



HIVES FOR HUMANITY

2022 NATIVE BERRY PATCH

**at Il Centro Community Centre and
Beaconsfield Park**

[IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A team of colourfully water proof clad Hives for Humanity members gather to celebrate the planting of the Native Berry Patch.

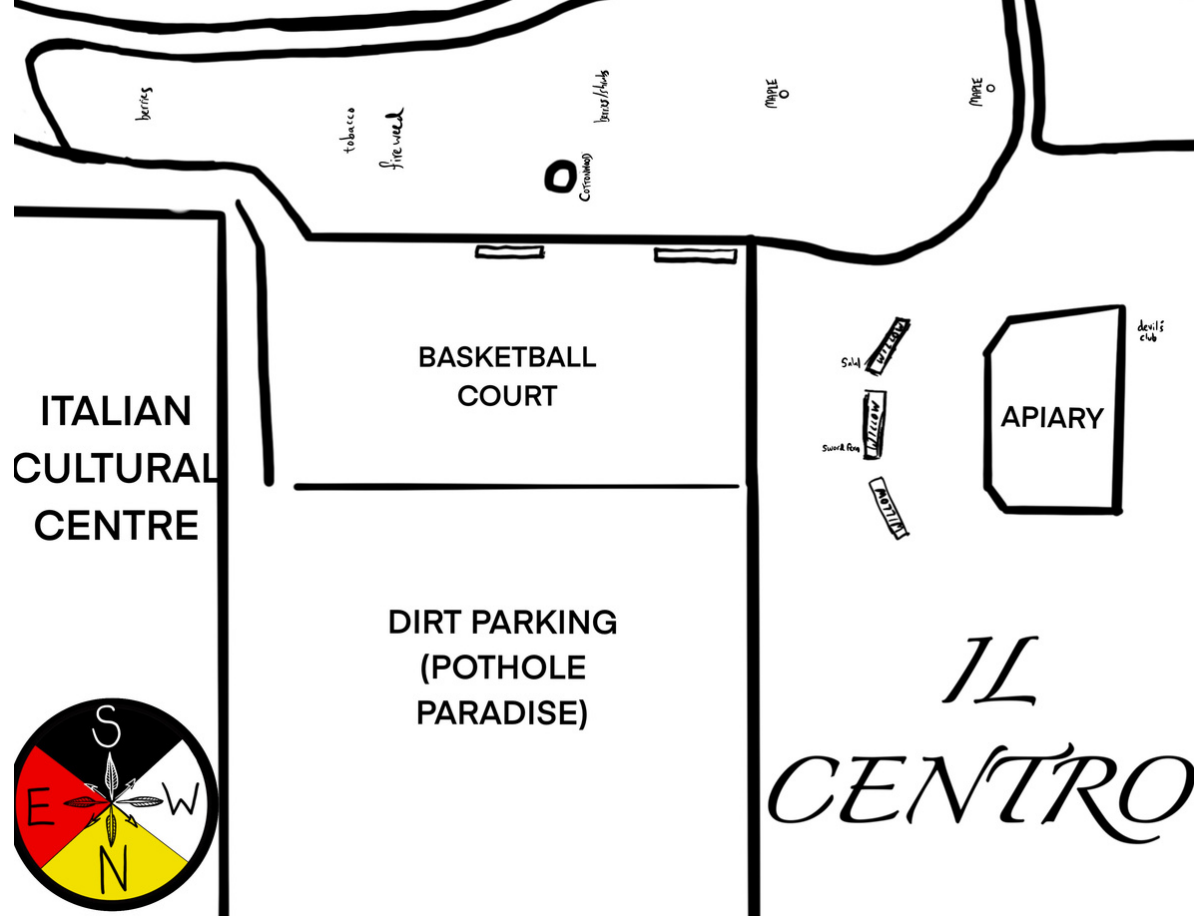


HIVES FOR HUMANITY SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT DEEPENS COMMUNITY THROUGH THE INCLUSIVE CULTURE THAT WE GROW AROUND THE HONEY BEE HIVE: IN OUR GARDENS OF CARE.

WE CREATE TRANSFORMATIONAL MOMENTS.

Thank you for connecting to support our work

We are working with people, plants and pollinators on the traditional, ancestral and unceded Coast Salish Territories – Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsilil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. Learning from urban Indigenous and frontline communities that are actively working to slow down colonial systems, informing our practice of community care.



[IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Black and white line drawing map of the Il Centro Garden layout at Beaconsfield park. On the bottom left there is a medicine wheel compass from South, West, North and East. In the centre of the map is a basketball court: the berry patch is mapped above and below is the parking lot. To the right of the map is the apiary and to the very left is the Italian Cultural Centre.

POLLINATOR PATHWAYS

TENDING TOGETHER

REPLENISHING WITH THE LAND

Restoring the Berry Patch to native species at Beaconsfield Park, this public garden structures practices of tending, harvesting and gifting to replenish our collaborative relations by sharing our skills, stories, and communities through our shared care for the land.

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY, GARDENS AS CULTURE *HISTORY OF LAND, PLANTING FOR SUCCESSION*



[IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Himalayan Blackberries invading Beaconsfield Park on the furthest end North of the Willow trees behind the field, as depicted in the top left of this image.

Lining the path along the basketball court at the Italian Cultural Centre on Slocan Street in so-called Vancouver, were massive brambles of Himalayan Blackberries. Also known by its latin name *Rubus Armeniacus*, these blackberries are an introduced species from the land historically known as Persia. Though its fruit are very delicious, these bushes made up of thorned vines are remarkably invasive here.

NATIVE BERRY PATCH

TENDING, HARVESTING, GIFTING

TENDING

With support from Vancouver Parks, we removed invasive plants like Himalayan Blackberries along with Tansy, and Bishop Weed from the North end of Beaconsfield Park. Throughout the 2022 fall season, dozens of community members acted as stewards supporting the planting and naturalization of this area with 100-120 native plants. Tending to this new Native Berry Patch - sharing food, medicine and mapping together - we began our shared story growing laterally with each other, with the plants and with the land.

HARVESTING

This past year we shared learnings of harvest of fireweed and with Leona Brown, Gitksan Plant Teacher, and collective knowledge from elders and gardeners in the Hives for Humanity Community. We practiced many ways to engage with fireweed: fibre-making, rope weaving, and even chewing it's sweet stalk.

At our Spring "Willow Honouring & Harvest" event, we brought willow whips harvested from Trout Lake Park as fencing to protect young plants at Il Centro. Harvesting for fibres, food and medicines, we process together, cultivating shared relationship with the land and plant knowledge, experientially.

GIFTING

We gathered slow gifts, seeds and teas, to share from the land. In reciprocal relationship, dozens of natives trees, shrubs, vines and soil amendments were gifted to the Berry Patch supporting urban Indigenous land-based connection alongside intersecting non-Indigenous communities.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING COMMUNITY TENDING & COLLABORATION THE NATIVE BERRY PATCH



Starting as a shared vision with Gitxsan Plant teacher Leona Brown and Hives for Humanity team members, the Native Berry Patch is grounded in principles of sharing and reciprocity over ownership and property and grown on a foundation that cultivates community tending as it is upheld by community responsibility.

In September 2022, As we Grounded together with these plants on the land, we experienced our part in 'companion planting' - Combating inter-species and community loneliness so prevalent in fragmented urban ecologies.

This first planting is a move toward growing beyond borders separating two community gardens at the intersection of



URBAN WILD-TENDING







*CULTIVATING COMMUNITY CARE & RESPONSIBILITY
(IMAGE DESCRIPTION: ICC BLACKBERRY SHOOTS)*

Beaconsfield Park and Il Centro Community Centre. Planting a pathway to join the gardens deconstructs our learned practices to 'take care of our own'; a value systemically imposed on us through social silos and property lines.

Companion planting in the new berry patch, offers place to witness and recognize each other in joy and grief. through shared time we move toward replenishing of land, food and self.

2022 IL CENTRO GARDEN EVENTS

TENDING , HARVESTING & GIFTING AT IL CENTRO

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
						

Welcoming and honouring willow

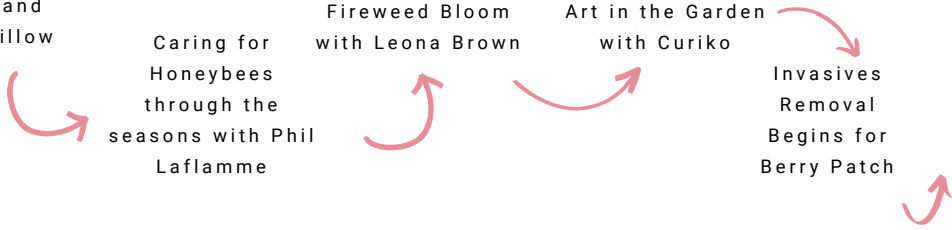
Caring for Honeybees through the seasons with Phil Laflamme

Fireweed Bloom with Leona Brown

Art in the Garden with Curiko

Invasives Removal Begins for Berry Patch

Berry Patch Planting ~120 Native Plants with Take A Hike Foudnation!



INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



ELDERS

Elders hold space in the garden, noticing dynamics and showing up with care for all the gardeners.



TEACHERS

Indigenous plant teachers such as Leona Brown guide us to be *with* the land as tenders, harvesters and gifters in inter-species relationship where we learn to grow.



MENTORS

Throughout many seasons, our ecosystems have been supported by the tendership of our mentors, including our beekeeper, Phil Laflamme, who will be retiring after 40 years, 6 of those years offered to and with us at Hives.



YOUTH

With young folks from Curiko and youth from Take a Hike Foundation, elders in the garden have voiced gratitude for their presence, stories and perspectives.

WHAT'S NEXT?

GET INVOLVED WITH THE GARDENS

MAPS, MEDICINES AND MEADOWS

2023

VOLUNTEER-LED GARDEN TENDING

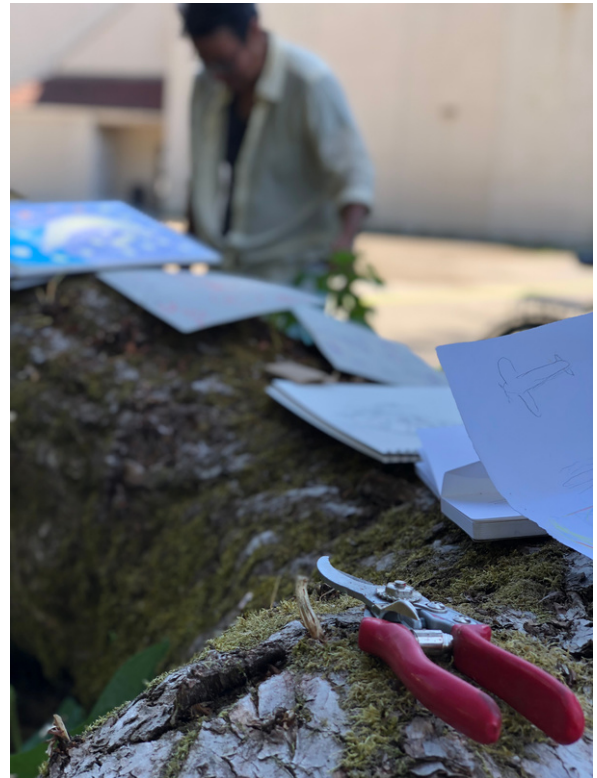
After support from Vancity Enviro Fund and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation "Neighbourhood Matching Fund" (NMF) - we have received news that our funding application to continue this project was accepted by NMF for Spring 2023!

The focus at Il Centro for 2023 will be continuing to tend and grow the Berry Patch, connecting with Beaconsfield Community Garden by planting an Orange Honouring Garden. We will also be connecting the gardens' to Still Moon's creek resurfacing.

The name we are calling this next season's succession is

**Maps, Medicines, and Meadows:
Replenishing Together with the
Land.**

If you would like to tend with us,
please email:
info@hivesforhumanity.com



SEASONAL WORKSHOPS

Continuing in 2023 will be a series of free, land-based workshops throughout the growing season.

Sign up to our newsletter to stay connected and learn more:

[www.hivesforhumanity.com/
newsletters](http://www.hivesforhumanity.com/newsletters)



WWW.HIVESFORHUMANITY.COM | INFO@HIVESFORHUMANITY.COM

1245 GLEN DRIVE, VANCOUVER BC