



Saanich Naturescape Program

Supporting Nature at Home



Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) Presentation
Carolyn Richman, January 2022



Presentation overview:

- Saanich Naturescape Program Overview
- Related Policies & Plans
- Program: Current & Future

- Q & A Discussion



Saanich Naturescape Program

Saanich Council endorsement in 2000

- Principles of naturescape
- Naturescape action planning: internal & external

Saanich Environmental Services

- Planning policies/guidelines and zoning bylaw
- Program for residents
 - Resources, engagement & support



What is Naturescaping?

A program and concept...

to create, maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and native biodiversity

- Create diversity, layers and edges
- Use native plants on your property
- Re-design sustainable landscapes



Naturescape Principles

- **Stewardship:** of the natural environment and local wildlife
- **Habitat:** conserve, restore and enhance natural habitat
- **Biodiversity:** conserve local biodiversity on your property
- **Conserve water:** plant native species & reduce or eliminate lawn

Naturescape Elements

- Gardening with native plants & private land restoration
- Water: ponds, streams, wetlands, raingardens
- Wildlife habitat and enhancements
- Wildlife trees
- Good neighbours tips



Benefits

- Biodiversity conservation
- Water conservation
- Habitat for wildlife
- Reduce stormwater run-off
- Lower maintenance/ save money
- Health benefits
- Reduce climate impacts
- Reduce toxic chemicals
- Reduce invasive plant species

Artist: Kristi Bridgeman





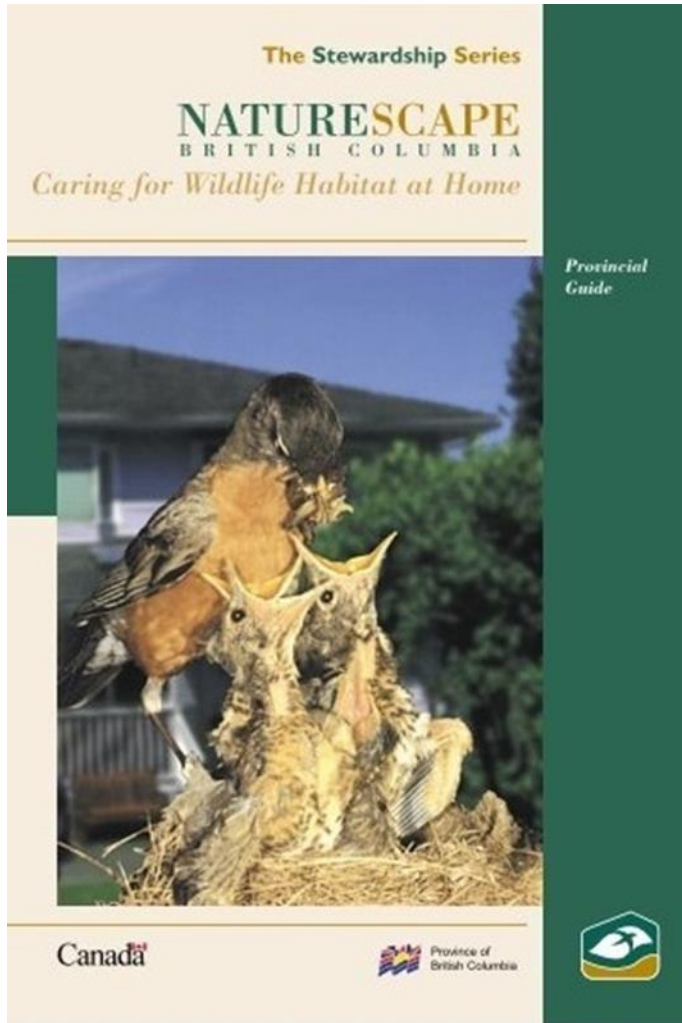
Ecosystem Services

“Free” services from nature: essential for life on earth

- Climate regulation
- Purification of air and water
- Pollination of crops and natural vegetation
- Flood control
- Soil health

much more!

Naturescape Programs



- **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation:** NaturescapeBC guides
- **NGOs:** programs building on the concepts
- **Local governments:** providing resources and support
- **Saanich:** program for residents



Saanich Policies & Plans

- Sustainable Saanich OCP policy 4.1.2.8

Encourage the use of native species and climate change resistant plants for landscaping on both public and private lands and continue to promote the principles of Naturescape

- Climate Plan action E1.2

Increase stewardship tools for private land owners to adapt to and mitigate climate change by expanding on existing programs, such as Naturescaping, recommended plant lists, and invasive species management;



Saanich Policies & Plans

- **Royal Oak Local Area Plan policy 8.4**

Seek opportunities to preserve and restore indigenous trees, shrubs, plants and rock outcrops within public open space, parks, boulevards and unconstructed road right-of-ways and on private lands through the Naturescape Program

- **Streamside DPA Guidelines**

proposed revision to guidelines to add Naturescaping as an exemption.

Resident Actions: Climate Plan



- double the planting of urban trees
- protect existing urban tree cover
- protect and enhance local biodiversity
- expand, connect and restore natural areas
- prevent planting and spread of invasive plants
- onsite stormwater management opportunities

A circular inset image on the left side of the slide shows a brown butterfly with white markings on its wings, perched on a bright yellow flower. The background of the inset is a blurred field of similar yellow flowers.

Current Saanich Naturescape Program

- Public outreach: events, displays & challenges
- Youth hands-on naturescape model
- Web-based resources
- Naturescape Yard Checklist
- Brochures and handouts
- Our Backyard articles & other promotion
- Branding with local art
- “Naturescape in Progress” lawn signs for loan
- Recommendations to developers
- Property visits & advice (under Noxious Weeds Bylaw)



Under Development...

- Saanich Naturescape Program Booklet (22 pages)
- Increase program visual identity
- Regular social media posts
- Webinars and workshops
- Upgrading youth hands-on naturescape model
- Collaborate with other Saanich programs

Budget Increase Options

Program options if budget increased:

- Membership program: welcome kit, e-news, yard signs, etc.
- Naturescape incentives for landowners
- Property visits for support: Environmental Services staff
- First Nations content and potentially partnerships





ENAC Feedback

- Interested: program signs to raise awareness & build “critical mass”
- Great opportunity to engage youth and connect them with community-based Naturescape projects
- Lawns are an issue: Naturescape helps to address alternatives
- Consider: a video to showcase naturescapes
- Consider: links to climate change and food security
- Consider: tips for managing trees, deadwood, etc.
- Interested: membership program good & allow tracking of uptake

Request: staff return to ENAC with further information



Saanich Naturescape Program

saanich.ca/naturescape

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Violet-green Swallow hatchlings

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