

Friends of Monteith Indigenous Plant Area

Food Forest Benefits Local Allotment Gardens



Volunteer Andrea Gleichauf enjoys the outdoors as she takes care of the weeding

Join the Friends of MIPA (Monteith Indigenous Plant Area), developing a new public greenspace in Oak Bay. A native plant demonstration garden is taking shape along Bowker Creek at Monteith Street. Friends of MIPA work cooperatively with the District of Oak Bay and Bowker Creek Initiative to create and maintain it.

A theme of the garden is the "food forest". Interest in local foods is increasing, and our local natural habitats produce wonderful

edibles. The Monteith Indigenous Plant Area will feature native shrubs and small trees with good fruits for people.

Urban wildlands also benefit urban agriculture. MIPA shares its space with Oak Bay's allotment gardens. Thickets of native plants are home to pollinators and insect-

eaters that support garden productivity. The Indigenous Plant Area will demonstrate the synergy between wild and cultivated urban lands.

MIPA also includes the bank of Bowker Creek. Creating and maintaining the zone of native vegetation on the bank is part of stream rehabilitation. It

helps to implement the Bowker Creek Blueprint – a 100-year watershed management plan developed by Oak Bay and two other municipalities.

This is a volunteer opportunity for those who enjoy working outdoors and want to learn more about native plants and to be of service to the environment and community. Friends of MIPA meets twice per month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1-3 pm) to work at the site, followed by refreshments.

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