program: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/volunteer-with-the-city/community-stewardship-program/>

Toronto supports environmental education and a native plant nursery at High Park. With the help of volunteers, the nursery provides native plants for the park (and other municipal lands) as well as for purchase by the public for local private gardens. The Nature House is a partnership initiative.

- Native Plant Nursery: <https://highparknature.org/get-involved-with-high-park-nature/volunteer-in-toronto-high-park/high-park-stewards/native-plant-sale/>
- High Park Nature Centre: <https://highparknature.org/visit-toronto-high-park/our-partner-high-park-nature-centre/>

The City of Toronto provides additional education through funding for a series of free booklets about biodiversity in the region. These have been developed through partnerships with local experts on the particular topics:

- Biodiversity Series of Booklets (Birds, Butterflies, Fishes, Mammals, Mushrooms, Reptiles and Amphibians, Spiders, Trees, Shrubs and Vines: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-gardens-beaches/ravines-natural-parklands/biodiversity-in-the-city/>

Other partnerships for preserving and enhancing biodiversity within the City of Toronto include sustainability initiatives and connectivity improvements linking various greenspaces:

- The Meadoway (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority): <https://themeadoway.ca/>
- Neighbourhood Greening Plans (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority): <http://trca.on.ca/dotAsset/141095.pdf>
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (Snap): A neighbourhood-based solution for sustainable urban renewal and climate action <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/>