

Spring 2019

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

WATER TO EARTH MONTH

The City of Nanaimo along with the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart and other local organizations is host to a variety of activities and events to celebrate **Water to Earth Month 2019**. We have something for everyone with workshops, stream walks, river rafting, swimming events, educational tours, stream keepers courses, movie nights and a big Earth Day celebration at John Barsby School to wrap it up !



Nanaimo River Watershed and Water Treatment Plant Guided Tour, this

Friday, March 22 (we still have a few spots available). Participants will enjoy an exclusive guided bus tour of the Nanaimo River Watershed (only accessible during this guided tour), followed by a tour of Nanaimo's innovative new Water Treatment Plant. Forestry representatives from Mosaic Forest Management Company and the City and Regional District staff will be on hand to discuss forestry practices, water quality, future plans and answer questions. If you are interested in the future of drinking water and watershed protection, why not complete this survey with your thoughts and ideas and a chance to win a rain barrel. getinvolved.rdn.ca/dwwp-action-plan-update-2019



Nanaimo River by Raft:

Explore the unique flora and fauna of Vancouver Island's largest estuary by river raft with members of the VIU Recreation Department. A fun way to learn about the natural beauty and values of this vital ecosystem.

Thursday April 25 10a-12p #12329

Thursday April 25 1-4:00p #12330



For more details on these events and more visit:

Getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart

#water2earth

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

VIU Water Film Night

Thursday March 26 7-9:00 pm

VIU invites you to, what's sure to be an amazing evening viewing [Watermark](#), an award winning documentary of stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, use it, consequences of that use and what we've learned.

*In **Watermark**, the viewer is immersed in a magnificent force of nature that we all too often take for granted- until it's gone.*

WaterSmart Workshop Day

Sunday April 14

Join us for a day of water focused workshops plus a catered lunch and free native plant from Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)

Workshops include:

- Lawn Alternatives (10 am),
- Water Wise Gardening (11 am),
- Efficient Irrigation (12:45 pm)
- Rainwater Harvesting (1:45 pm)

Call 250-756-5200 and use barcode #11658 to register.



Earth Day Nanaimo

On April 27, join us at John Barsby High School to celebrate [Earth Day 2019](#) with a free festival style community event focusing on earth services and protecting endangered species. There will be something for everyone with workshops, demos, interactive community displays,

music and local sustainable food vendors all honouring our precious resources and environment.

Tree Vouchers will also be available to purchase for \$25 (valued at up to \$90) for Nanaimo residents.

For more information or to get involved visit ...

www.nanaimoearthday.com



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ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Let's Pull Together! An invasive plant is a non-native plant that has the potential to negatively impact the composition, structure and function of our native ecosystems.

Maintaining our natural areas and restoring the integrity of our native ecology depends on you.

Call Parks & Recreation at 250-756-5200 to pre-register for one of our work parties or to coordinate your own. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them.

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives

Invasive Plant Removal & BBQ at Piper's Lagoon hosted by [Bill's Place](#)

- Thurs, Apr 18, 10-12:00 pm (13602)

Broombuster at Linley Valley Drive Park

- Sat, May 4, 10-12 pm (13590)

Broombuster at Serauxman Fields

- Fri, May 10, 10-12:00 pm (13626)

Ivy Work Party at Bowen

- Sat, June 1, 10-12 pm (13593)

For more info on how to get involved with the Broombusters visit broombusters.org

Invasive Plant Drop Zones

Bring your invasive plants (Ivy, blackberry, daphne, broom) to us and we will dispose of them for you.

Saturday May 4, 10-2 Linley Gyro Park
Saturday June 1, 10-2 Bowen Park (Wall St)

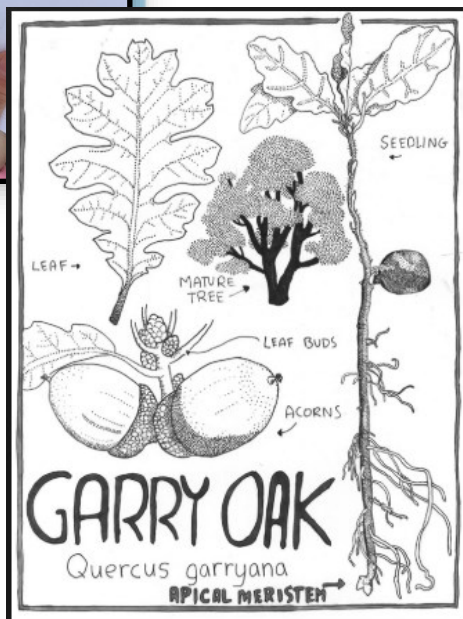
NS3 has started a new program exploring the unique **Garry oak ecosystem at Neck Point Park** with Rock City Elementary and Pleasant Valley Ele-

mentary students. They made observations about the natural world and started to ask questions about the world around them. The groups explored living and non-living species as well as native and invasive species in quadrats, discover the different stages of the Garry oak life cycle, and identified different tree species in the park. This amazing ecosystem has lots of species at risk and contain the only native oak species in BC. What a great opportunity to encourage young stewards of our parks!



Did you know?

Garry oak wood was used by coastal peoples for combs and digging sticks as well as for fuel. They ate the acorns roasted or steamed and managed the Garry oak ecosystem by under burning in order to cultivate a supply of camas bulbs. Camas was an important food source for many Coastal groups.



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STEWARDSHIP ALONG OUR SHORES

NS3's Citizen science is also starting at Departure Bay beach. Students from the Nanaimo and Ladysmith School District will be citizen scientists in May and June conducting a bivalve survey in the intertidal at Departure Bay Beach. Students will help scientists at the Vancouver Island University collect data on *the varnish clam*, and discover the difference between native, introduced and invasive species. Students dig in the sand for bivalves, then identified, measured, recorded and then put back to help develop a sense of stewardship.



NS3's Trash to Treasure: SD68 grade 6 students will participate in the clean-up of a local beach or park and then work with their class to create public art. Through this activity, students will learn about local ecology, conservation, and the effects of pollution.

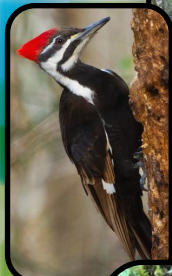


If your group is interested in more opportunities to help keep our beaches clean and protect our aquatic ecosystems, visit <https://www.shorelinecleanup.ca>

Are you interested in becoming a Citizen Scientist?

Come learn and celebrate the biodiversity of **Wildwood Eco-forest** at Yellow Point (2929 Crane Rd) and join a BioBlitz April 27-28, 2019. For more information or to register visit <https://www.ecoforestry.ca/>

- Featuring an evening talk, April 27, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm by **Biodiversity Hero Dr. Andy MacKinnon**
- Join other Naturalists, April 28, starting at 7:00 am, to help record our plants, fungi, lichens, birds, insects, mammals, and others in the web of forest life.



STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS IN YOUR PARKS

The City of Nanaimo works with many community and school groups to help manage and restore many of our natural spaces in our parks. By supporting these groups we continue to build a stronger sense of community stewardship. This winter saw bright, beautiful and brisk days, allowing groups to get involved in planting over 1300 trees. Planting trees helps create new wildlife habitat; cleans the air we breathe, and helps absorb carbon dioxide - a major green house gas.



Bill's Place, tree planting at Neck Point/Keel Cove and removal of Periwinkle in the Meadows
Departure Bay Eco School students, tree planting at Wardroper Park and removal of invasives
John Barsby Secondary students, tree planting along the Chase River and removal of invasives.



Discover Montessori, grew Douglas Fir and Alders at School and then planted along the Millstone River near the Curling Alley.
VIU Parks Canada Club have been busy removing black berry and broom in Hawthorne Park and then replanted with Alder trees
First Departure Bay Scouts and Cubs spent the weekend at Buttertubs Marsh planting Cedar and Hemlock along the shoreline.



Wellington Secondary School students planted daffodils at Loudon Park in the fall and are seeing these signs of spring emerging from this location.

NDSS Students and the Nanaimo Geocachers (CITO) worked with our staff to cut willow stakes at Hawthorne Park to be used to establish new pacific willow trees in Third Street Park and along the Millstone River.

A huge thank you to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, who has been instrumental in funding many of these stewardship projects, and thank you to all our volunteers. We appreciate all your hard work and time.

Contact us at parksandrecreation@nanaimo.ca for more information or to get involved.