

City of Victoria Special Project Grant for the Initiation of Ryan Greenway

Version 0.1

Summary

This three year project will provide the restoration of a native Garry Oak ecosystem and lay the foundation for the formation of the Ryan Greenway. A recently designated neighbourhood park on Ryan Hill forms a key component of the Greenway. Local volunteers will remove invasive plant species and add new native plants. Other improvements are expected to include a plaque and connecting path.

Purpose

The main purpose of the project is to restore a pocket Garry Oak eco-system in the middle of an urban environment. The project will also educate the neighbourhood on sound environmental principles through their involvement in it and provide broader education to the City and beyond through public education and the publishing of calendars that document the project's achievements. Further to this, the hope is to encourage and inspire similar projects.

Benefits

The benefits to the City include improved park/natural space, an enhanced "green" transportation infrastructure (Ryan Greenway), removal of an unhealthy "dump-site" and improvement of air, water and soil (including the Bowker Creek Watershed). This will result in an enhanced asset/feature for the neighbourhood and the City. Through the creation of a nature pocket, residents will enjoy the surroundings and not have to always travel to "revisit nature".

Objectives

The main objectives of this project are:

1. To stop the spread of invasive plant species into the neighbourhood by removing the broom, blackberry and ivy, allowing the underlying Garry Oak native ecosystem to regenerate.
2. To enhance the Garry Oak ecosystem by planting new native plants.
3. To encourage wider adoption of these principles and sharing of information through an informative plaque and the publishing of calendars depicting Garry Oaks and native plant restoration, particularly as it relates to small city lots.

Why is project so special?

This project will involve the first city-owned lot dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Garry Oak and native ecosystem - a natural haven for generations to come. It is also unique in being part of the City of Victoria's Greenways Plan.

Schedule

The Ryan Hill project will involve a three year staged process. The Summer months will be used for invasive plant removal. The Fall and Winter months, with more rainfall, will be used for adding native plants. The Spring months will be used for progress evaluations, reporting and maintenance. Each report will clearly identify the progress achieved during the past year, both from operational and financial points of view.

Stage 1:

Spring/Summer 2005—Start invasive plant removal, plaque unveiling.
Fall/Winter 2005-Add native plants.
Spring 2006-Stage 1 Milestone; **majority of invasive plants removed.**

Stage 2:

Summer 2006-Invasive plant removal.
Fall/Winter 2006-Add native plants.
Spring 2007-Stage 2 Milestone; **native plants established and regenerating.**

Stage 3:

Summer 2007- Funding drive, calendars, invasive plant removal.
Fall/Winter 2007-Add native plants.
Spring 2008-Stage 3 Milestone; **evaluation and report, healthy ecosystem.**

Long Term Goal

The City of Victoria grant provides critical initial funding that will result in recognizable site improvements, which will increase general awareness and support for further funding of the overall Ryan Greenway.

This project is the first step towards the overall development of the Ryan Greenway.

A funding group will help leverage this grant to establish the awareness of the Greenway and launch further programs to help fund the overall, and more expensive, Ryan Greenway.