

**CITY OF BURNABY**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS**

**RE: B.C. RIVERS DAY**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** the Mayor proclaim 1997 Sunday, September 28 B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby.
2. **THAT** Council approve the proposed preliminary Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** Council approve \$1,800. for advertising and implementing the proposed Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Karen Hodson, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver B.C. V6H 4A9 and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

B.C. Rivers Day is an annual event sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. occurring on the last Sunday in September which celebrates British Columbia's spectacular natural and cultural heritage of rivers. Throughout the province, citizens, local community and environmental groups, government agencies, organizations and educational institutions organize river related events and invite members of the public to participate in appreciating, protecting and enhancing B.C. waterways.

<p>: COPY - CITY MANAGER - DEP. MGR.-CORP. LAB. REL. - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR FINANCE - DIR. PLNG. &amp; BLDG. - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER</p>
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The City of Burnaby became the first municipality in the province to proclaim and participate in B.C. Rivers Day in 1993. Last year, approximately 80 municipalities proclaimed BC Rivers Day in their communities with 120 events taking place in 46 communities. During the past four years, the City and its Environment and Waste Management Committee has coordinated in partnership with BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project, local environmental groups and the community a variety of public events including interpretive walks, creek clean-ups, riparian plantings and the development of environmental information such as posters and brochures advocating the protection and enhancement of watercourses. These efforts have been extremely successful and well received.

As in previous years, the Environment and Waste Management Committee, BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project and various community environmental groups are proposing public events to celebrate B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby. This report describes the proposed program for B.C. Rivers Day this September 28.

## **2.0 OUTLINE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR B.C. RIVERS DAY 1997**

### **2.1 Proclamation**

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim Sunday, 1997 September 28 as B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby. This will focus attention on the event and indicate the City's commitment to respect and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage value of its waterways.

### **2.2 Proposed Events**

Details such as time of events, meeting locations and other necessary approvals are currently being finalized. Council approval of this preliminary program and budget is being sought at this time to allow for sufficient time to advertise the events once finalized.

#### **Beecher Creek Riparian Planting**

BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project and the 8th Northview Scouts are proposing a riparian planting along a degraded section of Beecher Creek off of Roy Street and Douglas Road. It is proposed that this event be a focal point for the B.C. Rivers Day celebration in Burnaby with a tent, waterways brochures and refreshments available.

### **Brunette River Interpretive Walk**

The Sapperton Fish and Game Club is proposing a public interpretive walk along the Brunette River below the Cariboo dam to the confluence with Stoney Creek to identify significant fish habitat and discuss enhancement works including the new fishway at the BNR tracks along the river.

### **Stoney Creek Enhancement**

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee is proposing to clean-up a section of the creek above the Lougheed Highway off of Eastlake Drive and potentially plant native conifers in the riparian area which is dominated by alder and cottonwood.

### **Byrne Creek Clean-Up**

Vancouver Angling and Game Association is planning to clean-up upper Byrne Creek in the vicinity of the Edmonds SkyTrain station. An informational display regarding creek enhancement works will be also be set along the Byrne Creek trail above Marine Drive by the Association.

### **Deer Lake Interpretive Walk**

Local birding experts of the Vancouver Natural History Society will lead an early morning birding walk along the shores of Deer Lake to view bird species associated with the lake.

### **Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park Planting Bee**

The Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park Steering Committee (associated with the GVRD Park Partnership Association program) is proposing an enhancement planting of native vegetation in Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park upstream of the Cariboo dam (adjacent to Continental Can site) to naturalize an area where riparian vegetation has been lost.

### **Green Links Planting at Graham Park**

The Institute of Urban Ecology's Burnaby Green Links project is proposing a planting of native vegetation at Graham Park to create wildlife habitat and work towards creating an ecological or green link between Byrne Creek Ravine and Robert Burnaby Park. The first phase of this planting project to link these two watersheds occurred during Environment Week last June.

### 2.3 Publicity

Newspaper advertising in local newspapers including a detailed schedule of events and an invitation to the community to participate will be the main form of publicity for B.C. Rivers Day. It is proposed that one advertisement, approximately 5" by 12" run in each community newspaper prior to the event. The cost is estimated at \$1,800.

### 3.0 CONCLUSIONS

As an environmental leader, the City of Burnaby was the first municipality to proclaim B.C. Rivers Day in 1993. Since this time, the City has successfully coordinated community stewardship events for B.C. Rivers Day with local environmental partners to raise awareness of and protect and enhance our waterways.

This report recommends that Sunday, 1997 September 28 be proclaimed B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby and funding for advertising of community events as outlined in this report be authorized.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor L.A. Rankin (Chair)

Councillor D. Lawson, Member

Councillor D. Johnston, Member

38

cc: City Manager  
Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Director Recreation & Cultural Services  
Chief Environmental Health Officer