

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: WORLD RIVERS DAY COMMEMORATIVE SIGN AND FEASIBILITY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT staff be authorized to install a new World Rivers Day commemorative sign at Fraser Foreshore Park, as outlined in Section 3.0 of the report titled "World Rivers Day Commemorative Sign and Feasibility Update," dated February 21, 2024.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on February 21, 2024 received and adopted the attached report providing an update on the feasibility of installing a World Rivers Day commemorative sign at Fraser Foreshore Park.

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: **WORLD RIVERS DAY COMMEMORATIVE SIGN AND FEASIBILITY UPDATE**
PURPOSE: To report back on the feasibility of installing a World Rivers Day commemorative sign at Fraser Foreshore Park.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff be authorized to install a new World Rivers Day commemorative sign at Fraser Foreshore Park as outlined in Section 3.0 of the report titled "World Rivers Day Commemorative Sign and Feasibility Update," dated February 21, 2024.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Support of BC and World Rivers Day and civic promotion of environmental awareness and stewardship 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

On February 15, 2023, the Environment Committee received correspondence from Mark Angelo inquiring about the feasibility of displaying an informational and commemorative sign at Fraser Foreshore Park centered on the history of World Rivers Day (WRD). This request resulted in the Committee directing staff to report back on the feasibility of installing such a sign. This request is framed by the historical connections the City of Burnaby and Mark Angelo have with BC and World Rivers Day, as elaborated below.

Mr. Angelo is the founder and Chair of BC and World Rivers Day, Chair Emeritus of the River Institute at BCIT and a long-time Burnaby resident. He founded Rivers Day in the southern interior of BC in the early 1980s to promote environmental stewardship and to educate the public about the environmental, social and economic values of rivers. This became BC Rivers Day, celebrated annually on the 4th Sunday in September. The City of Burnaby was the first BC municipality to proclaim BC Rivers Day in 1993 and since that time, City staff have worked with Mr. Angelo each year to prepare a Rivers Day community celebration in Burnaby. In 2005, Mr. Angelo worked with the United Nations to develop World Rivers Day for promotion to countries around the world. Today, BC and World Rivers Day is celebrated in communities across BC and Canada and in over 100 countries.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

In response to the direction from the Environment Committee, staff met to identify the process for designing, preparing and installing a WRD commemorative sign at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park.

Based on the information gathered, this report concludes that it is feasible to install a commemorative sign for WRD at Fraser Foreshore Park, as outlined below. Further, the installation of this sign aligns with many of the City's stewardship and education policies, as well as Burnaby's long-standing relationship with Rivers Day and Mark Angelo as a community partner.

A summary of the content, location, and timeline to install the sign is provided below.

3.1 Content

Based on a sign template used for other commemorative or informational signs, it is proposed that the content of the sign could include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Historical background of BC and World Rivers Day and founder Mark Angelo
- The significance of Burnaby's waterways as its natural heritage, including the City's efforts to preserve and enhance watercourses
- A timeline of significant milestones, for example:
 - 1973 – City of Burnaby *Open Watercourse Policy* ensures watercourses remain open
 - 1980 – First 'BC Rivers Day'
 - 1993 – City of Burnaby proclaim 'BC Rivers Day'
 - 2005 – WRD launched as part of the UN Water for Life Decade
- Highlight the current goals of WRD with a focus on public and youth engagement in environmental stewardship activities
- A QR code that can be linked to the [WRD website](#) with more information
- High quality images or maps

3.2 Location and Timeline

The pier at Fraser Foreshore Park was identified as the ideal location for the WRD commemorative sign because of its location on the Fraser River. This pier is scheduled to be replaced with construction expected to occur in the five year capital plan 2024-2029. Therefore, the WRD sign could be unveiled in conjunction with the completion of the pier redevelopment project. A temporary sign could be installed on site for the 2024 celebrations.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

City staff and Mr. Angelo will work collaboratively to design the content and layout of the sign. Invitations will be sent out to Council, Environment Committee members and community partners that might be interested in attending the sign unveiling event. The Marketing and Communications team will organize the photographer for the sign unveiling event. To engage the community early, there may be an opportunity to unveil the design of the sign and planned location at the 2024 World Rivers Day community event at the Burnaby Village Museum.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The permanent sign will be part of the PRC signage program in the 2024-2029 capital budget.

Respectfully submitted,

EW Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

ATTACHMENTS

None.

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Hafsa Salihue, Environmental Planner, and reviewed by Mark Sloat, Senior Environmental Planner, Wendy Tse, Director Community Planning, Heather Edwards, Manager of Parks Planning, Design, and Development, and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.