



# INVEST IN NATURE

The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) is changing the way municipalities deliver everyday services, increasing the quality and resilience of infrastructure at lower costs and reduced risk. The MNAI team provides scientific, economic and municipal expertise to support and guide local governments in identifying, valuing and accounting for natural assets in their financial planning and asset management programs and developing leading-edge, sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure.

The MNAI is convened by the Smart Prosperity Institute, David Suzuki Foundation, Town of Gibsons, and Brooke and Associates; BC.

## GET INVOLVED

To learn more email [Info.mnai@gmail.com](mailto:Info.mnai@gmail.com) or connect with us via  Municipal Natural Assets

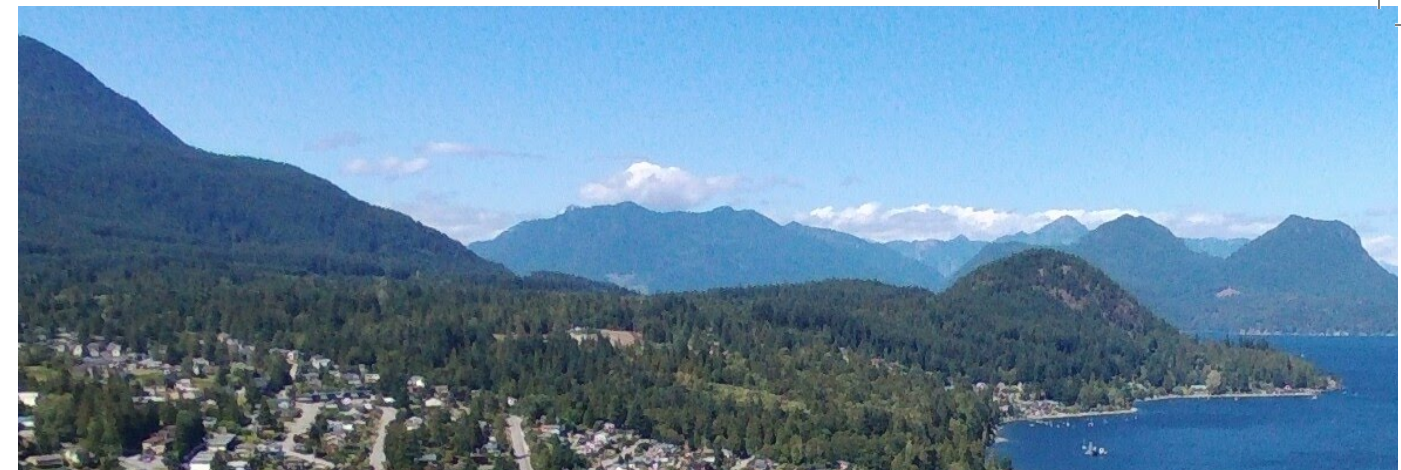
MNAI wants to thank our funders and supporters



Possibility grows here.



THE SALAMANDER FOUNDATION  
[www.salamanderfoundation.org](http://www.salamanderfoundation.org)



# MAKING NATURE COUNT



Could a low-cost, sustainable infrastructure solution be all around us?  
Could a forest provide water purification services?  
Could wetlands offer stormwater management services?

For a growing number of leading edge governments, **the answer is yes** and the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative is helping Canadian municipalities to seize this potential.

The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) is helping to change the way municipalities deliver everyday services, increasing the quality and stability of infrastructure at a lower cost and reduced risk.





## Infrastructure needs help.

In municipalities across Canada, infrastructure is showing its age, capital and operating costs are rising, and service delivery is strained by growing populations and shifting conditions.

### NATURE CAN HELP- AND IT'S ALREADY IN PLACE.

Forests, wetlands and streams can provide many core services normally delivered by engineered infrastructure, including water purification and stormwater management. The quality of services derived from 'natural assets' can, in some cases, meet or exceed those of pipes and culverts – but at a much lower cost that often avoids capital expenditures and produces other benefits such as cooler urban temperatures and healthier cities.

### THE MUNICIPAL NATURAL ASSETS INITIATIVE: HELPING MUNICIPALITIES COUNT NATURE

MNAI teams up with municipalities to develop resilient, long-term infrastructure alternatives at substantial savings. MNAI employs practical strategies to value nature's ability to provide municipal services and to incorporate this information into mainstream asset management systems. With increasing ease in measuring and valuing natural assets the MNAI approach is straightforward and transferable.

When you count on nature the value adds up - increasing the quality and stability of municipal infrastructure programs for the long-term, creating healthier urban environments and saving money.

## MNAI 's practical 4- step process

A flexible and cooperative approach for municipal multi-disciplinary teams to incorporate nature into asset management programs.

### 1- PRE-AUDIT

Complete our checklist to see if your municipality is ready to participate in the MNAI

### 2- ASSESS

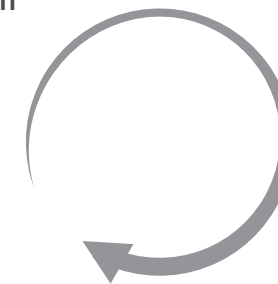
MNAI helps you identify and value services from key natural assets; model scenarios (i.e. climate change, land uses).

### 3- PLAN

Develop policies, strategies and financial plans to manage natural assets, including maintenance

### 4- IMPLEMENT

Integrate natural assets into asset management plans, develop monitoring and maintenance plans, and increase performance



### Pilots launched 2016

In 2013, the Town of Gibsons, British Columbia was one of the first municipalities to pioneer this approach.

MNAI was developed to refine, replicate and scale up their approach, with a focus on 18-month pilots in: the City of Grand Forks, City of Nanaimo and District of West Vancouver in B.C.; the Town of Oakville, and Region of Peel in Ontario.

