

Green Roofs

Why Green Roofs?



Green roofs are sprouting up in cities across Canada. They inject a spot of green into the urban landscape and take nature to new heights. Green roofs improve energy consumption, lowering cooling costs in the summer by moderating the 'heat island effect'.

Because they can retain more rainfall than conventional roofs, green roofs also reduce runoff into storm sewers and form a protective layer extending the life of a roof membrane.

Green roofs reduce the visual footprint of buildings, making urban centers an attractive place to work and live. They provide habitat for insects and songbirds, bringing nature closer to city dwellers. Transpiration by plants and surface evaporation also has a cooling effect in the immediate vicinity, reducing summer temperatures and turning rooftops into usable public spaces.

Why Native Plant Solutions?



To successfully establish a green roof, an understanding of biological systems and their processes is vital. Some key factors that determine the success of green roofs include:

- ✓ selecting the appropriate native species for roof conditions;
- ✓ an understanding of nutrient requirements of the selected species in customized growth media; and
- ✓ a sound maintenance plan so the seeds of unwanted species do not take hold.

Native Plant Solutions (NPS) understand the significance of these factors and incorporate them into building a successful product that meets your needs. NPS has solid experience in vegetating green roofs.

Our Expertise

- ✓ NPS staff are specialists in the upland, wetland, aquatic and environmental sciences.
- ✓ We were involved in the establishment of the first and largest green roof in Manitoba. The knowledge and experience gained in creating this sustainable landscape sets us apart.

We offer...

- ✓ Site assessment
- ✓ Plant selection and procurement
- ✓ On-site supervision
- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Supporting research
- ✓ Design
- ✓ Tender package preparation
- ✓ Seeding and weed suppression strategies
- ✓ Ongoing consultation



Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre

Project proponent: Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Province of Manitoba
Location: Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba

Project description: The first and largest green roof in Manitoba – 98 per cent of this award-winning building's 2,619-square-metre roof is planted with prairie wildflowers and native grasses.

NPS continues to apply the experience learned and information gained from this initial green roof project. We are responsible for the roof's ongoing care and maintenance, conducting prescribed burns on the roof every four to five years to manage and encourage the prairie species while controlling unwanted species.



Birds Hill Campground/Grand Beach Provincial Park

Project proponent: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Location: Birds Hill and Grand Beach, Manitoba

Project description: Design and installation of three native grass green roofs at Birds Hill and Grand Beach Provincial Parks. The Province of Manitoba is deeply committed to environmental sustainability and green initiatives. This project was designed to keep buildings cool in the summer and reduce roof rain runoff in the spring and summer.

NPS was contracted to design, supply, install and establish plant material and supply growing medium for a total roof area of 260 square metres.



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Native Plant Solutions is a consulting branch of Ducks Unlimited Canada and draws on over 70 years of wetland and native grassland knowledge, research and restoration experience. We use sound science to restore and create sustainable landscapes.