

Burnaby Lake Park Association – MEDIA RELEASE

c/o 9146 Avalon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 4G8



October 4, 2016

Burnaby Lake Park Association Receives \$4000 George Ross Legacy Grant for EcoBlitz

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) is excited to announce they have received a \$4000 George Ross Legacy Grant to put toward the restoration of the 1.6 hectare North Avalon Restoration Site (NARS) at the east end of Burnaby Lake Regional Park. The funds will be used to purchase the native plants, tools and supplies required to complete this stage of this stewardship project on October 16. The BLPA's EcoBlitz is one of many stewardship activities across the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks system that allows volunteers to actively participate in preserving, restoring, and protecting the natural environment in the park, which develops respect, appreciation and enjoyment of the park's natural attributes.

George Ross, a park lover and long-time resident of Burnaby, passed away in 2012 and left a bequest of \$2.8 million dollars to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. The interest generated from this generous endowment funds the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program, created to support hands-on citizen stewardship projects by park partners and is administered by the [Pacific Parklands Foundation](#). In the 2016 inaugural grant cycle, the Burnaby Lake Park Association was one of five Regional Park Associations who were awarded grants.

Since 2011, the BLPA, with support from Metro Vancouver staff, has held **17 work parties** at the NARS with over **350 volunteers** from Burnaby and neighbouring communities, as well as groups from Redl, Stantec, the Lower Mainland Green Team and students from School District 41 including the BETA Mini-School at Alpha Secondary. These hardworking volunteers have put in over **1200 hours** removing **21,000 kilograms** of invasive species which include English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, and Himalayan balsam as well as spread mulch and placed coarse woody debris. All this work has been in preparation for the planting of native species at the EcoBlitz such as Douglas fir, Big leaf maple, salmonberry, thimbleberry, sword fern, and 10 others.

"Restoring the North Avalon Site will focus on improving the terrestrial ecosystem health by removing invasive plants, increasing native plant and bird diversities. By increasing native species diversity the ecosystem will become more resilient to future changes," says Hannah Nieman, Chair. She also wrote and developed the North Avalon Restoration Plan as part of her undergraduate capstone project for BCIT's Ecological Restoration program.

The Burnaby Lake Park Association invites members of the community to join the **BLPA EcoBlitz**:

DATE: Sunday, October 16, 2016

TIME: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

PLACE: Meet at the Avalon entrance - **9157 Avalon Avenue**, off Cariboo Road.

Dress for the weather, including sturdy footwear. Tools, gloves and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to our Volunteer Coordinator if you would like to bring a group or organisation.

The Burnaby Lake Park Association was founded in 1972* and has been an active volunteer organization leading stewardship activities that preserve, restore, and protect Burnaby Lake Regional Park's ecological integrity. They connect people with nature through habitat restoration and enhancement such as their invasive species removal program *Weedbusters* and *Nestbox Monitoring*, education and outreach in the community. The BLPA is an advocate for environmentally responsible management of Burnaby Lake Regional Park to ensure it is a legacy for future generations.

To find out more or get directions, please visit www.BurnabyLakePark.ca or contact:

Ann Green, Volunteer Coordinator

Info@BurnabyLakePark.ca

778.834.9030

Hannah Nieman, Chair

Chair@BurnabyLakePark.ca

**Founded as the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association*

Join us! @BurnabyLakePark



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For directions on how to get to the Ecoblitz by car or transit – www.BurnabyLakePark.ca/Directions



The North Avalon Restoration Site (yellow) located at the east end of Burnaby Lake Regional Park, (10/14)

