



Free the Fern

May 2025 Newsletter

We have a Spring in our Step!



The Red flowering currant has just finished blooming, the Pacific bleeding hearts are starting to form seed pods, and the Oregon grape flowers are coming up bright and yellow! Spring has truly sprung!

We also have a new spring in our step, thanks to the success of our 2nd annual **Native Plant Sale** on **Sat, April 12!** We had a variety of shade and sun plants (purchased from [Nat's Nursery](#)), nature crafts, and books. Residents came from near and far. After factoring the cost of the plants, we raised a total of **\$1,272** (during the event and with post event plant sales)! These funds will go towards our Free the Fern stewardship effort. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us!



Then, on April 25, we welcomed a class of 21 grade 3 students from Sir William Osler Elementary. The students enjoyed a nature walk, pulled 720 L of invasive ivy, and planted 53 native plants along the Red Alder Trail! What a fantastic group of young stewards!



Then, the next day, on April 26, we participated in our 4th annual [Earth Fest at Everett Crowley Park](#). The event was organized by the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#), and we

were grateful to be invited to share about our Free the Fern stewardship effort. We had 6 Free the Fern volunteers on hand under our bright green event tent. We sold a few more of our native plants (leftover from our plant sale) and a number of fabric bags and we invited the public to create flower crowns (using the ivy gathered by the grade 3 students).



In the afternoon of Earth Fest, we were honoured to welcome local artist, [Lorna Moffat](#), to do outreach with the community. Lorna spoke with local residents and gathered phrases that describe our community. Lorna will write these on strips of upcycled fabric which will be braided together by local members of the community at our upcoming [Eco-Art Festival](#) on **June 28**. All these braids will then be woven together to create a “Braiding Community” art piece, which will be installed at the Champlain Heights Community Centre. Looking forward to creating an art piece that captures the uniqueness of our neighbourhood!



FREE THE FERN
TOP STORIES



Invasive Pull - Sat, May 3, 10am-12pm

Join us on **Sat, May 3, 10am-12pm**, for our monthly [Invasive Pull](#). We will be removing common periwinkle, ivy, and wild chervil from along the Red Alder Trail. All ages and abilities are welcome. Snacks & drinks provided! [Sign up to volunteer here](#).



Seeding Stewardship Fair – Sat, May 3, 10am-2pm

Also on **Sat, May 3, 10am-2pm**, we will have 2 of our board directors in attendance at the [Seeding Stewardship Fair](#) at [Clark Park](#). This free, drop-in event offers a fantastic opportunity to discover ways you can engage in environmental stewardship. Explore booths hosted by organizations (including Free the Fern!) and participate in hands-on stewardship activities, including a nature walk, neighbourhood clean-up party, and receive tips on making your garden pollinator-friendly.



Global Big Day Bird Walk – Sat, May 10, 9-11am

Join us on **Sat, May 10, 9am-11am**, for a [Global Big Day Bird Walk](#). This event is being organized in partnership with the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#) & [Nature Vancouver](#), and will be led by birder, Kelvin Yip. We will meet at the entrance to the Champlain Heights Community Centre and then go on a bird walk along the Champlain Heights Trails before entering Everett Crowley Park. Sign up to participate [here](#).



The Buzz about Bees - Sat, May 31, 10-12pm

Join us on **Sat, May 31, 10am-12pm**, for The [Buzz about Bees](#) workshop. Outdoor educator, Kristen Penhall, will be back to explore the amazing world of native bees! Learn how to identify common pollinators, why they are important, and what you can do to help them thrive. After a short pollinator walk and a delicious honey tasting, we will make one season bee houses to take home! All ages welcome. Sign up to participate [here](#).



VanCity Grant!

In April we were honoured to receive a [VanCity Community Branch Grant](#) of \$750, with funding offered from the Burnaby South Slope & Metrotown branches. This funding will go towards supporting our [Nature is for Everyone](#) Program, making stewardship more accessible for kids, youth, and families of all kinds! We will also have a Free the Fern display set-up at the Burnaby South Slope VanCity branch from May 9-19. It will be an opportunity to share our stewardship effort with the local community. We are so grateful for the support we have received from VanCity!



Donated Menstrual Products

We were grateful to the local natural menstrual product company, [Joni](#), for offering us a very generous donation of **312 menstrual products**! These products will be offered free to the community in the washroom at our public events. This is part of our effort towards making our events more accessible.



Tree Inventory!

We were honoured to have [Allison Luke](#), Principal Instructor of the UBC Botanical Garden Horticulture Training Program, offering to assist us with a [Tree Inventory](#). Consulting with our board, she chose to assess not only the trees in the Champlain Heights Trails, but also the adjacent complexes. She used existing lidar data and also spent 4 days measuring trees by hand (with her baby strapped to her in a carrier!) Allison is amazing! Check [here](#) to view the final report. We look forward to continuing to partner with Allison Luke as she creates a broader report on the ecosystem services (benefits) that our trails provide.



Eco-Art Fest

Save the Date for our [Eco-Art Fest on Saturday, June 28, 10am-2pm](#). We will be welcoming 7 eco-artists to the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden to share their work with weaving, braiding, paper pulp and ink making. At the event, lead artist, [Lorna Moffat](#) will be creating a “Braiding Community” project, using upcycled fabrics, in partnership with the community, which will later be displayed at the Champlain Heights Community Centre. There will also be a drumming and dancing performance by [Tsatsu Stalgayu](#) (Coastal Wolf Pack) and complimentary bannock & jam, prepared by Elder in Residence, [Marge Wylie](#). Stay tuned for more details to come!

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Neighbouring Nature Events

Check out other nature events happening in Metro Vancouver this month!

Sat, May 10, 10am-12pm - [Chén'chenstway Food Forest Work Party](#) - 2050 Wall St, Vancouver

Join Lori Snyder in the garden at 2050 Wall Street for some garden maintenance tasks and plant teachings. Stay for the whole session or drop in or leave at any time! Kids are welcome. No registration required. Contact info@vufff.org if you have any questions!

Sun, May 11, 9am-11am - [Birding with Me: Welcoming the LGBTQ2S+ Community](#) - Iona Beach, Richmond

Get to know our local feathered friends while in the community outdoors. Led by biologist Andrew Huang, this walk will introduce you to the birds found at Iona Beach Regional Park.

Sun, May 18, 7-8:30pm - [Birding with Me: Welcoming the Filipino Community](#) - Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver

Get to know our local feathered friends while in community outdoors. Led by biologist and photographer Kris Cu, this program will introduce participants to the birds that are active in the evening at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Thurs, May 22, 6-8pm - [Felting Nature: Pileated Woodpecker](#) -Stanley Park Ecology Society Office, Vancouver

It's the Greater Vancouver Bird Celebration, and SPES is channeling this bird-loving energy into a crafty creation with "Felting Nature"! Join SPES for an artsy evening and try your hand at needle felting a beautiful 2D wool "painting" of a pileated woodpecker!

Sat, May 24, 10am-1pm - [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.

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

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