

Proposed 2024 World Rivers Day Program

Date and Time

11:00am to 4:30pm on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at the BVM.

Location

The event will take place at the Burnaby Village Museum (BVM). This is an ideal venue to host the event because of the physical connection to Deer Lake Brook bisecting the museum grounds and because of the historical and contemporary connections of waterways to Indigenous communities and the community of Burnaby, recognized as falling within the shared, ancestral and unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm and Skwxwú7mesh-speaking people.

Welcome Remarks

Welcoming remarks to open WRD are scheduled for 12:00pm at the Bandstand. This will include a traditional welcome led by representation from local First Nations in alignment with City protocols. Remarks by the City of Burnaby (Mayor and Council) and Mark Angelo (Chair of the World Rivers Day organization) will be part of the ceremony.

Activities

A variety of activities for children, and people of all ages, are planned for WRD, taking place throughout the BVM grounds. Planning for the following activities is underway:

Indigenous programming: Museum Education Programming staff are planning Indigenous programming as part of WRD. This may include guided ecology tours or storytelling by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and hands-on activities such as making seed balls using Coast Salish plant seeds.

Streamside interpretation: a Museum interpreter will be stationed on the new pedestrian bridge over Deer Lake Brook to speak on the ecology of the stream and riparian areas.

Film screenings: short films on Burnaby waterways will be shown on a loop in the Central Park Theatre on the BVM grounds. Films under consideration include those of the City of Burnaby Heritage Commission: *Saving Burnaby Lake* and *Saving the Salmon – the Brunette River Story*. Also under consideration are films produced by Mark Angelo, including *Kids, Creeks and Nature* about fish releases with local elementary schools.

Ecological restoration and Urban Forestry: The Planning and Development Department will host a 'Community Development and Ecosystem Protection' display that highlights stream restoration projects in Burnaby. The display will include the 'Big Map' of Burnaby consisting of a 3 metre by 4 metre aerial photo of the entire City and waterway network. 'Waterways of Burnaby' poster sized maps will be given away. Burnaby's Urban Forestry group will host a separate display about the City's trees and forests and the important environmental functions and services they provide. A tree seedling giveaway is planned.

Vancouver Aquarium: The Vancouver Aquarium's Ocean Wise Sea Dome has been requested for WRD. This immersive ocean adventure was created with 350-degree projections inside an inflatable dome. The journey traces the connection between oceans, climate change, polar ice caps, tropical reefs and salmon habitat preservation. This display aims to encourage passion, knowledge and stewardship of waterways and oceans.

Deer Lake Brook streamside restoration demonstration:

Tentatively planned for WRD is a hands-on activity involving the Lower Mainland Green Team (LMGT) to enhance the Deer Lake Brook streamside areas by removing invasive plants and planting native plant species.

Entertainment

Ginalina (www.ginalinamusic.com) returns as the headlining musical performer. Her music features lively guitars, fiddles and a blend of entertaining folk and other instruments. Her performance will include an original song written for WRD called 'Save the Mighty River'. Other entertainers may include Nylon Zoo and Kelly Haines. Performances will be scheduled throughout the day.

Exhibitors

Thirty-one (31) community stewardship partners have been invited to participate in WRD as exhibitors and will be encouraged to include an interactive activity for the public. As of mid-May, 15 groups have confirmed their participation.

Food

Having food trucks present onsite was well received at last year's WRD event. Depending on availability and spacing, one or two food trucks are planned for 2024.