

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2022 May 25

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER **FILE:** 33000 01
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT *Reference: Environmental Awards*

SUBJECT: 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To provide information on the 2022 Environmental Awards Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The City of Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program recognizes the outstanding contributions made by individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate action in our community.

There are six categories of environmental awards: Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development, and Youth. There are two designations in each category:

- **Environmental Award**, for recognition of environmental achievements of a larger scale, such as long-term commitments to an organization or cause, leadership of numerous other individuals, and projects of a significant size and relatively complex scope; and
- **Environmental Star**, for recognition of environmental achievements of a smaller or more individual scale that may nevertheless serve to catalyze larger initiatives and inspire others.

At the direction of Council, in a given year, one (1) Environmental Award and a maximum of two (2) Environmental Stars may be awarded in each category.

Council approved the award recipients described in this report at its closed meeting on 2022 May 9. The also approved the terms of reference, call for nominations and a \$2,500 expenditure for promoting and advertising the 2023 program.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The Environmental Awards Program aligns with the following City policies and plans: *Climate Action Framework* (2020), *Corporate Strategic Plan* (2017), *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* (2016), and *Official Community Plan* (1998).

3.0 NOMINATION REVIEW AND 2022 AWARDS PROGRAM

The 2022 nomination period opened in mid-February and closed on March 31. The call for nominations was promoted at civic facilities and to Burnaby's environmental community, published on the City's website, and promoted on the City's social media channels. The City received eleven (11) nominations across the six award categories. The award recipients are proposed to be announced at the 2022 May 30 Council Meeting.

4.0 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS AND STARS

4.1 Environmental Awards

In the category of Community Stewardship: Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society

In 2020, members of the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society (BFCS) were contacted by the Sapperton Fish and Game Club (SFGC) to gauge interest in taking over operation of the community fish hatchery located in Cariboo Heights, near the Brunette River. SFGC had operated the hatchery for over 20 years in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the City of Burnaby, who own the land and permitted the hatchery to operate in accordance with a license agreement. SFGC was looking for a new community operator that would be committed to operating the hatchery into the future for the benefit of the Brunette River and the community. BFCS confirmed their interest and in 2021, in a new partnership, the City took ownership of the hatchery building and entered into a license agreement with the BFCS as the new operator, under the technical guidance of DFO.

Over the last two years, the BFCS has learned how to operate the hatchery under mentorship from the DFO Community Advisor. The BFCS is now self-sufficient and has since released thousands of small salmon fry into Burnaby's local streams and tributaries. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time are required of the members of the society and family members each hatchery season. This endeavor helps keep Burnaby's salmon stocks healthy and growing. BFCS's commitment to the hatchery program not only helps make Burnaby a greener city, but also helps the next generation learn to understand and appreciate our environment and the importance of Community Stewardship.

In the category of Planning and Development: Simon Fraser University for development of a below market rental building built to high standards for energy efficiency.

Simon Fraser University's – Parcel 21 project on Burnaby Mountain is a recent non-market rental housing development, primarily targeting mature students with children – a demographic that is typically underserved by universities. This project will be one of the most energy efficient

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: General Manager Planning and Development
Re: 2022 Environmental Awards Program

2022 May 25Page 3

buildings in British Columbia, with building envelope performance modelled at the uppermost tiers of the BC Energy Step Code. It is significant that this building's energy efficiency performance level will be achieved on a conventional construction budget. Construction of the building is near completion.

In the category of Youth: Casey Lo

Casey Lo has been a part of the Forest Grove Garden Club since she was seven years old, both as a participant and now, in her Grade 12 year of high school, as a volunteer leader. She volunteers for summer programs and serves as the current Youth Committee Head. She has also been involved with the Youth to Sea Youth Organization, through which she secured a grant to revitalize the indoor greenhouse at Burnaby Mountain Secondary School. The grant was also used to develop a self-watering system for the outdoor garden metal bins. The bins and the watering system are now used at other Burnaby schools.

The Greenhouse Project at Burnaby Mountain Secondary School has had a broader community impact. The project connected other students in the school to growing plants for their outdoor garden bins, as well as to other garden clubs that work with the Sprouting Chefs Society, including Forest Grove Elementary, Edmonds Community School and Windsor Elementary.

Casey's commitment to this project demonstrates environmental stewardship and climate resiliency to her peers and the younger students at the Forest Grove Garden Club. Casey has been an inspiration to her peers while showing a desire to create positive solutions for the future in permaculture, growing food and protecting the environment.

In the category of Communications: SFU350 – a student-run climate action club

SFU350 is a student-run climate action club operating at Simon Fraser University (SFU). The Club has been active at SFU Burnaby since 2013. Their name references 350ppm (parts per million) of carbon dioxide (CO²), which represents the safe upper limit amount of carbon dioxide for our atmosphere to avoid a changing climate.

Since its inception, SFU350 has demonstrated dedication to creating meaningful community impacts and positive change through various campaigns. The club ensures equity, sustainability, and Indigenous sovereignty are centered in all campaigns, and has a dedicated working group active with the express purpose of advocating for climate justice.

Past campaigns have contributed to the declaration of a climate emergency from SFU's Board of Governors; the full divestment of SFU from all financial holdings invested in fossil fuel extraction, refinement, and transportation companies; and acknowledgement of alignment between SFU's goals and SFU350's climate emergency open letter demands. These milestones were achieved through many hours of student advocacy, with support being garnered among a multitude of SFU community members and stakeholders.

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: General Manager Planning and Development
Re: 2022 Environmental Awards Program
2022 May 25 Page 4

SFU350 remains a dynamic group on campus, with multiple in-progress campaigns focused on a range of climate and environmental issues.

In the Category of Green Choices: Pablo Vimos

Pablo Vimos, a resident of University Highlands in Burnaby, is recognized for his exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability. Mr. Vimos uses his comprehensive knowledge of sustainable food systems to educate community members, drawing upon his decades of agricultural experience and academic training in landscape spatial analysis.

As Gardens Manager with Embark Sustainability Society, Mr. Vimos manages two large-scale Learning Gardens open to Burnaby’s SFU community. There he facilitates various workshops exploring food systems and growing practices, making gardening accessible to community members and emphasizing organic gardening practices, minimizing garden waste, and gardening’s role in sustainable living. This includes hand-on gardening experience during the growing season.

Mr. Vimos also runs the Roots2Grow Gardening Program, facilitating gardening and edible education workshops in Burnaby elementary schools. Taking school groups through the gardening process from plot creation to harvest, Roots2Grow helps children understand local food production and supports Burnaby elementary schools to make the most of their outdoor space.

Mr. Vimos previously received an Environmental Star in 2014 for his volunteer work with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee, a local streamkeeper group in Burnaby. An Environmental Award in 2022 recognizes his other accomplishments noted above and overall contributions to his community.

4.2 Environmental Stars

In the category of Green Choices: Brookside Court Strata

Members of the Brookside Court strata in Burnaby organized a multi-year restoration plan for a streamside area along Lost Creek, which traverses the Brookside Court property. Although access to fish is limited upstream of the Trans-Canada Highway, Lost Creek is considered fish habitat, and provides a refuge to many aquatic species and wildlife throughout its length from North Road to the Brunette River.

Strata members prepared and implemented a plan to enhance the streamside areas on their property for the purpose of improving fish habitat and making their space more inviting to all of the residents. The plan was fully funded by the strata, and brought many strata members together to volunteer in a variety of capacities such as planning and budgeting for the project, and watering to help plant establishment. In 2020 – 2021, work began to remove invasive plants (Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and bamboo), and to treat Japanese knotweed. Invasive plants had spread over a significant portion of the stream channel causing bank instability. Varieties of native shrubs were planted along the channel banks. Additional plans are already being made for 2022 as part of a third phase of invasive plant removal and replanting.

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: General Manager Planning and Development
Re: 2022 Environmental Awards Program
2022 May 25 Page 5

This project highlights a commitment to both environmental sustainability and climate action on Brookside strata property by the strata members. Habitat restoration improves ecosystem health and resiliency by removing invasive plant monocultures and planting a variety of plants native to the habitat area. Benefits of this habitat restoration include urban cooling, reduction of erosion and improving streamside health, which extend beyond the property boundaries by providing protection not only to the stream at this location, but also to habitat areas further downstream.

In the category of Youth: Smith Hemsley

Smith is a seven year old Grade 2 student who has an interest in environmental sustainability and waste reduction, specifically in reducing the amount of pens, pencils, crayons, markers, and other classroom supplies discarded to landfills. It is reported that Smith hopes that if students and adults recycle their pens and pencils, they will also think about what other everyday items can be diverted from waste streams.

With leadership and support from his teacher, Smith has implemented a recycling project at his school. His classmates decorated recycled shoe boxes with a "Feed a Zombie, Not a Landfill" theme and delivered a box to each classroom at the school. Smith and his classmates pick up the recyclable items in the boxes on a weekly basis and bring them to a community partner for recycling. 10 pounds of used materials has been diverted so far.

In the category of Youth: Luka Kovacic

Luka is one of the youngest members of the Stoney Creek Environment Committee, a local streamkeeper group. He has been volunteering for many years in the environmental stewardship activities of the group. He also helps educate the public by creating environmental videos for promotion on social media, which he produces under the title of Luka's World Adventures.

Luka has helped in Stoney Creek's annual fall salmon counts, walking the creek to record and count the numbers of returning fish every weekend from October to mid-December. The Streamkeepers report that despite some wet days, he is dedicated to this activity and never discouraged. He also helps to download the water temperatures from data loggers installed in the Stoney Creek watershed and has helped lead tours of Stoney Creek for other students, helping others to become aware of the ecology of the watershed.

In the category of Community Stewardship: Sara Ross

Sara Ross is one of the founding members of the Community Nest Finding Network (CNFN) a grassroots, collaborative, volunteer network aiming to protecting birds along the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion route.

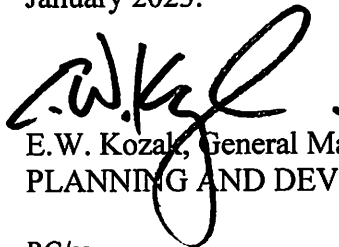
Since early 2021, Ms. Ross has helped train volunteers and citizen scientists to find and document the nests of birds in the Brunette River Corridor. This initiative arose out of the concern about Trans Mountain's construction activities in Burnaby and impacts on trees and habitat for birds and other wildlife. Sara has also helped create a website with a group of fellow artists to raise community awareness about the trees that will be removed as part of pipeline construction in

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: General Manager Planning and Development
Re: 2022 Environmental Awards Program
2022 May 25 Page 6

Burnaby. Ms. Ross is reported to have shown great initiative and determination in her efforts to connect with the different stakeholders involved to reduce the impacts of pipeline construction on trees and bird habitat.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program recognizes significant environmental achievements of individuals, community groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses in our community. For 2022, five (5) Environmental Awards and four (4) Environmental Stars were approved at the Closed Meeting on 2022 May 9. The awards will be presented at the Council meeting on 2022 June 20. Council also approved the 2023 Terms of Reference, an expenditure of \$2,500 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for promotion and advertising, and the call for nominations for the Environmental Awards Program to be in early January 2023.



E. W. Kozak, General Manager
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

RG/sa
Attachment

Copied to: Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer
General Manager Corporate Services
City Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

*Nomination
Deadline:
TBA*

The City of Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals, community groups, businesses and organizations to environmental sustainability in our community. Help us recognize Burnaby's environmental leaders by making a nomination today.

Award Categories

1 Business Stewardship

This category recognizes Burnaby-based businesses, whose business practices and stewardship activities promote environmental sustainability in the workplace or community. Businesses should demonstrate excellence in raising awareness of environmental issues with staff/clients, reducing their ecological footprint in areas such as energy or water use, waste reduction, purchasing and transportation and/or enhancing or rehabilitating the City of Burnaby's environment.

2 Communications

This category includes all forms of print and digital media, video, audio or multi-media presentations, and outreach or campaigns that help to increase the understanding of environmental issues or promote environmentally sustainable behaviors in our community. The nominated work should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of an environmental issue or sustainability and its relationship to Burnaby's citizens.

3 Community Stewardship

This category recognizes individuals, community groups and organizations that have actively promoted environmental stewardship in the City of Burnaby for several years. Their efforts have increased public awareness of an environmental issue or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

4 Green Choices

This category recognizes residents of Burnaby, including individuals, community groups, organizations, strata councils, and institutions, that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability in the home, garden and community through any of the following means: household energy conservation, waste reduction, green waste recycling, water efficiency, innovation in natural garden practices and native plant landscaping, local food production, active transportation and other sustainable lifestyle choices.

5 Planning & Development

This category highlights developments that demonstrate strategic planning, innovative environmental features and green building technologies that reduce energy use and emissions, reuse materials, use water efficiently, employ innovative approaches to stormwater and wastewater management, encourage active transportation, and protect and enhance aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Developments may range in scale from large commercial, industrial, institutional or residential projects to individual new or renovated buildings.

6 Youth

This category recognizes the contributions that children or teenagers have made, either through their own initiatives or through school programs, which have enhanced public awareness of environmental sustainability issues or have notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

Nomination Information

Visit burnaby.ca/environmentawards for an online nomination form.

Award Process

The program includes two award designations. Environmental Awards recognize individuals and groups for outstanding environmental achievements. Environmental Stars recognize accomplishments carried out on a smaller scale. Criteria is available on our website. Awards will be presented at a Council Meeting in June 2023 either in-person or virtually, depending on provincial health guidelines in place at that time.

Questions?

City of Burnaby Planning Department:
Tel: 604-294-7400
Email: planning@burnaby.ca

Nomination Deadline: TBA