

Why Naturescape?

By creating a wildlife-friendly yard you spend less time worrying about your lawn, use less water, and have more opportunities to enjoy nature. It's also fun and rewarding to discover the different types of wildlife you can attract to your yard.

Support biodiversity and rare local ecosystems! Many threatened and endangered species and ecosystems occur in Saanich, a region with a majority of private lands. This makes private land stewardship vitally important. The efforts of property owners to protect and restore critically-endangered Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir habitats will be necessary for the persistence of these rare species and ecosystems.



Include yourself in your naturescape

Benefits of Naturescaping

- **Reduce** water use, yard maintenance, greenhouse gases (mowers and weed-eaters), and the use of fertilizers
- **Protect** and enhance local biodiversity
- **Linking** Naturescaped yards between natural areas provides wildlife with corridors that are critical for maintaining healthy populations.
- **Protect** and enhance local biodiversity

"If I could add only one naturescape feature to my yard it would be flowing water. I really enjoy watching the wildlife it attracts. Even in the middle of winter"

— Claudia Copley
Victoria Natural History Society

What is Naturescape?

It's about restoring, preserving, and enhancing wildlife habitat in your own yard by providing the basics for wildlife: food, water, and shelter. Gardening with native plants provides both food and shelter for native wildlife. Naturescaping is also about learning to know, appreciate, and enjoy nature. Here are the basic principles:

- A commitment to stewardship
- Habitat creation and preservation
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Water conservation



Naturescaping: beautiful and beneficial!

Good Neighbours

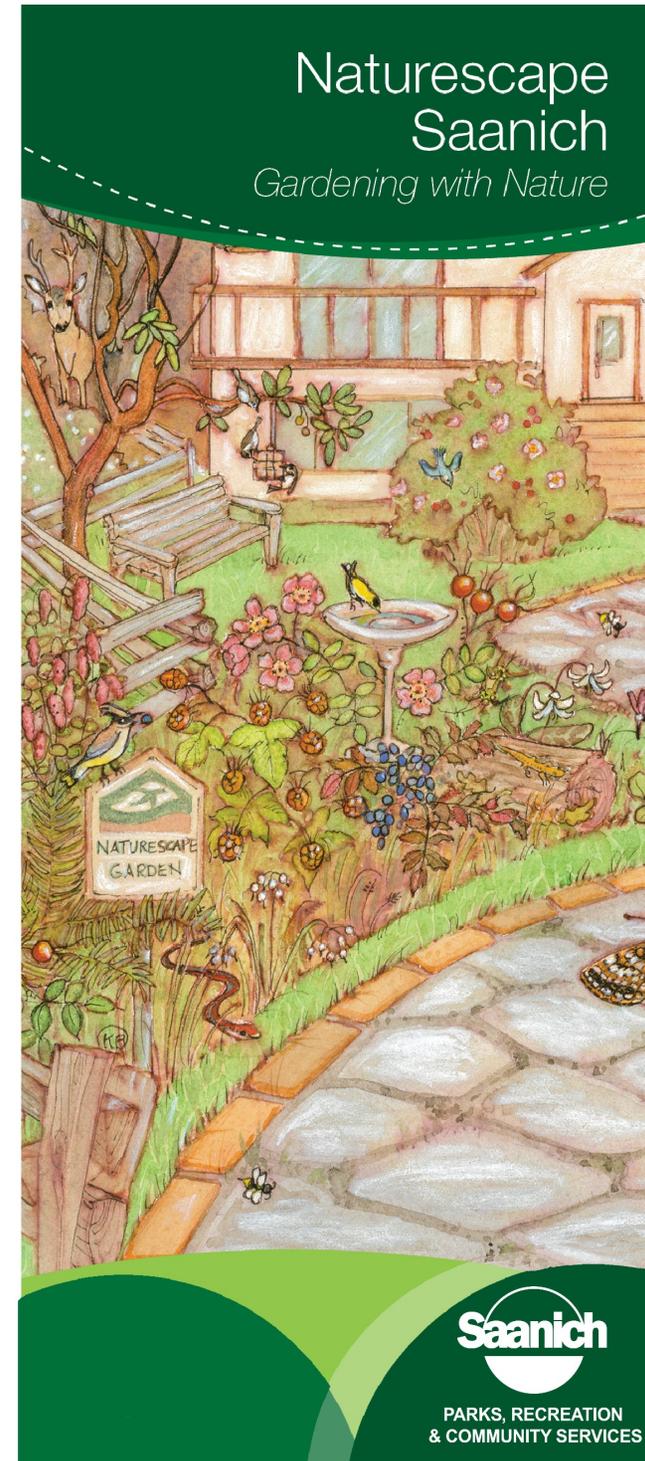
By Naturescaping you are being a great neighbour to wildlife and natural areas, but please remember your human neighbours as well! In urban areas, residents have concerns with weeds and tall grasses, which can be unsightly, invasive, and may pose a fire hazard. In order to find a balance, we recommend:

- **Signage:** post a Naturescape sign to show your intentions. (Contact Saanich, below)
- **Maintain a perimeter:** mow a 1m strip around your yard, plus a .5m strip along the path to the front steps and on top of retaining walls
- **Address weeds:** mow/trim all areas of weeds (including grass areas) before they go to seed
- **Create islands:** of native plant habitat (including grasses) to reduce mowing
- **Control invasives:** control or eliminate and stop from spreading beyond your property
- **Edge treatments:** use creeping native vegetation, bark mulch, and low flowering native shrubs at the property frontage

(250) 475-5522

parks@saanich.ca

Visit us on the web: www.saanich.ca/naturescape



Saanich

PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

February

Put out Blue Orchard Bee tubes/boxes

March

Clean out old bird houses and put up new ones

April

Swan Lake Native Plant Sale.

May

Plant and water new native plants

June

Watch for weeds and invasives

July

Maintain bird bath/water source

August

Collect native plant seeds to propagate

Sept

Take cuttings to propagate native plants

October

Start native plant seeds in flats to overwinter

Bat House

Call HAT to see if yard is suitable (995.2428 or hat.bc.ca)

FREE Native Plant Gardening Workshops

Provided by CRD at Swan Lake
www.crd.bc.ca

Suggested Native Plants

	Berries/seeds for birds	nectar for bees or hummingbirds	pollen for native bees
1 Red-flowering Currant	✓	✓	
2 Nootka Rose	✓	✓	✓
3 Arbutus	✓		
4 Oceanspray		✓	✓
5 Dull Oregon Grape	✓	✓	✓
6 Common Camas		✓	✓
7 Chocolate Lily		✓	✓
8 Western Trillium		✓	✓
9 Woolly Sunflower	✓	✓	✓
10 Easter Lily		✓	✓
11 Shooting Star		✓	✓
12 Salmonberry	✓	✓	✓
13 Tiger Lily		✓	✓
14 Nodding Onion		✓	✓
15 Kinnikinnick	✓	✓	✓
16 Garry Oak	✓		

- Keep a dead tree standing so birds have a natural cavity to nest in. If it has to come down, leave on ground as habitat
- Build a rock pile for snakes. They will help control the invasive garden slugs.
- Water, water, water! Put rocks in bird bath for shallow areas. Add a bucket above with a hole that drips to make noise (attracts birds). Overflow is fine because mud is needed by nesting birds and mason bees. Save up money for a flowing garden pond.

Naturescape Tips

- Make a real butterfly garden using native plants (no Butterfly Bush—it's invasive!).
- Sheet mulch some of the lawn with cardboard (Lasagna gardening).
- Make a brush pile for the birds. Wrens love it!
- Be a bit "messy." Leave some fallen branches and add a nurse log.
- Provide layers of vegetation: trees, shrubs, and ground cover. Gives wildlife a safe route into yard.
- Plan for all season flowering. Think of pollinators and hummingbirds.
- Plant berry-producing species for birds.
- Invite neighbours to see that you are gardening with purpose—using native plants and considering wildlife

Resource Material

- Garry Oak Gardeners Handbook: native plant propagation, species, nurseries, goert.ca
- Naturescape Kit: booklets with everything about naturescaping www.naturescapebc.ca/
- Habitat Acquisition Trust: Gardening With Native Plants handout. www.hat.bc.ca
- Victoria Natural History Society to learn about local flora and fauna www.naturevictoria.ca

Books

- Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest (Arthur Kruckeberg, 1996)
- Native Plants in the Coastal Garden (April Pettinger & Brenda Costanzo, 2002)