



Free the Fern December Newsletter



In the leadup to our lantern event, [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights](#) on **Dec 18**, community volunteers have been busy creating lanterns for public display.

Artist, Kiki Nombrado, has led two [Artist Collaboration Sessions](#), **Nov 9** and **Nov 23**. At the sessions local artists and Free the Fern members got together to plan and build lanterns. They also walked the proposed lantern procession route along the Red Alder Trail and discussed where lanterns will be placed.

Thank you to Kiki and other local artists for all your work with building lanterns.



On **Dec 10, 2022** Free the Fern will also be running two lantern workshops for the public. First, at **10am-12pm**, Free the Fern president, Grace Nombrado, will be running a **Nature Lantern** workshop. Next, at **1-3pm**, Free the Fern treasurer, Joe Boyd, will be running a **Globe Lantern** workshop. Soon after these workshops were announced to the public, they quickly filled up. But we are taking names for our waitlist [here](#).

For our main lantern event, **Light up the Night in Champlain Heights, Dec 18, 6:30pm**, we will meet at **3530 Swansacre**. The [Carnival Band](#) will lead the community on a walk of the Red Alder Trail. There will be many artist lanterns on display along the trail edge. We will then return to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and cookies together. Those interested can pre-register for this event [here](#)

We are grateful for financial support for these events from [TD Park People Grant](#) and [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#). In addition, Starbucks Champlain Heights will be donating coffee for our lantern making workshops on Dec 10.

Please follow us on [Instagram](#) to see photo updates of our lanterns.



## Neighbourhood Matching Fund!

We are so excited to share that Free the Fern has been approved for a [Neighbourhood Matching Fund](#) of \$10,000 from the City of Vancouver. This money will go to fund the creation of a Native Food Forest on the Red Alder Trail in 2023!

As part of this Native Food Forest project, Free the Fern will be planning a series of 10 free public events in 2023, including: two community consultation/outreach events, four eco-art workshops, a native plant & storytelling walk, four invasive pull events, and a big community planting celebration on Oct 21, 2023! We are excited to be able to partner with local artists, indigenous educators & performers, and a filmmaker for this project. Stay tuned for more info in the new year!



## Invasive Pull! - November 5, 2022

On **Saturday, November 5, 2022, 10am-12pm**, Free the Fern president, Grace Nombrado led an **[Invasive Pull!](#)** on the Red Alder Trail, adjacent at two sites: adjacent to Kinross Creek and, farther south on the Red Alder Trail, at the area known as “The Triangle”. 14 volunteers came out to help remove 5 green bins (1,500 L) of invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. We had several mother-child volunteers come out to help pull invasives for the first time. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers! You can read more about the invasive pull and see pictures on our blog [here](#).



## **Invasive Pull - Cartier Place - Dec 3, 2022**

On Dec 3, 2022, 10am-12pm, Free the Fern member, Paola Coloma, will be hosting our monthly invasive pull. We plan to pull invasive English ivy adjacent to Cartier Place housing complex on the Red Alder Trail. If you wish to sign up as a volunteer, you can do so [here](#).  
*Note: this pull will be cancelled in the event of extreme/snowy weather. Those who signed up will be updated via email.*



# Plant Blindness

A recent review of educational and ethnobiological literature (1998–2020) published in the journal *Plants People Planet* (New Phytologist Foundation) on the 21 September, 2022, by Bethan C. Stagg and Justin Dillion, outlined possible causes of plant blindness and a potential cure. “The low interest and awareness for plants is well documented in urban societies and has serious implications for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land-use. This study is significant because it provides a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of human-plant relations in different societies, which does not currently exist in the academic literature. The findings suggest that people's plant awareness develops where they have frequent interactions with plants that have direct relevance to their lives.” All the more reason why Free the Fern’s effort to connect community with nature matters. Read the full article [here](#).



## By the Numbers

YEAR	2021	2022 (Jan 1-Nov 30)	Totals
Number of Volunteers	52	82	134
Volunteer Hours	583	752	1,335
Invasive plants removed (L)	66, 420	57, 000	189,060 (788 green bins (240L each)
Native plants planted	551	758	1,310
Events	11	20	30
Funding	\$6785	\$17,615	\$24,400



## Everett Crowley Park Committee

If you are eager to volunteer at other invasive pulls in our neighbourhood, [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#), organises monthly invasive pull events. Their next scheduled pull is: **Sunday, Dec 10, 10am-12:30pm** Contact [ecpcstewards@gmail.com](mailto:ecpcstewards@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



[www.freethefern.ca](http://www.freethefern.ca)  
[@free\\_the\\_fern](#)