

Annual Report

2022



BCSWA

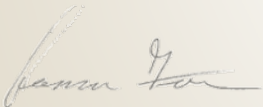
BC Small Wetlands Association

President's **Message**

In spite of the trials and tribulations of dealing with Covid-19 restrictions and the rising cost of programs, this has turned out to be a very fulfilling year at Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park. There is nothing more satisfying than watching new trees go into the ground with the promise of growth for many years to come, in participating in Secwepemc ceremony and feeling the warmth of the communities coming together through reconciliation in action.

The Park's assets are growing, literally! The edible trees forest garden established in 2020 has berry bearing shrubs, herbs and some tree fruit. The flourishing cattails in the wetland ponds attracted numerous nesting red-winged blackbirds.

We take great pleasure in sharing this space with the many visitors who have come to appreciate having a public park in the community.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Fournes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joanna Fournes, President



Special Thanks

To the many volunteers at the participating schools that worked with BCSWA to make the tree planting events a success.

514 Trees planted on Earth Day Events in 2022

Community Foundation North Okanagan grant

Cultural ecological tree planting program for schools & communities

\$10,000

In spring 2023, BCSWA will be collaborating with North Okanagan schools and with Secwepemc and Syilx Knowledge Keepers, to create tree-planting events that include traditional knowledge sharing and education on nature based climate change mitigation. Eleven schools took part in 2021-2022, planting over 500 trees on school grounds, and at Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park in Spallumcheen.

Shuswap North Okanagan School Tree Planting Events

Carlin Elementary, Tappen	78
Kamloops Christian School	12
Sorrento Centre	60
North Shuswap Elementary	60
Salmon Arm West Elementary	24
Len Wood Middle School, Armstrong	115
Pleasant Valley Secondary, Armstrong	25
Falkland Elementary	9
Armstrong Elementary	1

Trees for Schools Program

Tree Planting Events for Schools and Public Parks

A.L. Fortune High School, Enderby

Creeping juniper	25
Ponderosa Pine - 15 gallon	2
Rocky Mountain Juniper	25
Ponderosa Pine	25

Trees and shrubs for Parks

Bristow Road, North Shuswap	71
Ross Creek, North Shuswap	642
Haldane/Tsutswecw Park, Adams Lake	24
Riverside Park Community	20
R.J Haney Heritage Park	1



A.L. Fortune High School, Enderby

Teachers and students planted 77 evergreen trees and shrubs on Earth Day. Splats'in Elder Ethel Thomas offered a Secwepemc opening prayer at the following ceremony that included Splats'in drummers and singers

Highlighting Community Participation

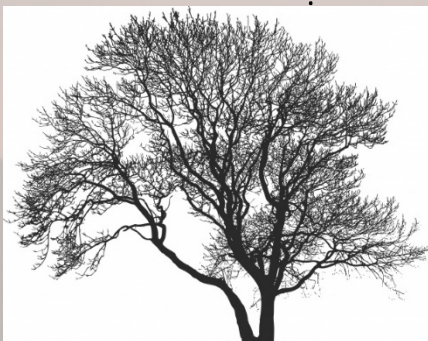


Volunteers and visitors

An enthusiastic group of volunteer Moms and children help to plant trees behind the wetland ponds, just one of the many volunteer planting events that took place last year. The many walkers and wheelers that visit the park help by pulling some weeds as they make their way through the park. We are going to erect a kiosk this year and post volunteer opportunities and maintenance tasks so that people can pitch in when they visit.

BC Small Wetlands Association **Collaborations**

We want to extend our immense gratitude to our funding partners and collaborators for helping us to provide cultural ecological outreach programs to the communities



The important role of trees in climate change mitigation - A single tree produces 260 lbs. of oxygen per year and absorbs 48 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year

Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world. We are already experiencing the drastic impacts of climate change, from wildfires in the West and droughts in the Prairies, to melting permafrost in the North and storms in the East. These impacts will continue to amplify challenges and negatively impact the wellbeing of our communities and our entire planet.

To take action and create change, we are committed to nature based climate change action in our initiatives at the park, including our ADOPT-A-TREE program. We offer free native trees to local community members and in 2022 over 175 were given away to people in the community..

Wetland Keepers Workshops

June 2022

BC Wildlife Federation

It was a full house for the workshops which kicked off on a hot sunny June Day. Twenty five people took advantage of the free registration for the workshops and it included a number of forays to locations in Armstrong and the surrounding areas as well as the workshops in Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park. BCWF staff stayed in the BCSWA trailer onsite for the duration and they really appreciated the accommodation after almost a month of cold showers and camping in tents at workshops throughout the BC Interior.



Hosted Events at Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

Four Corners Home School Organization

Field Day and Tree Identification

Despite the November snow, a large group of enthusiastic children participated in organized games and enjoyed lunch around the fire pit. They spent the afternoon identifying the trees and shrubs and learning Secwepemc names with the aid of a "passport" which provided pictures of plants and helpful hints.



Cultural Ecological Outreach

All ages took advantage of the outreach in 2022, from pre-schoolers to seniors, high school and middle school students, teachers and members of likeminded Environmental organizations



We welcomed over 390 people to workshops in 2022. They learned about the importance and traditional Uses of trees and shrubs in the Secwepemc culture, as well as gaining hand on experience in planting, invasive species removal, and studying life in the wetland ponds.



Citizen Scientists

The wealth of wetland and wildlife data at the park attracted a number of citizen scientists last year, including a Masters student and a Senior High School group participating in the C.A R E. (Climate Action Ripple Effect) program at Vernon schools.

For all visitors, Jack the donkey continues to be a major attraction.



Financial Report

Revenues

Total grants and donations \$217,893

Expenses

Programs \$214,393

Management & Administration \$2,500

Fundraising \$1,000

Thank you to our Board of Directors

Joanna Fournes

Diane Luzio

Barbara A Craven

Jason Minaker

Eugen Fournes

Bonnie Thomas

Michaela CM Minaker

Kurt Mushumanski

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park is situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwepemc people.

<http://smallwetlands.com>

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BCSWA

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