

2024

Moving Forward

W̱MÍYEFEN

Nature Sanctuary Society

**Creating a Solid
Foundation**



*WMÍYEFEN
Nature Sanctuary
Society*

*(formerly the
Greater Victoria
Greenbelt Society)*



Acknowledgement: W̱SÁNEĆ Coast Salish territory



W̱MÍYEFEN (Land of the Deer)

We are grateful to work to protect these lands in allyship with W̱SÁNEĆ Knowledge Keepers whose nations include: Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Esquimalt and Whyomilth (Songhees) peoples



wh-my-eh-then: Place of the Deer



Conservation - Education - Culture - Kinship
"Nature as Ally and Teacher"



A Place for Kinship

With Nature

Listening to Nature	Caring for the Land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates Respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepens Wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting Native Buffer Zones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspires Creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reciprocity in Action

Between People

Respectful Listening	Common Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivates Compassion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurtures Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens Vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting Nature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind Regard



Help us reach our goal of 500 members!



Join Us with a Yearly Membership

To Support: Conservation and Kinship with Nature Programs



**YEARLY
MEMBERSHIPS**
[Click Here to Join](#)

Fees help cover the monthly overhead costs of the Nature Sanctuary site.

Makes a difference @
the W_MÍYEFEN Nature Sanctuary

Member and Volunteer Nature Kinship Experiences for 2025

Kinship with Nature	Caring for the land	Kinship with Nature	Caring for the land
Spring		Fall	
 <p>Lakeside Mother Earth Garden Party:</p> <p>Plant seeds of new growth physically and metaphorically in the lakeside flower beds. Followed by tea or refreshing juice spritzers and treats.</p>	 <p>Invasive Scottish Broom Removal</p> <p>3 hrs of your help cutting and carrying broom will help remove this invasive which outcompetes the native plants. Snacks provided.</p>	 <p>Walking by the Light of the Moon: Discover more about Bats, Owls and Nocturnal Creatures on a full moon night</p>	 <p>Ecological Restoration: Native Shrub and Tree Planting</p>
Summer		Winter	
 <p>Midsummer Celebration of Nature: Singing to the Trees</p> <p>Join us in the meadows and trails to show our appreciation for the Standing Ones. A really beautiful celebration idea identified with Summer Solstice is to wear garlands or crowns of flowers in your hair thought to enhance your connection to nature and to symbolize the earth's cycle via the circle shape. Option to come early to learn how to make Ox-eye daisy crowns.</p>	 <p>Restoring Beaver Wetlands</p> <p>Get out your waders and help us remove old fences and other debris from the wetlands adjacent to Millstream creek. Canoes will also be available if needed. Help remove shoreline invasive species in preparation for planting native species.</p>	 <p>Hygge: Getting Cozy in the Forest</p> <p>Bundle up and experience a silent evening lantern walk in the forest followed by cozy fireside storytelling. Enjoy warm drinks and comforting snacks</p>	 <p>Food for the Feathered Ones</p> <p>Help us decorate an outdoor tree with handmade popcorn, apples, tangerines, and sunflower-seed balls as a gift for the birds</p>
 <p>Annual New Years Day in Nature</p> <p>Begin your new year surrounded by nature and like-minded people. Experience a gentle trail walk along babbling streams and let the sound of running water refresh your spirit. Warm up at the bonfire – sipping mulled cider – participate in a nature quiz.</p>		<p>New Years Day</p> <p>Annual New Years Day in Nature</p> <p>Begin your new year surrounded by nature and like-minded people. Experience a gentle trail walk along babbling streams and let the sound of running water refresh your spirit. Warm up at the bonfire – sipping mulled cider – participate in a nature quiz.</p> <p>Jan 1st - Start your New Year in Nature</p>	



wh-my-eh-then: Place of the Deer




Conservation - Education - Culture - Kinship
"Nature as Ally and Teacher"



Background for Rezoning Application

- **Considerations:**

- Conservation Legacy
- Respecting Funding Conditions
- Future Uses - Capacities
- Traffic Impacts – Study
- Parking Provisions
- Noise
- Septic - Evaluation
- Water Quality
- Public Codes for Safety

For those of you who missed this presentation in the spring you can watch it here. 

CLICK
to link to [Presentation](#)

Caring for the Land



Early Learning and Care:

- cohort of 25 students, and 4 instructors
- created opportunities for students to contribute to ongoing Land restoration practices

Mindful Nature Walks for Youth:

with forest bathing (therapy) exercises

The NEED: our students need more direction in mindfulness, stress management and building resilience

3 groups of twenty international students plus 3 instructors

“Many students enjoyed the guided nature walk at Wmíyeteñ and cited it as a highlight of their year.”





Victoria Natural History Society Birding:



A large group of inquisitive birders
enjoyed a June outing at the
sanctuary.



Caring for the Land Wetland Restoration
with Tree and Shrub Planting



Give Back to Nature when you Volunteer

If you like what we are doing and would like to help us out, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for people to occasionally help with:

- Removing Invasive Plants
- Site & Trail Restoration
- Construction / Renovations
- Fundraising
- Social Media
- Event Greeter/ Set Up
- Nature Walk Guide



[Click to Sign up Here](#)

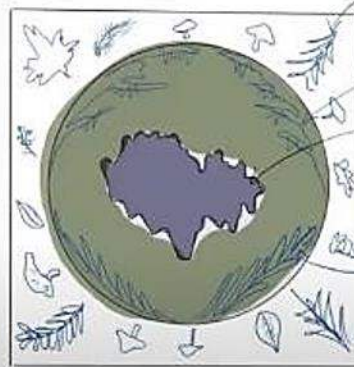


UVic Community Mapping Collaboratory
Department of Geography
University of Victoria

Base Map



BASE MAP



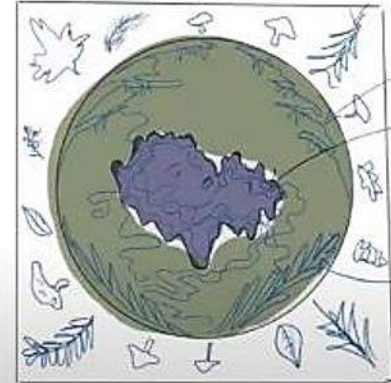
paintal

tree branches

blue felt

ferns

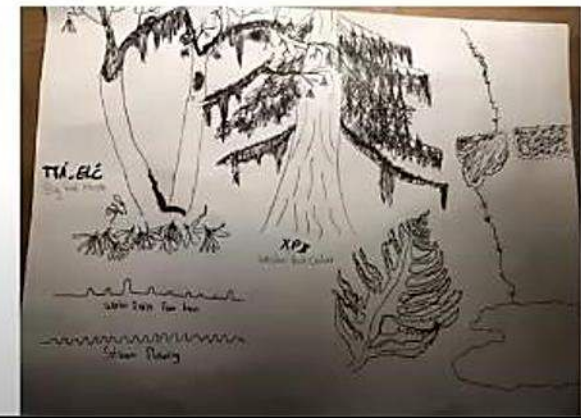
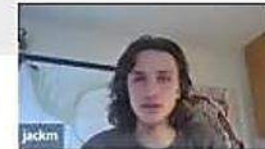
Layer example: Water



Mapping Sense of Place: Connections to the Land

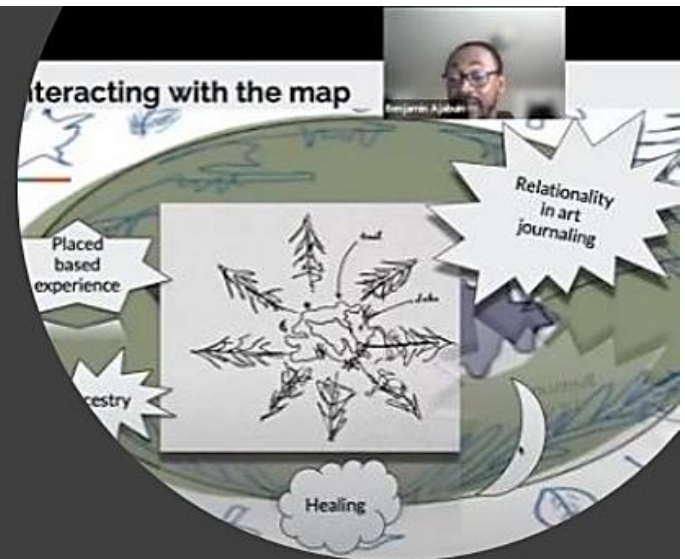
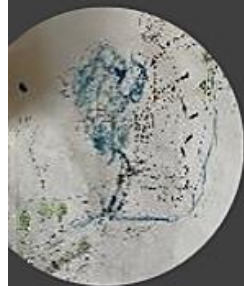
- Creating Canvas Map - Circular
- Overlays with Fungi, Trees, Water, Sounds
- Connected Journal - hosting inspirations

Outside characters



Geog 380: Community Mapping 2024

- **Interacting with Place:** inspirations, healing, ancestral remembrance
- **Collective Journal:** points on map relate to entries



Collective journal

- Stickers on map connected to journal entries



WSÁNEĆ Cultural Use: Nurturing Community

- Youth preparation for cultural practices
- Elders sharing skills of Weaving and Knitting



Oct. 19 10 am & 2pm



Victoria Festival
of Authors

—
2024

Oct. 20 10 am & 2pm

📍 WMIYEFEN Nature Sanctuary (f. Mary Lake)
No latecomers



Oct. 19th/20th, 2024
@ 10:00 a.m.

Forest Poet/Tree Walk

with:
Brandi Bird
Tim Lilburn
Cynthia Woodman Kerkham,
and shō yamagushiku

Moderator:
Yvonne Blomer
and Beth Kope



📍 WMIYEFEN Nature Sanctuary (f. Mary Lake)
No latecomers



Oct. 19th/20th, 2024
@ 1:00 p.m.

Re-Story Forest Walk

with:
Sarah Cox
Dr. Jennifer Grenz
and Melanie Siebert

Moderator:
Amy Reiswig

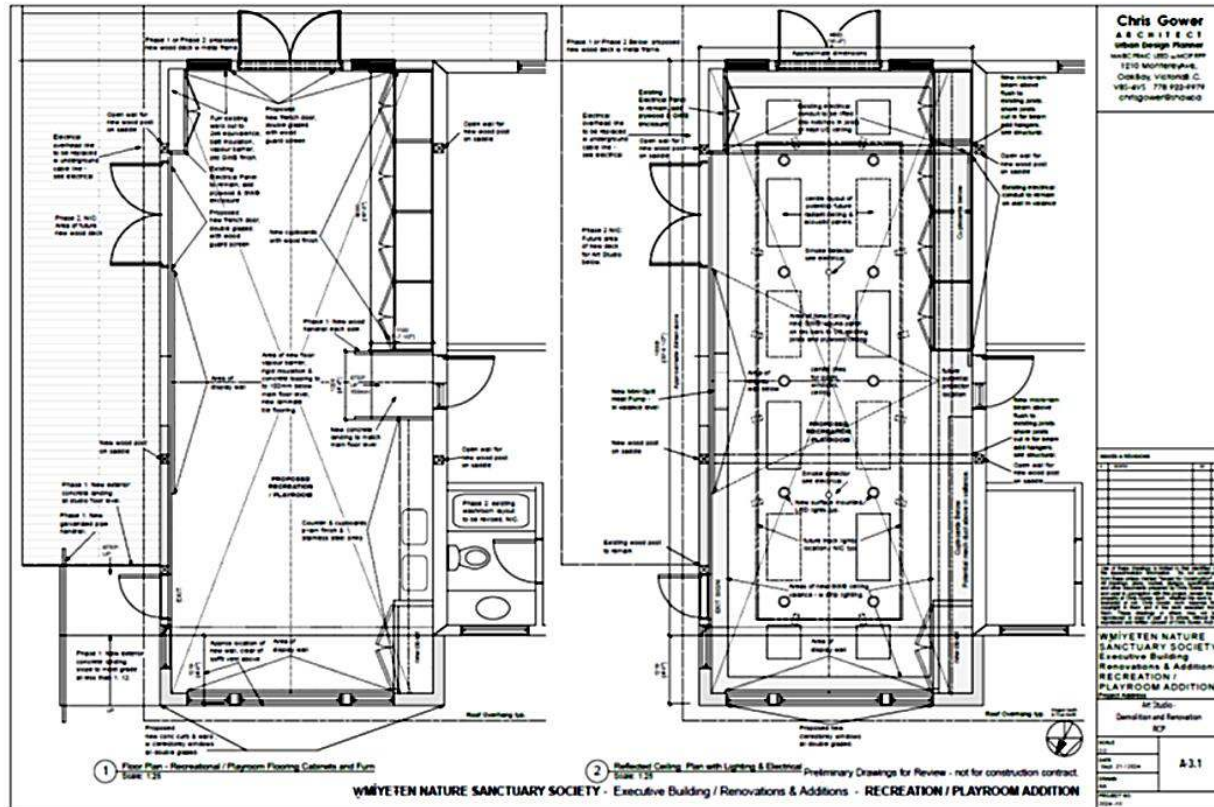


Art Studio Design Consultants



- Architect
- Structural Engineer
- Electrical Consulting Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Project/ Construction Management

Art Studio – Construction Plans



Only \$25,000 needed to match a \$75,000 Grant before construction begins.

2024

Visiting
Organizations



BRIDGES
FOR WOMEN SOCIETY

Peninsula Streams



Human-Nature
Counselling Society

Tending the Writer's Flame

Centre for
EARTH and Spirit



2024

Visiting
Organizations

Victoria Insight Meditation Society



**ABORIGINAL
COALITION
to end
HOMELESSNESS**



Vancouver Island
Quakers

Charitable Status: Temporary Setback

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Donors and Supporters

We wish to notify the community about a temporary change to the WNIYETEN Nature Sanctuary Society (WNSS) charitable status. As of Feb 29, 2024, the WNSS does not have Canada Revenue Agency charitable status due to a late filing caused by changes in personnel.

We have rectified the late filing and are currently applying to have our charitable status reinstated however, it will take six months for the CRA to reinstate our status, according to our latest conversations with their representatives.

In the Meantime: Receiving donations and tax receipting delays

The CRA has confirmed that we are able to receive donations but cannot issue tax receipts for them until our status has been reinstated.

Upon reinstatement, we will be able to back -issue receipts for any donations made to us.

“Once an organization is reregistered as a charity, it can issue donation receipts for the gifts it received while it was revoked (back issued receipts). This is because an organization that is re-registered as a charity is considered registered as of the date it was revoked”

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and hope you will consider continuing your support of the work we do at the sanctuary as we remediate the situation

[Click Here
to Donate](#)

Being a Sponsor has Good Karma benefits

As a registered nonprofit we can also accept financial or in-kind sponsorships from businesses aligned with our values.

Sponsorships can be attractive for several reasons:

1. **Tax Benefits for Businesses:** Sponsorship expenses can often be deducted as business expenses, providing tax relief.
2. **Control Over Use of Funds:** Sponsors can set specific terms for how their contributions are used, ensuring their brand is promoted effectively.
3. **No Need for Charitable Receipts:** Charities do not need to issue tax receipts for sponsorships, simplifying their administrative processes.

In exchange we would support your business/company with recognition on our website and promotional materials and be featured in our social media channels.

Contact us for details: admin@wmiyetennaturesanctuary.com

WMÍYETEN Nature Sanctuary Society Mission

“To foster respect for nature and promote the protection of natural areas for the benefit of all future generations through environmental conservation, restoration, education, and cultural activities in alliance with local First Nations.”



Thank you for
your support!

Special Thanks to all

WSÁNEC Knowledge keepers and community members: The WSÁNEĆ First Nations: WJOŁŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), SXÁUTW (Tsawout), and BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin).

Researchers, Schools, Teachers, Organizers, Board members, Funding Foundations, Community Organizations, Partners, Project Managers, Professional Consultants and Donors who support a vision of harmony with nature and all that it requires.