



Reciprocity Fund Overview

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1. Seeding Stewardship Reciprocity Fund

The Seeding Stewardship Reciprocity Fund provides up to \$2000 to groups and individuals to activate and steward nature-based solution sites. We want to hear your creative and innovative ideas that support stewardship, biodiversity, community, and resilience at one of 7 sites across Vancouver. See our website, Vancouver.ca/seedingstewardship for details on available sites.

Participating in the program includes 5 easy steps and if you are new to the process, we have the resources to help. Mentorship and skills development will be provided to applicants and recipients throughout the process.



2. Information for Applicants

This page outlines everything you need to know to apply for stewardship support.

2.1. Application Form

The application form can be downloaded here: vancouver.ca/files/cov/reciprocity-fund-eoi.pdf. Make sure to read this entire document before completing your application. If you have any questions about the application and details in this page, please contact raincity@vancouver.ca.

2.2. Who Can Apply?

Are you any one of the following? Then you can submit an expression of interest!

- An individual who lives, works, learns, or plays in Vancouver and is interested in stewarding nature-based solutions
 - We encourage proposals from historically underrepresented communities and prioritize capacity building projects for these communities
- A group of individuals who are excited about making a difference in your community
- A non-profit group/organization who currently works in or collaborates with the City of Vancouver

Please note, while we are considering projects submitted by UBC students, proposed projects should be within Vancouver city limits and not on UBC Endowment Lands.

2.3. Types of Projects

This call for expressions of interest enables you to implement novel solutions that foster stewardship, biodiversity, community, and resilience in and around nature-based solution sites. We invite and encourage your creativity on how to best support the goals and values of the program. Here are some examples of the types of projects that would be considered.

Caring for nature-based solutions through:

- Work parties
- Invasive pulls
- Neighbourhood clean-ups
- Catch basin adoption

Enhancing ecosystems and biodiversity through:

- Soil inoculations
- Nurse logs
- Habitat structures
- Seed harvesting

- Seed/bulb plantings

Facilitating education and engagement through

- Signage
- Tours
- Art projects
- Bioblitzes/citizen science
- Community workshops
- Community gatherings/programming

Note: City of Vancouver and Vancouver Parks Board will provide plants and mulch to stewardship groups outside of the funding. These costs should not be included in the budget, but activities related to their use should be referenced in your application.

How well your project meets the program goals will also be considered in your application. The goals are:

- Cultivate Connection through education and stewardship.
- Support biodiversity and healthy habitats.
- Support healthy water.
- Enhance climate resilience.

Here are some ideas on how to apply the program goals and values into your project.

Support climate resilience and biodiversity

- Host bioblitzes to track biodiversity at your site.
- Plant diverse seeds, seedlings, and plants.
- Organize education initiatives; building and sharing knowledge; designing and implementing a workshop on a desired skill or knowledge topic.



Example: Pollinator hotels added to a site to enhance biodiversity

Create accessibility opportunities.

- Provide translation and interpretation services for events, guides, and signage.
- Supply tools for people with disabilities and children.
- Support services for neurodivergent community members.
- Provide food and beverages during workshops and regular programs.



Example: Ergonomic tools to support persons with disabilities

Integrate reconciliation and decolonizing urban ecology.

- Design projects from case studies/models from your own community or countries of origin while incorporating learnings about native plants and decolonizing public spaces.
- Honour facilitators, grounding ceremonies, land welcome, and knowledge sharing with gifts and honoraria.
- Create language guides for their plant garden (widely spoken languages of neighbourhood, Host Nation languages).
- Use the spaces for ceremony, art, and culture (integrating art and environmental elements with Indigenous and other diaspora cultures).
- Source materials from Indigenous suppliers.



Example: Place based learning with local Indigenous Ethnobotanist

Enhance neighbourhood placemaking and community arts

- Connect nature-based solutions with nearby public spaces such as public transit stops and avenues with signage.
- Beautify the space through relevant placemaking design and art projects.
- Create a "virtual tour" of neighbourhood with personal stories, favourite features, land acknowledgment, rain garden highlight.



Example: Community member taking part in a sensorial walk to connect with nature-based solutions

Connect with partnerships and external support

- Create partnerships with educational institutions, post-secondary institutions, external organizations, experts, teachers, other city programs and elders for events, knowledge mobilization, research, mapping efforts.
- Host consultations and internal workshops and relevant skill building with external organizations.



Example: Partnership event between City of Vancouver's Neighbourhood Clean-up party and a local bioblitz

2.4. Filling Out the Budget Form

The funds allocated for each successful proposal can vary depending on the scope of the project. Within the application form, there is space to include a budget of up to \$2000, but not all projects will require the full amount. We welcome applications between \$500 - \$2000. Projects which may be over \$2000 are still encouraged to apply and to include details about any in-kind or additional funding support from other resources. Successful projects will receive funds through 2 payments – at the beginning of the project and once the project is completed.

2.5. Considerations

- **Events:** If you are including event(s) in your proposal, you may be required to secure an event permit, depending on the location. Before applying, determine if your event will need a permit. <https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/organize-a-special-event.aspx>
- **Small Infrastructure:** Some small infrastructure additions such as bee boxes, mini libraries, and public art will be considered and should follow the Pop-up Library Design and Construction Guidelines. Email raincity@vancouver.ca for a copy of the guidelines.
- **Working in the Boulevard:** Several nature-based solutions are located in the road right-of way. These sites should conform with the boulevard gardening guidelines: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/boulevard-gardening-guidelines.pdf>
- **Plants as Resources:** Rain gardens and meadows have very specific objectives and functions. Rain gardens introduce roadway pollutants into the systems, making them unsuitable to grow food for human consumptions. Meadows are intended to provide food and resources for pollinators. If considering plant harvesting in your proposal, plants should be used for artistic or material purposes, not for human consumption.
- **Maintaining Green Space:** Nature-based solutions rely on their green space to maximize their climate and ecosystem functions. Proposed projects should not take away from the green footprint of the existing space but focus on enhancing its benefits.
- **Maintaining the flow of rainwater in rain gardens:** Rain gardens have been graded to allow capture, conveyance, and ponding of rainwater. When considering additions to a rain garden, such as a nurse log, ornaments, or structures, ensure they are placed in areas where they will not impact the flow of rainwater. Staff can work with you to determine the best garden locations for these additions.

3. Application Assessment

We encourage diverse and unique proposals that meet the goals, values, and themes of the program. Learn more about the program goals and values here:

vancouver.ca/files/cov/seeding-stewardship-program-overview.pdf.

Your application will be evaluated based on how well it meets the identified priorities, as well as confidence in the ability for the project to be carried out. Proposal evaluation will be heavily weighted on the **project feasibility**, including interest and passion from the applicant as well as a **realistic budget and timeline**. However, the project scope will also be a consideration during evaluation, with preference given to projects which align with our **goals and values**, and which empower or are implemented by **equity deserving groups**.

3.1. Resources

Looking for resources and inspiration for your application? Here are some links to websites, community groups, and city-operated programs that can help generate ideas!

Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Resources

- Invasive Species: <https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/identify/>
- Native Bee Society of BC: <https://www.bcnativebees.org/>
- Metro Vancouver Grow Green Guide: <http://www.growgreenguide.ca/>
- Coast Salish Plant Nursery: <https://wildbirdtrust.org/coast-salish-plant-nursery/>
- Bat Friendly Communities: <https://bcbats.ca/get-involved/bat-friendly-communities/>
- Pollinator Partnership Canada: <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- Ebird: <https://ebird.org/home>

City of Vancouver Program Resources

- Green Rainwater Infrastructure: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/green-infrastructure.aspx>
- Meadows Project: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/pollinator-meadows.aspx>
- Neighbourhood Clean-Up Parties: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/neighbourhood-cleanup-party.aspx>
- Adopt a Catch Basin: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/adopt-a-catch-basin.aspx>
- Green Streets: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/green-streets-program.aspx>
- Plaza Stewardship: <https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/plaza-stewardship.aspx>

- City of Vancouver Neighbourhoods and demographic data: vancouver.ca/area-of-the-city

Equity Resources

- City of Vancouver Equity Framework: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/equity-framework.pdf>
- Equity in Parks and Recreation: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/equity-in-parks-and-recreation.aspx>
- Understanding Inclusiveness in Public Spaces: https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-50_Understanding%20Inclusiveness%20in%20Public%20Space_Zhou.pdf

Reconciliation and Decolonization Resources

- Resources for non-Indigenous people: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/resources-for-non-indigenous-people.aspx>
- First People's Map: <https://fpcc.ca/stories/first-peoples-map/>
- Indigenous Plant Guide: <https://museumofvancouver.ca/indigenous-plant-names>

Project Planning and Project Management Resources:

- 6 Steps to writing a successful proposal: <https://asana.com/resources/project-proposal>
- Developing a project charter: <https://asana.com/resources/project-charter>
- Creating project milestones: <https://asana.com/resources/project-milestones>
- Putting together a work plan: <https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/make-work-plan>

3.2. Commitment to Accessibility

The City of Vancouver is committed to lowering barriers that may arise during the application process and continuing to support equity, diversity, and inclusion. Please reach out if there are any accessibility needs or accommodations the City can provide, or feedback on ways we can make an easier application process for everyone! Learn more about ways the City is supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion at: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/equity-diversity-inclusion.aspx>