

Additional Information:

<http://springridgecommons.ca>

Spring Ridge Commons is on Facebook:

SPRING RIDGE COMMONS

- Become a Friend and post your Spring Ridge Commons photos, comments or stories

SPRING RIDGE COMMONS EVENTS + HAPPENINGS

- Join this group to keep informed on upcoming events, workshops and happening at Spring Ridge Commons.

Contact Info:

springridgecommons@gmail.com

Location of Spring Ridge Commons:



* Source: The New York Times

- Corner of Chambers Street and Gladstone Avenue.
- Just down the road on Gladstone Avenue from the Fernwood Community Centre.
- Across from Victoria High School on Gladstone Avenue.
- Down the road on Chambers Street from the Compost Education Centre.

SPRING RIDGE COMMONS



*Community Urban
Food Forest*

*Permaculture
Demonstration
Garden*

About Spring Ridge Commons:

Spring Ridge Commons is Canada's oldest public food forest and Victoria's largest public permaculture garden or community multi-layer food forest, located on a 1/2 acre city lot in Fernwood at the corner of Chambers and Gladstone. This premier site for small scale urban permaculture has been visited by over 20,000 people over the last 15 years of being a living laboratory for food, medicine and functional plants. Spring Ridge Commons serves as a source of free food, a learning environment, a community space and most importantly a place of beauty, nature and solitude.



Spring Ridge Commons is an example of what is possible when you transform an under-utilized, marginal spaces (a barren gravel lot) into a productive space both in terms of yields such as food and medicines and in terms of social yields such as experiences of beauty, nature and solitude, recreation, learning, a sense of belong through contribution to a common space and experimenting with new relationships to land and people.

Designed as a freely assessible community open space/ permaculture demonstration site, Spring Ridge Common contains over 100 species of plants, many of which have food and/or medicinal value.

At various points during the season, the garden produces strong yields of goumi, pie cherries, seabuckthorn, damson plums, medlars, and especially desert king figs. There are secondary yields of several more fruit species, as a well as a number of herbs. A home for many native birds (including hummingbirds) plus bees and other insects, the Common is intended to be a place where community members can meet, engage and grow on land held in common.



People are encouraged to enjoy the garden – pick berries, herbs, etc. or sit in a sunny spot watching the birds and the bees. Please consider others when you harvest. Take care to avoid damaging plants and only take what you know you will use.

Spring Ridge Commons is this relatively small space and my original intention was just to demonstrate possibilities ... affect other people's thinking, make an impression, show what's possible
– Geoff Johnson, Originator

Organizational Structure:

Spring Ridge Commons functions as a commons, or land held in common although the land on which Spring Ridge Commons exists is owned by Victoria School District 61. The School District has leased the land for a dollar a year to three leaseholders since Spring Ridge Commons was created in 1999. The Fernwood Community Association (FCA) – 1999 to May 2007 The LifeCycles Project Society (LifeCycles) May 2007- Fall 2010 and currently the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group (NRG) since Fall 2010.

What Permaculture Is:

“If we think of practices like organic gardening, recycling, natural building, renewable energy and even consensus decision-making and social-justice efforts as tools for sustainability, then permaculture is the toolbox that helps us organize and decide when and how to use those tools. Permaculture is not a discipline in itself but rather a design approach based on connecting different disciplines, strategies and techniques. It, like nature, uses and melds the best features of whatever is available to it.”

- Toby Hemenway in *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home Scale Permaculture*

What permaculturalists are doing is the most important activity that any group is doing on the planet

– David Suzuki