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Director's Report No.	3
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COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2021 March 01

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES

FILE: 62500-01

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

1.0 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 corporate giving 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.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

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

Goal

- A Connected Community
 - Partnership
 - Social connection –
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- An Inclusive Community
 - Create a sense of community –
Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life
 - Encourage opportunities for healthy living and well being
 - Lifelong learning
 - Community involvement –
Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community
- A Dynamic Community
 - Community development

3.0 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 allows 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.

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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.

Given the pandemic, some annual events are cancelled or tentative for 2021; staff will work with our community groups to reinstate activities when it is appropriate.

4.0 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 or Provincial Health Orders in effect as a result of Covid-19.



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	Mid April – Cancelled
Earth Day	April 22
Great Salmon Send Off	2 nd Saturday in May, Cancelled
Environment Week	May 30 – June 5
World River's Day	September 26
Arbour Day	Varies 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	Cancelled

Neighbourhood Clean-Ups

Burnaby Neighbourhood House	April 22
Edmonds Buisness and Community Association	May 05 and October 06
Local Churches (2-5 requests per year)	Ongoing (spring and fall)
Lochdale Elementary School	April 20
Maywood Community School	(Ongoing/1 last year in fall)
Windsor Elementary School	April 18