Welcome to the official site for “Natural Capital” – a dynamic public education initiative that is the synergy of a Community Projects course in the Faculty of Culture and Community at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD) in Vancouver, Canada, in partnership with Canada’s leading environmental organization called the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF), and in collaboration with a Design instructor and students at the Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCADU) in Toronto, as well as instructors and students in ECUAD’s faculty of Interactive and Social Media Arts (ISMA). This course/project involved post-secondary art students across a range of artistic disciplines and levels in applying their artistic and teamwork skills to provide a creative service to DSF and, consequently, the broader community in terms of supporting strategic and engaging public education around valuing and protecting Natural Capital (the economic value of ecosystem processes), ecosystem services (nature’s benefits), and precious wetlands in Vancouver.

This interactive community mapping & storytelling project includes a series of digital narratives that bring to life research DSF recently launched on the ‘Natural Capital’ provided by wetlands in the Vancouver region, while digging into the meaning this has for people in their day-to-day lives. These digital narratives feature stories from diverse community members who, by sharing their unique relationships and experiences to 5 specific wetland areas in Vancouver, highlight the priceless Cultural Services (cultural, spiritual, cognitive, and health benefits) of these areas. These narrative videos are complemented by a series of 7 experimental site-specific videos exploring the characteristics of each of the featured 5 wetlands. Graphics include a series of 16 original posters visually illustrating the definitions of 16 ecosystem services and their specific monetary values annually within BC’s lower mainland. This web platform, itself, was also created by ECUAD students in consultation with DSF.

You will see that this site offers a CALL TO ACTION… So come hear our communities’ stories, explore our maps of the endangered ecosystems in our own neighbourhoods, learn about the services that nature right here in our own City provides for free, and then join us in demanding policies that ensure our precious wetlands are protected and maintained for the future well-being of all!