



THE GREEN LINK



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What does wildlife habitat mean to you? It is easy to identify a pristine forest or a stream as good habitat but what about habitat in our city? We have recently launched a Special Places Project to examine how special-use land areas such as airports, cemeteries, golf courses, and post-secondary institutions contribute to urban biodiversity. With the support of Human Resources Development Canada Job Creation Partnership Program funding, IUE staff members have been conducting biophysical inventories of eight representative special-use sites throughout the Lower Mainland. Their findings will be published in a report that will be available this winter. In the meantime, this article marks the beginning of a Special Places series. We will be focusing on a different type of "special place" in each subsequent issue of The Green Link, beginning with cemeteries.

Habitat and Headstones



Oasis- a water feature at Forest Lawn Cemetery (one of the Special Places sites) provides habitat for birds and other wildlife

Cemeteries are places of peaceful sanctuary for people, yet we generally give little thought to their importance to wildlife. Depending on their design, they can be an important source of urban wildlife habitat. The manicured lawn areas common in most cemeteries have little habitat value but trees, flowers, and shrubs planted throughout the grounds can provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and bees. Older cemeteries may also have large trees on their grounds, creating valuable nesting habitat for birds. Other cemeteries have small ponds and water features that provide water for birds and other wildlife. Finally, areas reserved for future expansion provide shelter for small mammals and ground-nesting birds as they are left unmowed and undisturbed. Therefore, cemeteries can provide valuable habitat for certain types of wildlife.

We are studying three different cemeteries in the Lower Mainland for the Special Places project: Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Burnaby, North Vancouver Cemetery in North Vancouver, and Mountain View Cemetery in East Vancouver. Right now we're still completing surveys at each site so check back with us in December to hear what we've discovered about these "special places"! Thank you to the management of each site for their cooperation and assistance.

-Nadine Pinnell, IUE Eco-Ed Coordinator

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The Green Link is a quarterly publication of the Douglas College Institute of Urban Ecology. The Institute is a non-profit organization working to increase biodiversity in the Lower Mainland. *The Green Link* is one activity, which the Institute uses to increase public environmental education and raise awareness.

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Green Links Update

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Grant

The Institute of Urban Ecology just received a grant of \$20,000 from the BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) to assist with Green Links in 2002/2003. This is the second year that the HCTF has supported the Institute.

The HCTF recognizes that fragmentation of wildlife habitats is a growing problem in BC's Lower Mainland, with the area's human population expected to double by 2021. Green Links combats habitat fragmentation by increasing connectivity between green spaces through plantings in hydro corridors, parks, and other open spaces. By getting the public involved, we work on developing sustainable approaches to biological conservation in an urban context.

From 1996 – 2001, Green Links has restored habitat at 25 sites with 34,325 trees, shrubs and perennials and hundreds of pounds of seeds. We have worked with 5,041 community participants on these plantings. As well, we've delivered workshops to over 11, 000 people through our environmental education program with 2,100 people attending our lectures and symposia. In 2002/2003 we expect to plant 8,000 plants with 1,000 community participants, and offer 50 presentations and general workshops on urban biodiversity to 2,500 participants!

New Projects-Nature's Services and Special Places

Nature's services are benefits that we receive from natural ecosystems, both directly and indirectly. In the Lower Mainland, these include improvements in air and water quality, noise reduction and general improved livability. With the support of the Job Creation Partnership Program (JCP) of the Human Resources and Development Commission, IUE staff are providing education through workshops and other events to highlight the value of small-scale plantings such as balconies, backyards and boulevards in providing nature's services. As well, we are collecting data for a Nature's Services Inventory in a variety of different neighbourhoods.

With JCP assistance, we have also begun a Special Places Project focusing on the habitat value of special land-use areas. (*Ed.: see pg. 1 for more information on the Special Places Project.*)

The Shell Environmental Fund is supporting Green Links' environmental education workshops with a grant of \$2,800 to offset material and travel costs over the next year. The IUE offers a number of different workshops to school and community groups, teaching participants about nature in the city as well as giving them the opportunity to improve wildlife habitat in their own neighbourhood. Contact us to find out how to book a workshop for your group.

-Val Schaefer, IUE director

IUE Enhancement Team Update

The summer heat hasn't slowed the IUE Enhancement Team down at all. So far this summer, we've built willow wattles (living fences that will take root and redirect run-off) to stabilize slopes in the Coquitlam and Capilano watersheds, planted medians in Tsawwassen, and restored a native plant garden in Delta. We'll be continuing our work through the fall so honk and wave if you see us out there improving the environment. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer!!

-Travis Deeter, IUE Enhancement Team

nature's Hiding Spots - winners



A Green Links Colouring and Poster Contest

This year's colouring and poster contest challenged youth to find "Nature's Hiding Spots" in their neighbourhood. We received an overwhelming number of outstanding entries in five categories. The winning artwork and honourable mentions will be on display at Douglas College, New Westminster campus, from August 19 – September 13. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who submitted entries.

6th



Poster 1: 10-11 years

- 1st Place: Ellen Dequina
- 2nd Place: Jamie Kwok
- 3rd Place: Aaron Purdy

Poster 2: 12-13 years

- 1st Place: Michael De Souza
- 2nd Place: Jessica Mach
- 3rd Place: Caroline Montano

Poster 3: 14+ years

- 1st Place: Kimberly Wong
- 2nd Place: Amanda Yunker

Colouring 1: 6-7 years

- 1st Place: Fiona Su
- 2nd Place: Betty Chow
- 3rd Place: William Heng

Colouring 2: 8-10 years

- 1st Place: Ronish Singh
- 2nd Place: Lauren Johansen
- 3rd Place: Parmroop Chandi

Honourable Mention (all categories)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Maria Cirstea | Alyssa Quan |
| Candice Falcon | Kayla McIlroy |
| Harrison Tom | Emily Wong |

Annual Backyard Habitat Enhancement Challenge Winners

The Institute of Urban Ecology is pleased to announce that the 6th annual BHEC was a great success! The BHEC challenges residents of the Lower Mainland to create wildlife habitat in their backyards. This year's participants have done an outstanding job and took the challenge to heart by planting native plants, installing logs, stumps and water sources, using alternatives to pesticides and fertilizer, and installing bird boxes. We judged each garden out of a possible 100 marks using the following criteria: vegetation, food sources, shelter, water, appearance, and environmentally friendly gardening techniques. Congratulations to all the participants and keep up the great gardening!

-Nadia Pedley, BHEC coordinator

Gold: 85 - 100

Daryl and Melinda Aikin	New Westminster
Frank and Jean Baine	Delta
Carol Both	Vancouver
Burquitlam Community Organic Gardens	Coquitlam
Trudy Findlay	New Westminster
Tom Harrison	Burnaby
Deborah Jones	Delta
Elizabeth Thunstrom	Coquitlam
David and Jackie White	Coquitlam

Silver: 65 - 84

Kay Ferguson	Delta
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Still to be judged:

Bill Zander	New Westminster
Pat Hellmyer	Surrey

Green Bits

You Are Invited to our **Greenlinks Open House and Volunteer Appreciation Night** at Douglas College on September 11, 2002. Join us between 4 and 6:30 PM for a reception celebrating the **Greenlinks 2002: Special Places** exhibit, featuring work by Kara Uzelman. A short presentation and awards ceremony will follow at 6:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Special Places

Green Links 2002

August 16 to September 16, 2002

Featuring "inside/out:exploring habitat in contemporary urban landscapes" by **Kara Uzelman**

Reception and awards ceremony

September 11, 4-7:30 pm

Awards presentation at 6:30 pm

Amelia Douglas Gallery

4th Floor North, Douglas College
700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster
(one block from the New West SkyTrain)

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday 10 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday 11 am - 4 pm
Closed Sunday

Admission is always free

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have an interest in nature in the city? Want to gain skills and work experience? The Institute of Urban Ecology is ways looking for volunteers to come out and help with plantings, do bird surveys, maintain our nursery, and deliver education workshops. If you are interested please contact the Institute (604-527-5522 or iue@douglas.bc.ca).

Thanks to our sponsors and partners:

- ❖ Habitat Restoration Program, Douglas College
- ❖ Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- ❖ Human Resources Development Canada Job Creation Partnership Program
- ❖ Greater Vancouver Regional District
- ❖ EJLB Foundation
- ❖ Environment Canada – EcoAction2000
- ❖ Home Depot
- ❖ Public Conservation Assistance Fund
- ❖ The Real Estate Foundation of BC
- ❖ Vancouver Foundation
- ❖ Trans Mountain Pipeline Corporation of Delta
- ❖ Colony Farms Parks Association
- ❖ Tree Canada Foundation
- ❖ Art Knapp Plantland
- ❖ BC E -Team
- ❖ BC Gas
- ❖ BC Hydro
- ❖ Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment Fund - Burnaby, Surrey, Vancouver, and Coquitlam Chapters
- ❖ City of Burnaby
- ❖ City of Coquitlam
- ❖ City of Surrey
- ❖ Fisheries Renewal BC
- ❖ Shell Environmental Fund
- ❖ T. Buck Suzuki Foundation

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