

Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration and Education in Saanich



The Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP), an initiative of the Municipality of Saanich, is a public ecological restoration program designed to educate local residents about the value and sensitivity of Garry oak ecosystems. Following a “living laboratory” approach, remnants of Garry oak ecosystems on land owned by Saanich have been developed into restoration demonstration sites to provide opportunities for community stewardship, preservation and education. The Garry Oak Restoration Project supports community building and partnerships concerning endangered Garry oak ecosystems through participation in the GORP sites and through support of similar efforts.

Garry Oak Ecosystems

- In Canada are only found on southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and two small patches in the lower Fraser Valley
- Less than 5% of the original area remains in near natural condition, and is still being lost at a high rate. This is one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada.
- Support over 110 rare and endangered plants and animals.
- Garry oak ecosystems are an important part of the cultural heritage of British Columbia.
- Garry oak trees and associated wildflower displays are an important part of Saanich's landscape heritage.



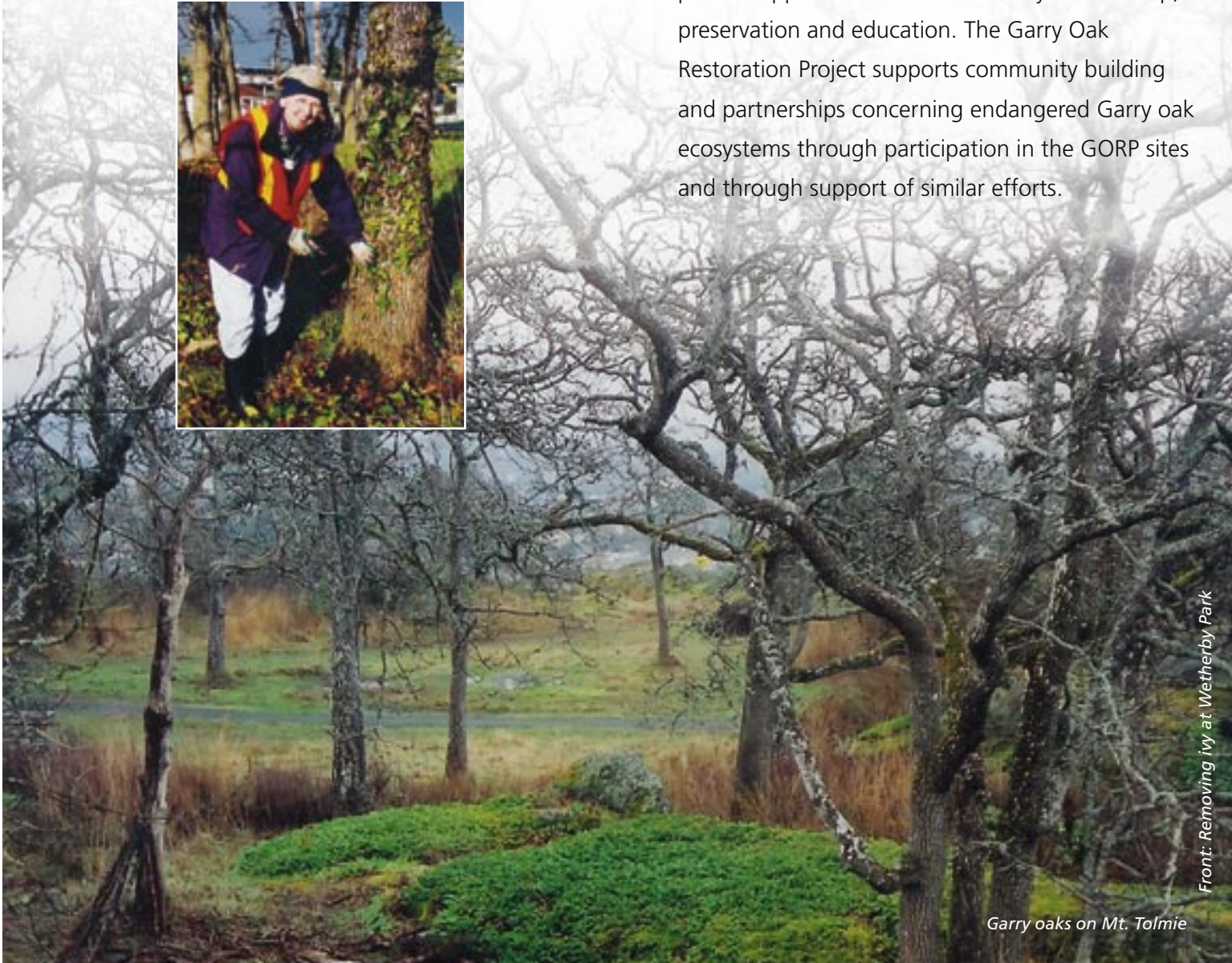
Yellow montaine violet



Chocolate lily



Garry oak meadow at Playfair Park



Garry oaks on Mt. Tolmie

Front: Removing ivy at Wetherby Park

Garry Oak Restoration Project



Restoration

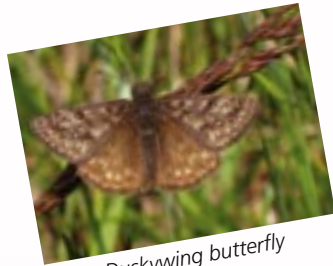
- 10 sites of remnant ecosystems on municipal lands
- Support for other partnership sites in the community

Restoration sites have been inventoried for vegetation, soil, wildlife and site history and are guided by a Restoration Management Plan, following an adaptive management approach. Restoration activities include removal of invasive species, restoring soils, planting and ongoing monitoring.

Education

- Hands-on volunteer program
- Community events and site tours
- Educational support for partners

GORP works to educate the community about the value and sensitivity of threatened Garry oak ecosystems. Promotion of a stewardship ethic in Saanich encourages participation in ecosystem recovery and protection.



Duskywing butterfly

Community Building and Partnerships

- Partnerships with other community restoration projects
- Partnerships with organizations for Garry oak ecosystems recovery
- Work with Saanich staff and Council

GORP helps provide leadership and capacity in Saanich through partnerships for Garry oak ecosystem restoration, education and protection.

Protection and Conservation

- Advocacy for Garry oak ecosystems
- Municipal and public

Protecting and conserving Garry oak ecosystems is a priority in Saanich and the Garry Oak Restoration Project plays a role in these efforts working towards municipal and public stewardship.

GORP Sites

- **Camas Park** on McKenzie Avenue at Cedar Hill X Road
- **Chatterton Hill Park** between Rithet's Bog and the Pat Bay Highway
- **Feltham Park** by the overpass on McKenzie Avenue near Braefoot Park
- **Little Mt. Doug** on the south slope of the smaller hill west of Mt. Douglas
- **Mahon Brook** at Colquitz and Brydon Parks off Viewmont Avenue
- **Mt. Douglas Park Summit** on the south slope near the lookout
- **Mt. Tolmie Park** on the north slope either side of Mayfair Drive
- **Playfair Park** near Quadra Street off Rock Street or Cumberland Road
- **Victoria Association for Community Living** (VACL), Cedar Hill Rd at Merriman Road
- **Wetherby Park** at Cedar Hill, McRea and Wetherby Roads



Follow the signs!



Scotch broom removal at Little Mt. Doug



GORP site at Chatterton Hill Park

GORP Volunteer Program

The Garry Oak Restoration Project depends on dedicated volunteers who help in the restoration, stewardship and education efforts on the sites and within the community. The Volunteer Program is coordinated by GORP's Restoration Coordinator and involves hands-on activities and many opportunities for training and networking. Volunteer positions include:

- Site Stewards
- Restoration Assistants
- Community Educators
- Photographers
- Historical Researcher

To get involved in GORP, visit the website at

www.gorpsaanich.com and look under the "Get Involved" tab.

Restoration Coordinator: Pat Johnston: 595-5600



You can make a difference!

To learn more about Garry oak ecosystems, visit the Garry Oak Restoration Project on the web at www.gorpsaanich.com or contact:

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PROGRAM SPONSORS



Invasive removal at Chatterton Hill Park



An ivy pull at Mt. Tolmie