



In March 2009, in cooperation with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and BC150 Grove, Saanich Parks began the "Trees for Tomorrow" planting Project. Over \$30,000 was received to design and plant demonstration gardens with native trees and shrubs.

Baxter Park was selected because it offered the best opportunity for community involvement and site enhancement. The project also became an outdoor classroom, as two of the surrounding schools took a keen interest in creating and participating with the four demonstration gardens.

Spectacular Range of Plants: Our native ecosystems offer a rich palette of colours, texture, sizes and shapes; from tiny wildflowers to mighty trees.

2 Coastal Douglas-fir Forests (Moist Site)

Coastal Douglas-fir forests contain dozens of species of trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, and mosses. This bed features plants suited to moist, shady conditions along with a variety of low-growing plants capable of surviving under a forest canopy towering 30 to 70m above.



Big Leaf Maple

Two characteristics make the Big Leaf Maple a unique tree: large leaves which can span up to 30cm, and a large multi-stemmed form, supporting a rich array of mosses, ferns and fungi. This maple grows large, reaching a height of 30m with a spreading crown to 15m.

The coastal Douglas-fir tree is adapted to a wide range of conditions, from moist to dry. The bark is one of its distinguishing features: rough, thick, and dark brown, the bark supports lichens, mosses, and fungi.

A prominent species of the forest is the Western Redcedar. While this fast growing, versatile tree

prefers shade and moist soils, it is capable of adapting to a variety of rich soil conditions. Dark green foliage droops from its graceful, arching branches.

A number of exceptional native evergreen shrubs are found in this bed: Sword Fern, Salal and Evergreen Huckleberry. All are versatile, growing in conditions ranging from sun to shade, dry soils to moist. Throughout the seasons, broad-leaved evergreen shrubs retain their leaves and the coniferous trees hold their needles. For these reasons, they are often used as accent plants or for naturalizing a garden.

Sword Fern and Salal are common under-storey plants in coastal Douglas-fir forests. Both species provide essential habitat for forest amphibians and molluscs. Salals' bell-shaped spring flowers transform into clusters of dark blue-purple berries in the summer. Salal and Huckleberries are in the same family, and have a similar flower and edible berry. The new leaves of the Evergreen Huckleberry emerge with a coppery-colour in spring, maturing to a shiny, dark green.



Douglas-fir



Salal



Western Redcedar



Sword Fern



Evergreen Huckleberry

