



Watershed**Protection**Facts

What You Can Do To Protect Our Watersheds

Garden with Native Plants and Remove Invasives

The spread of invasive plants reduces biodiversity and displaces native plants. Native plants help improve the health of watersheds by encouraging biodiversity and supporting native birds and wildlife. Native plants require less maintenance, and once established, they are tolerant to drought and pests, reducing the need for watering and chemicals.

What you can do:

- Replace invasive plants and grass with a native plant garden
- Choose native plants that are appropriate for the soil type and weather exposure of your property
- Take a native plant workshop
- Remove any invasive plants on your property. Species to look for include:
 - English Ivy
 - Himalayan Blackberry
 - Scotch Broom
 - Laurel -leafed Daphne/ Spurge Laurel
 - Common Holly
 - Gorse
 - Knotweed
 - Morning Glory
 - Periwinkle
- For more information visit www.crd.bc.ca/nativeplants

CRD Environmental Services
250.360.3256 | www.crd.bc.ca

What is a Watershed?

We all live in a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains rainfall to a water body, such as a stream, river, lake or the ocean. In the CRD, there are about 175 major watersheds, and thousands of minor watersheds. Healthy watersheds benefit everyone. They improve habitat for fish and wildlife, reduce flooding and contribute to healthier, more livable communities. There are many ways we can all reduce our impact on our watersheds, and help to protect them.

Keep Rainwater on the Land

Allowing rainwater to infiltrate on your property helps to recharge groundwater aquifers. By decreasing runoff, there is less erosion and flooding downstream, which helps to recude the impacts on fish and riparian habitat.

What you can do:

- Minimize impervious areas such as driveways and patios that do not allow rainwater to soak into ground
- Choose pervious paving stones, pervious concrete/asphalt, or similar systems to allow for infiltration
- Install a rain barrel to catch water coming from your roof and use it to water your plants
- Direct water coming off your roof and driveway into a rain garden (a landscape feature designed to allow rainwater filtration) or areas of deep, loose soil in your yard. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/raingardens for more informaiton
- Plant trees and shrubs on your property to reduce runoff
- Keep a healthy lawn – mow high, leave clippings on the lawn, water wisely, or let the lawn go golden, and take an organic gardening workshop. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/rte for more information.



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Get Involved - Volunteer with a Community Watershed Group

Work beyond your own borders and get involved in a community group.

What you can do:

- Join a “Friends Of” group for your local creek or watershed.
- Participate in neighborhood clean-ups
- Join in a broom bash or invasive species pull
- Attend community events to celebrate your local waterway

The CRD works with many partners to protect and enhance the health and functioning of our local watersheds.



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www.bowkercreekinitiative.ca



www.elsi.ca



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Reduce Pollution from your Property and Car

When rainwater travels over our driveways, roads and parking lots, the water picks up chemicals, metals, sediment and oils and conveys them to our creeks, rivers and the ocean. This pollution harms fish and other marine species. By reducing pollution in our watersheds we can enjoy clean, healthy, natural spaces.

What you can do:

- Maintain your vehicle to eliminate oil and fluid leaks
- Drive less – walk, bike, take transit or carpool
- Take the Pledge to go pesticide free.
www.crd.bc.ca/takethepledge
- Have your heating oil tanks inspected for leaks
- Wash your car on the lawn using non-toxic , biodegradable soaps, or by taking it to a car wash facility that recycles its water
- Use less toxic alternatives to windshield washer fluid – plain water during the warmer months, and when the temperature drops below 0 degrees, choose less toxic propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol
- Dispose of all household chemicals, cleaners, paints, and other household hazardous wastes at the Hartland recycling facility or another appropriate depot. Call the CRD Recycling Hotline for more information – 250.360.3030, or visit www.crd.bc.ca/waste/hhw
- Use a broom to clean your driveway instead of a power washer or hose
- Report any spills to the Provincial Emergency Program
1.800.663.3456 or call your municipality



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