

## Seeding Stewardship Program Overview

**Nature-Based Solutions** are in every Vancouver neighbourhood! From wildflower meadows to rain gardens, these spaces bring nature into the city, helping to clean and manage rainwater, cool the urban environment, encourage biodiversity, and make a more liveable city. The City of Vancouver invites you to learn about, engage with, steward and support natural spaces in parks and public spaces doing the hard work of mitigating climate change, increasing biodiversity, and managing rainwater pollutants from your roadways.

**We are looking for community leaders to establish stewardship groups at 7 nature-based solutions sites.** The Seeding Stewardship Program provides opportunities for you to engage with sites in parks and public spaces throughout Vancouver. You can receive support to create and build community opportunities for stewardship, enhance biodiversity, and educate your community! This is your chance to up your stewardship game and cultivate public spaces for you and your neighbours.

**Here are the types of nature-based solutions across the city that need your support:**



**Pollinator Gardens** are intentional, naturally managed areas in designated parks and on park-managed golf courses and boulevards. The meadows produce a variety of blooms to attract pollinator bees, butterflies and birds and are open for park users to explore and enjoy.



**Rain Gardens** are designed in a bowl shape where rainwater is collected. Plants and specially designed soils filter out pollutants before the water is absorbed into the ground.



**Wetlands** are designed and constructed ecosystems that are saturated with water either permanently or seasonally, helping to clean, detain and absorb rainwater runoff while providing other services such as habitat and green space.

## 7 nature-based solution sites need community stewardship this year.



1. **Pine Street Blue-Green System** is a park like street which is connected by 3 rain gardens and 3 street gardens.
2. **Pine Street Pollinator Park** was the first pollinator garden installed by the Park Board with the support of community volunteers in 2016.
3. **Ontario and 42 Rain Gardens** are a series of 4 rain gardens recently rehabilitated to include specialized plants and soil that filter pollutants and provide habitat for pollinators
4. **China Creek Park North Pollinator Garden**, named for the Chinese settlers who lived, gardened, and fished along the banks of the creek that flowed through the area, was installed in 2019 and previously stewarded in 2023.
5. **Memorial Park South Pollinator Garden** was installed in 2019 to support biodiversity in a park which contains a wetland and mature forest stand.
6. **63<sup>rd</sup> and Yukon Rain Garden Plaza** features two rain gardens, seating, a water fountain, and art pieces designed by Indigenous youth entitled “Reconciled Futures”.
7. **Sunset Park Rain Garden** provides interpretive signage, painted sidewalks and crosswalks, and seating, creating opportunities for community space.

## Here are some great reasons to participate!

The program's goal is to empower community members with the knowledge, skills and passion to support ongoing stewardship of nature-based solutions. Your participation will:



Contribute to community resiliency against pollution and climate change impacts such as increased flooding and urban heat.



Address wellness as a community and connecting with your community members and neighbours.



Provide opportunities for youth, families, and/or elders to get involved with stewarding public assets.

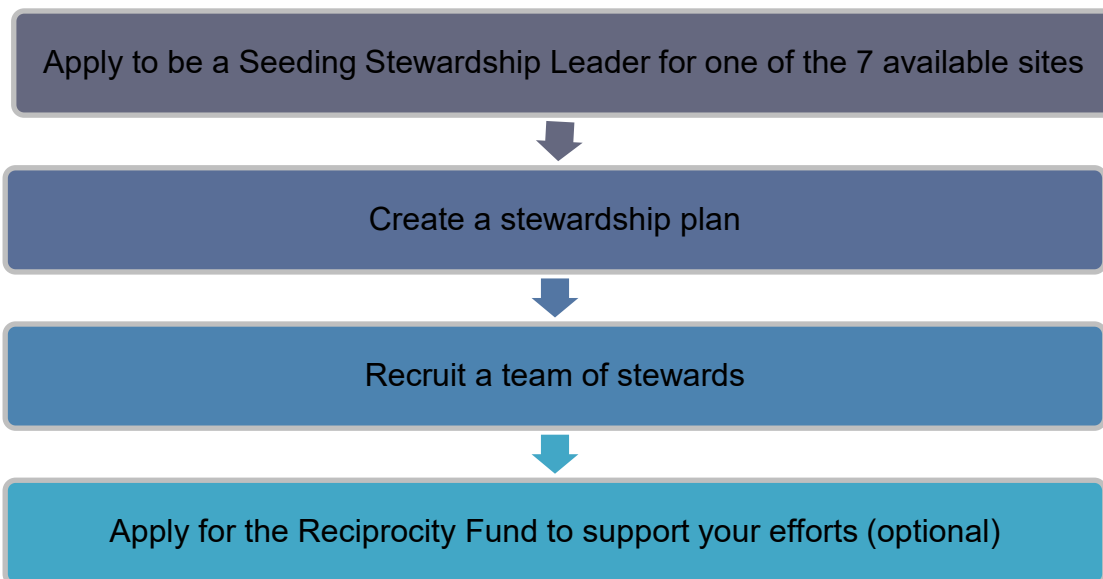


Express your culture, creativity, and ingenuity.



Give back to your community and show what makes it great.

## What's Involved?



## You're not in this alone!

Becoming a Seeding Stewardship Leader comes with perks. The City of Vancouver hopes to provide beneficial social, skill development and economic opportunities to the community. We want to help you become empowered, knowledgeable, and self-sustaining stewards. Here are some of the ways we'll support you.

### Leadership Development Opportunities

- Professional development and skill development such as project management (event planning, community engagement, building structures, nurturing ecosystems).
- Stewardship (working with tools, directing, and teaching community members different stewardship methods, conserving water, supporting biodiversity).

### Knowledge Exchange

- Mentorship from city staff and community partners.
- Engage with like-minded individuals to learn together within an ecosystem of stewardship.
- Be added to a community of stewards and receive plants and materials in future years.
- Access to in-person and online training and learning opportunities.



Example of place-based learning that will be offered to support your project.

### Resources

- Plants, soils and other materials to augment your stewarded space.
- Access to gardening tools.
- Access to the Reciprocity Fund, which can provide up to \$2000 to support innovative initiatives in nature-based solutions that support program goals. See [Vancouver.ca/seedingstewardship](https://vancouver.ca/seedingstewardship) for more details.

## Take the next step

The program is founded on 4 goals that support the local environment and 9 values that ensure the program provides enriching opportunities for community members of all backgrounds. They were developed in consultation with local community members, groups, and organizations. If you are interested in advancing these goals and values, we invite you to get involved.

### Program Goals



#### Cultivate connection through education and stewardship

- Van Plan N.4 Connection to Nature: Cultivate connection to nature through education, programming and stewardship
- Biodiversity Strategy Objective 4: Celebrate biodiversity through education and stewardship
- Rain City Strategy Transformative Direction 9: Invest in education, capacity building and partnerships to mobilize action



#### Support biodiversity and healthy habitats

- Biodiversity Strategy Objective 2: Support biodiversity within city parks and streets
- Rain City Strategy Goal 3: Enhance liveability by improving natural and urban ecosystems



#### Support healthy water

- Rain City Strategy Goal 1: Improve and protect Vancouver's water quality
- Rain City Strategy Objective 1: Remove pollutants from air and water



#### Enhance climate resilience

- Climate Change Adaption Strategy Priority Action 3: Healthy and vigorous natural areas and green space
- Climate Emergency Action Plan Big Move 6: Natural Climate Solutions
- Rain City Strategy Transformative Direction 2: Respond with urgency to climate change

## Program Values



### Step 1: Apply to be a Stewardship Leader

Fill out the application form to be a stewardship leader and send it into [raincity@vancouver.ca](mailto:raincity@vancouver.ca). The application can be downloaded here: [vancouver.ca/files/cov/seeding-stewardship-leader-application.pdf](https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/seeding-stewardship-leader-application.pdf)

### Step 2: Create a Stewardship Plan

Map out a stewardship plan, using the Seeding Stewardship Program Goals as a guide:

You'll want to consider the following as part of your stewardship plan:

- What stewardship activities need to be completed (weeding, planting, mulching, invasive species removal, litter clean up, etc.)
- How frequently will these activities take place?
- How many people do you need?
- How will you get others involved and incorporate community education and training for your stewardship team?

A stewardship plan template is available to help you organize:

[vancouver.ca/files/cov/stewardship-planning-template.pdf](https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/stewardship-planning-template.pdf)

### Step 3: Recruit a Team of Stewards

Bring others onto your stewardship team who share your interests in supporting nature-based solutions and community. Consider:

- How will you reach people?
- How can you encourage them to participate?
- How will you encourage diversity and inclusion in your stewardship team?

The Reciprocity Fund is here to help you establish your group and can provide you with funding access to cover bus fare, food, and other enabling tools.

### Step 4: Apply for the Reciprocity Fund

Up to \$2000 in funding is available to support innovative approaches to get your stewardship group off the ground. Tell us your best ideas to activate and steward your community space that foster stewardship, biodiversity, community, and resilience in and around nature-based solution sites. We invite 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, gatherings, and programming



Example of students learning about nature-based solutions through a street mural painting project

Learn more about the Reciprocity Fund here: [vancouver.ca/files/cov/reciprocity-fund-overview.pdf](https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/reciprocity-fund-overview.pdf)