



General Pointers for Nature-friendly Property Stewardship

- ✓ **Maintain existing and/or create new habitat:** native plants for birds and bees, bird or bat boxes, wildlife trees, rock cairns, natural wetlands or creeks, wildflower meadows, etc.
- ✓ **Remove invasive plant species** as possible like broom and daphne, especially in sensitive areas such as creeks or meadows, or where it is threatening to over-take and smother out native plants and trees.
- ✓ **Preserve as many native trees** on your property as possible: and should it be necessary or you decide to remove a tree or trees, you first seek out the opinion of ecologically-experienced arborist(s)/forest ecologists/sawyers for best practices (e.g. removing a hazardous tree to a safe height to create a wildlife tree/snag, or removing limbs to create a safer situation).
- ✓ **Avoid pesticides and synthetic fertilizers** on lawn, flowers, or veggies; use alternative options or ask as pest problems arise.
- ✓ **Not introduce any exotic plants or animals that threaten or displace native species** (e.g. potentially invasive nursery-grown plants, yellow-flag iris in wetlands, bull-frogs, pet-store turtles, etc.)
- ✓ **Install or continue efficient irrigation and let the lawn go “Gabriola-golden”** in drought summers.
- ✓ **Use outdoor night-lighting that is wildlife friendly**, i.e.) motion activated, and amber coloured bulbs or shades (do not attract as many insects nor disturb nocturnal animals).
- ✓ **Keep oil and other toxins out of ditches, wet areas, the ocean and wetlands** including F.O.G.s (fats, oils, and greases from kitchen, painting, or auto repair) and dispose of properly.
- ✓ **Maintain and protect soil** with mulch and avoid removing plants on slopes that might increase erosion and pollute wetlands, creeks, or coastlines.
- ✓ **Protect our island’s water quality for people and nature’s critters by maintaining a healthy fringe of riparian vegetation** around creeks, streams, ponds, wetlands, coastlines, and other water recharge/discharge areas on the property.
- ✓ **Learn more about the Indigenous Coast Salish values and ways of interacting and regarding all life and nature as equal and inseparable from our mind, body and spirit.**

Check out more Resources online on GaLTT’s [“Gabriola Nature Stewards”](#) webpage.