

# Urban Ecosystems Matter

Urban ecosystems include parks, waterways, and riparian corridors as well as street trees and household gardens. These provide valuable ecological services, such as erosion control, air purification, and water filtration while removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere.

## Climate Concerns

- Trees mainly store carbon in their trunks, branches, and leaves, while natural or sparsely grazed grasslands store most of their carbon underground in roots and soils. The loss or degradation of ecosystems hinders their carbon storage capacity.

## What the City Is Doing

- Supporting tree planting (e.g. through tree coupon and boulevard tree planting programs).
- Undertaking restoration projects, such as the Dufferin Park Wetlands.
- Trialling new green infrastructure techniques that promote long-term soil and plant health.

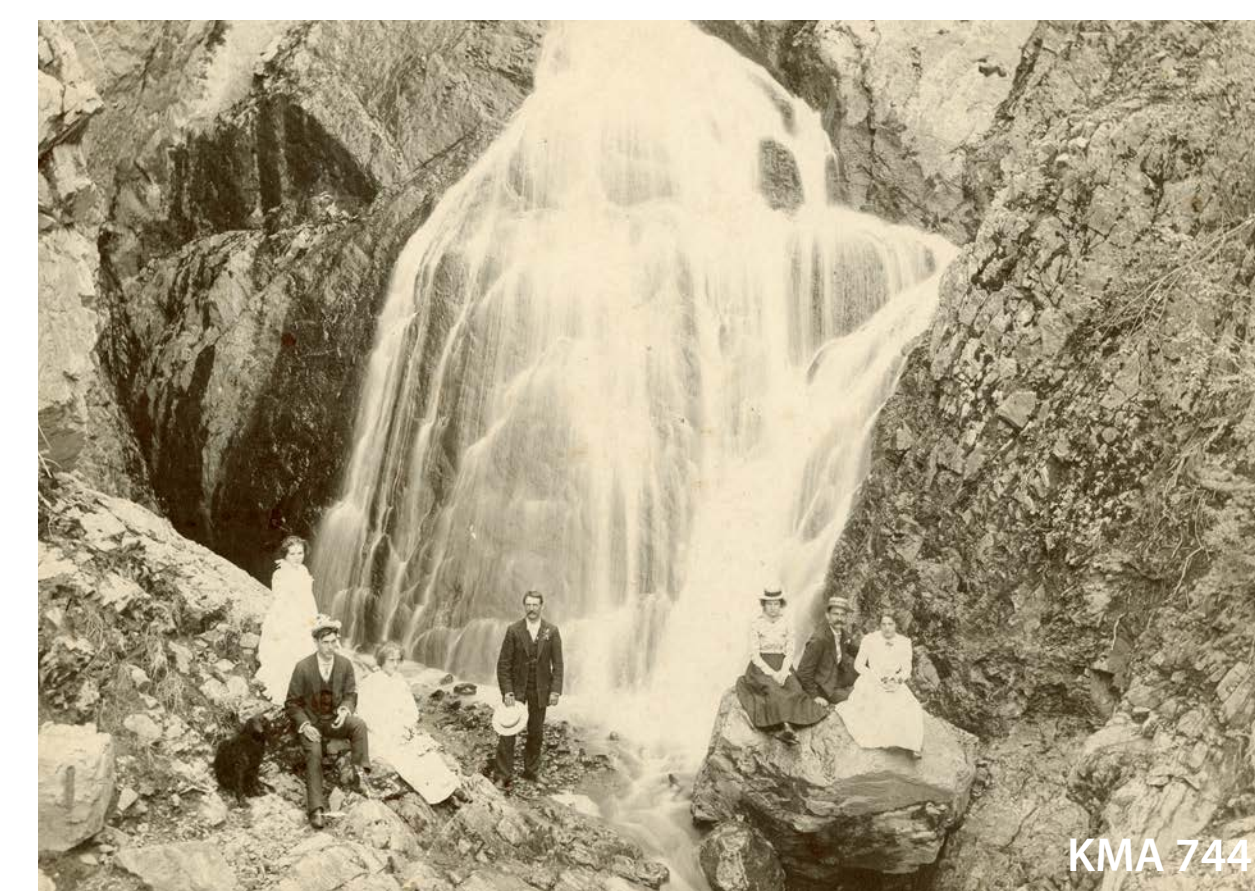
## Reasons for Hope

- Kamloops' urban forest removes an estimated 43,460 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually and stores over 1,000,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Green infrastructure that uses or mimics natural processes also helps buffer the impacts of rising temperatures and extreme weather events.

For example:

- Trees, green roofs, and vegetation shade building and road surfaces, deflecting heat and releasing moisture into the atmosphere.
- Healthy soils, bioswales, and rain gardens help to temporarily absorb rainfall and prevent damage from flooding and erosion.

## SNAPSHOTS OF THE PAST



Urban ecosystems offer wildlife habitat, solace, and recreation opportunities. Photos (L-R): KMA 2060: Peterson Creek in flood in 1901 - it once flowed freely to meet the river, however the lower reaches have now been highly modified. KMA 744: A picnic outing to the iconic Bridal Veil Falls in Peterson Creek, ca. 1898-1901.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### Explore Ecosystems

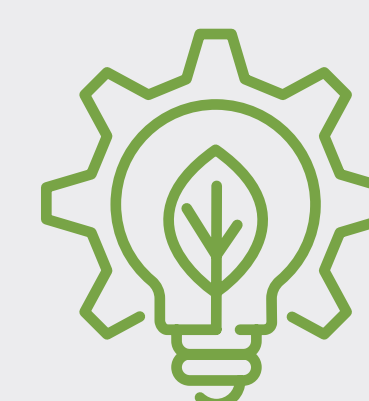
- Check out the City's nature parks, including Kenna Cartwright Nature Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the province!
- Join or follow a local environmental organization. Participate in a community tree planting, clean-up event, or other habitat restoration activity.
- Try a new activity on the land or the water, such as paddle boarding, mountain biking, canoeing, hiking, or bird watching.

### Cultivate Climate-Friendly Landscapes

- Plant trees, especially on the south side of your home/building (or encourage your landlord or strata council to). When deciduous trees lose their leaves, more natural light and solar heat can enter your home. When their canopy returns, they provide natural shading and cooling.
- Support pollinators with a variety of native flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen at different times of year. Leave out shallow basins of water with rocks for insects to perch on.
- Reduce lawn areas by planting drought-tolerant native plants to create an attractive xeriscape.

### Consider Green Infrastructure

- Install a rain barrel or capture rainfall through bioswales or rain gardens.
- Learn more about blue or green roof options.
- Help soak up water by converting paved areas to permeable surfaces or an oasis of native plants or trees.



## MAKING THE CONNECTION

What benefits do mature trees or healthy native grasslands provide for you and your community?



**CLIMATE CONNECTIONS TRAIL**

