



Free the Fern

January 2024 Newsletter

Light up the Night In Champlain Heights!



On Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, approximately 125 locals gathered for our [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights](#) event! This was our third annual lantern festival and proved to be our most successful event yet.

A month prior to the event, artist, [Joshua Ralph](#), lead an [Artist Collaboration](#), bringing together artists to help build lanterns to display along the Red Alder Trail.



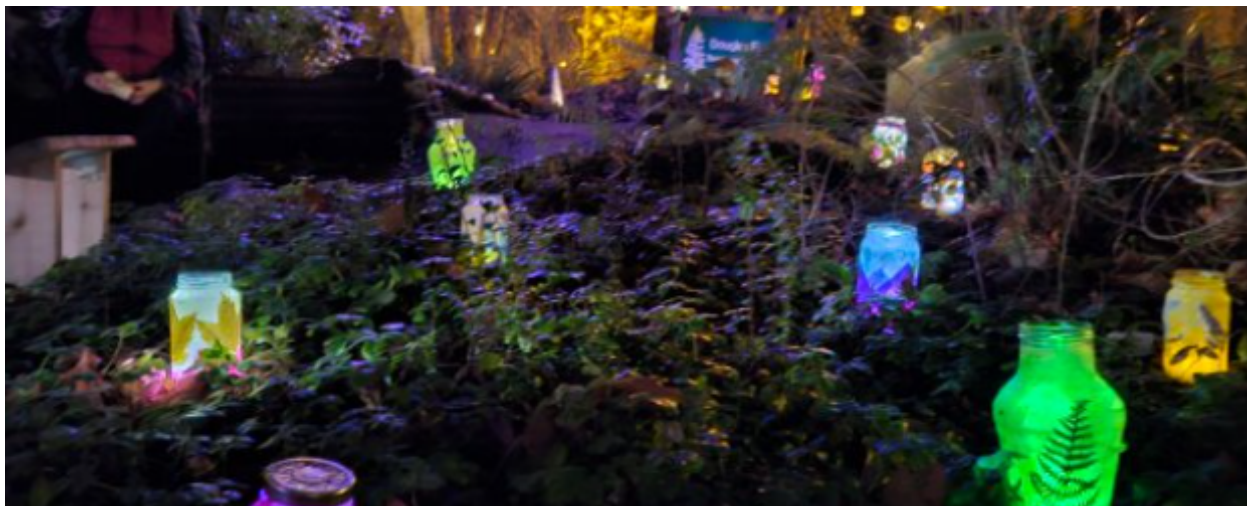
Then, on Dec 9, artist, [Kiki Nombrado](#), and Free the Fern Executive Director, [Grace Nombrado](#), led two free [public lantern building sessions](#). Local citizens of all ages gathered to make globe & jar lanterns to carry at our lantern procession.



On Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, 13 volunteers gathered at 3pm to help with lantern set-up. Together we hung jar lanterns with macrame string and displayed tissue paper lanterns along the trail.



Many community volunteers also delivered homemade cookies and helped heating up hot chocolate to serve at the event.



At 6:30pm, local citizens gathered just outside the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden with the Carnival Band, who led a procession in a loop through the Red Alder trail. As we walked, there was only a brief sprinkle of rain, which didn't damper the spirits of those gathered. Free the Fern Executive Director, Grace Nombrado, made an appearance as a rainbow fairy and artist and board director, Anne Banner, wore her handmade owl costume. After the procession, everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and a variety of fresh baked cookies.



Thank you so much to the amazing artists and volunteers who made this very special event possible! We look forward to gathering for our fourth annual Light up the Night in Champlain Heights event in December 2024!

Check out our [blog post](#) to see more photos from the event.

This event was made possible thanks to generous funding support from [Park People](#).

FREE THE FERN
TOP STORIES



Invasive Pull - January 6, 2024

Come help us [remove invasive ivy and Himalayan blackberry](#) from the Red Alder trail on Saturday, January 6, 2024, 10am-12pm. Following the removal we will also be planning some native shrubs. Gloves, tools, and complimentary refreshments provided. All ages welcome. Sign up on our [events](#) page.



Buds, Branches, & Bark Walk – January 20, 2024

Join BCIT Forest Resources Faculty, [Julia Alards-Tomalin](#), for a [winter walk](#) along the Red Alder Trail. Julia will be sharing tips from her [award-winning work](#) on winter plant identification. Sign up to attend on our [events page](#).



Neighbourhood Matching Fund

We are excited to announce that Free the Fern has been approved for our second [Neighbourhood Matching Fund](#) from the City of Vancouver. Last year we received funding

to support the creation of our [Native Food Forest](#). This year, we have received funding to support our Healing Forest Project. In 2024, we will be partnering with indigenous artists and knowledge sharers to create carved seating, signage, and free public events centred around the [Douglas Fir Teaching Garden](#), which recently was designated by the David Suzuki Foundation as a [Healing Forest](#). Stay tuned for more details to come! Photo image of Metis herbalist and educator, [Lori Snyder](#).



Cornerstone Parks

In August of 2023, Free the Fern was invited to become a [Cornerstone Park](#) and receive funding from [Park People](#) to support our stewardship effort. At the end of 2023, Park People offered to extend funding support to Free the Fern for the next 18 months! The Cornerstone Parks program is Canada's only national network dedicated to maximising the impact and influence of Canada's large urban parks, including Stanley Park (Vancouver), High Park Nature Centre (Toronto), Darlington Ecological Corridor (Montreal) and more! Funding support has allowed Free the Fern to hire our Executive Director, Grace Nombrado, and offer free community walks and workshops into 2024. We look forward to all we can accomplish with the support of Park People!



Job Opportunity: Stewardship Coordinator

Our neighbouring Everett Crowley Park is hiring a [Stewardship Coordinator](#)!

The Stewardship Coordinator will coordinate and support stewardship activities, with the goal of working towards supporting resilient ecosystems in Everett Crowley Park. The work schedule has flexibility (being both online and in-person) but requires regular weekly work.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Free the Fern Update

January 1, 2023- December 31, 2023

Operational Activities:

415 event volunteers

11 board directors

5 stewardship areas

1,410.75 volunteer hours

1034 native plants planted

37,236 L of invasive plants removed

Outreach & Education:

11 invasive pulls

8 workshops or walks

27 total public events

219 workshop or walk participants

305 Instagram posts



Neighbouring Nature Events

There are many other amazing groups in Metro Vancouver organising events in June.
Check out what is happening below.

Friday, January 12, 11am-11:30am - [Tree Top Tales: Burrows & Dens](#) - Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, North Vancouver

Snuggle up for stories about cosy animal homes. Suitable for ages 2 and up, with an adult.

Saturday, January 13, 11am-1pm - [A Guided Walk in Green Timbers](#) - Green Timbers Way, Surrey

Join Green Timbers Heritage Society for a brisk winter walk and explore what nature has to offer at this time of year. You'll make new friends and learn something new along the way.

Saturday, January 13, 10am-11:30am - [A Shifting Landscape: Tour the Ecological Timeline](#) - Stanley Park #19 Bus Loop, Vancouver

Join SPES Educator Kelsey Marzotto to travel through ecological time to learn about how our natural spaces form and change. Explore the processes of wetland formation, forest generation and the geomorphology shaping our landscapes.

Sunday, January 14, 9am-10:30am - [Foraging Fresh Connections: Networking in Nature](#) - Pacific Spirit Park, Vancouver

Join She Summits for a morning of networking in nature. Get outside, move your body, and meet other growth-minded women.

Saturday, Jan 20, 4:30pm-6pm - [Owl Prowl](#) - Stanley Park #19 Bus Loop, Vancouver

Join wildlife photographer and SPES Nature House Educator, Frank Lin to experience the breeding season activity and sounds of Stanley Park's owls on this popular nighttime walk.

Saturday, January 27, 9:30am-11am - [Get to Know a Trail: Cathedral Trail](#) - Stanley Park Nature House, Vancouver

Join a SPES Educator in this month's instalment of "Get to Know a Trail", where they explore the joys of trails across Stanley Park. Wander past the fallen trees and wet forest on Cathedral Trail.

Saturday, Feb 10, 10am-1pm - [Everett Crowley Park Stewardship](#) - Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver

Join ECPC for their monthly stewardship event to help remove invasive plants and learn more about the unique history and ecology of Everett Crowley Park.

If you know of a local event happening next month, let us know!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



www.freethefern.ca
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