

Connecting Water, Ecology and Community through Green Rainwater Infrastructure



Field Trip Summary

Restoration of a natural water cycle in urban environments can be challenging, as it must find solutions within a highly altered landscape. From compacted soils devoid of life, to increased hardscapes that funnel urban pollutants, to areas of high population density that need access to nature for mental and physical health. We can't return what once was, but we can be guided by nature to make tangible and sustainable improvements that benefit water, community, and ecology.

Join City of Vancouver's Green Infrastructure Implementation team as we visit 3 sites in the city that showcase how we are using nature-based solutions to enhance livability, increase biodiversity, and improve water quality. This tour will be an opportunity to learn how we are designing and operating Green Rainwater Infrastructure (GRI) at different scales, with an emphasis on equitable service delivery in high urban heat areas of Vancouver. The tour will stop first at Gibby's Field, a newly built naturalized park that creates a respite zone for species while allowing the community to interact with the space from the periphery. Next, we will see small scale bioretention interventions at Woodland and 14th that demonstrate the impacts of place-based interventions. The tour will wrap up at Woodland and 2nd blue-green system a connected space that makes room for water, people, and animals. At all three sites, you'll have an opportunity to employ some of the tools City staff use to inform our design and operations of GRI, including biodiversity counts, visual condition assessments, soil and infiltration testing.

This field trip will depart the Pan Pacific at 1:00 p.m. Snacks and water will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. The bus will return to the hotel no later than 5:00 p.m.