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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2018 April 11

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 33000 01  
*Reference: Environment Week*

**SUBJECT:** 2018 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** To seek approval of the proposed program for 2018 Environment Week.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the proposed program for 2018 Environment Week.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Sustainable City Advisory Committee for their information.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

The City of Burnaby's Environment Week program aims to promote environmental awareness and stewardship through a range of environmentally-themed free public events and activities. It is coordinated by the City and is an opportunity for Burnaby residents, local community groups, businesses, CUPE Local 23 and other government agencies to come together to recognize and celebrate our community and the environment. Burnaby Environment Week has taken place annually since the early 1990s and takes place during the first week of June to coincide with Canadian Environment Week and World Environment Day on June 05. These programs encourage Canadians and others around the world to celebrate environmental accomplishments in their communities and contribute to protecting and enhancing the environment.

The approach for organizing and planning this year's Environment Week program was approved by Council on 2018 March 05. This report seeks approval of the proposed program for Environment Week. Due to the meeting schedule of the Sustainable City Advisory Committee, this report is being advance directly to Council with the concurrence of the Committee Chair.

**2.0 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**

Environmental awareness and stewardship initiatives align with the Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following two goals and six sub-goals of the plan:

*A Connected Community (goal 2)*

- Social connection (sub-goal 2)
- Partnership (sub-goal 3)

*A Healthy Community (goal 3)*

- Healthy life (sub-goal 1)
- Healthy environment (sub-goal 2)
- Lifelong learning (sub-goal 3)
- Community involvement (sub-goal 4)

### **3.0 PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM**

Information about Environment Week, including event and activity schedules and registration information is found on the City's website ([www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek](http://www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek)).

#### **3.1 Schedule**

Burnaby Environment Week will take place from Saturday, June 02 to Sunday, June 10, as previously approved by Council (2018 March 05).

#### **3.2 Theme**

The theme for Environment Week 2018 is 'ecological restoration', defined as the practice of restoring degraded or damaged ecosystems. The City of Burnaby recognizes the importance of healthy, functioning ecosystems that support many wildlife species and enhance the quality of life for people in our community. Through our parks and open space plan and the development approval process, the City actively protects and acquires waterways and environmentally sensitive areas.

In support of this theme, the development of a new story map is proposed. Story maps are digitally based and viewed best on tablet and mobile devices. The City already has a number of story maps available to the public that present information on various topics in a visual, geographical and interactive format (see <https://www.burnaby.ca/City-Services/Maps-Open-Data.html#storymaps>). This new story map will present many of the ecological restoration projects that are planned or have been completed as part of land acquisition developments and in the city. Other ecological restoration projects and environmental sustainability initiatives could be added to this map in the future.

The purpose of the story map is to raise public awareness of ecological restoration projects in Burnaby and how they contribute to environmental sustainability and the health of our community. The story map would be made available to the public during Environment Week through the City's social media channels. The story map and examples of ecological restoration will be part of the content displayed at the three Environment Week pop-up activities on June 02, 09 and 10 (discussed in the sections below).

#### **3.3 Program Elements**

Events and activities proposed for Environment Week are described below. A more detailed description that includes registration information and meeting place and time will be made available on the Environment Week webpage on the City's website.

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### ***2018 Environmental Awards Program***

This year's recipients will be announced to the public on May 14 and their achievements promoted on social media during Environment Week. The recipients will receive their awards at the Council Meeting on June 11, the day after Environment Week ends.

### ***Bike to Work Week and the Commuter Challenge***

Bike to Work Week (BTWW, May 28 to June 03) and the Commuter Challenge (June 03 to 10) are two separate programs promoted in Metro Vancouver by HUB: Your Cycling Connection and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), respectively. Each program encourages the public to commute to work by bicycle or using options other than a single occupancy vehicle and to record their trips online. BTWW encourages participants to form teams based on their place of work and to challenge other work places based on criteria such as participation rate or total distance travelled. The Commuter Challenge provides metrics for a sustainable commute, such as distance travelled and greenhouse gas emissions avoided, which can be aggregated by place of work, city and province.

The schedules for both of these programs overlap with Burnaby Environment Week. The City will encourage public participation in these two programs using our social media channels and by placement of posters at civic facilities.

### ***Environment Week at Burnaby Public Libraries***

The organizing theme of 'ecological restoration', the link to the proposed new story map and web link to the Environment Week program schedule will be conveyed to Burnaby Public Library branches. Each branch will have the option of developing display content or programming to support Environment Week.

### ***Environment Week Pop-up activity at Hats Off Day in Burnaby Heights (June 2)***

At Hats Off Day on Saturday, June 2, the City of Burnaby Planning Department will be an exhibitor and will present an interactive display with content developed around the theme of ecological restoration and examples of environmental sustainability. This may include examples of ecological restoration of waterways such as Still Creek and Beecher Creek, the results of City programs focusing on energy conservation for municipal operations and examples of locations where new town centre street standards have been installed.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Annual Still Creek Watershed Tour (June 03)***

This tour is presented by Still Moon Arts Society and the City of Burnaby. This year the event will consist of a leisurely guided bicycle tour along the Central Valley Greenway and urban trails on the morning of Sunday, June 03. The tour is planned to depart from Renfrew SkyTrain Station in Vancouver and end at the City Hall in Burnaby. Participants will learn about the history and ecology of Still Creek and ecological restoration projects in the watershed.

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***Guided Nature Tour (Mandarin language) of Burnaby Lake Regional Park (June 03)***

Planned for Sunday, June 03 in the afternoon, this tour will be led by the Metro Vancouver based Green Club (Joseph Lin) and will consist of a guided nature walk on trails within Burnaby Lake Regional Park to learn about the ecology of this natural area. The walk will depart from the Burnaby Lake Nature House on Piper Avenue.

***Guided Canoe Trips on Deer Lake (June 05)***

Two sessions of guided canoe trips on Deer Lake are planned for the evening of Tuesday, June 05. Participants will experience the nature of Deer Lake in the heart of Burnaby. Novice paddlers will receive guidance from the tour leaders.

***Environment Week Pop-up activity at the Burnaby Farmers Market (June 09)***

On Saturday, June 09, the Burnaby Farmers Market is hosting an 'Enviro-festival' as part of the regular market. The City of Burnaby Planning Department will participate as an exhibitor with a pop-up display. The display will be the same as the content planned for Hats Off Day, but will incorporate additional content relevant to the southwest quadrant of Burnaby. This may include examples of ecological restoration in the Deer Lake watershed and examples of streets constructed to the town centre street standards.

The Farmers Market will invite other environmental exhibitors to participate, including product stewardship groups such as Regeneration, Encorp Pacific and ElectroRecycle. ElectroRecycle collects small appliances and power tools for recycling. They plan to host a community drop off event at the market that day with assistance from the City to promote it to the public as part of Environment Week.

***Car Trunk Sale, Environment Week edition, Bill Copeland Sports Centre (June 09)***

This annual event, organized by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, encourages waste reduction by promoting reuse of ordinary household items. Sellers load up their cars with items they no longer need and register for a parking spot to sell to buyers.

***Open House at the Burnaby Eco-Centre (June 09)***

The Burnaby Eco-Centre is a public facility where residents can take large volumes of materials accepted into the City's recycling program. There will be information displays and staff available to answer questions about what the facility accepts and where materials go.

***Great Blue Heron Colony Tour (June 10)***

Organized by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, this will be a free guided tour, led by a local expert, to visit the nearby Pacific Great Blue Heron colony adjacent Deer Lake Avenue. The tour is scheduled for the morning of Sunday, June 10 and will begin with an indoor presentation at the Shadbolt Centre before departing on foot to visit the colony.

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***'Wild About Burnaby Lake', Environmental Stewardship Festival (June 10)***


The second annual 'Wild About Burnaby Lake' environmental stewardship event, offered by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and the Burnaby Lake Park Association, will take place on Sunday, June 10 from noon to 4pm. The event is for all ages and will invite the public to the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion and surrounding trails to learn about how to bring more nature to Burnaby. Pre-registration is required for the free voyageur canoe rides on Burnaby Lake and the guided nature walks. There will also be a Weedbusters invasive species pull event for public participation.

In keeping with the Environment Week theme of ecological restoration, there will be exhibits and scheduled talks from a variety of environmental organizations including the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Program, Stanley Park Ecological Society, Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, South Coast Conservation Program, North Shore Black Bear Society, Burnaby Lake Park Association, and Metro Vancouver Parks. The Planning Department will also participate as an exhibitor with content focused on examples of ecological restoration and the proposed new story map.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

The Environment Week program celebrates Burnaby's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and stewardship of the environment. The program this year includes two pop up Environment Week displays at Hats Off Day and the Farmers Market and development of a new story map that aims to raise public awareness of ecological restoration projects undertaken as part of land redevelopment in Burnaby.

It is recommended that Council approve the proposed program for 2018 Environment Week. It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Sustainable City Advisory Committee for their information.

  
Lou Pelletier, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MS/sla

cc: Director Corporate Services  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Chief Librarian  
Officer in Charge, RCMP  
Fire Chief  
Manager, Environmental Engineering  
City Clerk  
President, CUPE Local 23