

2023

CITY OF VICTORIA | Parks, Recreation, and Facilities

Community Engagement in the Urban Forest

Community Engagement in the Urban Forest | Jan 2023



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.



2023

CITY OF VICTORIA | Parks, Recreation and Facilities

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What is *Growing in the City?*



Get Growing, Victoria! Seedling program



Community Gardening



Boulevard Gardening

What is *Growing in the City?*



Commons Gardens



Community Orchards



Small Scale Urban Farming



Background

150,000 trees populate our parks, natural areas, boulevards, residential gardens and backyards.

Roughly one quarter of the urban forest inventory is managed by the City, while the remaining 75% consists of trees on private and other public land.



Urban Forest Resources

Learn about the City's resources including:

- View all public trees at Vic Map (Parks and Open Spaces, Tree Inventory)
- Urban Forest Master Plan and goals
- Tree Protection Bylaw

Tree Protection Bylaw

Victoria's Tree Protection Bylaw applies to trees on private property and protects the trees we have now while helping to grow our urban forest for the future. This bylaw helps ensure our urban forest continues to grow alongside development. It also implements several recommendations in the Urban Forest Master Plan and aligns with leading practices and standards across the region.

victoria.ca/urbanforest

How can community get involved in protecting and increasing the urban forest?



City programs for trees on City land

- Community Orchards (Community Gardens)
- Urban Food Tree Stewardship Program
- Growing in the City workshops and events

City programs for trees on non-City land

- Trees in Cities Challenge

Other resources and programs

- UBC Cool Kit
- LifeCycles Fruit Tree Project

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Internal Options

Community Orchards and Community Gardens
Urban Food Tree Stewardship Program
Trees in Cities Challenge

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Community Orchards

- There are six community orchards and/or food forests in Victoria
- Fruit tree varieties are usually selected for heritage value, disease resistance, ability to adapt to climate change, and flavor



Community Gardens

- 20 existing community gardens
 - 6 community gardens on non-City land
 - 20 community gardens on City land
- Four new potential community gardens in 2023



1 Existing Community Gardens

Community gardens include commons gardens, allotment gardens and community orchards. They are cared for by community members in partnership with community organizations.

Click on the icons on the map for more information.



Commons gardens are communal garden areas maintained and managed by the community.

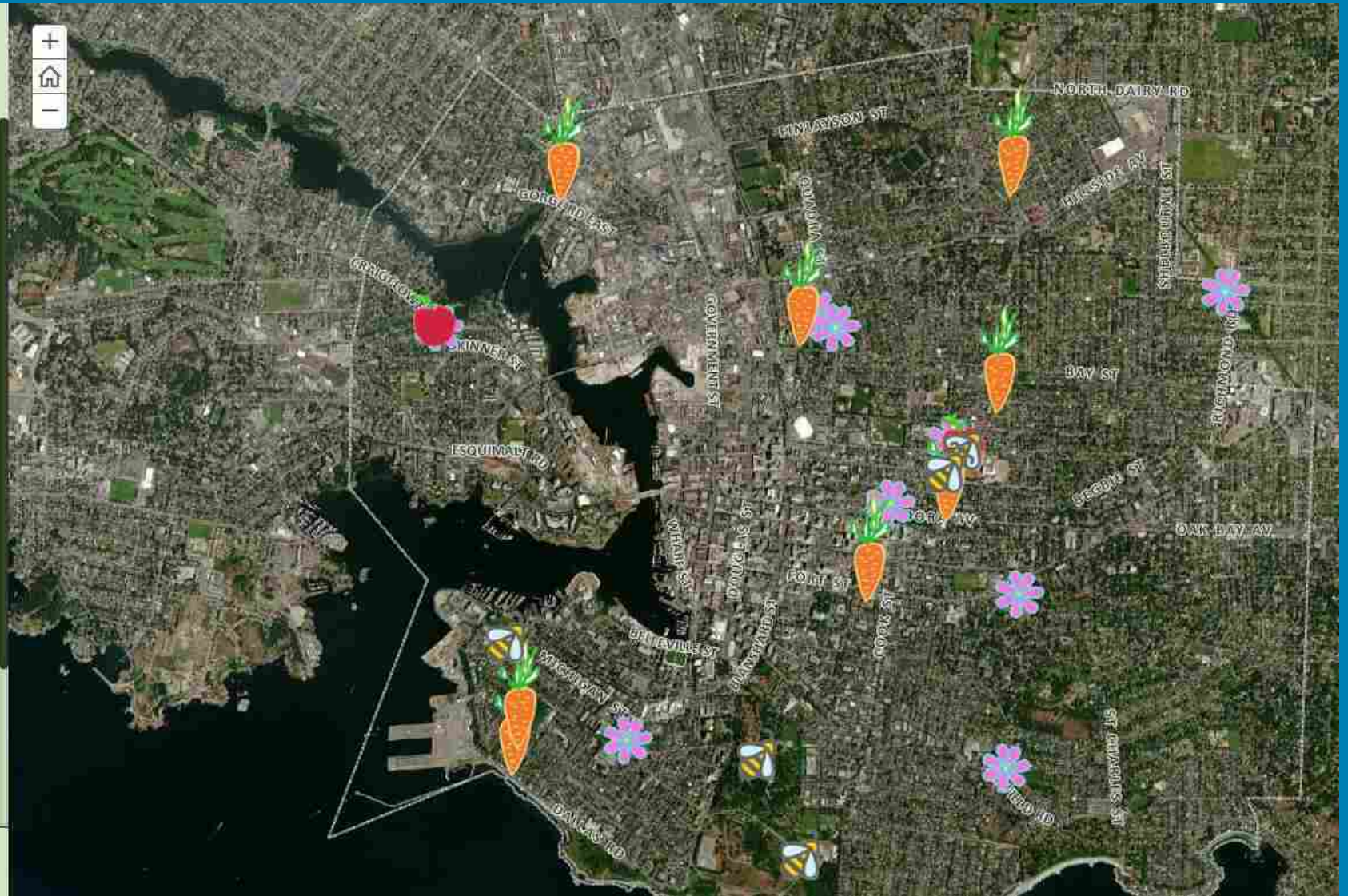


Allotment gardens have plots that are rented, maintained, and harvested by individual member gardeners.



Community orchards are groves of fruit or nut trees. A community organization is responsible for the care, maintenance, and harvesting of trees.

2 Community Garden Potential



2020

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Building a Community Garden in Your Neighbourhood

Community gardens help increase access to healthy and local foods and build community. They also contribute to environmental education and provide opportunities to connect with nature. If you are interested in building a new community garden, here's what you need to know to get started.



What is a community garden?

City of Victoria Community Garden's Policy: "a community garden is a piece of land gardened collectively by members of the community, in partnership with a non-profit society."

- Expression of Interest
- Application Process
- City Grants available
- Approval from Council

[Victoria.ca/communitygardens](https://victoria.ca/communitygardens)



Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program

The City of Victoria recognizes food-bearing trees as valuable assets for promoting food security, food education, and the growth of the City's urban forest. The Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program enables residents, in partnership with a community organization, to plant and maintain small groupings up to a maximum of five fruit and/or nut trees in a park or greenspace in their neighbourhood.





Urban Food Tree Stewardship Program Updates

In 2021/2022, Council approved an additional budget to support the program with each approved applicant receiving access to a water connection, and support for the cost of trees, staking material, and mulch.

The fund also supports low to no cost education opportunities for community to learn about food tree stewardship and engage with the urban forest.

GROWING IN THE CITY

Tree Tours

January 18

Beacon Hill Park

February 15

Ross Bay Cemetery

March 15

Beacon Hill Park



GROWING IN THE CITY

Food Tree Programs

Fruit Tree Care

Jan 14

Fruit Tree Pruning

Feb 4

Planning A

Community Orchard

Mar 18



Trees in Cities Challenge



Global campaign launched by UNECE to promote climate action in cities.

City of Victoria pledged to try to plant 5,000 trees in in the municipality during the timeline of the campaign

Trees in Cities Challenge

How to plant a tree and properly care for it

Easy steps to healthy, happy new trees

When to plant

Trees should be planted during fall and winter months as they are dormant. This means there is the dry, more moderate weather of spring and summer.

How to transplant your tree

Make sure to protect the tree during transport - wrap it well around the trunk with burlap or straw. Remove the tree from its container and place it in a hole. Use a shovel to remove the soil from the hole. This will help reduce stress on the tree. Do not bury the tree too deep. Do not bury the tree too deep, only bury by the root ball or container.

Call a professional with an arborist license to help you with a large tree transplant. A licensed arborist can help.

1 Dig before you dig!

Call 811 Call or visit their website (www.811call.ca) to identify any underground utilities such as gas, sewer and water lines. It's free, fast and could help you avoid safety hazards, costly repairs, or even removal of your tree due to utility conflicts.

2 Digging the hole

Dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the root ball in a slight saucer shape. The hole should be dug just deep enough for the trunk flare to sit partially above ground. Store the soil you remove next to the hole. If the hole has been dug too deep, ensure that the soil is compacted in the center of the hole so as to support the tree's weight and to avoid sinking.

3 Taking the tree out of its container

Wait until the hole is already dug to remove the tree from its container to avoid excess damage or drying of its roots. Carefully remove the tree from its container. Use a spade or gardening knife to remove circling roots from container-grown or balled & burlapped (B&B) root balls. If the root ball is in a wire basket or burlap, cut and remove as much of the wire or burlap as you can once you have positioned the tree.



How to choose the right tree for your property

Before choosing a tree species to plant on your property, there are some important factors to consider. Use the questions below to help identify what you need to know to choose the right tree for the right place. Make a note of your responses to each question - you can take them to your local nursery to help select the right tree for you.

1 Where can you plant a new tree?

Trees should be planted at least one meter away from utilities, fences and paved surfaces and at least two meters away from buildings. Call 811 Call or visit www.811call.ca to identify underground utilities such as gas, sewer and water lines.



Screen existing view
 Consider parking area
 Dig at least 1 m away from utility and services, fences and other paved surfaces
 Dig at least 2 m away from buildings
 Dig at least 1 m away from fences and neighbouring properties

2 How large a tree can you plant on your property?

Identify the maximum size of tree you could fit on your property.

The size of the tree you can plant is limited by the soil volume available for roots to grow, and the air space for the branches to grow. To help to visualize this, the diagram to the right shows zones around a house where tree size is limited.

- Small tree zone:** only a small tree (less than 10 m tall and less than 5 m wide) should be planted because of the proximity to buildings. Examples of small trees include Japanese maple, eastern redbud or Korean dogwood. Small trees should also be considered when there are overhead powerlines or small amounts of soil.
- Medium tree zone:** a tree 10 to 18 m tall and less than 12 m wide can be considered where there is more space above and below ground but there are still limits due to nearby buildings, utilities or limited soil. Examples of medium trees include Bald maple, Eastern or Honey Locust.
- Large tree zone:** where space is abundant a large tree (more than 18 m tall and more than 12 m wide) can be considered. Examples of large trees include Cherry oak, Douglas fir or red maple.



Enter your tree in the online Tree Tracker.



MY GREAT Neighbourhood

Trees in Cities Challenge

\$1,000 Grant for Residential Trees



Trees in Cities Challenge

Join the Tree Challenge!

The City of Victoria values its urban forest and has pledged to help plant 5,000 trees as a part of the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge, and we can't do it alone. To encourage residents to plant more trees on their private property, the City has created a special program through the My Great Neighbourhood Grant.

The grant will fund up to \$1,000 and can be used to purchase:

- Trees
- Staking materials, deer fencing and mulching supplies
- Hiring a landscape or arborist professional to lead a workshop on tree education

HERE'S THE FINE PRINT

- Residents will require a non-profit sponsor to accept the funds - a tree champion (community volunteer or staff) will organize the purchasing of trees and materials and coordinate distribution
- We're asking for a minimum commitment of 10 trees per application; a site plan for the plantings needs to be included in the application (addresses of where the trees will be planted is acceptable)
- Trees must be planted on private property within the City of Victoria

- You'll need to make a BC One Call before you dig, which ensures you won't be planting trees over utility lines - 1.800.474.6886 or visit bconeacall.bc.ca for more information
- Tree species must be identified in the application and no invasive species will be permitted - see the City's recommended trees lists:

Small Species Selection Guide
Medium Species Selection Guide
Large Species Selection Guide
Fruit Trees

- Log your new trees on the City's tree tracker by emailing vicmap@victoria.ca and share photos with us by emailing engage@victoria.ca or on social media using [#treesincitieschallenge](https://twitter.com/treesincitieschallenge) and tagging [@cityofvictoria](https://twitter.com/cityofvictoria)

Our Trees in Cities web page also has helpful resources on planting and care practices.

- Fund up to \$1,000 per grant
- NFPs partner is required (NFPs can sponsor any number of applications)
- Minimum of 10 trees planted per application
- Trees must be planted on private property in City of Victoria

My Great Neighbourhood Grants



**Got a great idea for
a neighbourhood
activity or project?**



Apply for up to \$5,000

GET INSPIRED BY OUR NEW PLACEMAKING TOOLKIT



victoria.ca/neighbourhoodgrants
neighbourhoods@victoria.ca

Neighborhood Power

Victoria has 12 neighborhood associations.



If each neighbourhood took charge of coordinating:
20 city blocks where **10 homes per block** on average planted **2 trees per household**

We could establish over **400 trees per neighbourhood**. In one year, we could grow over **4,800 trees**.

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External Options

LifeCycles Fruit Tree Project

UBC Cool Kit

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LifeCycles Fruit Tree Program

This program allows homeowners within the region to register their fruit trees to be picked when mature by the Fruit Tree Project. Trained volunteers with the appropriate equipment will pick and sort the fruit.

25% goes to the homeowner, 25% to the tree stewards and volunteers. 25% is gifted to the 60 agencies in the Food Share Network and other community partners. 25% of fruit (most suitable for processing) is turned into value-add products.



UBC Climate Change and Urban Forestry Cool Kit



The Cool Kit program is a joint initiative between the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Forestry, and partner municipalities. and is designed to engage residents on climate-change solutions in the community, with support from the municipality and community organizations or hubs.



INTRODUCTION

- Coolkit introduction
- Climate change
- Urban forests



Step 1 **START** A CONVERSATION

- Story collection
- Photo gallery
- Photo quiz
- Non-trivia quiz



Step 2 **MAP** YOUR BLOCK

- Urban forest quest
- Climate change detective
- Habitat mapping
- Vulnerability mapping



Step 3 **RATE** YOUR BLOCK

- Household scorecard
- Block scorecard



Step 4 **VISION** YOUR FUTURE

- High/low carbon future visioning
- Before & After examples



Step 5 **ACTION** ON THE GROUND

- Make a pledge
- Plan ahead
- Protect your trees
- Beautify your yard/block



APPENDIX

- How to map with Google Earth
- How to map with i-Tree
- How to map with Vanmaps
- How to visualize with GIMP

UBC Climate Change and Urban Forestry Cool Kit

The Cool kit is intended to mobilize individual and neighborhood climate action through participation in a series of interactive engagement activities including:

- neighborhood conversations,
- local asset and climate vulnerability mapping,
- carbon footprint calculators,
- visioning exercises, and
- developing localized climate action plans.

The ultimate goal of the Cool kit Program is to reduce carbon footprints and help create climate proof, resilient neighborhoods.

How to stay in touch

Growing in the City: victoria.ca/growinginthecity

Urban Forest: victoria.ca/urbanforest

Trees in Cities Challenge: victoria.ca/treesincitieschallenge

Contact:

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