

## Final Report: 2023 Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant

### Overview

The City of Nanaimo's 2023 Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant supported the *Greening Rocky Point Initiative*, aimed at engaging the Rocky Point community in tree planting and climate action. Despite lower-than-anticipated participation, the project achieved several key outcomes, including community education, tree planting, and resource sharing. Please see pictures at the end of the report.

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### Activities Undertaken

#### Climate Action Workshop (April 20, 2024)

- Held at Beban Park Social Centre, featuring three expert speakers.
- Topics included tree planting techniques, climate action benefits, and native plants.
- Registration: 20 registered; 8 attended. Participants noted the valuable insights gained, with one attendee stating: *"The tips on choosing native plants were incredibly helpful for my backyard garden plans."*

#### Tree Planting Weekend (November 16, 2024)

- Fall planting date selected to ensure tree survivability.
- Native trees and materials distributed, including guides and tools.
- Unfortunately, only two participants (plus myself) collected trees due to poor weather and limited interest in late fall planting.

#### Tree Plantings and Additional Distribution

- A Fire Maple was planted at the new Rocky Point playground, enhancing community green space.
  - Remaining trees planted in Linley Valley, contributing to biodiversity and local habitat restoration.
  - 50 tree plugs repurposed through Nanaimo Science programs, educating children about tree planting and climate change.
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### Use of Funds

- **Workshop Expenses:** Venue rental, speaker honorariums, refreshments, and materials.
  - **Tree Campaign Costs:** Purchase of native trees, tree plugs, planting materials, and printing.
  - There was a remaining \$985.87 after expenses, which will be returned to the City of Nanaimo. Please see the expense report at the end of this grant report.
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## Outcomes Achieved

- **Educational Impact:** Workshop participants gained knowledge on climate action and native tree planting.
  - **Community Beautification:** A Fire Maple now stands at the Rocky Point playground.
  - **Biodiversity Support:** Native trees planted in Linley Valley enhance local ecosystems.
  - **Youth Engagement:** 50 tree plugs provided educational opportunities for children through Nanaimo Science.
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## Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Participation was lower than expected, likely due to seasonal timing and limited interest in private yard planting. Future initiatives may benefit from replanting areas after invasive species removal rather than in private yards.
  - The workshop was well planned and had excellent educational value but perhaps would have been better in an evening or as part of a partnership with another organization, like Nature Nanaimo.
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## Future Plans

The Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association is committed to fostering community climate action. Plans include:

- We plan to check on participants' trees in spring to monitor growth and again the following year to assess their summer survival.
  - We would like to find ways to encourage homeowners to install heat pumps in their homes.
  - We aim to share information with neighbours about solar panel rebates and other government energy-saving initiatives.
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## Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the City of Nanaimo and NALT for their support and collaboration. These contributions and collaborations made the *Greening Rocky Point Initiative* possible.

Amie Armet

Chair, Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association

## **Environmental Grant Budget Breakdown**

*Grant Amount: \$2,000*

### **Workshop Expenses:**

- **Room Rental:** \$75.46 (City of Nanaimo)
- **Supplies:** \$12.60 (Dollar Tree)
- **Honourariums:** \$200.00 (2 x presenters: Janis, Deanna)
- **HDMI Cord:** \$9.80 (Amazon)
- **Earth Day Stickers:** \$10.39 (Amazon)
- **Printing:** \$20.85 (Staples: workshop materials)
- **Food/Drinks:** \$41.99 (Save-On-Foods: drinks and sweets)
- **Food/Drinks:** \$47.30 (Save-On-Foods: sandwiches)
- **Coffee:** \$20.95 (Starbucks)

### **Tree Planting Campaign:**

- **Gift Cards for Presenters (Paul and Susan) and Planting Supplies:** \$181.85 (Home Depot: shared planting supplies like shovels, bone meal, fertilizer)
- **Tree Plugs:** \$50.00 (Woodmore Nurseries: 50 native tree plugs)
- **Native Trees for Distribution:** \$190.00 (NALT: Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery)
- **Tree Information Printing:** \$12.99 (Staples: guides on tree planting and care)
- **Playground Tree:** \$139.95 (Green Thumb Nursery: Fire Maple)

Not included in the expense report is the numerous hours spent planning, preparing and facilitating the workshop and event. If you would like a further breakdown for a better estimate on this I am happy to submit a further report on volunteer time.

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**Total Expenses: \$1,014.13**

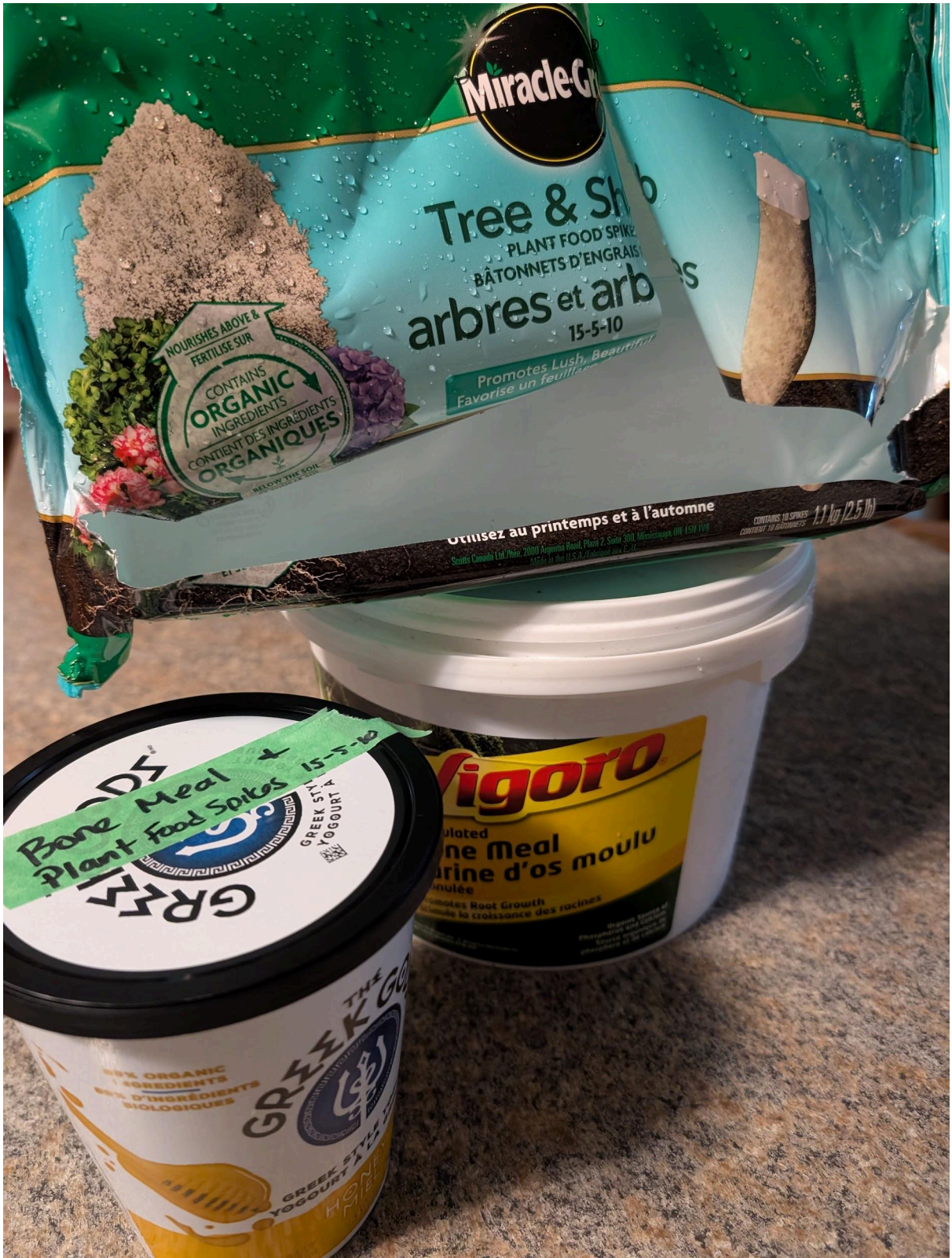
**Remaining Funds: \$985.87**



















## Why Native Plants?

