

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: 2024 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the program for the 2024 Environment Week as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled “2024 Environment Week Program” dated April 22, 2024, be approved.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on April 22, 2024 received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval of the 2024 Environment Week program.

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 ENVIRONMENT WEEK PROGRAM
PURPOSE: To seek Council approval of the 2024 Environmental Week program.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the program for the 2024 Environment Week as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled “2024 Environment Week Program” dated April 22, 2024 be approved.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Civic promotion of environmental awareness, stewardship and climate action 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

The Environment Committee endorsed a proposed approach for this year’s Environment Week program at the February 21, 2024 meeting and Council approved the proposed approach at the Regular Meeting of Council on March 11, 2024. This report summarizes the complete Environment Week Program for Council approval, which aligns with the proposed approach previously approved.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Burnaby’s Environment Week program aims to engage with the community on the environment, stewardship and climate action through a range of environmentally themed public events and activities. It is coordinated by the City and provides an opportunity for Burnaby residents, local community groups, businesses and other government agencies to come together to recognize and celebrate our community and the environment.

The 2024 Environment Week will take place from Sunday, June 2 to Saturday, June 8 to coincide with Canadian Environment Week and World Environment Day on Wednesday, June 5.

The planned events and activities for 2024 Environment Week are summarized in Attachment 1.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Corporate Services (Marketing and Communications) will lead the Environment Week campaign, which is scheduled for launch on May 12, 2024 and continue to June 8, 2024. This community engagement intends to inform the public of the event details and encourage participation.

The Environment Week program will be promoted to the public through the City's regular communication channels, including the City webpage at www.burnaby.ca/environmentweek, social media channels, and posters at civic facilities. Staff will also promote Environment Week 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 Lower Mainland Green Team, Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society and Burnaby Lake Park Association will further promote their events and the larger Environment Week program to their networks.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for the 2024 Environment Week program is provided from the annual operating budget of the Planning and Development Department.

Respectfully submitted,

E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – 2024 Environment Week Program

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Hafsa Salihue, Planner 1 and reviewed by Mark Sloat, Planner 2 and Wendy Tse, Director Community Planning.

2024 Environment Week Program

Go By Bike Week

Event Details:

- Go By Bike Week, Monday, June 3 to Sunday, June 9

Go By Bike Week is a program delivered across all Metro Vancouver municipalities by HUB: Your Cycling Connection. It consists of a week-long celebration of cycling that encourages people to try cycling for the first time and motivates those already riding to keep doing so. Participants register online to record their trips with prizes available based on how many trips one logs. Go By Bike Week encourages the formation of teams based on place of work. The City of Burnaby is a longtime supporter of HUB and Go By Bike Week, including a 'celebration station' on one of Burnaby's cycling commuter routes, tentatively planned this year for the Central Valley Greenway Urban Trail near the intersection with Gilmore Avenue. Marketing and Communications promotes this event on the city website and social media channels.

2024 Environmental Awards Program

The nomination period for this year's program closed on April 7. The selected recipients will be announced to the public on May 27 at the Regular Meeting of Council and their achievements promoted during Environment Week (www.burnaby.ca/environmentawards). The recipients are tentatively scheduled to receive their awards at the Regular Meeting of Council on Monday, June 24.

Environment Week Pop-Up Activities at Amazing Brentwood and Edmonds Park Plaza

Event Details:

- Amazing Brentwood Plaza on Sunday, June 2, 10am to 4pm
- Edmonds Park Plaza on Saturday, June 8, 10am to 4pm

Staff will engage with the community to raise awareness of urban forests, ecosystem enhancement, environmental policies, waste management and climate action. Both events will have staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture (Urban Forestry), Engineering (Waste Management and Water Conservation) and the Planning and Development Department (Climate Action & Energy and Environmental Planning).

Environmental Education Workshops

Event Details:

- Burnaby Lake Tree Identification Workshop on Sunday, June 2, 10am-2pm
- Byrne Creek – Urban Stream Workshop on Saturday, June 8, 10am-12pm

These workshops will be led by an ecologist who will take participants for a nature hike and an educational tour to learn about trees and urban streams.

Indigenous Photo Tour at Deer Lake

Event Details:

- Sunday, June 2, 1:30pm-3pm

This guided photography tour of Deer Lake will focus on photography tips for both film cameras and phones. The tour will be led by Indigenous guides who will be sharing some of the Indigenous history of Deer Lake and the surrounding area and traditional knowledge about the plants important to Coast Salish peoples for food and medicine.

Guided Forest Bathing Sessions

Event Details:

- Central Park on Sunday, June 2, 9am to 11am
- Confederation Park on Saturday, June 8, 3pm to 5.30pm

These guided forest therapy walks are inspired by Shinrin-yoku, the Japanese art of "Forest Bathing." The intent of these walks is to disconnect from technology and deepen the participants connection with nature by embracing silence, listening, and feeling elements of the natural environment.

Guided Nature Walk – Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society

Event Details:

- Cariboo Heights Forest on Sunday, June 2, 10am to 11.30am

To celebrate Environment Week, the Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society (CHFPS) is offering a free, family friendly stroll through the Cariboo Heights Forest. The CHFPS is a local environmental stewardship group with interest in conservation of the forested lands surrounding the existing Cariboo Heights neighbourhood. Event participants will learn about the history of the area, wildlife, endangered species, breeding birds, native pollinators and how the local creeks and forests are tied to the future of salmon in Brunette River.

Environment Themed Event – Burnaby Lake Park Association

Event Details:

- Burnaby Lake Piper Spit on Sunday, June 2, 11am to 3pm

The Burnaby Lake Park Association will be hosting a free event for Environment Week. Details for this event are yet to be confirmed but activities could include guided a nature walk, educational displays, or nature trivia.

Environmental awareness, stewardship, and climate action digital Content

Event Details:

- Monday, June 3 to Friday, June 7

Through the City's social media channels, themed digital content will be released daily during Environment Week. Content may include environmental restoration projects, community stewardship initiatives, information on Burnaby's ecosystems and biodiversity and climate action initiatives that the City is pursuing. Streamkeeper initiatives and community involvement in conservation efforts may also be highlighted.

Guided Canoe Trips on Deer Lake

Event Details:

- Tuesday, June 4, 6pm to 7pm and 7:15pm to 8:15pm
- Wednesday, June 5, 6pm to 7pm and 7:15pm to 8:15pm

Parks, Recreation and Culture is offering four evening sessions of guided canoe trips on Deer Lake. Participants will experience the nature of Deer Lake in the heart of Burnaby alongside an experienced canoe instructor.

Burnaby Eco-Centre Open House

Event Details:

- Saturday, June 8, 10am to 2pm

Burnaby's Eco-Centre is a public facility that provides residents with a safe, convenient and affordable drop off location for over 20 different types of recyclable materials, as well as opportunities to purchase items like composters and rain barrels. As in past Environment Weeks, there will be information displays and staff available to answer questions about what the facility accepts and where materials go. This year will also feature a Japanese Beetle mascot from the Invasive Species Council of BC.

Ecosystem Restoration Events Lead by Lower Mainland Green Team

Event Details:

- Central Park on Sunday, June 2, 9:45 am to 1pm
- Cariboo Heights Forest on Saturday, June 8, 9:45am to 1pm

The City of Burnaby is partnering with the Lower Mainland Green Team (LMGT) to engage the community in ecosystem restoration. The LMGT is a non-profit organization that coordinates community volunteers to undertake restoration activities in parks and public spaces in the lower mainland. The restoration activities include invasive plant species identification and removal. The LMGT will organize the event, provide the equipment and materials, manage all volunteers and provide a follow-up report to gauge the success of the events.

Coquitlam Search and Rescue Presentations for Secondary Schools

Event Details:

- Monday, June 3 to Friday, June 7

Enjoying the outdoors comes with risks and this year, the Coquitlam Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers will be offering presentations to secondary school classes about those risks and how they can stay safe.

Events Under Development

There is potential for two additional events to be added to the program, including a guided bird watching and heron colony viewing tour at Deer Lake and a Repair Café where participants can bring their household items to be repaired.

2024 Burnaby Environment Week Program Calendar

Time	Sunday - June 2						Monday - June 3	Tuesday - June 4	Wednesday - June 5	Thursday - June 6	Friday - June 7	Saturday - June 8					
	Social Media Campaign																
							Coquitlam Search and Rescue Presentations at High Schools										
8-9 am												Tentative: Guided Bird Watching and Heron colony viewing at Deer Lake					
9-10 am	Guided Forest Bathing - Central Park (9 am -11 am)																
10-11 am		Tree Identification Workshop - Burnaby Lake (10 am – 2 pm)		Invasive Removal - Central Park (9.45 am - 1 pm)	Guided Nature Walk - Cariboo Heights Forest (10 am - 11.30 am)		Burnaby Lake Park Association Event (11 am – 3 pm)						Eco-Centre Open House (10 am – 2 pm)	Urban Stream Workshop - Ron Mclean Park (10 am – 2 pm)	City Hall Pop-up - Edmonds Park Plaza (10 am - 4 pm)	Invasive Removal - Cariboo Heights Forest (9.45 am - 1 pm)	
11-11.30 am																	
11.30 am - 12 pm																	
12-1 pm																	
1-1.30 pm																	
1.30-2 pm		First Nations Guided Photography Tour - Deer Lake (1.30 pm - 3 pm)	City Hall Pop-up - Amazing Brentwood (10 am – 4 pm)														
2-3 pm																	
3-3.30 pm																	
3.30-4 pm																	
4-4.30 pm																	
4.30-5 pm																	
5-6 pm																	
6-7 pm																	
7-8 pm																	