

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE

Ryan Street Greenway Project

What can happen when a community comes together to improve their neighbourhood? The Ryan Street Greenway Project.

Almost a decade ago, a group of dedicated Victoria citizens had a vision to create a natural walking path in their Oaklands neighbourhood that would connect to the local elementary school. At that time, a section of Ryan Street between Avebury and Belmont Avenues was primarily used for street parking.

With the assistance of the City of Victoria's Neighbourhood Greenways Grant and City staff, community volunteers were able to successfully transform a parcel of City-owned land into a natural pathway. Invasive broom was removed, a native garden was planted, and a Garry oak meadow was restored.

Volunteers use the pathway to educate the neighbourhood about the benefits of native plantings, water conservation, and the reduced need for pesticides in the area. With the support of the Oaklands Community Association and Centre and other community groups, the Ryan Street Greenway continues to evolve into a beautiful walking area for the community to enjoy.

The City of Victoria supports the development of neighbourhood pathways through its Neighbourhood Greenways Grant program. Since 2003, \$25,000 has been available annually to community groups that wish to improve greenways in their neighbourhood. Grant applications are due the first of May each year. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*



COMPLETED RYAN STREET GREENWAY PROJECT
INSET: BEFORE



Wake Up Your Garden

Now is the time to prepare your garden for spring plantings. This free workshop will feature four work stations: tools and materials; natural pest control; rose pruning; and ask an expert. Set in Beacon Hill Park, participants will have the opportunity to learn the tricks of the trade from experienced Parks staff.

What: WORKSHOP – Wake Up Your Garden

When: Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 10 a.m. – Noon

Where: Beacon Hill Park

Participants are to meet at the Beacon Hill Park Service Building located on Bridge Way near the public washrooms and play area in the middle of the park. The workshop will take place rain or shine. Those who pre-register before March 24 will be entered into a draw to win a free T-shirt and will have the opportunity to purchase a gardener's gift pack for \$5. To register, call the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre at 250.361.0732.

Did you know Victoria has over 70 parks to explore? See the inside map to find a park near you.



Sumas Park



Beacon Hill Park



Stadacona Park



Ross Bay Cemetery



Summit Park