

COMMISSION REPORT

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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

City of Burnaby staff and CUPE Local 23, in co-operation with local stream keeper 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 often coincide with an opportunity for environmental grant funding, an annual environmental campaign such as Earth Day, Environment Week, Rivers Day or TD Friends of the Environment Tree Days.

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 and the community 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 and advance notice is given, 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 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.

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

Arrangements will be made to have staff representatives on hand to ensure that these activities are undertaken to City standards. 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. 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 08
Great Salmon Send-off	-	May 13
Environment Week	-	May 27 – June 11
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 01 – 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	-	May 13
Edmonds Business and Community Association	-	May 06 – Oct 07
SE Community Coordinator working with EPIC	-	Ongoing
Windsor Elementary School	-	April 20

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