

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2018 March 12

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

FILE: 76500-01

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

PURPOSE: To provide information regarding community participation in environmental programs.

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.

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Re: Community Participation in Environmental Programs

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POLICY SECTION

Community participation in environmental programs is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following Goals:

A Connected Community

Social connection

Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby

A Healthy Community

Healthy Life

Encourage opportunities for healthy living and well being

Lifelong Learning

A Dynamic Community

Community development

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 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 cooperation with the Superintendent of Parks, who will ensure that staff members are appropriately scheduled for each event.

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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 SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TYPICAL COMMUNITY EVENTS LISTING

Stewardship Campaigns

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up	-	Ongoing
Eagle Streamkeepers Salmon Release	-	Tentative
Earth Day	-	April 22
Great Salmon Send-off	-	May 12
Environment Week	-	June 02 to 10
World River's Day	-	Sept 23, 4 th Sunday in September
Arbour Day	-	Variable across Canada
Waste Reduction Week	-	Third Week in October

Location Based Activities

Burnaby Streamkeepers Groups	-	Ongoing
Deer Lake BCIT activities	-	Ongoing
Lower Mainland Green Team	-	Ongoing
Burnaby Mountain Biking Association	-	April 01 – October 22 (4 events)

Neighbourhood Clean-Ups

Kingsway/Imperial Neighbourhood Association	-	Ongoing
SE Community Coordinator working with EPIC	-	Ongoing
Windsor Elementary School	-	April 19
Lochdale Elementary School	-	April 20
Edmonds Business and Community Association	-	May 05 and October 06

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