

Community Planting Event

by [Grace Nombrado](#)



After many months of planning and invasive weed removal, Free the Fern hosted a successful [Community Planting Event](#) on October 24, 2021. Thanks to a [TD Park People Grant](#), 38 volunteers were able to plant 224 native plants along the [Red Alder Trail](#).

We focused on two sites during the planting. The first, adjacent to [Kinross Creek Co-op](#) had been highly infested with invasive plants. Grace and other volunteers spent the last 9 months removing invasive Italian arum, English ivy, and common periwinkle from the area. At our community event we were able to plant perennial flowers, berries and ferns. This area will become the future Douglas Fir Teaching Garden ("[Doug's Garden](#)" for short).



The second planting site was adjacent to [Cartier Place](#) townhouses, just south of Doug's Garden, along the Red Alder Trail. Six months ago, most of this site had been covered with invasive ivy and Himalayan blackberry. Thanks to the help of dedicated residents, including Free the Fern members, Paola and Susan, all invasives had been removed from the area. At our planting event, volunteers were able to fill the cleared area with thimbleberry, salal, sword fern, wooly sunflower, and oceanspray.



Following the planting, volunteers enjoyed snacks and refreshments (provided by the [Independent Grocer](#)), and entertainment, including our own Free the Fern member, Kiki, on the glockenspiel and a local dance group. The event concluded with a Domino's pizza lunch, provided by a [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#), and a draw, with gift cards from [GardenWorks](#).

We wish to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers who helped make our planting a success. Also a special thanks to our sponsors: TD Park People Grant, Neighborhood Small Grant, Kinross Creek Co-op, Cartier Place strata, Independent Grocer, GardenWorks, and our [Art for Plants Fundraiser](#).

To see more our volunteer photographer, Daniel Akinshola, photos from the event click [here](#). Daniel will also be editing a highlights video of the event, which will be posted on our website in the coming weeks.

Youth Planting Event



On Saturday, October 30, Free the Fern member, Damian Assadi, hosted a Youth Planting Event, just north of the Doug's Garden area along the Red Alder Trail. Thanks to a [#RisingYouth](#) grant, he was able to fund the purchase of 42 native plants for this planting event.

Seven youth, ages 15–30 attended this event, and Grace provided volunteer support, as well as the use of Free the Fern garden tools and gloves. The youth volunteers, most of whom are students in the UBC Faculty of Forestry, began by removing invasive lamium, ivy and Himalayan blackberry from the planting site. They then planted a selection of native plants, including: salal, sword fern, dwarf Oregon grape, red flowering currant, salmonberry, hardhack, vine maple, osoberry, and gooseberry. The site was transformed in the space of three hours thanks to the hard work of the volunteer youth.

A big thank you to Damian Assadi for applying for this grant, ordering the plants, recruiting the volunteers, and leading this event! You are a great example of stewardship in action!

BCIT Ecological Restoration Masters Program



On Friday, October 15, Free the Fern founder, Grace Nombrado, was invited to present to the [BCIT Ecological Restoration Masters Program](#). She brought examples of invasive plants and

described best practice removal techniques. In addition, she shared samples of native plants that live along our Red Alder Trail System. Grace explained to the students what Free the Fern has been doing to steward the Red Alder Trail. Students were eager to talk and connect after the presentation. There is potential for future partnerships with students to do research or survey work along the Red Alder Trail.

Art for Plants Fundraiser

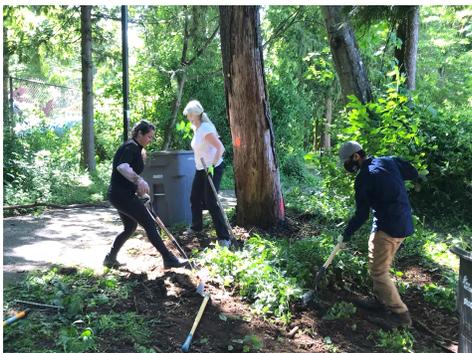


Our resident painter Kiki, has been busy painting more art as part of our [Art for Plant Fundraiser](#). 100% of money raised goes to purchase plants for the Red Alder Trail. She has painted a selection of birds, all of which can be found along our trail. Recent highlights include: black capped chickadee, mountain chickadee, crow, and red pileated woodpecker.

At our recent event at BCIT & our Community Planting Event, we successfully fundraised a total of \$355 for native plant purchases along the trail. A portion of these funds were used to purchase sword ferns and dwarf oregon grape for areas being actively stewarded adjacent to Alexander Laidlaw Co-op, Cartier Place, and Kinross Creek Co-op.

If you have an area adjacent to your own housing development that you and others are actively stewarding (by removing invasive plants) please contact us to see how we can offer you support with native plants.

Monthly Invasive Pulls



From October–March, Free the Fern members will be hosting a monthly invasive pull at various stewardship sites along the Red Alder Trail. This pull will be on the first Saturday of every month from 10am–12pm.

On October 3, Grace hosted the first monthly invasive pull, adjacent to Kinross Creek Co-op. Four volunteers assisted with removing invasive Italian arum in preparation for our Community Planting Event.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2021 dates:

November 6 - Alexander Laidlaw Co-op - Hosted by Martin

December 4 - Cartier Place - Hosted by Paola & Susan

Please RSVP to freethefern@gmail.com if you can attend one of our invasive pulls.

Free the Fern Lending Library

by **Grace Nombrado**



Thanks to generous donations from Free the Fern members, Silvia and Catherine, we have the following new titles to offer for loan as part of our Free the Fern Lending Library:

[Fresh Water Fishes](#)

[National Audobon Society Field Guide to Insects & Spiders](#)

[National Audobon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies](#)

[Book of North American Birds](#)

[Game of British Columbia \(1903\)](#)

[Working with Nature - the Science & Practice of Organic Horticulture](#)

We welcome any further donations of books that relate to our local ecology.

Please see our [Free the Fern Goodreads page](#) to view a full listing of all of our available titles. If you wish to borrow a title, please email us at freethefern@gmail.com.

Winter Solstice Lanterns on the Trail



In mid December, [Kinross Creek Co-op](#) Social Committee is planning on hosting a lantern making workshop led by co-op resident and Free the Fern member, Kiki Nombrado. On Winter Solstice, Tuesday, December 21, from 6:30-7:30pm, Kinross Creek residents will be meeting on the basketball court, behind their co-op, and proceed up the Red Alder trail for a lantern procession. They will be accompanied by festive music played on the glockenspiel by Kiki. After walking up the trail, they will return to the basketball court to enjoy a hot chocolate together.

It would be wonderful if **residents from other housing co-ops and strata could get involved with creating their own lanterns and join those from Kinross Creek for a winter solstice procession up the trail.** All lanterns must be lit by battery-powered tea lights for fire safety. If anyone has ideas or suggestions on how to support such an event, such as designs for simple lanterns, please reach out to us at freethefern@gmail.com There may be the possibility of applying for a Neighbourhood Small Grant for lantern building supplies or tea lights.

Next Meeting



Our next Free the Fern's next monthly members meeting will be held via Zoom on:

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 7-8pm.

A reminder and link will be sent out to members closer to the date.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Free the Fern.

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