

Gardens & Trees

- A very active group of volunteers continued to maintain the JBNA's existing gardens: 3 allotments, 4 commons gardens (3 of which are open-pick, so anyone can help themselves), and 10 fruit and nut trees. We hold 4 work parties a week, weather permitting
- We also provide supplies and information for local residents, running two plant swaps, 4 open garden days with tours of the herb and other gardens, and partnering with the City to deliver their Get Growing, Victoria programs (seedling distributions and mulch delivery). We delivered a bundle of seeds to the Wee Free Seed Box nearly every day between March and the end of October, most of them saved from James Bay gardens.
- We submitted an Expression of Interest to create a butterfly-support garden in the bare beds at the east end of the Rithet Street rain garden and have been invited to submit a proposal.
- A high point of the year was participating in VCAN's Garry oak ecosystem study, in which a group of volunteers mapped all Garry oak and arbutus trees in James Bay, along with Garry oak ecosystem remnants, and proposed ecological connectors between them.
- all three allotment gardens continue to have long wait lists. The Montreal St Allotments add four smaller raised beds for those who find in-ground gardening difficult and the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts is developing a native plant garden at the back of the garden.
- We would like to acknowledge the financial support of the City of Victoria for the gardening program.

Recycling

- The 2024 goal for the recycling team was to add as many items as possible to the services offered, and the depot now accepts foil-lined plastic, smoke detectors, ink-jet cartridges, coloured styrofoam, and a number of other items and materials. The goals set for 2025 include expanding into collecting items for reuse as well as recycling, and disseminating more information about waste reduction to residents.