# Why Naturescape?

Why not? 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 criticallyendangered Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir habitats will be necessary for the persistence of these rare species and ecosystems.



#### 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

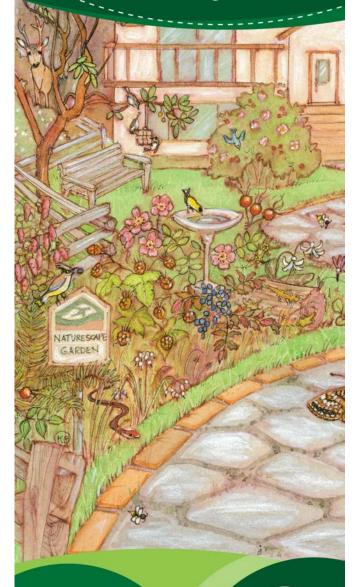
By Naturescaping you are being a great neighbour to wildlife and natural areas, but please remember your human neighbours as well! In urban areas, residents have concerns with weeds and tall grasses, which can be unsightly, invasive, and may pose a fire hazard. In order to find a balance, we recommend:

- **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) 475-5471 planning@saanich.ca Visit us on the web: www.saanich.ca/naturescape

## Naturescape Saanich

Gardening with Nature



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