



Free the Fern

Sept 2024 Newsletter



## Highlights of the Year



Aug 15, 2024 marked the end of our fiscal year and the beginning of a new fiscal year for Free the Fern. So, now is the perfect time to highlight some of the successes of our past year.

### Over the past 12 months, Free the Fern:

- welcomed **615** event volunteers
- dedicated **1,218** volunteer hours

- removed **50,960 L** of invasives (equal to 141 large city green bins!)
- planted **1,203** native plants
- moved **84** wheelbarrows of mulch

We also held our first ever [Native Plant Fundraiser](#) this April and successfully sold 288 native plants (worth \$2595.5) to the local community



Free the Fern participated in 36 local events, including:

- **11** Monthly Invasive Pulls
- [Food Forest Planting](#), where we planted edible native plants and a pollinator garden.
- [Earth Fest](#) & [Champlain Heights Fair](#), engaging with the public
- [3<sup>rd</sup> annual Light up the Night in Champlain Heights lantern festival](#)
- [Mushroom Walk](#) – Cody Labossiere
- [Douglas Fir Watercolour Workshop](#) – Marisa Phal





This year, through our Healing Forest Project, we partnered with Indigenous artists & knowledge-sharers, including:

- [Tsatsu Stalqayu](#) (Coastal Wolf Pack) danced at our Food Forest Planting (pictured)
- Rita Kompst (Musqueam nation) taught [Cedar Bracelet Weaving](#)
- Lori Snyder (Métis) prepared [Healing Salves](#)
- John Spence & son Koda (Squamish nation) carved a [Sacred Circle](#)
- Adrian Levesque (Cree Nation) shared about Two-Spirit identity at [BioDIVERSITY](#)
- Marge Wylie (Tl'azt'en nation) prepared her Bannock & jam at several of our events

This year, we strove to make the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden a truly welcoming and healing place, by adding new [seating and signage](#).



We also began to engage with more children and youth this year:

- partnered with [Wild Outside for a Spring Break Invasive Pull](#)

- led several classroom [fieldtrips](#) & presentations
- welcomed [Fresh Roots Summer Camp](#) (Walk & Invasive Pull)

This fiscal year, we look forward to engaging with even more youth, through our Nature is for Everyone Project. Stay tuned for more info to come!

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FREE THE FERN  
TOP STORIES



## Invasive Pull - Sept 7, 2024, 10am-12pm

Come help us [remove invasive plants](#) along the Red Alder trail on Saturday, Sept 7, 2024, 10am-12pm. Gloves, tools, and complimentary refreshments provided. All ages welcome. Sign up on our [events](#) page.





# Crabapple jelly & Blackberry Jam Workshop - Sept 21, 10am-12pm

Join us on June 21, for a free [jelly & jam making workshop](#). The event will be led by Elder Marge Wylie of the Tl'azt'en Nation. Marge will share how to process fresh fruit into delicious homemade preserves. Spaces are limited, so [sign up on our event page](#) to reserve a spot.



## Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Policy

At our recent [Annual General Meeting](#) on Saturday, Aug 31, our members approved a new [EDI Policy](#) for Free the Fern. This policy was drafted by our board of directors, in consultation with diverse community members. We are committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with mutual respect and dignity. Take a look over our new policy on [our website](#).



## **Elder in Residence**

At our [Annual General Meeting](#) on Aug 31, we presented local Elder Marge Wylie with the title of [Elder in Residence](#). Marge has been generous enough to share her story, culture, and bannock & jam with our community since 2022. Marge is from the Tl'azt'en Nation and a survivor of the Lejac residential school. We are honoured to have Marge as a neighbour and a friend.



## **Everett Crowley Park Liaison**

Also, at our [Annual General Meeting](#) on Aug 31, we presented local volunteer steward, Damian Assadi, with the title of Everett Crowley Park Liaison. Domain is a life-long resident of Champlain Heights, who has been committed to stewarding its green spaces. Damian served as Free the Fern board director from 2022-2024. He also is currently chair of

the Everett Crowley Park Committee and board director for the Champlain Heights Community Association. As liaison, Domain will serve as a bridge between Free the Fern and the Everett Crowley Park Committee, sharing resources and partnering on events.



## T-Shirt & Bag Fundraiser

We are excited to announce that we have raised \$1,419 so far, as part of our Fern T-shirt & Bag fundraiser in support of the [Urban Native Youth Association](#) (UNYA). The fern design was created by Coast Salish artist, [Andrea Fritz](#) and printed on sustainable cotton at local Burnaby printers, [Pressing Matters](#).

Have you got your Free the Fern T-shirt or bag yet? It's not too late! You are welcome to purchase bags (recommended donation of \$20) and shirts (recommended donation of \$30) via e-transfer or cash. Send us an email at [freethefern@gmail.com](mailto:freethefern@gmail.com) to learn more.

Funding for this project generously provided by [Park People](#)

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## Neighbouring Nature Events

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

**Sunday, Sept 8, 9:00am-11am** - [Bird ID Walk](#) - *Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver*

Join bird biologist Chloe Boynton from WildResearch for a guided bird ID walk in Everett Crowley park.

**Saturday, Sept 14, 9am-1pm** - [Wings over Iona](#) - *Iona Beach Regional Park, Richmond*

Mark one of nature's wonders – the fall migration of shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl as they journey from northern breeding grounds to warmer habitats in the south.

**Saturday, Sept 14, 10am-12pm** - [Burnaby Stewardship](#) - *Central Park, Burnaby*

Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive plants in Burnaby's beautiful Central Park. This event is organized by the [Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver](#) in partnership with the City of Burnaby.

**Saturday, Sept 14, 10am-12:30pm** - [Everett Crowley Park Stewardship](#) - *Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver.*

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



**Saturday, Sept 21, 10am-1pm** - [Glenbrook Ravine Invasive Pull](#) - Glenbrook Ravine, New Westminster

Join this family-friendly event, and help remove invasive species from the Glenbrook Ravine. There are opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved and contribute.

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

**[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)**



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