

Grow Native Halton Charter

Preamble

We, the members of Grow Native Halton (GNH), in recognition that our local ecosystems and communities are enriched when native plants, shrubs, trees, pollinators, and habitats flourish, and in acknowledgement of the heritage of the Indigenous Peoples whose traditional territories we work within, hereby adopt this Charter to guide our collective work, conduct and shared values.

Purpose

- To restore, enhance and celebrate native plant ecosystems in the Halton region.
- To educate and inspire our community and broader public about the ecological, aesthetic and cultural benefits of native gardens and habitats.
- To create inclusive, respectful, effective collaboration among members, volunteers, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, organizations and government institutions.

Principles of Conduct

1. **Respectful Engagement:** We commit to communicating openly, listening actively, and engaging with differing views respectfully, acknowledging that all members bring value.
2. **Positive, Inclusive Orientation:** We choose constructive dialogue over adversarial tone, and invite participation from all age groups, backgrounds and perspectives.
3. **Indigenous Acknowledgement and Partnership:** We honour Indigenous knowledge and practices, and aim to learn from, collaborate with and support Indigenous voices and rights in our region.
4. **Science & Place-based Learning:** Our work is grounded in knowledge of native species, local ecosystems, and the Halton region's specific conditions; we support evidence-based practices and local adaptation.
5. **Stewardship & Biodiversity:** We regard native plants, pollinators, birds and habitat as inter-connected; we act to preserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.
6. **Transparency & Accountability:** We make decisions in a transparent way, welcome feedback, admit mistakes, and learn from them.

7. **Collaboration & Community:** We build partnerships (with each other, local government, Indigenous groups, schools, nurseries, youth groups, and community organizations) and value diverse contributions; we share knowledge generously.
8. **Sustainability & Long-term Thinking:** We act with future generations in mind; we aim for sustainable outcomes rather than short-term wins.

Governance & Decision-Making

- All major initiatives will be discussed openly among members; we aim for consensus or majority decision with minority voices heard.
- In disagreements, we commit to returning to the Principles of Conduct and striving for respectful resolution.
- The Charter is reviewed regularly and may be amended by simple majority of members.

Values

Value	What it means for Grow Native Halton
Respect	We respect each other's perspectives, local Indigenous cultures and ecological processes.
Stewardship	We care for the land, native species and ecosystems, not only today but for tomorrow's generations.
Inclusivity	We welcome all who wish to learn, volunteer, partner or plant, regardless of background or experience.
Collaboration	We believe doing this work together (sharing knowledge, resources, networks) strengthens our impact.
Positivity & Constructive Action	We aim for hopeful, solutions-oriented communication rather than confrontation; we build rather than tear down.
Cultural Humility	We approach Indigenous partnerships with humility, acknowledging traditional knowledge and rights, and our own role within these landscapes.

Mission Statement

"Grow Native Halton works to nurture vibrant native-plant ecosystems in the Halton region, engaging gardeners, volunteers and partner groups through inclusive education, habitat restoration and culturally respectful collaboration."