



DRS EARTHWISE

"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Program Focuses on Natural Garden Design

Delta, BC – Gardening can be a lot of work, but when you use plants and flowers that are suited to your garden environment, it can be a whole lot easier. At the McKitrick Earthwise Garden, DRS Earthwise works with nature, not against it, to create a beautiful and healthy garden. This month, Delta residents can learn how to put nature to work in a special three-part evening series at the brand new McKitrick Earthwise Garden.

On June 15, Earthwise horticulturist Diane Brown will present 'Growing Natural Gardens'. The workshop will uncover the ecological secrets of designing a natural garden and maintaining it without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

"I find that people are really interested in making healthy lifestyle choices these days," Brown says. "They want to know how they can have a beautiful garden that doesn't rely on chemicals."

There are many other benefits to ecological gardening besides eliminating potentially harmful chemicals. Natural gardens provide important habitat for wildlife and can be designed to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds.

In natural gardens, trees are an asset. Using the shady site of the McKitrick Earthwise Garden as a model, Earthwise staff will show workshop participants how to identify their own garden ecosystems in order to make the most of existing site conditions. Understanding your site is the first step in designing a thriving, healthy garden instead of struggling with plants that never seem to grow the way you planned.

The workshop will be held at the new McKitrick Earthwise Garden, located at 80th Ave. and 111th St. in North Delta, from 7-9 pm. The cost is \$20, or \$50 to attend the entire three-part series which includes 'Native Plants for Natural Gardens' on June 22 and 'Beautiful Plants for Dry Gardens' on June 29. For more information or to register, please contact Amanda Gee at 604-946-9828.

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