

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “2026 Environmental Stewardship Events” dated February 9, 2026, of the Environment Committee meeting, be received for information.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on February 9, 2026, received and adopted the attached report providing Council with information about 2026 environmental stewardship events.

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: 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP EVENTS
PURPOSE: To provide information about 2026 environmental stewardship events.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “2026 Environmental Stewardship Events” dated February 9, 2026, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Civic promotion of environmental awareness, stewardship and climate action aligns with the following Council-adopted plans and strategies:

- Official Community Plan (2025);
- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Climate Action Framework (2020);
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016); and
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Every year, the City of Burnaby organizes environmental stewardship and education events in the community to promote environmental sustainability. These family-friendly events are free or at low-cost, open to the public to encourage broad participation. Together, these events provide diverse learning and volunteer opportunities that create stronger connections between people and nature.

These events foster collaboration between various City departments, including Planning and Development, Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC), Engineering, and Corporate Services. External community partner organizations are also involved in leading and supporting certain events according to their expertise. External partnerships are a mix of volunteer and contracted services to lead events.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of environmental stewardship events and milestones planned for 2026 are summarized in Attachment 1. This schedule includes annual events that are organized by the Planning and Development, PRC, and Engineering departments. Two public fish release events organized by the Stoney Creek and Eagle Creek Streamkeepers are also featured in the schedule. Final schedules will be released on the City website and social media channels.

A few elements of the 2026 environmental stewardship events schedule are highlighted below.

3.1 Environmental Awards Program

Burnaby's Environmental Awards program began in 1995 and has since been an annual event. The program currently recognizes achievements of individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses in six categories: communications, planning and development, community stewardship, youth, green choices, and business stewardship. The key dates for the Environmental Awards program are listed in Attachment 1 and the Terms of Reference, promotional poster, and nomination form are included as Attachment 2.

3.2 City Nature Challenge

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual event celebrated across the globe. This is a large scale 'Citizen Science' event for anyone to find and document plants and wildlife in cities using a digital application called 'iNaturalist'. The 2026 event dates are listed in Attachment 1.

The Metro Vancouver Regional District will be leading the CNC event for the region and the City of Burnaby will support the event by hosting guided nature walks in Burnaby Parks to introduce the public to the data gathering technology, including the iNaturalist Application. For the first time, the City will also support by promoting the event through the City's website and social media channels. The iNaturalist application will need to be used to gather and upload data to be counted towards the event.

3.3 Indigenous Stewardship & Education

The City continues to look for ways to incorporate Indigenous programming into environmental stewardship and education. In 2026, the Indigenous programming department at the Burnaby Village Museum will be incorporating Indigenous educational elements into their public tours, summer camps, and the World Rivers Day celebration held at the Museum.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Corporate Services (Marketing and Communications) will lead the promotion of the events hosted by the City. The events will be promoted through the City's regular communication channels, including the City website, social media channels, and posters at civic facilities. Staff will also promote the events 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. City partners, such as the Streamkeepers, Lower Mainland Green Team, Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society and Burnaby Lake Park Association, will further promote their events to their networks.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for the 2026 environmental stewardship events has been allocated in the annual operating budget of the Planning and Development Department, PRC and Engineering departments.

Respectfully submitted,

E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 2026 Environmental Stewardship Events

Attachment 2 – 2026 Environmental Awards Terms of Reference, Promotional Poster, and Nomination Form

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Hafsa Salihue, Planner 1 (CAE), and reviewed by Mark Sloat, Planner 3 (CAE); Melinda Yong, Park Planner; Zac Der, Environmental Services Officer; Christina Froschauer, Museum Community Engagement Coordinator; Erica Lay, Manager Climate Action and Environment; Wendy Tse, Director Community Planning; and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.