



HOW TO:
Plant a canoe in
your neighbourhood



*The
Butterflyway
Project*



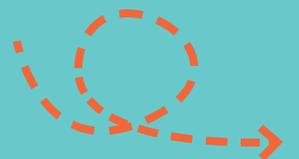


David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

Here is a
conversation-starting
way to welcome local
bees and butterflies:

**Plant a Butterflyway
canoe garden!**



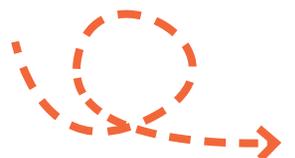
National Program Partners.



Torontonian Aidan Dahlin Nolan dreamt up the idea of **filling canoes with butterfly-friendly plants** when he volunteered with the David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Project. In the past four years, Ranger Aidan helped land more than 30 canoe planters across the city, mostly in schoolyards and parks.

"Retired" canoes filled with soil, native wildflowers and shrubs add colour and **feed local bees and butterflies**. They're also a playful nod to long-buried lost streams and rivers that run through neighbourhoods.

In spring 2017, the David Suzuki Foundation launched the Butterflyway Project. It's establishing citizen-led pollinator patches, starting in Toronto, Markham, Victoria, Richmond and Montreal.





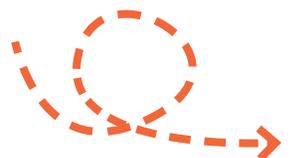
STEP ONE

Find a location.

Most wildflowers are adapted for *full sun*. If necessary, you can select shade-tolerant plants.

Choose spots with *easy access to water*: Your canoe planter will need regular watering in the first season and extended dry periods.

Canoe planters are conversation pieces — high-profile locations ensure your project gets noticed.



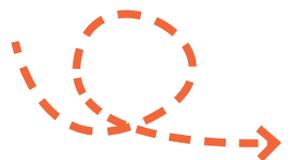


STEP TWO

Get permission and hatch your plan.

Once you've identified possible sites, **secure permission**. Find out who manages your chosen space. They'll want to know who'll be responsible for sourcing the plants, soil and canoe.

Make a **clear plan for maintaining and stewarding the canoe** through the first year and beyond. At schools, secure care during summer months when students and staff are on holidays. In parks, municipal staff may agree to basic watering and maintenance, but are often keen to involve community members.





STEP THREE

Find plants native to your area.

The *wildflowers and shrubs* listed are well-suited to planter conditions in the Greater Toronto Area. If you live outside the GTA, contact local horticulture, gardening and conservation groups.



Hardy, beautiful and perennial, these plants host larvae and provide adult bees and butterflies with pollen and nectar. Choose a variety so your canoe garden blooms and bears foliage and colour in spring, summer and fall.

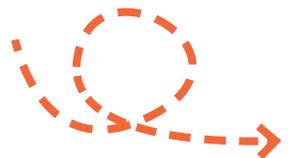
CANOE GARDEN PLANT LIST

Herbaceous

- Bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Bee balm (a.k.a. bergamot) *Monarda didyma*
- Blue vervain *Verbena hastata*
- Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Bottlebrush grass *Elymus hystrix*
- Butterfly milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Canada anemone *Anemone canadensis*
- Common milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*
- Cylindrical blazing star *Liatris cylindracea*
- Dense blazing star *Liatris spicata*
- Evening primrose *Oenothera biennis*
- Foxglove beardtongue *Penstemon digitalis*
- Gray goldenrod *Solidago nemoralis*
- Hairy beardtongue *Penstemon hirsutus*
- Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*
- Heath aster *Symphyotrichum ericoides*
- Hoary vervain *Verbena stricta*
- Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Wild bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
- New England aster *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
- Pale purple coneflower *Echinacea pallida*
- Pearly everlasting *Anaphalis margaritacea*
- Prairie smoke *Geum triflorum*
- Pussytoes *Antennaria neglecta*
- Sky blue aster *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*
- Swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*
- Tufted hair grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*
- Virginia mountain mint *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Wild columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*
- Wild savory *Calamintha arkansana*
- Wild strawberry *Fragaria virginiana*

Shrubs

- Grey dogwood *Cornus racemosa*
- Red dogwood *Cornus sericea*
- Serviceberry *Amelanchier canadensis*
- Chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa*



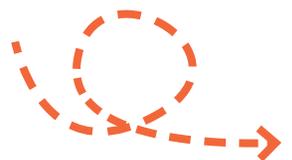


#Butterflyway

STEP FOUR

Find a canoe.

The ideal canoe has an *intact hull and no jagged surfaces*. Reach out to family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Search online classifieds, like Kijiji and Craigslist. Ask companies and agencies that use canoes if they'd donate an old one rather than send it to the landfill. **(Let them know you plan to creatively repurpose it!)** Make basic repairs to ensure your canoe is planter-worthy. A bright coat of (non-toxic) paint is highly recommended.



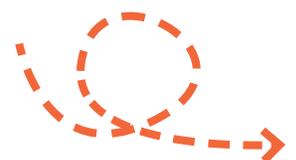




STEP FIVE

Plant a canoe!

Depending on the slope of the site, either dig the canoe into the ground or add soil around the base to ensure it's level. You'll need enough gardening soil to fill the canoe to just below the gunwales. That's about **40 bags of soil**, depending on the canoe's length and shape. Drill at least a dozen one-centimetre drainage holes in the canoe bottom. Pour in a layer of gravel or crushed stone before adding soil.





STEP SIX

Celebrate!

Planting your canoe garden is as an opportunity to celebrate. ***Make it a community event!*** Ask others to join the fun. Invite local media. Serve snacks and drinks. Organize fun outdoor activities.

Use ***#Butterflyway*** to share your project on social media.

Send photos and stories to:
contact@davidsuzuki.org

For more information:
davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway
facebook.com/butterflywayproject



Supporting The Butterflyway is Nature's Way.

Nature's Way of Canada is proud to support the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project. What's a Butterflyway? It's a highway of habitat for butterflies, bees and beneficial bugs. Together with citizens all across Canada, we'll be bringing nature home to our neighbourhoods, one butterfly-friendly planting at a time. Nature's Way has a long history of supporting environmental initiatives and we're very excited to partner with the David Suzuki Foundation on this incredible project.



Learn more at www.natureswaycanada.ca