

INTRODUCING

# Salmon-Safe Communities for BC



## Why Salmon-Safe?

Salmon-Safe BC is one of Canada's first and only eco-certification programs linking land management practices with the protection of watersheds. Salmon-Safe recognizes progressive, environmentally friendly management practices on agricultural and urban lands to help protect Pacific salmon habitat and enhance water quality. By adopting Salmon-Safe standards, developers, landowners and property managers can help ensure this iconic species thrives for future generations and showcase their mark of leadership and commitment to the health of BC's watersheds.

The program began in Oregon in 1996 and is active across Washington, Oregon and California. Salmon-Safe was launched in British Columbia in 2011 under the leadership of the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council. In 2018, Salmon-Safe BC was transitioned fully to the Fraser Basin Council.

## The Salmon-Safe BC Program

The Salmon-Safe BC program provides assessments and certification for both agricultural and urban sites across BC. For more information about the Salmon-Safe BC Program, visit us online at [www.salmonsafe.ca](http://www.salmonsafe.ca).

### Salmon-Safe Agriculture

Salmon-Safe BC has certified over 30 farms, ranches and vineyards in BC since the launch of the program in 2011. These include Klipper Organic Acres, Nk'mip Vineyards and Glen Valley Organic Farm. By achieving certification, producers demonstrate their adoption of specific environmental standards to improve water quality, watershed health and salmon habitat.

### Salmon-Safe Communities

Since the inception of the Salmon-Safe Communities program in 2013, two urban sites have been certified in the Lower Mainland region. The first urban site was Mountain Equipment Co-op's Head Office in Vancouver, which received certification in 2015. YVR, Vancouver's International Airport, was the first airport in the world to be Salmon-Safe certified in 2016. Sites are assessed according to key criteria which are part of Salmon-Safe's urban standards including stormwater management, water use management, erosion prevention and sediment control, chemical and pesticide reduction, and enhancement of urban ecological function. See the next page for more information about Salmon-Safe's urban standards.

"YVR is a world class hub airport that is situated within one of the world's most dynamic ecosystems. To keep pace and remain a premier global gateway, we need to make choices that enable us to grow sustainably while meeting the needs of our community and our environment. YVR is proud to be the world's first Salmon-Safe certified airport, which speaks to our commitment to transform our land and water management practices. Many people know of our airport's stunning views of sea, sky and land, but with Salmon-Safe, they now also know we're minimizing our impact on the natural world, and working to improve the Fraser River ecosystem." — Craig Richmond, President and CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority



#### PARTNERS



#### WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FROM





## What lands are eligible?

The Salmon-Safe Communities program is available to BC municipalities and regional districts, developers and other landowners in both the private and public sector. The certification can apply to such places as parks and natural areas, college or university campuses, business sites and residential developments in urban, suburban and rural settings.

Land can be certified even if it has no watercourses on it. Commercial, industrial and residential activities, even those not immediately adjacent to streams and rivers, have long-term cumulative impacts on fish and other aquatic species. Contaminants, for example, can affect groundwater and are transported through storm drains into rivers, lakes and marine waters. For this reason, it is beneficial to adopt Salmon-Safe practices on a wide variety of urban lands.

## What are the Certification Criteria?

Certification is based on five core criteria:

- Stormwater management
- Water use management (irrigation activities)
- Erosion and sediment control
- Pesticide reduction and water quality protection

- Enhancement of Urban Ecological Function

For sites with streams, wetlands and / or riparian areas, there are an additional two criteria:

- In-stream habitat protection and restoration
- Riparian, wetland and / or locally significant vegetation protection and restoration

The Salmon-Safe BC program can assist landowners and property managers in developing land management plans and introducing changes and innovations as they prepare for certification. Here are examples of what they can do:

- Capture stormwater on site
- Maintain a buffer of trees and vegetation along streambanks
- Restore streams and water courses where previous development has diverted or buried them
- Increase the use of permeable surfaces / reduce or redesign impervious surfaces
- Improve passage for migrating fish
- Eliminate use of herbicides and pesticides, and substitute natural methods to control weeds and pests
- Reduce water use, such as through more efficient irrigation or drought-resistant landscaping
- Protect wetlands, woodlands and other natural areas

## Are there other benefits of the brand?

Absolutely! For BC organizations now engaged in environmentally friendly land management practices, Salmon-Safe certification is the ideal way to have that work recognized – and to show leadership by demonstrating

to others what is possible. Adoption of Salmon-Safe's comprehensive land management standards can also result in significant operational efficiencies.

Those that qualify as Salmon-Safe can display the brand on their premises, in customer service, in public relations and in business proposals – anywhere they wish to communicate their corporate social responsibility commitments.

## What is the Certification Process?

Salmon-Safe certification is based on an independent review and inspection of land management practices, using criteria appropriate for the lands under review. Contact us to find out more.



"MEC is proud to be BC's first Salmon-Safe certified urban site for our progressive land and water management practices at our head office facility. It includes the on-site capture and use of rainwater, rain garden swales designed to filter storm water, and other environmentally friendly landscaping practices. By carefully managing water, our facility demonstrates the potential of urban sites to positively influence the future of Pacific salmon in BC."  
- Sandy Treagus, CFO, Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)

### Visit Us Online

To find out more about Salmon-Safe in BC, visit:  
[www.salmonsafe.ca](http://www.salmonsafe.ca)  
[www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/water\\_salmon-safe.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_salmon-safe.html)

### Contact Us

For more on Salmon-Safe BC:  
Theresa Fresco | 604 488-5363 | [tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca)  
Kelsey Taylor | [ktaylor@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:ktaylor@fraserbasin.bc.ca)