

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The Burnaby City staff and CUPE Local 23, in co-operation with local streamkeeper groups, neighbourhood groups and community groups have supported annual stream and neighbourhood clean-ups as well as other restoration activities over the past number of years. These community events typically coincide with an opportunity for environmental grant funding, an annual environmental campaign like Earth Day, Environment Week, Rivers Day or a give back to the community event such as TELUS Day of Service or Deloitte's Impact Day.

Community members who take an active role in the community where they work or live become advocates for City work and growth. Community participation fosters community spirit, a sense of pride and ownership to parks and the community, leading to a reduction in vandalism and an increase in community safety. Staff believe that supporting community environmental activities are a benefit to the work that the City does. As part of the City's mandate to protect the environment, community activities are encouraged in City parks in a managed and controlled way.

In addition to the typical annual volunteer events outlined in Attachment #1, staff support community initiatives that include invasive plant removal, clean-ups, restoration and native species planting in natural areas.

To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: Community Participation in Environmental Programs

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DISCUSSION

Although many of the volunteer community events occur on a yearly basis with advance notice, the City is receiving an increased number of requests on short notice requesting opportunities to provide volunteer service for a day. These unplanned requests are scattered throughout the year and do not fall within the pre-planned activity list; however, they are community groups earnestly hoping to provide service in their community. Staff would propose creating a set schedule for community volunteer opportunities. The ad hoc volunteer event requests would be allocated to a preset event date that would be staggered throughout the spring/summer/fall seasons. This would also allow staff to develop a program that would respond to the plant growth cycles and preferred removal periods for invasive plants which range throughout the season and react to variable weather patterns throughout the year.

On an annual basis, 10 additional event dates would be allocated to groups who come forward and make requests on an ad hoc basis.

As in previous years, arrangements will be made to have staff representatives on hand to ensure that these activities are undertaken to City standards. In addition, provision will be made for garbage pick-up, truck availability and appropriate staffing as required by the event. Coordination of these arrangements will be undertaken by the Environmental Technician in Parks in co-operation with the Superintendent of Parks, who will inform the Union as to the date, time, location and staff members that are scheduled for each event.

SUMMARY

Community activities in Burnaby parks provide a way to undertake activities that would not be possible within the current operational work plan. More importantly, providing opportunities for volunteers to contribute to their community helps to reinforce a pride of ownership for the public. The typical annual events that are currently supported would continue and in addition to manage the ad hoc event requests, a work program with up to 10 events will be created. The final dates would be confirmed on an annual basis with alternate back up dates to allow for rescheduling due to inclement weather.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

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Attachment

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PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

TYPICAL COMMUNITY EVENTS LISTING

Stewardship Campaigns

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Eagle Streamkeepers Salmon Release | - | April 09 |
| Great Salmon Send-off | - | May 14 |
| Environment Week | - | May 28 – June 12 |
| World River's Day | - | Last Sunday in September |
| Earth Day | - | April 22 |
| Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up | - | Ongoing |
| Arbour Day | - | Variable across Canada |
| Waste Reduction Week | - | Third Week in October |

Location Based Activities

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Burnaby Streamkeepers Groups | - | Ongoing |
| Burnaby Mountain Biking Association | - | April 02 – October 22 (4 events) |
| Deer Lake BCIT activities | - | Ongoing |
| Evergreen Still Creek Corridor | - | Ongoing |
| Lower Mainland Green Team | - | Ongoing |

Neighbourhood Clean-Ups

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Kingsway/Imperial Neighbourhood Association | - | September 10 |
| Edmonds Business and Community Association | - | May 07 – Oct 01 |
| Windsor Elementary School | - | May 21 |
| Burnaby Neighbourhood House | - | Ongoing |
| Junior Lion's Club/Junior Rotary from Moscrop – Burnaby South High Schools | - | Ongoing |