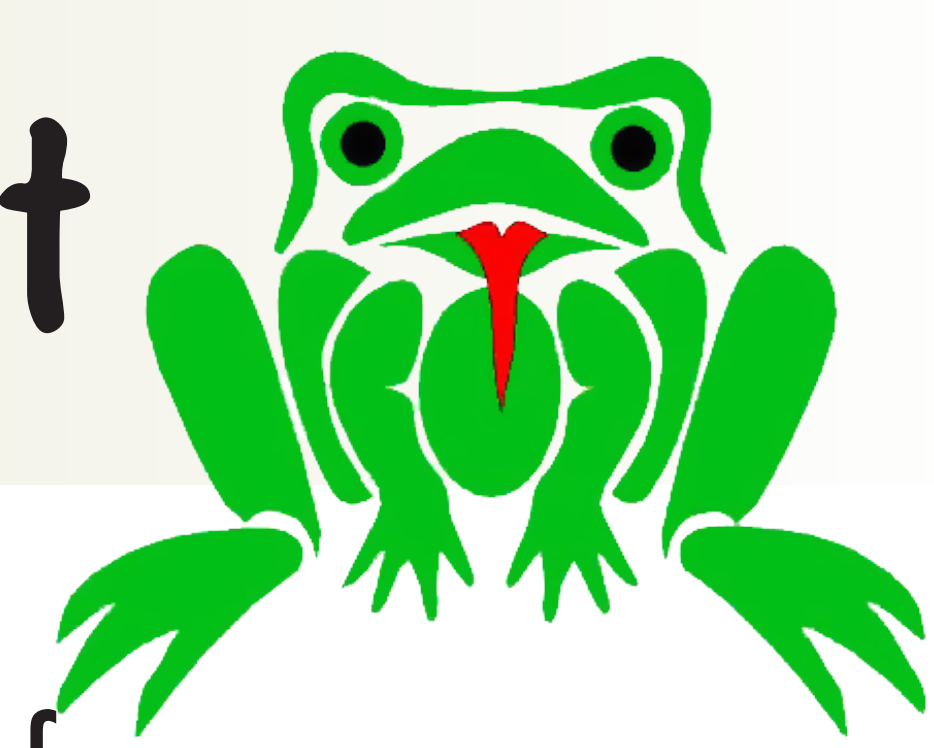


# Haliburton Urban Biodiversity Enhancement and Restoration Project



## WHAT is the Haliburton UBER Project?

The Haliburton UBER Project is a volunteer-based initiative enhancing and restoring ecosystems including wetland, meadow, and forested habitats. These habitats provide a sanctuary for wildlife and an opportunity for people to experience nature. The Haliburton farm offers green space in an urban environment where biodiversity can thrive. In turn, healthy ecosystems like the ones found here contribute nutrients, pollination, and pest control services. They also retain soil, stabilize water flow, and provide many other ecosystem services essential for organic farming.



Ongoing projects include restoring a wetland, creating a native meadow, restoring a riparian area, building and installing bird, bat, and bee houses, monitoring wildlife, mentoring students, and providing educational tours for the community.

## HOW does it work?

## WHO keeps it going?

**Volunteers!** A group of dedicated volunteers have been contributing thousands of hours since 2007, making this project possible.



Biologists James, Purnima, and Kristen continue to lead and empower the volunteers as the UBER project continues to thrive!

Wild species are running out of space as green spaces become rare in urban landscapes. The UBER project enhances and restores degraded habitats which provide sanctuary for a variety of plants and animals. These living creatures and habitats in turn provide ecosystem services such as pollination and pest control essential for the success of organic farming.

Organic farming reduces dependence on fossil fuels and mitigates climate change impacts.

## WHY is this project happening?



## forest habitat

The forest is shady and moist with Douglas-fir, Grand fir and Western Redcedar trees. The important understory includes Dull Oregon-grape and Sword Fern. The forest provides a home for amphibians and other animals that prefer to stay cool and covered.



## dry meadow habitat

This sunny meadow occurs on well-drained soil. Meadows like this one once covered vast areas of the Victoria region. They were tended by First Peoples for thousands of years and described as "prairies" or "plains" by the early Euro-Canadian settlers.



## How does it AFFECT the community?

As the human population becomes increasingly urbanized, we have become estranged from nature. The habitats restored by the UBER project and the biodiversity enhanced within them serve as natural oases in urban areas.

Here, people can experience the enchantment of natural processes, which helps to fight "nature deficit disorder", inspires a love of nature and instills an environmental stewardship ethic.

The project contributes to human health and well-being, and it promotes long-term environmental sustainability.



## wetland habitat

The wetland is a temporary pond that fills up in the winter and dries in the summer. The annual drying cycle excludes invasive fish and American Bullfrog. The wetland provides important habitat for a variety of plants, birds, amphibians, and insects.



## riparian mosaic habitat

The transition zone between the wetland and forest is made up of a series of shallow temporary pools surrounded by scattered trees and shrubs. The goal is to create a foraging area for amphibians including the Red-legged Frog, a species of special concern in B.C.



## wet meadow habitat

This meadow is flooded in winter and dry in summer and links the wetland to the dry meadow. Though they are now very rare, meadows like these once surrounded many of the wetlands in our area and occupied low spots in the open Camas prairie.



## What does the FUTURE hold?

Restoration actions will need to continue in order to maintain biodiversity. While projects like Hali may reach a state of maturity, there will always be more planting to be done, more wildlife observations to be made, improved restoration techniques to be tested, and new habitat enhancements to be added. The volunteers who steward this land today are links in a chain of people who will care for this site long into the future.



This sign is dedicated to the remembrance of our friend and long-time hardworking Hali volunteer Norman Fallow. We will miss you Norm.

