

# How We Steward



Coquitlam is home to an abundance of beautiful natural areas and parks that benefit both people and wildlife. As the climate changes, these natural areas play a vital role in protecting biodiversity, reducing heat, managing stormwater and supporting community well-being.

Green spaces are essential for biodiversity and for providing habitat for fish and wildlife. They also make our city more livable by improving air and water quality, managing stormwater to reduce flooding and offering shade and cooling — benefits that are becoming even more important as we experience the impacts of climate change. Natural areas also support public health by creating welcoming, restorative spaces where the community can gather, play and connect with nature.

Residents place a high value on protecting, restoring and enhancing the city's natural areas and ecosystems and agree that it's important these spaces remain accessible for everyone to enjoy. The City is already taking action by keeping waterways clean through monitoring and pollution prevention, as well as protecting wildlife

and habitat through land-use regulations and urban wildlife management programs. Coquitlam is also planting native, climate-resilient species that support biodiversity, while expanding and caring for urban forests and green spaces across the community. As part of this effort, the City is developing an Urban Forest Management Strategy, which will outline how the City and community can work to enhance and sustain a resilient urban forest.

Action is needed to build on the work underway in order to continuously monitor and strengthen how we care for natural areas, especially in the face of a changing climate; this will help Coquitlam continue safeguarding these vital benefits for today's residents and species, while ensuring future generations inherit healthy, thriving green spaces.



In 2024, Coquitlam's Tree Spree program donated over 1,200 trees across the city to residents, and delivered 200 guided tree tours, demonstrations and workshops.



## Celebrating Success

Since 2012, the City has been collecting water quality data from the Coquitlam River and across the City to monitor watershed health and identify long-term trends, including those related to climate change. This data is shared with partners across the watershed — such as environmental stewardship groups and First Nations — to support collaborative initiatives like the *k'wík'wələm* Salmon Restoration Program.



## Example Actions

#	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
S1.1	Complete and implement the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy.	Ongoing
S1.2	Identify opportunities to integrate climate-resilient planting, shading features and landscaping into design and improvement projects to enhance cooling, storm water management and storm resilience.	Ongoing
S2.1	Continue to share data and information with other levels of government to support ecosystem connectivity planning and monitoring.	Ongoing
S2.3	Increase biodiversity and resilience of City parks and greenspaces.	Ongoing
S2.4	Work with regional partners to advance nature-based solutions to address climate risks and hazards.	Ongoing

See the full list of *How We Steward* strategies and actions at [coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction](http://coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction)

## What You Can Do

- Volunteer to keep our creeks clean through our [Adopt-A-Catch Basin and Storm Drain Marking programs](#).
- Volunteer for one of the many environmental stewardship groups in our community.
- Plant trees suitable for our future climate.

## Co-Benefits



Enhances human health and well-being



Improves water retention and absorption



Enhances biodiversity