



Free the Fern January 2023 Newsletter



On Sunday, December 18, 2023, Free the Fern organised a magical [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights](#) event. The snow-covered Douglas Fir Teaching Garden was illuminated by approximately 100 twinkling lanterns, handmade by local artists.



Over 100 local residents came out to enjoy the evening. The carnival band led a procession and performance under the Douglas Fir trees.



Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and fresh baked cookies (donated by local citizens).



18 amazing volunteers helped make the event possible, coming early to shovel snow, set up lanterns, and heat up hot chocolate. They then stayed after to help with clean-up.



Leading up to the event, Free the Fern, hosted two free [lantern making workshops](#) for the public on Dec 10, 2022.



Free the Fern directors, Joe Boyd and Grace Nombrado, led the nature lantern and globe lantern workshops. 24 participants enjoyed coming out to learn how to build a lantern. Many of those returned on the day of our lantern procession, carrying their handmade lanterns.

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

Please follow us on [Instagram](#) or read our [blog](#) to see photos from this event.

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Successes of 2022

We are so proud of all we have accomplished with Free the Fern in 2022. [Check out our YouTube video](#) that highlights our accomplishments.

This year, we:

- registered with the City of Vancouver [Green Streets Program](#)
- incorporated as a nonprofit
- elected a board of [10 amazing directors](#).
- organised **21 events**, including: [South Van Strawberry Social](#) (June 5), [Neighborhood Clean-up](#) (Sept 17) Grow Wild! ([planting](#), [basket weaving](#), and [paper making workshops](#) - Oct 22-23), [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights](#) (Dec 18), and many other invasive pull and community events.
- had **83** local citizens volunteer **802** volunteer hours with us.
- removed **57,000 L** of invasives (over **237** city green bins).
- planted **758** native plants, including Douglas fir trees, Oregon grapes, sword ferns, oceanspray, and more.
- raised a total of **\$17,675**, through donations, fundraising and grants, which we used to fund public events, workshops and native plants. Free the Fern was awarded a second **TD Park People Grant**, several **Neighbourhood Small Grants**, and a **City of Vancouver \$10,000 Matching Fund** (to fund a Native Food Forest in 2023).

We look forward to all the amazing things we will accomplish in 2023!



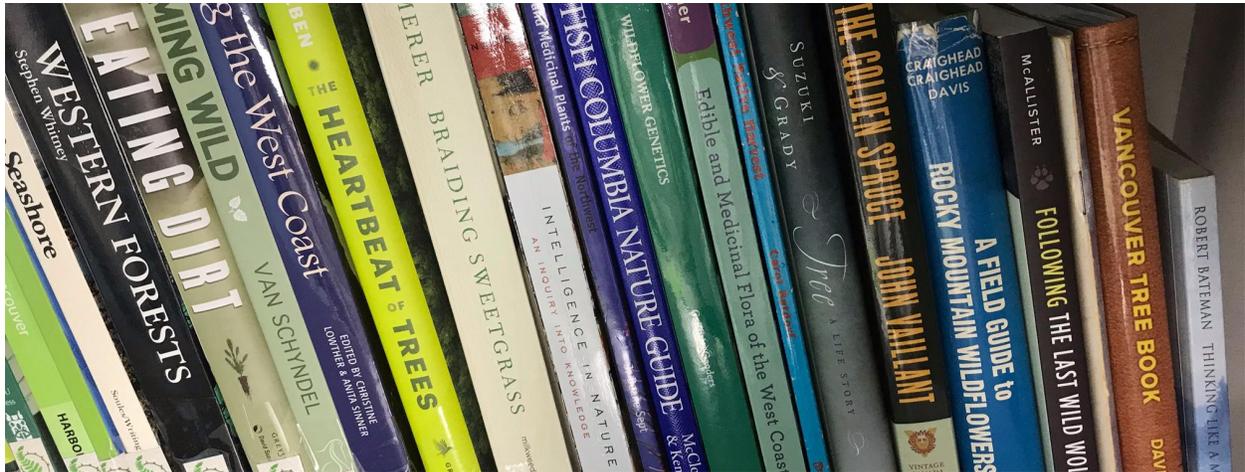
Invasive Pull! - January 7, 2023

On **Saturday, January 7, 2022, 10am-12pm**, Free the Fern will be hosting an [Invasive Pull!](#) on the Red Alder Trail. We welcome volunteers of all ages to sign up to help (children must be supervised by an adult). We will provide gloves, tools and refreshments. You can sign up to volunteer [here](#).



Weaving with Ivy Workshop - February 16, 2023

Free the Fern President and founder, Grace Nombrado, will be running a [Weaving with Ivy workshop](#) at Champlain Heights Community Centre on **Thursday, February 16, 7-8:30pm**. Those who are interested to register for the workshop, can do so on the City of Vancouver website [here](#).



Free the Fern Lending Library

As the weather gets colder and wetter, we wish to remind those in the community that Free the Fern has a [lending library](#) of nature-themed books available to borrow. Our wide selection includes such bestsellers as *Braiding Sweetgrass*, *The Golden Spruce*, *Gathering Moss*, and more! Our library catalogue can be viewed on Goodreads [here](#). Please email us at freethefern@gmail.com to request a specific title or titles to borrow.



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: **February 25, 2023, 10am-12:30pm** Contact ecpestewards@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



www.freethefern.ca
[@free_the_fern](#)