

GOAL 7:

RESTORE VANCOUVER'S WILD SPACES

and Vital Biodiversity

Although Vancouver is surrounded by wild spaces, the city itself has very few of them. You've told us that you want more access in the city to nature, including the opportunity to watch birds, see salmon spawn or just admire majestic trees. The Park Board is working to restore the city's environmental integrity by reintroducing wild spaces, monitoring the health of ecosystems, rehabilitating our shorelines and re-establishing our tree canopy.

In the years prior to the development of environmental values and legislation, many of Vancouver's streams were filled in and much of its forests cleared. Today just 6% of the city's natural areas are still intact.⁸

That's why the Park Board is supporting the region's naturally rich biodiversity by enhancing habitat for birds, restoring salt marsh at New Brighton Park, daylighting creeks and streams, planting trees throughout the city to improve the health of our forest canopy, and encouraging stewardship so city residents can actively take part in the care and protection of our urban forest and natural areas.

We have much to learn from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations who have managed and stewarded the landscape since time immemorial. Their knowledge of horticultural cultivation, sustainability, and the preservation of ecological balance has the potential to transform our relationship with nature.

Continuing to grow, protect and enhance our natural areas and wild spaces ensures that they not only improve access to nature for us humans, but also provide healthy habitat and valuable corridors for our rich bird and urban wildlife population.