NATURE & PLANTS

Biodiversity is important for healthy cities. A variety of plants and animals contribute to clean air, absorb water, pollinate plants and support wildlife.

These action cards offer ways to encourage healthy habitats by planting species that can adapt to changing climate conditions.

CHANGE FOR CLIMATE

Edmonton

NATURE & PLANTS ACTION CARDS:

- ☐ **N1** | Create a Nature Map
- ☐ **N2** | Plant a Garden
- ☐ **N3** | Plant Trees
- ☐ **N4** | Use Your Leaves
- ☐ **N5** | Start a Seed Exchange or Library

Create a Nature Map

WHY TAKE ACTION?

A healthy environment creates a place for animals, insects and plants. It also helps to purify the air, provide natural cooling in the summer and prevent flooding. Exploring natural features close to home can help show where improvements to the environment are needed.

LEVEL:

○

2 Mid Effort

○

TAGS:

$ Low Cost

Family Friendly

SEASON:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Map the natural systems in your area with your neighbours. This could include identifying mature trees, connections between vegetated areas, native and non-native plants, and observed species of birds, insects and other wildlife. 🔗

Brainstorm solutions for how these natural systems could be better connected and supported.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **F4** | Grow Plants to Eat
- **W8** | Install a Rain Garden

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Plant a Garden

WHY TAKE ACTION?

Gardening is a great way to increase the sense of well-being within your community. Planting gardens can help reduce the urban heat island effect, improve local ecosystems and provide access to nature close to home for everyone.

LEVEL:

○
2 Mid Effort
○

TAGS:

$ Low Cost

Family Friendly

Bulk Buy

SEASON:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Learn how to garden by organizing garden tours or workshops, or sharing skills with neighbours. Choose drought-tolerant, native plants that require less watering. Create a bee garden by using pollinator-supportive plants, or build bee hotels, logs or other pollinator habitats.

Get creative finding spaces for a garden, such as outside an apartment building, on a shared balcony, at a Community League, or other unused spaces. Seek permission where needed. Don't forget about indoor planters, too!

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **F1** | Locate Edible Plants
- **N5** | Start a Seed Exchange or Library
- **W2** | Learn How to Compost
- **W3** | Install a Rain Barrel

N2 | edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

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Plant Trees

WHY TAKE ACTION?

Trees provide shade, improve air quality, reduce energy use, prevent erosion and conserve water. Planting more trees can improve the quality of your neighbourhood's environment, create cooler spaces, and support birds and other wildlife.

LEVEL:

○

○

3 High Effort

TAGS:

Event

Family Friendly

SEASON:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Identify locations for new trees and organize a tree-planting event.

Get trees from a nursery or contact the City. First, make sure the type of tree is well-suited to Edmonton's changing climate. 🔗

The City's Root for Trees program can be a good starting place for tree planting activities within your community. 🔗

If planting on private property, contact "Call Before You Dig" to make sure trees are located away from important utilities and buildings to avoid potential damage and the shading of solar panels. 🔗

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **W3** | Install a Rain Barrel

Edmonton

Use Your Leaves

WHY TAKE ACTION?

The leaves in your yard can add nutrients to the soil, retain moisture and create compost. Think of leaves as a free resource that can help save money and improve the health of your gardens.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort

TAGS:

$ Low Cost

Event

SEASON:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Use leaves as natural mulch instead of bagging for collection by the City. Rake them into a pile to add to your home compost or leave them to decompose naturally. If you don't like the look of leaves on your lawn, mow them in. Smaller pieces will break down faster. ↗

Collect and share leaves with neighbours for their gardens and compost.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **N5** | Start a Seed Exchange or Library
- **F4** | Grow Plants to Eat
- **W2** | Learn How to Compost

N4 | edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

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Start a Seed Exchange or Library

WHY TAKE ACTION?

Sharing seeds can help you learn from other gardeners, save money and improve your garden. Sharing seeds and the bulbs of pollinating plants can also improve biodiversity.

LEVEL:

2 Mid Effort

TAGS:

Bulk Buy

Event

Family Friendly

Low Cost

SEASON:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Save, store and share seeds or cuttings with your neighbours to plant the following year and reduce costs. Share plants that have done well in other gardens in the area to increase your chances of success.

Set up a drop box in a shared space for neighbours to share seeds (like a "little library") or host a swap event each spring.

NEXT UP! This action works well with…

- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **F5** | Host a Harvest Party or Potluck
- **W1** | Buy in Bulk

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