

Garry Oak Restoration Project

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The Garry Oak Restoration Project is an example of a municipal partnership initiative promoting stewardship, protection and restoration of endangered Garry oak ecosystems. The project is based on ten highly visible restoration/ demonstration sites on municipal lands and is focussed on educating local residents about the value and sensitivity of Garry oak ecosystems through hands-on participation. Education is also provided through this program to municipal staff and other decision-makers and works to include Garry oak ecosystems within community planning processes. In support of the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Strategy, the Garry Oak Restoration Project is managed by the Municipality of Saanich in partnership with Environment Canada, the University of Victoria and the Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society.

The Garry Oak Restoration Project is a model for a municipal/community level program supporting the recovery efforts for this ecosystem through facilitating community stewardship and local restoration efforts. The results of this program, which started in 1999, have included the establishment of a Restoration Management Plan, establishment of a very active community volunteer program, research partnerships, educational tools and a partnership option to support other local restoration projects. The key success of this program, to date, has been the growth in awareness and stewardship of endangered Garry oak ecosystems within the Municipality of Saanich.