

02

May Issue

FREE THE FERN

Community connection through
environmental stewardship

It Takes a Village

Updates from our community



Alexander Laidlaw Co-op

by **Martin Collins**

Alexander Laidlaw Co-op has successfully cleared all the English ivy off of the chain link fence bordering the Red Alder Trail. They have placed privacy screening as an alternative to the ivy.

Using a \$500 Neighbourhood Grant, **Martin Collins** will be hosting a “**Let’s Root Out Invasives**” event on **Saturday, May 15, 2021**. The goal of the event is to target the removal of English Ivy, Lamium, and Himalayan Blackberry. The event is limited to 10 people from Alexander Laidlaw and Le Coeur Co-op and volunteers will be provided with gloves and lunch.

Cartier Place

by **Susan Atkey**



Over the past month, residents of **Cartier Place** have been busy removing invasive Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy. The ivy had been smothering many trees and shrubs behind their complex. It has been good to see many native plants freed from the invasives.

While doing removal work, **Susan Atkey** unearthed a lot of garbage buried beneath the ivy, including jagged rusty cans, broken bottles, and wire fencing, all of which posed a threat to humans and wildlife.

Grace Nombrado provided support with disposing of invasives off-site. The next steps at Cartier Place is to continue with invasive removal and add mulch to areas where ivy and blackberry have been removed.

Kinross Creek Co-op

by **Grace Nombrado**



Behind Kinross Creek Co-op, in the area commonly referred to as “Doug’s Garden”, volunteers **Grace Nombrado**, **Anne Banner**, and others have been busy removing English Ivy, Lamium, and Common Periwinkle.

Thanks to a \$2000 TD Park People Grant and the support of Kinross Creek Co-op Landscape Committee, Grace Nombrado is planning the creation of a “Native Plant Teaching Garden”. This garden will feature three areas: flowers for pollinators, berries for birds, and native ferns.

Andrew Pereda has volunteered to help with delivery of the plants from Nat’s Nursery in the fall. **Christine Nombrado** and **Chris Corless**, will be working to create signage for the garden.

Matheson Heights Co-op

by Dana Marom



In an effort to support the bird population and save the trees, the Matheson Heights Co-op Grounds Committee (with the support of the Board) is launching an Invasive Removal Project. On an ongoing basis, the co-op will be removing all the invasive species (English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Yellow Archangel/Lamium, and Common Periwinkle) that are spreading and killing trees. This year, the Grounds Committee is targeting three areas for clearing and native planting. To provide shelter and ground-nesting opportunities for birds, salal and huckleberry will be planted, while yarrow seeds will provide a food source for birds.

Using a \$500 Neighbourhood Grant, **Dana Marom** has purchased nesting boxes and a mason bee house. Dana and others at Matheson

Heights hope to create an area where native plants can grow and wildlife can flourish.

“Without Free the Fern, I don’t think our committee would even be moving in this direction. We have you to thank really! You influenced me and Dana and even Judi, head of the Grounds Committee, to put pressure to move forward with this!” - **Anne Banner**.

Check out more on the Grounds Committee’s webpage:

<https://jackchevalier.nimbusweb.me/s/share/5442489/vefzh32vd4ewdt68srx>

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THIS MONTH'S
OTHER STORIES

Invasive Zoom Success!

by **Grace Nombrado**

In partnership with **Tasha Murray**, Executive Director of the **Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver**, Free the Fern hosted a very successful Educational Zoom on Invasive Removal on April 28, 2021 We had 70 participants learning about invasive removal.

As part of the small neighbourhood grant, 30 of the participants were offered a free Western Sword Fern to plant in their own garden. Several of the participants donated their fern back to Free the Fern, so we were able to plant 10 ferns along the Red Alder Trail adjacent to Kinross Creek Co-op and Cartier Place Co-op.

Invasive ED 101

We are looking for **3-5 Free the Fern members** to volunteer with us on **Saturday, June 12, 2021**. We will be organizing a “**Free the Fern: Invasive Ed 101**” event from 10am-3pm behind Kinross Creek Co-op.

June 12, 2021 | 10:00 A.M

Champlain Heights Trail
Behind Kinross Creek Co-op

FREE THE FERN: INVASIVE ED 101

Covid-friendly, hands-on workshop on
invasive English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry
and Common Periwinkle removal.

Email freethefern@gmail.com to book a timeslot:

10:00-10:50am	1:00-1:50pm
11:00-11:50am	2:00-2:50pm

Sponsored by TD Park People Grant



freethefern@gmail.com
www.freethefern.ca

There will be 3 invasive areas - English Ivy, Common Periwinkle, and Himalayan Blackberry. Each area will be supervised by one Free the Fern volunteer. Members of the public will book a 50 minute time slot (10:00-10:50; 11:00-11:50; 1:00-1:50; 2:00-2:50). Participants will get a quick demo from the Free the Fern member on how to take out the invasive and then work for 10-15 minutes on removal, before switching to a different invasive area. Contact **Grace** at freethefern@gmail.com to sign up to volunteer!

Needed:

- 2-4 volunteers to support/supervise invasive removal areas
- 1 volunteer to photograph/take video clips of the session

Art for Plants

by **Christine Nombrado**



Christine Nombrado has been busy painting as part of our **Art for Plants Fundraiser**. 5x7 canvases will be sold for \$15 each or 3 for \$40. 100% of profits support native planting along the Champlain Heights Trail. Any Free the Fern members who wish to request native plants for their site, please contact **Grace Nombrado** at freethefern@gmail.com by **May 15, 2021** to order for fall planting.

In the News

by **Grace Nombrado**

Free the Fern was profiled on both iliveineastvan.ca (<https://iliveineastvan.com/2021/04/11/free-the-fern-hosts-invasive-removal-zoom-session-april-28-2021/>)

And **CBC Radio North by Northwest** with **Sheryl MacKay** (fast forward to 51:45 to hear)

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-43-north-by-northwest/clip/15838581-saturday-april-17>

Education & Resources

The **Invasives Species Council of Metro Vancouver** has a series of stewardship and art workshops coming up <https://iscmv.ca/events/>

The **Stanley Park Ecology Society** is celebrating birds in the month of May with a series of workshops.

<http://stanleyparkecology.ca/events/list/?tribe-bar-date=2021-04-29>

The **Burnaby Public Library** is offering educational sessions related to the topic of reconciliation <https://bpl.bc.ca/events#/>

The **Burnaby Village Museum** has put out an *Indigenous History of Burnaby Resource Guide*. Which includes reference to traditional uses of native plants.

<https://www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca/assets/Resources/Indigenous%20History%20in%20Burnaby%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

The *Northwest Ethnobotany Field Guide*, produced by students at **Oregon University**, profiles 50 plants native to the Pacific Northwest

<https://carletonlandscaping.ca/Ethnobotany-Field-Guide.pdf>

Next Meeting

Free the Fern's next monthly meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021** at 7pm.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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Free the Fern.

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