

Municipal / Regional Government Partnerships

Abbotsford Community Land Trust

Lisa Fox

Greenways Land Trust

Lucy Reiss

Topics

- ✘ Why this is important (group discussion)
- ✘ How the Greenways Land Trust / Abbotsford Land Trust has built this partnership, and what it looks like.
- ✘ How does this benefit us?
- ✘ What improvements could be made?
- ✘ Suggestions for other land trusts wishing to build their relationships (group discussion).

Why this is important...

- ✘ Why should a land trust develop partnerships with local or regional government?
 - Your suggestions....

Greenways Land Trust/DCR/RDCS

- ✘ GLT formed in 1996 as part of OCP development
- ✘ Council & planning staff were founding members
- ✘ Existing relationship is open & mutually supportive

Planning

- ✘ Official Community Plan
- ✘ Greenways Plan
- ✘ Environmental Strategy
- ✘ Greenway Loop
- ✘ Development Permit
Areas – Aquatic

Resource Sharing

- ☒ Data transfer / sharing
- ☒ Watershed Atlas
- ☒ "Community Mapping for Environmental Planning"
- ☒ Stewardship Resource Centre
- ☒ Environmental Coordinator
- ☒ Meeting space

Project Partnerships

- ☒ Greenway Loop
- ☒ Campbell River Estuary Restoration

"Managed Growth"

- ☒ The joys of cities
- ☒ Development referrals
- ☒ Covenant potential
- ☒ Alternative standards
- ☒ Watershed protection

How this benefits us

- ☒ Access to municipal resources
- ☒ Good working relationship – easy project approvals on DCR land
- ☒ Opportunity to influence development decisions
- ☒ Potential for partnerships with covenants

Abbotsford Land Trust/COA

- ☒ ALT began with MOU in 1994 between City of Abbotsford (COA) and Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF). ACF is the board of ALT.
- ☒ Rearranged bylaws / constitution in 1996.
- ☒ Mix of Agriculture Urban / Rural Resident areas
- ☒ Abbotsford has over 300 km of streams flowing through 13 watersheds from mountain/uplands through two prairies to Fraser River, some flow to USA - Fishtrap.

Planning

- ☒ Environmental Significant Area (ESA) Mapping
- ☒ OCP review
- ☒ Charter of Sustainability
- ☒ Tree Protection Bylaw

Engineering and Parks

- Because streams not mapped, we provide on the ground identification for COA engineering restoration and projects
- Wetland protection equals water detention
- "Webmap" –watershed information to community
- Potential for COA to help with Covenant / Donation land management

Resource Sharing

- Office equipment/meeting space
- Maps and land protection Information
- Mapping software
- Mutual support for environmental initiatives at staff level
- Community involvement

Project Partnerships

- Endangered Species Recovery
- Natural Areas Stewardship Project begins process towards ESA mapping
- Mill Lake Bog re-creation

Room for Improvement

- Frequent planning staff turnover at DCR – "retraining"
- No money, honey - Ditto
- Formalizing the relationship? Eek, commitment!
- Walking the talk? Eek, actualized commitment!
- Need to work more with RDCS and FVRD
- Can be seen as 'city' initiative

Suggestions for other groups

- Schmooze whenever possible!**
- Make regular presentations to Council
- Identify & talk to individual Council / staff advocates
- Talk their language. Conservation builds community, and is good for the economy.
- Know what your municipality can do / can't do
- Find concrete partnership opportunities and act on them
- Be proactive instead of reactive wherever possible – suggest alternatives (prefer low cost).
- Publicize good news stories