



Free the Fern October Newsletter

GROW WILD! WEEKEND



Have you heard about our [Grow Wild! Weekend](#)? We will be organizing a weekend, from Oct 22-23, of native planting and eco-art.

The weekend will begin with a community planting event on Saturday, October 22, 10am-12pm. Volunteer planters will be planting hundreds of native plants at five stewardship sites along the Champlain Heights Trail in South Vancouver.

Then, on Sunday, October 23, Free the Fern will be offering a series of free eco-art workshops. First, from 10am-12pm, Joe & Grace will be leading a Weaving with Ivy workshop. Following which, from 1:00-3:00pm and 3:30-5:30pm, eco-artist, Joshua Ralph, will be leading two paper making workshops.

Grow Wild! Has been made possible thanks to a [TD Park People Grant](#) & [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#).

[Sign up today to attend our Grow Wild! Weekend events.](#)

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES



Neighbourhood Clean-up Party!

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, Free the Fern treasurer, Joe Boyd, helped organize a successful [Neighbourhood Clean-up Party](#). [The city of Vancouver](#) provided the use of pickers, bags, and gloves. 15 volunteers, of all ages, were on hand to help clean up the [Champlain Heights Trail system](#). They succeeded in collecting 10 bags of trash and a bag of recycling. After the clean-up, everyone enjoyed snacks and refreshments funded by [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#)



Weed & Feed

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, Free the Fern president, Martin Collins, hosted a [Weed & Feed](#) event. 18 volunteers gathered to clear invasive Himalayan blackberry and ivy from the [Red Alder Trail](#), adjacent to Alexander Laidlaw Co-op. They succeeded in removing 7 green bins worth of invasives.

Following which, volunteers enjoyed a wonderfully chili bbq, prepared by Martin's wife, Joyce. Funding for this event was provided by [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#).



Green Streets

Free the Fern is happy to announce that we have officially joined with the [Green Streets Program](#). This is a city program that allows citizens to adopt areas, often traffic circles and

street sides, to garden. Our Free the Fern stewards have then officially “adopted” the Champlain Heights Trail system as our area that we care for within the Green Streets. We now can connect with a network of volunteers across the city and access support.



The Triangle

Free the Fern volunteers have been busy clearing out Himalayan blackberry regrowth from an area of the Red Alder trail commonly known as “The Triangle”. We began initially clearing this area last February. Prior to that, it had been a dense thicket of blackberry and ivy. After clearing most of the surface invasives, we recently saw some regrowth. So, our volunteers have been helping to dig out all the Himalayan blackberry roots. This is in preparation for our Grow Wild! Event next month. At our event, the area will be a designated “youth planting area”, with hundreds of native plants slated to be planted by local youth under 30 years old. Thank you to our amazing volunteers for helping with this ecological restoration effort!

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