

Burnaby Lake Park Association – MEDIA RELEASE

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



October 16, 2019

Burnaby Lake Park Association Working with TD for an EcoBlitz-TD Tree Days Event

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) is excited to announce they are doing their part to mitigate the effects of climate change. They are working with TD to deliver another **TD Tree Days** event during the annual [EcoBlitz](#), stewardship activities happening across the [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks](#) system this month. EcoBlitz events allow community volunteers to actively participate in preserving, restoring, and protecting the natural environment in regional parks, which develops respect, appreciation and enjoyment of the park's natural attributes.

This year's [TD Tree Days](#) event will take place on **Sunday, October 21, 2019, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Lenson Field restoration site, located at the south east end of Burnaby Lake Regional Park near Cariboo Dam. Since 2018, the BLPA with support from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff, has held **12 work parties** at the Lenson Field restoration site with over **280 volunteers** from Burnaby and neighbouring communities. These hard working volunteers have put in over **760 hours** removing over **1600 kilograms** (3500 pounds) of invasive species which include English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, and Himalayan balsam. These non-native organisms can alter habitats and often displace native vegetation through competition for water, nutrients, and space.

"Restoring the Lenson Field site has focused on improving the terrestrial ecosystem health. The first step is removing invasive plants. Once established, these non-native species have many negative impacts including creating monocultures which threaten biodiversity and also reduce productivity of soil and water quality," says Irene Lau, BLPA Chair. "Replanting these areas with a diverse range of native species is better for the native birds and wildlife, and helps the ecosystem to become more resilient to future changes."

The BLPA has worked with TD to plant 15 different native species on this site. In 2018, they put 400 of these in the ground. This year, over **90** volunteers will plant **over 550** of these native trees, shrubs and plants. They include recognisable varieties such as Vine Maples and Sword Ferns. However, the plants are also chosen for characteristics that are valuable in restoration projects such as the Salmonberry. Not only are its blooms one of the first signs of spring, it grows into dense thickets to provide habitat, provide a food source and its deep roots and suckering habits help prevent erosion by holding soil intact.

This event is one of 158 TD Tree Days events taking place across North America this fall. TD Tree Days invests in the health of our urban tree canopies, and offers TD employees, their families, and our community partners, a fun, easy and rewarding way to help green the communities in which they live and work.

Launched in 2010, TD Tree Days is the bank's flagship volunteer program, bringing together more than 70,000 volunteers in Canada, the US, and the UK to help plant over 394,000 trees. As part of the bank's corporate citizenship platform, [The Ready Commitment](#), the program is contributing to a new target of planting 1 million trees by 2030. Each season, thousands of volunteers come together to help create a more vibrant planet and sustainable tomorrow.

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, wildlife monitoring, education and outreach in the community. Its *Weedbusters* group which started in 2004 was one of the first invasive species removal programs in Metro Vancouver. 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:

Irene Lau, Chair

Irene@BurnabyLakePark.ca

**Founded as the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association*



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DATE: Sunday, October 20, 2019

TIME: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

PLACE: Park at **9157 Avalon Avenue**, off Cariboo Road, and follow the signs to Lenson Field

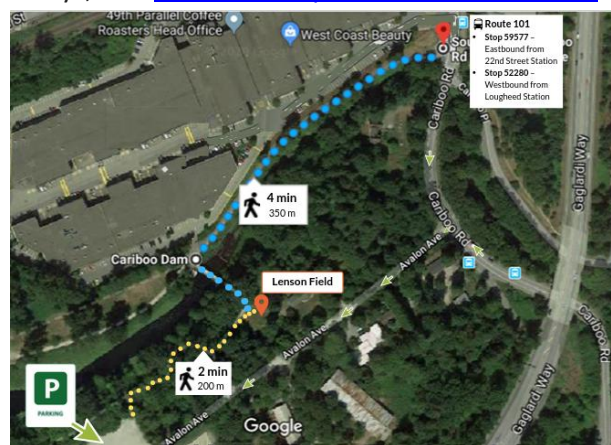
The Lenson Field/Meadow Restoration Site located at the south east end of Burnaby Lake Regional Park near Cariboo Dam.



Native Species Planted

1. *Acer circinatum* - [Vine Maple](#)
2. *Acer macrophyllum* - [Big-leaf Maple](#)
3. *Athyrium filix-femina* - [Lady Fern](#)
4. *Holodiscus discolor* - [Oceanspray](#)
5. *Lonicera ciliosa* - [Western Honeysuckle](#)
6. *Mahonia nervosa* - [Dull Oregon Grape](#)
7. *Osmaronia cerasiformis* - [Indian Plum](#)
8. *Philadelphus lewisii* - [Mock Orange](#)
9. *Polystichum munitum* - [Sword Fern](#)
10. *Ribes sanguineum* - [Red-flowering Currant](#)
11. *Rosa nutkana* - [Nootka's Rose](#)
12. *Rubus parviflorus* - [Thimbleberry](#)
13. *Rubus spectabilis* - [Salmonberry](#)
14. *Sambucus racemosa* - [Red Elderberry](#)
15. *Tellima grandiflora* - [Fringecup](#)

For directions on how to get to the Burnaby Lake EcoBlitz-TD Tree Days, visit www.BurnabyLakePark.ca/Directions



Above images are available in higher resolution. Please contact irene@BurnabyLakePark.ca.

