

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2021 March 9

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 33000-01
Reference: Environment Week

SUBJECT: 2021 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To seek approval for the program for 2021 Environment Week.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the program for 2021 Environment Week.
2. **THAT** Council approve expenditures of \$2,000 and \$4,200 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget to support one virtual Repair Café organized as part of Environment Week and two additional virtual Repair Cafés in the summer and fall of 2021, as a pilot project.

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 public events and activities. It is coordinated by the City and provides 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.

At its meeting of 2021 February 8, Council confirmed the dates for Environment Week, endorsed a proposed approach for this year's program and approved an expenditure for advertising and promotion. This report seeks Council approval for the complete 2021 Environment Week program and authorization for a separate expenditure of \$2,000 and \$4,200 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget to partner with Metro Vancouver Repair Café to deliver a series of repair cafés as a pilot program.

For this year, the events and activities may be modified in response to social distancing guidelines and public health regulations in place at the time of Environment Week.

2.0 POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Burnaby's Environment Week program aligns with the policy and planning framework established by the City of Burnaby's Climate Action Framework (2021), Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016), Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), and Official Community Plan (1998).

2.1 Climate Action Framework

The Environment Week Program supports the Climate Action Framework's Quick Start 'expand climate awareness, engagement and dialogue'.

2.2 Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Environment Week Program supports the following strategies of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS):

- Educate citizens about ecology and sustainability (Strategy 10.1)
- Explore innovative ways to engage the public on environmental issues (Strategy 10.2)
- Develop and nurture community partnerships (Strategy 10.6)

2.3 Corporate Strategic Plan

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

- ***A Connected Community***
 - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- ***A Healthy Community***
 - Healthy life – Encourage opportunities for healthy living and well-being
 - Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
 - Lifelong learning – Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning
 - Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community

2.4 Official Community Plan

The Environment Week Program supports the following components of the Official Community Plan (OCP):

- Section 3.2.2 *An Environmentally Aware Community*. This strategy encourages environmental protection and shared stewardship, sharing of environmental information

with the community, and meaningful community participation in environmental decision making.

- Community Involvement and Shared Stewardship as key components of Burnaby's Environmental Policy Framework with an objective to 'increase public environmental awareness and responsibility through public information programs.'

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3.0 PROGRAM FOR 2021 BURNABY ENVIRONMENT WEEK

3.1 Schedule

Environment Week will take place Sunday, May 30 to Saturday, June 5. As in previous years, this coincides with Canadian Environment Week and World Environment Day recognized on Saturday, June 5.

3.2 Program Elements

The broad goal of Environment Week is to promote environmental awareness and stewardship as well as to recognize Burnaby's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and support for community based-stewardship initiatives. The activities, events and outreach campaigns outlined below align with this goal. Event details, activity registration and communication information will be available on the City of Burnaby website on the Environment Week webpage (www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek).

For this year, the events outlined below are planned to be adaptive, where possible, and may be subject to modification in response to social distancing guidelines and public health regulations in place at the time of Environment Week.

Bike to Work Week (BTWW) and the Commuter Challenge

Event Date: Monday, May 24 – Sunday, May 30 (BTWW)

Event Date: Sunday, May 30 – Saturday, June 5 (Commuter Challenge)

Bike to Work Week (BTWW) and the Commuter Challenge are two separate programs promoted in Metro Vancouver by HUB: Your Cycling Connection (HUB) and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), respectively. Each program encourages the public to commute to work by bicycle or use 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 traveled. The Commuter Challenge provides metrics for your sustainable commute, such as distance travelled and greenhouse gas emissions avoided, which can be aggregated by place of work, city and province. The City of Burnaby supports HUB in their delivery of BTWW, including the provision of 'celebration stations' on select Burnaby bike routes.

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BTWW is scheduled from Monday, May 24 to Sunday, May 30 and the Commuter Challenge is scheduled from Sunday, May 30 to Saturday, June 5. The City will encourage public participation in these two programs using our social media channels and by displaying event posters at Burnaby civic facilities. City staff will be encouraged to participate through internal promotion by the City's Green Team.

Virtual Repair Café

Event Date: Saturday, June 5

Metro Van Repair Café (MVRC) is a non-profit association that organizes Repair Cafés in the Lower Mainland. MVRC appeared as a delegation to the Environment and Social Planning Committee on 2019 November 5, requesting partnership and funding to start and run a Burnaby Repair Café. Arising from the meeting, the Committee requested that staff contact the delegation and arrange for a Repair Café event as a pilot project during 2020 Environment Week. However, due to COVID-19, the pilot program was cancelled due to public health regulations limiting social gatherings.

A Repair Café is described by MVRC as a “community event for the local public to learn how to fix their broken items with the help of experienced volunteers”. The mission of MVRC is to “promote the repair of consumer products in order to increase environmental sustainability, create connected and inclusive communities, and strengthen the local economy”.

Repair Cafés are usually held in a community space, such as a community centre. In order to adapt to the current social distancing measures, the Repair Café program has been modified to be delivered virtually through the Zoom video conferencing platform. Visitors will be able to register for the event through an online ticketing platform (free of charge) to secure a spot, while repair volunteers can register on the MVRC website. At the virtual event, each visitor will have the opportunity to present their item before being assigned to break-out rooms with volunteers that have expertise for that item. The virtual format not only maintains social distancing, but it also provides an opportunity for community interaction and collaboration while giving the visitors the chance to repair their items under the guidance of experts, reducing waste and up-cycling products to avoid landfill disposal.

MVRC would be responsible for organizing and delivering the event, including recruiting volunteers, event registration for both volunteers and visitors, social media content and promotion, and collecting, processing and reporting on participant surveys to measure success of the virtual pilot.

As outlined in *Section 4.0*, this report recommends Council authorize separate expenditure requests to support the pilot program, the first for the initial event to take place during Environment Week, and the second for the two remaining events to take place in the summer and the fall of 2021.

Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Eco-Sculpture Display

Event Date: Sunday, May 30 – Thursday, September 30

Burnaby's Eco-Sculpture program brings together communities with art, education, environmental awareness and horticulture while fostering appreciation and long-term support for Burnaby Parks.

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The theme selected for Burnaby's Environment Week is "Swimming Salmon" to bring awareness to Burnaby's salmon-bearing watercourses and to encourage stewardship for the conservation of these species and our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. The "Swimming Salmon" display will be installed in the outdoor foyer at City Hall from May 30 through to the end of September. The sculpture is currently planned as an art display only and will not incorporate the public planting component, unless public health guidelines allow for it at the time of the event.

Burnaby Eco-Centre Open House

Event Date: May or June

The Burnaby Eco-Centre is a public facility where residents can drop off a variety of materials that are accepted in the City's recycling program. In typical years, there are information displays and staff available to answer questions about what the facility accepts and where materials go. The Solid Waste and Recycling Department will finalize the event date and details over the coming months to ensure the event aligns with public health regulations.

Guided Canoe Trips on Deer Lake

Event Date: Tuesday, June 1

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department are offering two evening sessions for the guided canoe trips on Deer Lake. Participants will experience the nature of Deer Lake in the heart of Burnaby while following an experienced canoe instructor. Novice paddlers will receive guidance from the tour leaders. Registration is required.

Ecosystem Restoration event led by Lower Mainland Green Team

Event Date: Sunday, May 30

The City of Burnaby will partner with Green Teams of Canada (GTC) to deliver the event. The restoration activity planned is for an invasive species plant removal. The activity will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about invasive plant species as well as provide instructional activities on removal to restore and conserve ecosystems.

GTC is a community engagement charity started in 2011 that organizes community volunteers to undertake restoration activities in parks and public spaces in BC and across Canada. In recent years, GTC has coordinated with the Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to lead several volunteer activities to remove invasive plants in our parks and in 2019 they delivered a community event for Environment Week.

The City of Burnaby will promote the activity through social media channels and provide a suitable site for the activity to take place. GTC will organize the event, provide the equipment and materials, manage all volunteers, staff and contractors and provide a follow up report to gauge the success of the event.

The event location, date, COVID-19 safety plan and coordination with a local streamkeeper group are currently being determined. This event may be subject to postponement, depending on public health regulations in place at the time of Environment Week.

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Guided Nature Walks at Deer Lake Park (Great Blue Heron Walk & Invasive Plants Walk)
Event Dates: Sunday, May 30 and Saturday, June 5

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department are offering two guided nature walks of Deer Lake Park. Participants can either tour the Deer Lake Heron Rookery to look for breeding birds (the Great Blue Heron) or identify invasive plant species as they walk around the scenic lake. Registration is required.

Environmental Awareness, Sustainability and Stewardship Digital Content
Event Date: Sunday, May 30 – Saturday, June 5

Through the City's social media channels, themed digital content will be released daily through the City social media channels during Environment Week. The content may include City of Burnaby environmental restoration projects, community stewardship initiatives, information on Burnaby's ecosystems and biodiversity, and climate action initiatives that the City is pursuing. The content may also include departmental achievements, programs and projects to celebrate the City of Burnaby as leaders in protecting and restoring the natural environment and aligning policies that support climate action. Streamkeeper initiatives and community involvement on conservation efforts may also be highlighted as will the environmentally significant ecosystems in Burnaby.

2021 Environmental Awards Program

The nomination period closed on February 22. This year the recipients will be announced to the public on May 31 at the Regular Meeting of Council and their achievements promoted during Environment Week. The recipients will be invited to receive their awards at the Regular Meeting of Council on Monday, June 28 either in-person, or virtually, depending on provincial health regulations at the time.

4.0 REQUESTED EXPENDITURES

Council approval of the following expenditures from the Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget is sought in support of the Repair Café pilot project:

- \$2,000 for MVRC to deliver the first Repair Café during Environment Week; and,
- \$4,200 for MVRC to deliver two more Repair Cafés in the summer and fall of 2021.

The cost to deliver the first event is \$3,700 however only \$2,000 is requested because the existing Environment Week operating budget covers \$1,700 of this pilot. \$2,100 each is requested for the two subsequent events. The cost of the first event is higher because of the time required to initially recruit volunteers. The total cost to deliver the three virtual events is \$7,900.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Environment Week program celebrates Burnaby's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and community-based stewardship of the environment and new commitment to climate action. The 2020 program faced challenges and was cancelled due to the global pandemic and public health regulations regarding social distancing. For this year, the 2021 program will re-

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establish some of the planned events from last year and adapt programs to follow public health regulations.

It is recommended that the Committee seek Council approval of the program for 2021 Environment Week and that the Committee seek Council approval of expenditures of \$2,000 and \$4,200 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget to support one virtual Repair Café organized as part of Environment Week and two additional virtual Repair Cafés in the summer and fall of 2021, as a pilot project.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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Copied to:	Acting City Manager	Acting OIC – RCMP
	Director Corporate Services	Fire Chief
	Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	Manager, Environmental Engineering
	Director Engineering	City Clerk
	Director Finance	President, CUPE Local 23
	Chief Librarian	