



**Free the Fern**

Nov 2024 Newsletter

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## **Planting During an Atmospheric River!**



On October 20, 2024, Free the Fern hosted our [Healing Forest Planting](#) event on the Red Alder Trail. 33 volunteers braved the atmospheric river and helped us plant 600 native plants on the east side of the trail! Plants, purchased from [NATS Nursery](#), included sword fern, elderberry, oceanspray, salmonberry, woodland strawberry and more.

Originally, the planting had been scheduled for Saturday, but we decided to postpone the event by one day, in the hopes that the atmospheric river would pass. However, by midday

Sunday, the rain actually began to pick up and a creek began forming along the Red Alder Trail! We were surprised and impressed when so many volunteers showed up to help out at our event, despite the rain!

We had 3 volunteer leads, Ellie, Cole, and Chinonso (pictured), guide the planting along the trail. We also had friendly volunteers stationed at our welcome table to check in our planting volunteers when they arrived. Volunteer planters ranged in age from less than 5 years to over 70 years old! Everyone had a great time and we succeeded in getting all the plants in the ground in just one hour!



Thanks to the Everett Crowley Park Committee for generously loaning us shovels and tents. Our volunteers were able to take breaks to hide from the rain. We were also able to warm

up our hands with hot cups of coffee provided by Starbucks. We also enjoyed freshly baked bannock with homemade jam, prepared by Elder in Residence, Marge Wylie. Our event ended with a prize draw for t-shirts and bags and a surprise rendition of happy birthday and cake for our Executive Director, Grace Nombrado, and our board Secretary, Barbara Lane. So, despite the rain, our spirits stayed warm!



Thank you so much to our incredibly dedicated volunteers who made our Healing Forest event so successful!

Check out more photos from our event (taken by our photographer, Kevin Jinn) on our [blog](#).

Funding for the event was provided by the [Community Placemaking Program](#), [Green Streets](#), and [Park People](#).

Note: The scheduled performance by the [Coastal Wolf Pack](#) had to be postponed, as the rain could have damaged their drums and regalia. But, we hope to welcome them back for a performance in June of next year.

FREE THE FERN  
TOP STORIES



## **Invasive Pull - Sat, Nov 2, 10am-12pm**

Join us on [Sat, Nov 2, for an Invasive Pull](#). We will be removing invasive plants along the Red Alder Trail and then planting a few native plants in the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden.. Come join us! Snacks & drinks included! Sign up on our [event page](#).



## **Ivy Weaving Workshop - Sun, Nov 10, 10am-12pm**

Free the Fern is excited to partner with the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#) to run an [Ivy Weaving Workshop](#) on Sun, Nov 10, 10am-12pm. The workshop will be taught by Free the Fern Executive Director, Grace Nombrado, and local weaver, Joe Boyd. The workshop is now full, but those who are interested, may put their [name on a waitlist](#). We hope that this workshop is the beginning of many more collaborations with the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#) - both our groups are united in our dedication to stewardship within the Champlain Heights neighbourhood.



## Artist Partners for Lantern Making

We just recently made a callout for local artists to help us with lantern making for our upcoming [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights festival](#) and we already have 10 interested artists signed up! These 10 artists will gather on **Wednesday, Nov 13, 7-9pm** to learn lantern making skills from our lead artist, Joshua Ralph. We are excited to see the beautiful lanterns that they will create! Our Light up the Night Festival and artist collaboration is being organized in partnership with the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#), with funding provided by [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#) and [Park People](#).



## T-Shirt Fundraiser

We are excited to announce that we have raised **\$2,689** 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 limited edition Free the Fern T-shirt yet? It's not too late! **We are sold out of all our bags and small sized shirts**, but we still have shirts in other sizes left (XS-2XL)! You are welcome to purchase t-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.

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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.

**Saturday, Nov 2, 1:30-3pm - [Berries of Fall & Winter](#) - Stanley Park, Vancouver**

Join SPES Educator Julia Taylor to learn how to identify colder season berries like snowberries, mountain ash, and holly.

**Saturday, Nov 2, 2-3pm - [Habitat Helpers Planting Party](#) - Millview Park, Burnaby**

Join a friendly group of volunteers for a rewarding hour planting a variety of native plants in the Cariboo Heights forest in Burnaby!

**Sunday, Nov 3, 3-5pm - [Salmon-Spotting Bike Ride along Still Creek](#) - Grandview Highway, Vancouver**

Bring your bike, your warm riding gear, your best salmon costume, and meet other riders as we seek out returning salmon together!

**Saturday, Nov 9, 10am-12pm - [Everett Crowley Park Stewardship](#) - Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver**

Get dirty, have fun and help the environment! Join the Everett Crowley Park Committee for monthly stewardship events to help remove invasive plants and learn more about the unique history and ecology of Everett Crowley Park.

**Saturday, Nov 23, 1-2pm - [Felting Ornaments](#) - Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, North Vancouver**

Are you looking for a cosy winter craft? Create a temperate rainforest animal or tree out of wool roving using needle felting techniques.

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

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