



Planning and Building Department

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2021 August 24

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 33000 01
Reference: World Rivers Day

SUBJECT: BURNABY WORLD RIVERS DAY PROGRAM UPDATE

This memo provides the Environment Committee with information about the upcoming 2021 Burnaby World Rivers Day Program scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 2021.

The broad goal of World Rivers Day is to promote environmental stewardship and to celebrate the environmental, socio-economic and cultural values of Burnaby waterways. The activities, events and outreach campaigns included in the 2021 World Rivers Day Program align with this goal. Event details, activity registration and communication information will be available on the City of Burnaby website on the World Rivers Day webpage (burnaby.ca/worldriversday).

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no public event at the Burnaby Village Museum for World Rivers Day and planned activities will be released virtually, with the exception of the Lower Mainland Green Team ecosystem restoration event which will be held in person. This year's program aims to showcase Burnaby's watercourses in an engaging manner online through interactive activities, short films, printable watercourse maps, and by featuring Burnaby's Streamkeepers Program and Burnaby's indigenous heritage.

Indigenous History & Burnaby Watercourses

- The Indigenous history section will showcase the Burnaby Village Museum education guide on Indigenous history and the Neighbourhood Speaker Series titled "The Legend of Deer Lake and Indigenous Histories of Burnaby."

Short Films on Burnaby Waterways

- Films featuring Burnaby's waterways will be available on the World Rivers Day event page which will include the City of Burnaby Heritage Commission films *Saving Burnaby Lake* and *Saving the Salmon: the Brunette River Story*, and the film titled *Kids, Creeks and Nature* which features children from Gilpin Elementary and Mark Angelo who leads children in a fish release to engage them with nature.

Waterways of Burnaby Map & Story Map

- The Waterways of Burnaby Map will be featured on the webpage as will Burnaby's Ecosystem Story Map (Eco-Map) which highlights restored ecosystem projects that have been completed through community development.

Ecosystem Restoration Event led by Lower Mainland Green Team

- This will be a hands on learning activity (invasive plant removal) with free registration for maximum thirty (30) people. Due to the limited capacity, two events are being planned; one on Saturday, September 25th and one on Sunday, September 26th from 11:45am-3:00pm. The events will take place in the Byrne Creek watershed near Ron McLean Park with the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society volunteering to assist the Lower Mainland Green Team (LMGT) with the event.

Burnaby Streamkeepers Program

- The Burnaby Streamkeepers Program will be highlighted on the World Rivers Day event page so the community can learn more about volunteer opportunities with the stewardship groups and the environmental protection work that these community groups undertake.

Since the World Rivers Day Program was approved by the Environment Committee in May, event planning has continued and all events will move forward as planned. However, staff are following all provincial updates regarding the global COVID-19 pandemic and if required, will postpone the Ecosystem Restoration event to align with public health regulations in place at the time of World Rivers Day. All other listed events are virtual and will be available on the Burnaby website for World Rivers Day.

Committee members may contact Teresa Friedel, Environmental Planner, at Teresa.Friedel@burnaby.ca with any questions about World Rivers Day.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

TF/sa

Copied to: Acting City Manager
City Clerk