

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 April 07

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 33000-01
Reference: Environment Week

SUBJECT: 2015 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To seek approval for the 2015 Environment Week Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to approve the 2015 Environment Week Program, as outlined in *Appendix A*.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's annual Environment Week promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability through a range of environmentally themed events and activities. Coordinated by the City and its community partners, Environment Week provides an opportunity for Burnaby residents, local community groups, businesses, CUPE Local 23 and other government agencies to come together and celebrate Burnaby's natural environment.

Environment Week 2015 is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 to Saturday, June 6. The week long program coincides with Canadian Environment Week, as well as World Environment Day and Clean Air Day.

On the recommendation of the Environment Committee, City Council approved the preliminary approach for this year's Environment Week Program at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting of 2015 February 16. At the meeting, Council also approved an expenditure of \$2,650 from the Boards, Committees, and Commissions' budget for advertising for the Environmental Awards Program call for nominations, \$5,925 for advertising for the Garage Sale Day Event, and \$6,850 for promotion and advertising Environment Week. This second report presents a more detailed schedule of events, outlined in *Appendix A*, for review by the Environment Committee and recommendation for approval by Council.

2.0 2015 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROPOSED PROGRAM

The program for Environment Week consists of two parts: the Environmental Awards Program (www.burnaby.ca/environmentawards) and the activities and events associated with Environment Week (www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek).

2.1 2015 Environment Awards Program

Burnaby's Environment Awards Program acknowledges deserving individuals, groups and businesses that have made significant contributions to the protection, stewardship and sustainability of the environment. Environment awards are given in six categories: Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development, and Youth. Depending on the significance of the contribution, recipients may be recommended for an Environmental Award or an Environmental Star.

The approved funds have been used to promote the event through local print media and social media, as well as by placement of promotional posters at all civic facilities.

The nomination process closed on 2015 April 13. Staff will coordinate with the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee a review of the submissions and recommendation of recipients to Council for approval. The names of the award recipients are proposed to be publicly announced at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on 2015 May 25. Recipients will be invited to receive their awards at a celebratory reception, attended by invited guests of Burnaby's environmental community, on Sunday, 2015 June 14 at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion.

2.2 2015 Environment Week Activities and Events

One initiative of Environment Week 2015 is already underway. On 2015 March 24, the 2nd Annual Burnaby Youth Video Contest was launched at the Do It Green Conference, which is organized by the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network. Video submissions will be accepted throughout April, with online voting by the public and selection of the winning submission scheduled for later in May. The prize winners will be announced at the City's Environment Festival on May 30.

Contest details are presented in *Appendix A* and on the contest webpage (www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek/youthvideocontest).

Building on the success of the previous two years, the Environment Festival at Burnaby City Hall in the outer courtyard will again officially start off Environment Week. The festival will occur at the same time as the regularly scheduled Farmers Market, creating a unique and engaging community event. Information displays and exhibits from the City's various community partners are the main focus of the festival, but there will also be small prize giveaways and live music throughout.

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A new community partner to Environment Festival for 2015 is ElectroRecycle – British Columbia’s small appliance and power tool recycling program – who plan to host a free drop off site at the festival and promote this activity leading up to May 30. Other events starting off Environment Week include an open house at the City of Burnaby’s Eco-Centre and the annual City-wide Garage Sale Day.

The remainder of Environment Week is filled with a variety of events and activities each day, offered by the City’s many community partners. A detailed schedule of all planned events and activities is presented in *Appendix A*. Any outstanding logistical details will be finalized by mid-April. Upon approval of this report by Council, the Environment Week webpage (www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek) will be updated and promotional materials will be finalized.

3.0 PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP

Environment Week 2015 will be promoted to the public through the City’s website and social media, and through the City’s environmental community contacts, by placement of posters at civic facilities, and by placement of print and online ads in social media and in local newspapers. An expenditure of \$6,850 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions’ operating budget was approved by Council for this purpose at the regular meeting on 2015 February 16.

Corporate sponsorship has contributed significantly to Environment Week in the past, and as approved by Council at its 2015 February 16 meeting, staff are pursuing sponsorship again this year to supplement program activities.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Environment Week in Burnaby is a community-based program that promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability within the City. The 2015 Environment Week Program provides opportunities for the public to participate through a wide range of informative, fun and engaging environmentally-themed activities and events. This report seeks approval from Council, through the Environment Committee, for the 2015 Environment Week Program, as outlined in *Appendix A*.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MS:sa/sla

Attachment

cc:	City Manager	Deputy City Managers
	Director Engineering	Director Finance
	Fire Chief	Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
	OIC, RCMP	Chief Librarian
	President, CUPE 23	City Clerk

2015 BURNABY ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM

The City's webpage for Environment Week is www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek. All times and locations for events and activities will be posted to this site.

PRELIMINARY EVENTS

APRIL AND MAY, 2015

Burnaby Environment Week Youth Video Contest

(www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek/youthvideocontest)

The Burnaby Environment Week Youth Video Contest was launched on March 24th at the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network's annual Do It Green Sustainability Conference, held this year at Burnaby South Secondary School. The contest is open to Burnaby's secondary school aged students (13 to 18 years of age). Participants select one of the ten themes of the City's draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy and create a video to express why that theme is of particular importance to them and what individual actions they can take to support that goal. An aim of the contest is to encourage submissions that are creative, fun and inspiring.

Submissions will be received from April 1 to 30th. The Environment Week Organizing Committee will select the finalists and post them to the contest's home webpage for the public to vote online for their favourites over a two week period in mid-May. The organizing committee will consider the results of the online voting when selecting the winning submission and first and second runners-up.

Prizes will be awarded at the Environment Festival on May 30th. The Grand Prize winner will receive a Discover Kayaking Package (for six people) from the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, lunch or dinner at Burnaby's Riverway or Burnaby Mountain Clubhouses (for six people), and an onsite tour of sustainability initiatives at the Burnaby campus of entertainment software company Electronic Arts.

MONDAY, MAY 25

2015 Environment Awards - Announcement by City Council

Recipients of the Environment Awards and Stars for 2015 are scheduled to be announced at the Monday, 2015 May 25 Council Meeting.

WEEK LONG EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 25 – SUNDAY, MAY 31

Bike to Work Week

2015 Spring Bike to Work Week is scheduled from May 25 to May 31. This annual event is organized by HUB: Your Cycling Connection, and delivered throughout Metro Vancouver. Community partners will be organizing commuter stations with complimentary food and drink for participants throughout Burnaby. City staff, businesses and residents will be encouraged to

incorporate cycling into their commute. The City of Burnaby supports Bike to Work Week by making a modest financial contribution to HUB and providing in-kind support on an annual basis.

WEEK OF MAY 31 – JUNE 6

Commuter Challenge

The community and City staff will be encouraged to take part in the week-long Commuter Challenge event from May 31 to June 6. The Commuter Challenge is a national event that coincides with other national programs such as Canadian Environment Week and Clean Air Day on June 3. In Metro Vancouver, the Commuter Challenge is hosted by Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST).

At City Hall, Bike to Work Week and the Commuter Challenge will be promoted with a display on the main floor. Staff will be encouraged to participate in both events and to log their commutes online in order to be eligible for individual prizes from HUB and BEST.

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Burnaby Environment Festival, Burnaby City Hall, 9am to 2pm

This one-day public event will include environmental information displays from city departments, community partners and external exhibitors, activities for families and children including an environmentally themed craft, a community mapping activity, eco-tours to the nearby heron colony, live music, and prizes. The event will be held at Burnaby City Hall in the outer courtyard and walkways beside the bus loop. Using transit and/or bicycles to travel to the festival will be encouraged.

ElectroRecycle - BC's small appliance and power tool recycling program – is a new community partner for 2015. They plan to promote and host a free drop off site at Environment Festival as part of a city wide collection drive to raise awareness that small appliances and power tools can be recycled and not discarded.

Small prize draws are planned throughout the event. Entry into the prize draws will require attendees visit the various exhibitors and displays and complete their *Environmental Passport*, which will be available at the entrance to the festival. Prizes will include Farmers' Market gift certificates (Farmers' Market dollars) of modest value for spending at the nearby Farmers' Market.

Burnaby Farmers' Market, Burnaby City Hall, 9am to 2pm

At the same time as the Environment Festival, the regularly scheduled Burnaby Farmers' Market will take place in the north parking lot of City Hall. The event will be cross promoted with the Environment Festival.

Open House at the Burnaby Eco-Centre (4800 Still Creek Drive), 10am to 2pm

The Burnaby Eco-Centre is a public facility where residents can take materials accepted into the City's recycling program. For the open house, there will be information displays, staff available to answer questions and live music. This event and the Environment Festival are proposed for the same day, offering opportunities for cross promotion.

City-sponsored Garage Sale Day Event, city wide, all day

This program encourages waste reduction and recycling efforts by promoting the reuse of household items, resulting in the diversion of materials and goods from the waste stream. Burnaby residents planning a garage sale on their property can register with the City for promotion in newspapers, at civic facilities and on City web pages. Information on garage sale tips, donating locally, and participant responsibilities will be offered to those who register.

Garden Workshop, Forest Grove Elementary School, 1:30pm to 3pm

Barb McMahon of Sprouting Chefs (www.sproutingcheefs.com) will lead this workshop, which will take place at the Forest Grove Elementary School's edible garden. This garden was established as the School District's first edible garden in 2011 and received an Environmental Award from the City of Burnaby in 2014. Participants will learn what grows best in the surrounding area of Burnaby by touring the garden, how to create a raised bed in your back yard for 'lasagna gardening' – a form of organic, no till gardening, and the Top 10 vegetables that kids love to grow and eat.

Mandarin Language Nature Tour, Deer Lake, 3pm to 5pm

Mr. Joseph Lin of the Green Club will lead a public nature tour, in the Mandarin language, of Deer Lake Park discussing the watershed, flora, fauna, and how to protect the environment. Mr. Lin is the founding President of the Lower Mainland based Green Club (www.greenclub.bc.ca). He has led numerous nature walks and monthly eco-tours in Mandarin for the Chinese and Taiwanese communities since 1999. The tour will depart from the Shadbolt Centre.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Forests, Wetlands and Snakeheads – Oh My! Central Park, 10am to 12pm

This tour is part of the series of nature walks offered by the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. The tour will be led by Pamela Zevit, Program Coordinator for the South Coast Conservation Program. Participants will tour the park and learn about the ecology of Central Park and local wildlife.

2nd Annual Historical Walking Tour of Upper Still Creek Watershed, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Still Moon Arts Society (www.stillmoon.org) and the City of Burnaby will offer the 2nd annual tour of Upper Still Creek watershed, on foot and by SkyTrain. The tour will begin at Swangard Stadium in Central Park, which is within the historical headwaters of Still Creek watershed. After a short SkyTrain ride, participants will tour the historic Collingwood neighbourhood and Renfrew Ravine on foot, ending at a recently enhanced area of Still Creek near Grandview Highway. Tour participants will learn about the historical and ecological context of Upper Still Creek watershed. A key narrative will be the health of the watershed and the recent return of salmon to spawn in Still Creek.

Weed Busters at Burnaby Lake, Burnaby Lake Park Association, 1pm to 4pm

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) will host an invasive species removal of English Ivy and Lamium at a specific location within the park. All members of the public are welcome to participate. This event is part of their regularly scheduled Weed Busters events, which are open to the public.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

Wildlife Photography Workshop (time and location in Burnaby to be determined)

Mr. Connor Stefanison will lead a second addition of the workshop offered last year, which provided tips and advice for aspiring nature and wildlife photographers of all interest and experience levels. Mr. Stefanison is a Burnaby based wildlife photographer of considerable renown. He was a recent recipient of an international award given to aspiring youth wildlife photographers between the ages of 22 to 26 years in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards. The awarded images were part of a world-touring exhibition that included Victoria's Royal BC Museum.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Guided Canoe Trips, Deer Lake Park, 6pm to 7pm and 7:15pm to 8:15pm

Organized by Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, two separate canoe trips on Deer Lake are scheduled. Participants will learn about the plants and animals that are part of the Deer Lake ecosystem. Trips are for those aged 10 years and older; children aged 10 to 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Teens aged 16-19 may attend without a parent or guardian, but a waiver form must be signed.

Weed Busters at Burnaby Lake, Burnaby Lake Park Association, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) will host an invasive species removal of English Ivy and Lamium. This will be a continuation of the Sunday event. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

National Clean Air Day

As part of Canadian Environment Week, Clean Air Day aims to raise awareness and encourage action on air pollution and climate change. Clean Air Day will be promoted as part of the Commuter Challenge, including an information display at City Hall.

Eco-Sculpture Planting Activity, 12pm to 1pm, City Hall

City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will host an eco-sculpture planting activity at City Hall in the outer courtyard.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Beautiful Byrne Creek, free public presentation by the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society, 7pm

The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society is planning a public presentation at the Tommy Douglas Library about the ecology of Byrne Creek and the role of streamkeepers as stewards of our local watersheds.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Tour of Covanta Burnaby's Energy from Waste Facility, 12pm to 1:30pm

Covanta Burnaby Renewable Energy will offer an onsite tour for members of the public of their energy from waste facility in Burnaby. This facility creates electricity by converting municipal solid waste to steam, with electricity sales offsetting the operational costs of Metro Vancouver's waste management system.

Burnaby Environmental Film Screening, Tommy Douglas Library, 6:30pm

The Green Ideas Network (www.greenideasnetwork.org) is a non-profit organization focused on environmental sustainability and education that offers public screenings of environmentally themed documentary films. This year, the Green Ideas Network will present one or more documentary films on the topic of climate change (films to be determined). The evening will be hosted by BROKE – Burnaby Residents Opposed to Kinder Morgan Expansion, who plan to organize a guest speaker on this topic area.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Car Trunk Sale – Environment Week Edition, Bill Copeland Sports Centre, 9am to 1pm

To encourage waste reduction and the reuse of household items, an Environment Week edition Car Trunk Sale event at Bill Copeland Sports Centre is scheduled. This popular event is free for buyers and is for used items only.

Eagle Creek Streamkeepers Community Stewardship Event (time to be determined)

The Eagle Creek Streamkeepers will host a community creek clean up event near Greystone shopping plaza in Burnaby. Participants will learn about stream stewardship, storm drain marking (weather permitting) and the ecology of Eagle Creek.

ADDITIONAL EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Uncover Your Creeks Program: Citizen Science, Jim Lorimer Park, 9am to 12pm

Evergreen BC delivers this program at Jim Lorimer Park near Gilmore SkyTrain Station on the second Saturday of the month, throughout the year. The program encourages Burnaby residents to participate in stream stewardship and the growing movement of 'citizen scientists' who are monitoring their streams and watersheds across North America. Participants learn about ecology and watersheds and receive hands on training for managing invasive plants, planting native

plants and monitoring water quality in Chub Creek. Gloves, tools and refreshments are provided.

INVITATION ONLY EVENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

2015 Environment Awards Reception, Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion, 1:30pm to 3pm

This celebratory event at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion provides Burnaby's environmental community with an occasion to interact, acknowledge and celebrate this year's Environment Award recipients.

OTHER EVENTS

City staff are currently working with Sustainable SFU to offer an additional event or activity for Environment Week.