

Information & Research

Vancouver Island Local Food Project

This project from the Vancouver Island Research Alliance combines community knowledge and academic research to find ways to build a better food system on Vancouver Island. Their webpage documents what was learned during the project, and suggests what people can do to take action on food sustainability.

Website: <http://vicra.ca/localfoodproject>

BC Food Security Gateway

The Gateway shares news, resources, stories, and up-to-date information about food security in BC. It aims to link individuals to the tools and information they need to contribute to building food security in BC.

Website: <http://bcfoodsecuritygateway.ca/>

Twitter: [@bcfoodsecurity](#)

BC Ministry of Agriculture

Links to food-related topics and resources, as well as provincial services and ministry information.

Website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/agriculture>

BC Food Systems Network

The Systems Network is a project on Tides Canada's shared platform, and was founded to link people across the province who are involved in community-level action related to food. They host an annual gathering each year where community change-makers can gather to share their work and ideas.

<http://bcfsn.org/about-the-network/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCFSN>

Groups:

UVic Community Cabbage

A student-run organization at the University of Victoria whose members turn reclaimed food into healthy, free meals handed out to students on campus. Their work focuses on realizing an alternate food system within the goals of food sovereignty and food security. Students volunteer to collect, cook, and serve food on campus.

<https://uviccommunitycabbage.wordpress.com/about/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/communitycabbage/about/?ref=page_internal

Food Not Bombs Victoria

Serves free meals in the community, and hosts a weekly Cook and Serve volunteer group.

<http://victoriafoodnotbombs.com/index.php/free-food-victoria/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/46722105836/>

Vic West Food Security Collective

A volunteer-run organization operating out of Vic West whose participants work on projects which strengthen food security. Their goal each year is to increase project participation and create new projects. Upcoming projects and contact information is available on their webpage.

<https://vicwestfoodsecurity.org/>

Victoria Food Security Resources:

Lifecycles

Lifecycles operates numerous projects in Victoria that help people grow their own food and access fresh local foods in the city. Their Fruit Tree project bridges the gap between backyard fruit tree owners and volunteer labour, in order to save food that would otherwise go to waste.

Get Involved: You can get involved with any Lifecycles project by going to the project page on the website. To be involved with the Fruit Tree project, owners of fruit trees can register on their website and receive 25% of the fruit harvested by volunteers, and volunteers can sign up to donate their time, and receive some fruit of their own in return.

<http://lifecyclesproject.ca/>

CRFAIR

Aims to connect people to resources needed to help create sustainable food systems in their community, and provides information on upcoming events.

<http://www.crfair.ca/>

Edible Garden Project

Learn to garden, find the supplies you need to get started, and bring your families or classroom for a hands-on community based education program. Gardening workshops are offered for both kids and adults to learn how to grow fresh produce and become active participants in a sustainable local food system.

The Mustard Seed Street Church

The Mustard Seed Food Share Network is a collaboration of citizens, companies, food manufacturers, and other agencies that are concerned with reducing food waste and increasing food security in the Victoria region. The church, with the help of donators and volunteers, diverts edible food from landfills to help people in need.

Get involved: Multiple volunteer positions are available to be filled, and the application and postings can be accessed via the website. As well, donations of many items such as clothes, home appliances, pet food, and more are listed on the website, and are accepted from Monday to Friday 8 -4 pm to be dropped off at 625 Queens Ave.

<http://mustardseed.ca/ministries/food-bank/>

Saanich Organics

A community of certified organic farms who co-operate to produce as much fresh local food as possible for the Victoria community. They sell at the Moss Street Market and the James Bay Market, and also run a residential produce box delivery program, and have a commercial division that serves restaurants and grocery stores.

<http://saanichorganics.com/>

Haliburton Farms

An organic educational "rural demonstration farm" that offers practical training to grow organic food, and also boasts an EcoFarm School partnered with Royal Roads University to teach organic farming within a place-based, ecological context.

<https://haliburtonfarm.org/education/>

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Offers guided garden tours, plant sales, college horticultural programs, and community education workshops on various gardening topics.

<http://hcp.ca/>

City Harvest Co-op

A small urban farming operation in Victoria, whose mandate is to produce food for the community, with the community, in the community. All the land they farm is previously underutilized space, such as private backyards, that have been loaned out to them.

Get involved: Volunteers learn how to grow their own food, get active outdoors, and meet like-minded community members. There is no time commitment, so volunteers can show up according to their schedule, and all tools are provided for them. You can also share your backyard for the project. Contact info@cityharvestcoop.com.

<http://www.cityharvestcoop.ca/>

City of Victoria -- Growing in the City

A report done by the City of Victoria on enhancing the local food system and providing guidelines on urban farming in Victoria. The document provides comprehensive information on urban farming and takes a community-based approach to generating ideas on how to increase local growing.

<http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Community/Growing~in~the~City/Growing%20in%20the%20City%20Phase%20Engagement%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

Capital Region Beekeeper's Association

The largest beekeeper's club on Vancouver Island, welcoming both new and experienced beekeepers, and providing information relating to bee sustainability. As well, non-beekeeper community members can host a hive on their property to contribute to bee population well-being, and to learn more about beekeeping.

<http://capitalregionbeekeepers.ca/>

Compost:

Compost Education Centre

A non-profit organization that provides composting and ecological gardening education to the Victoria region. They offer informative documents, school programs, and adult workshops to increase community knowledge of composting, organic gardening, and sustainable living.

<https://www.compost.bc.ca/>

Pedal to Petal Bicycle Powered Compost Collection

This zero-emissions company provides a bicycle-powered compost pick-up service, which transforms kitchen scraps into high-quality compost that is used in local gardening to create organic, locally-grown food in Victoria. (For-Profit).

<http://pedaltopetal.com/>

Community Kitchens and Dinners:

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Provides free student dinners on Tuesday evenings to assist in food affordability for students, and to foster community connections.

<http://emmanuelvictoria.ca/index.php/connect/student-dinners>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelvictoria.ca>

Fernwood NRG

A non-profit run by and for the residents of Fernwood, which offers community services including a student dinner by donation on Wednesday evenings, and a family dinner by donation on Monday evenings.

<http://fernwoodnrg.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fernwoodnrg>

Shelbourne Community Kitchen

A community resource for low-income families who have difficulties in consistently accessing nutritious food. The community kitchen provides small-group cooking, a party, and gardening programs which encourage community building while learning food skills while accessing food affordably.

<http://shelbournecommunitykitchen.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShelbourneCommunityKitchen>

Community Gardens and Markets:

Information on Farmers Markets in Victoria and surrounding areas, including locations, times, seasons, and contact information.

Guide to Farmers Markets

<http://bcfarmsandfood.com/farms/farmers-markets/>

Super, Natural British Columbia

<https://www.hellobc.com/victoria/things-to-do/festivals-events/farmers-markets.aspx>

Victoria Public Market

List of vendors and calendar of upcoming events

<http://victoriapublicmarket.com/>

Community gardens in the Victoria area. To find out more information about a particular garden, or to find out how to volunteer, reach out by email, phone, or visit their website or facebook page.

Victoria and Region Community Green Map

This green map provides a compiled list of Victoria community gardens, including descriptions, size, address, and contact information. The contact information for each garden from the green map are listed below.

<http://crdcommunitygreenmap.ca/location-type/community-garden>

Gorge Park Community Garden

Website: <http://growfood.wixsite.com/gorgegardens>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gorgeparkcommunitygardens/>

Yates Street Community Garden

Website: <http://www.yatescommunitygarden.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yatestgarden/>

Agnes Street Community Gardens

Website: <http://members.shaw.ca/agnesstcg/>

Email: agnesstcg@shaw.ca

Rayn or Shine Community Garden

Email: vicwestgarden@yahoo.ca

James Bay Allotment Garden

Email: jamesbaygarden@gmail.com

Fairfield Community Garden

Blog: <http://fairfieldcommunitygardens.blogspot.ca/>

Email: fairfieldcommunitygardens@gmail.com

Capital City Seeds of Progress Community Garden

Email: harvest@capfamilies.org

Phone: 250-391-4911

Haultain Common

Youtube video: https://youtu.be/25F_KbTz39o

Wark Street Garden

Email: uharvest@blanshardcc.com

Saanich Community Food Bank Garden

Email: saanichfoodbankgarden@gmail.com

Phone: 250-479-0410

Esquimalt Community Garden

Email: esquimaltcommunitygardens@gmail.com

Phone: 250-881-0248

Campus Community Garden (UVic)

Website: <http://web.uvic.ca/~ccgarden/>

Email: ccgarden@uvic.ca

Capital City Allotment Association (CCA) Gardens

Website: <http://ccaagardens.org/>

Email: info@ccaagardens.org

Craigflower Community Garden

Email: rbickel@shaw.ca

Phone: 250-588-6442

Michigan Street Community Garden

Email: cebashi@gmail.com

Fernwood Allotment Garden

Email: office@fernwoodvic.ca

Phone: 250-384-7441

Earth Bound Community Garden

Email: office@fernwoodvic.ca

Phone: 250-384-7441