



Back to Our Roots Gardening for Nature Project Stewardship Agreement

I/We _____ of _____
(landholder[s]) (property address or legal description)

agree to be ecological stewards of the portion of our land that is/will be certified according to the Back to Our Roots (BTOR) criteria for Level _____. I/We pledge to do the following (*check all that apply*):

- Manage **all priority invasive plants** on the property according to the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) guidelines and recommendations (see <http://crispinvasives.ca/priority-species/priority-invaders/>). Use chemical control **only if** no other methods (prevention, mechanical control, biological control) are effective in managing a particular invasive species at the site.
- At least** ____% of the potential planting area of the property will be naturescaped +/- or has maintained natural habitat with **at least** ____ species of appropriate regionally native plants (see attached list).
- Choose **at least** ____ items from the **Wildlife Stewardship** list (at a minimum, **must include food, water and shelter**):
 - Natural food/nutrient sources** - e.g. seeds, berries, fruit, nuts, nectar, pollen, foliage, twigs, sap, deadwood, bare soil for butterflies and bees.
 - Supplemental feeders** – e.g. suet, seeds, hummingbird feeder.
 - Wildlife water feature** - e.g. natural source, water garden or pond (note: American Bullfrog management may be required), maintained bird or bug bath.
 - Cover/nesting areas** – e.g. trees and shrubs; dead snag or nurse log; rock wall or pile; brush pile; leaf litter; bat, bee or bird houses (appropriate designs for native species).
 - Keep **cats indoors** at all times, or on a **leash**, or in an **enclosure** when outdoors.
 - Reduce outdoor lighting** during bird migration (Mar – May, Sept – Nov).
 - Reduce bird window collisions** by placing stickers on glass, or similar measures.
- Choose **at least** ____ **water use reduction** measures:
 - Reduce impervious surfaces** and/or **grass** (e.g. use stepping stones, gravel, bark mulch, or porous paver grids to replace concrete or asphalt driveways and sidewalks; let moss take over the lawn, or replace with other native plants) – 5 m²/50 ft² or more.
 - Let the **lawn** go **dormant** in the summer and **hand water** or use **drip/leaky pipe irrigation** on a timer for other plants. Water plants only in the morning or evening.
 - Use **organic mulch** (such as leaves) to retain soil moisture and restore the soil.
 - Use **rain barrels or cisterns** where appropriate and if permitted.
 - Create **rain gardens** where appropriate.
- Eliminate** the use of **synthetic fertilizers** (at least for native plants). Use organic fertilizers such as compost and leaf mulch instead.

6. Choose **at least 1** item from the **Continuing Education** list:

Read naturescaping related information.

Participate in naturescaping **courses and workshops**.

Attend tours of naturescaped properties.

Visit Garry Oak habitat sites (see: http://www.goert.ca/support/places_to_visit.php).

Attend nature talks/courses/field trips (e.g. Victoria Natural History Society, CRD Parks, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Native Plant Study Group, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Compost Education Centre).

7. For Gold level certification, choose **at least 1** initiative from the **Volunteerism** list :

Volunteer at habitat **stewardship** work parties in a local park.

Recruit at least 1 neighbour to sign-up for the BTOR program.

Allow **your site** to be showcased in a **yard tour**.

Volunteer for the **BTOR** program.

8. Install the **BTOR yard sign** (optional).

The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Society (GOERTS) agrees to assist the landholder(s) by providing information about naturescaping, plant and animal identification, organic land practices, and ecological stewardship issues.

This agreement is effective for a period of **three** years from the signing date. Prior to the expiry date a BTOR representative will contact the landowners of medium, large and rural lots to schedule a property visit to review the project, provide guidance, discuss any concerns and outline requirements to renew the agreement. Small lot owners can renew certification by completing a checklist form. Either party may terminate the agreement prior to the expiry date with written notice that states the reasons for the termination.

_____	_____
_____	_____
Landholder(s) signature(s)/Date	Back To Our Roots Project representative(s) signature(s)/Date
_____	_____
Landholder(s) printed name(s)	Chris Junck BTOR representative(s) printed name(s)
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