

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Urban Systems received a regional merit award from the Canadian Society for Landscape Architects for innovative landscape design at the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality.

The Kamloops Centre for Water Quality provides over 7700m² of restored habitat and constructed wetland in conjunction with a membrane filtration treatment plant. Located near the riverfront in Kamloops' city centre area, the landscape is designed to invite visitors to a deeper appreciation of environmental stewardship and the quality of the regional landscape.



"We took an industrial brownfield and turned it into a piece of reconstructed habitat," said Tony Bradwell, principle and senior landscape architect for Urban Systems in Kamloops. "It's a statement about the value of natural landscape and the importance of water conservation and preservation of habitat".

The building's exterior property was designed to reflect the area's natural vegetation while also demonstrating the purpose of the building. All plantings are either native or adaptable to Kamloops conditions. While the building itself is a model of modern aesthetic and technology, the environment surrounding it includes native and low-water plants and several water-related features including cascading pools and wetland.

The landscape also helps the facility to reuse water from the treatment plant. Reject water from the treatment process (which is cleaner than the river water entering the centre) flows out of the building through a series of channels. It eventually makes its way to a wetland that replicates the thousands of pothole lakes surrounding Kamloops. Eventually this water will be used to irrigate the City's waterfront parks – rather than end up in the sewer system.

Joanne Harkness is a professional biologist and environmental specialist with Urban Systems. She says the landscaping is a critical component of what makes the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality so world-class. "I think one of the most exciting things about the facility is it has taken an old industrial site with poor vegetation and really no environmental values and has transformed it into something so aesthetically pleasing that people can walk around, enjoy and learn from. It's really quite unique."

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Urban Systems Ltd. is an employee-owned, multi-disciplinary consulting firm based in Western Canada. The company is well known within the public and private sectors for expertise in the fields of civil engineering, community planning and landscape architecture. For more information about Urban Systems visit their website at www.urban-systems.com.