

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: **2024 WORLD RIVERS DAY**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the proposed program for the 2024 World Rivers Day as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled “2024 World Rivers Day,” dated June 19, 2024, be approved.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on June 19, 2024 received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval of the 2024 World Rivers Day.

On behalf of the Environment
Committee,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor M. Santiago
Vice Chair

TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: **2024 WORLD RIVERS DAY**
PURPOSE: To seek approval for the proposed program for the 2024 World Rivers Day.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the proposed program for the 2024 World Rivers Day as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled “2024 World Rivers Day,” dated June 19, 2024, be approved.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

A community celebration of World Rivers Day (WRD) at the Burnaby Village Museum (BVM) supports environmental awareness, stewardship and climate action. Therefore, this event aligns with the following Council-adopted plans and strategies:

- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Climate Action Framework (2020);
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016);
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011); and
- Official Community Plan (1998).

2.0 BACKGROUND

World Rivers Day (WRD) occurs annually on the fourth Sunday in September. Communities across British Columbia and Canada, and in more than 100 countries around the world, host events to celebrate waterways and their many environmental, socio-economic, and cultural values. These events strive to increase public awareness and encourage stewardship of streams and rivers.

The City of Burnaby has supported and hosted annual community celebrations of BC Rivers Day and WRD since 1993. The first BC Rivers Day was in 1980, created by renowned river advocate and Burnaby resident, Mark Angelo. The City of Burnaby was the first municipality in BC to proclaim ‘BC Rivers Day’ in 1993. Based on the success of BC Rivers Day, WRD launched in 2005 as part of the United Nations Water for Life Decade. Since 2013, the Burnaby Village Museum (BVM) has hosted the WRD community celebration.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

A group consisting of BVM, Planning and Development Department staff and Mark Angelo organizes the community celebration of WRD. This work has been underway as of April 2024 and will continue through the summer. The main program elements for the 2024 WRD are summarised in Attachment 1. Additional programs and activities may be added.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Corporate Services (Marketing and Communications) will lead the promotion for WRD to inform the public of the event details and encourage participation. The WRD program will be promoted through the City’s regular communication, including the City webpage at www.burnaby.ca/worlddriversday, social media channels, and posters at civic facilities.

Staff will also promote WRD directly to partners in the environmental stewardship community, School District 41, the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network, Burnaby’s Inter-Agency Council, post-secondary institutions, and others. The BVM will promote the event directly to local First Nations and will also consider including incentives for families to attend the event.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The WRD program at the BVM is funded by annual operating funds from the BVM and the Planning and Development Department, as well as from external community grants received from time to time. The program budget this year will support Indigenous programming and engagement referenced in Attachment 1 including the traditional welcome and performances.

Respectfully submitted,
E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Proposed 2024 World Rivers Day Program

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Hafsa Salihue, Environmental Planner, and reviewed by Mark Sloat, Senior Environmental Planner; Johannes Schumann, Director Community Planning; and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.