

Results for British Columbian Communities



On February 26, 2015 Thirty five communities were selected amongst 159 applications to receive grants of up to \$25,000 each in this fourth year of the program.

The objective of the CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up* program is to promote community sustainability, through the greening of municipal and community properties across Canada. CN and its partners Tree Canada and Communities in Bloom, help Canadian municipalities and community groups establish tree planting and green space enhancement initiatives in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner.

“CN is proud of the warm reception this program has received across Canada,” said Claude Mongeau, CN president and chief executive officer. “In the first three years of this program, close to 40,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in 85 communities, by schoolchildren, forestry students, mayors, volunteers, CN pensioners and employees – the people who live in these communities.”

“We are all neighbours, CN and local citizens,” said Mongeau, “working together towards a sustainable future.”

Successful candidates were chosen on the basis of rigorous selection criteria developed and overseen by CN’s program partners, Tree Canada and Communities in Bloom. The two organizations rated each application on those criteria and presented a ranked list of programs from which final candidates were selected. Communities in Bloom and Tree Canada will provide guidance in the development of the chosen projects.

“The CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up* program provides many benefits to communities: from improving municipal landscapes, to enhancing green spaces for community activities, to providing plants for healthy living,” said Raymond Carrière, Founding President of Communities in Bloom. “We are proud to work with CN and Tree Canada on such projects making our communities better places to live in, work in and to visit”.

“Tree Canada is thrilled to continue to work with CN and Communities in Bloom to deliver CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up* to deserving communities across Canada,” says

Michael Rosen, President of Tree Canada. “This program not only provides funding, but much needed awareness to the value of trees and green spaces to our health and wellbeing as well as the environment. I have personally witnessed the impact this program has had and can honestly say that CN has created a lasting legacy of sustainability for present and future generations.”

Civic support for the tree-planting program has been strong since CN initiated it in 2012, with over 500 communities applying for funds. This year’s recipients bring the total to 124 communities across Canada to have benefited from funding through the CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up* program. The program has now been extended into the United States. Complete details on the program are available at www.cnfromthegroundup.ca.

Applicant: Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langley, BC

Project Name: Logan Creek Integrity Project

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Applicant Contribution: \$29,750

Summary: The Logan Creek Integrity Project is seeking support for the first phase of a novel 1.6 hectares (four acres) urban forest / food forest in the upland area of Logan Creek, a channelized stream that is a recognized salmon habitat and a traditional Kwantlen territory. Decades of agricultural use and construction in Langley have altered Logan Creek and its tributaries and left large parts cleared of native vegetation, drained of wetlands, and overcome with introduced non-native plant species. The long-term goal for the restored and redesigned riparian upland forest is that the site becomes an ecological buffer to the creek and a socially thriving, biodiverse ecosystem nourishing vegetation native to the floodplains of Fraser Valley and fruit-bearing and other edible plants traditionally used by the Kwantlen First Nation.

Applicant: District of Chetwynd, BC

Project Name: Health Clinic and Wellness Centre Green Belt

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Applicant Contribution: \$26,000

Summary: The CN EcoConnexions grant will contribute to the construction of and planting of trees, shrubs and plants along a green belt or berm surrounding a Medical Health Clinic and Wellness Centre which is being constructed at this time. By building the berm, the area will be transformed from an undeveloped wasteland to an attractive area where youth and families may lounge and safely walk from their homes to the new Clinic and adjacent post office, Northern Lights College and Day Care. The Green Belt will result in a protected berm creating a “green space” to be appreciated by the residents of the region who will use the new Medical Health Clinic and Well-

ness Centre.

Applicant: City of Kamloops, BC

Project Name: Riverside Park Community Project

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Applicant Contribution: \$30,000

Summary:

This project will enhance the west end of Riverside Park that is not used much and has some social issues at that end of the park, which is identified in the Riverside Park management plan. The project aligns with the City of Kamloops Sustainability Plan, which calls for educational and practical opportunities to develop practices such as growing food, waste reduction, composting and others. The main feature will be a Sustainable Education garden, including trees and vegetables, which will bring the community together and help it learn to be more sustainable. Kinder Morgan, Interior Community Services, the City of Kamloops, as well as local community groups and potential local sponsors will contribute to the project.

Applicant: District of Barriere, BC

Project Name: Community Infrastructure Greening Project

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Applicant Contribution: \$25,000

Summary:

The Community Infrastructure Greening Project will, in the pursuit of a greener and healthier living environment, consist of natural treed and landscaped areas around water treatment facilities, located in the downtown area. This project will re-establish and maintain green spaces to create a healthy environment through sustaining urban forests lost as a result of pine beetle kill and destroyed by a 2003 wildfire. This project will consist of a number of landscaping applications, including the planting of trees, shrubs, natural grasses, as well as installing sod and water reservoir planters. It will provide an excellent education opportunity for the general public regarding native species for landscaping. Community groups, Schools, Community Garden Club, Horticultural Students, Lower North Thompson Community Forests, and the Communities in Bloom organization are involved in the project and will benefit from this information.

Applicant: City of Abbotsford, BC

Project Name: Getting back on track project

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Applicant Contribution: \$25,000

Summary:

The 'Getting Back on Track' project aims to plant street trees and educate the citizens of Abbotsford about their importance. The project will focus heavily on an educational campaign to inform and invigorate residents about the importance

of street trees. The city will engage volunteers through the development of a tree steward program, and residents will have an opportunity to select street tree species in an effort to establish home grown stewardship. 'Getting Back on Track' will be a legacy project which will continue to grow for years to come. Educational material will remain in circulation, volunteers will continue to be engaged and the street tree program will have rooted ground. Neighbourhoods who see the installation of street trees will reap the benefits they produce and more community stewards will arise.

What's Growing On

- Provincial Edition Registration Deadline **Extended to April 17**
- Novice Registration Deadline
April 17, 2015
- Golf Raffle Ticket Sales Cut-off
April 3, 2015
- **April 18, 2015 - Langley Sandman Hotel**
BC CiB Judges Training and AGM,
and Golf Raffle Draw Date
- Reminder that the BCLNA office has moved
so we have a new mailing address:

**BC Communities in Bloom c/o
Suite 102 - 19289 Langley Bypass,
Surrey, BC V3S 6K1**
(phone and fax remain the same)

- New Website:
www.bccib.ca



BC's PlantWise Program is Blossoming!

Responsible Gardening for Invasive Plant Prevention

Every year gardeners across BC eagerly await the signs of spring's arrival by attending seed swaps, planning new gardens and seeking garden center sales. When creating a new garden or improving an existing one, we need to make wise choices that consider the "right plant for the right place" and use only non-invasive plants.

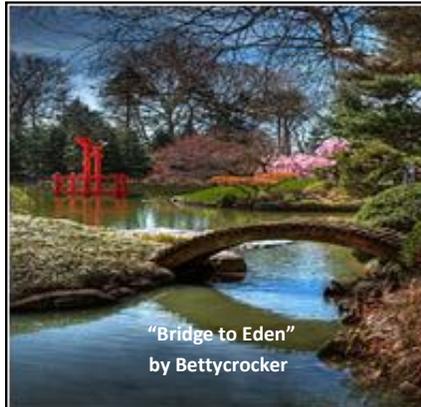
Why be Concerned?

Introduced invasive species are the second leading cause of biodiversity loss in the world! Invasive plants often exhibit the very characteristics we seek in a plant, such as being drought tolerant, fast spreading and attractive. Many pretty flowers that bloom along BC's roadways are actually invasive plants! Without the population controls of their native region, invasive plants establish quickly and spread easily, causing harm to our environment, society, and economy. Without prevention, invasions become costly and can take many years to resolve.

Invasive plants that are promoted, grown, sold, gifted, traded, relocated, and are often disposed of improperly, are known as "horticulturally invasive plants." Once established, these plants can produce seed and/or spreading roots that are difficult to control. Infestations can start on your property, escape cultivation and enter your neighbour's yard or spread even further—even kilometres away!

Great News - There is a Solution!

To address the issue of horticulturally invasive plants, the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) launched a leading-edge, behaviour change-based program called "PlantWise." PlantWise is a sustainable and empowering program designed to help consumers and industry identify the horticultural plants



invasive in their region, know why they are invasive, and learn how to prevent their introduction and spread.

PlantWise supports the horticulture industry's transition to become invasive-free and builds consumer demand for equally beautiful and functional, non-invasive plants. By incorporating the popular Grow Me Instead booklet, PlantWise helps folks know which plants to avoid and which responsible alternatives to choose from instead. Providing people with

positive, solution-based education is helping everyone strive to make a simple behaviour change to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants in gardens and across our communities. Becoming an educated, invasive-free gardener helps build attractive, healthy gardens.

Making a difference in BC requires teamwork! ISCBC has expanded the PlantWise program with strategic partners—"PlantWise Ambassadors." Ambassadors across BC are working to form a movement of invasive plant prevention throughout BC, and are committed to using the PlantWise message in their own regional programs and initiatives. PlantWise Ambassadors provide education, training and resources to gardeners and the general public at regional events throughout the growing season. Others are reaching out to local garden supply centres and other businesses to provide PlantWise education and encourage operators to become invasive-free. Thank you to all of our PlantWise Ambassadors!



For more information, to get involved in PlantWise or to become a PlantWise Ambassador in your community, visit www.bcinvases.ca.



Thank you for practicing responsible gardening!

PROVINCIAL | NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2015 SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS



COMMUNITY REDEFINED

KAMLOOPS

COLLECTIVITÉ REDÉFINIE

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 3, 2015

SAVE THE DATE!



www.communitiesinbloom.ca