

# Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership



Surrey Parks

# SNAP

- + Green Timbers Heritage Society
- + Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society
- + White Rock and Surrey Naturalists



*The Green Timbers Heritage Society*



Surrey **Parks**

# SNAP's Mission

- ✦ Restore and enhance Surrey's urban forest.
- ✦ Promote environmental stewardship and nature appreciation.
- ✦ Empower youth as future leaders in environmental conservation.



# SNAP Funding

## Funding Partners:

- + Canada Summer Jobs
- + Young Canada Works
- + TD Friends of the Environment
- + Nature Canada



# SNAP Teams



# SNAP Teams

## Field team

- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Refuse and garbage removal

## Outreach team

- ✦ Environmental education
- ✦ Hosts community events
- ✦ Park roving



# Field Team

- ✦ 22,795 native trees and shrubs planted
- ✦ 4,214 m<sup>3</sup> of invasive plants removed
- ✦ 543 m<sup>3</sup> of yard waste and litter removed



# Outreach Team

- + 200,000 people reached
- + 600 events
- + Social Media





# 2023 Team

- + 20 youth employed
- + Summer and fall teams
- + Opportunities to work together to learn from each other (example, Community Science BioBlitz)



# 2023 Field Team

- ✦ Visited 38 parks.
- ✦ Removed 270 m<sup>3</sup> of invasive plants.
- ✦ Planted 1,825 native trees and shrubs.
- ✦ Renovated tree wells – piloted planting pollinator species in some wells.



# 2023 Outreach Team

- ✦ Attended 33 community events – including Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Open House.
- ✦ Posted 70 educational posts on Social.
- ✦ Engaged with 3,900 community members.



# SNAP's Legacy

- + 23 years and counting
- + 266 youth employed
- + 2 current CoS Parks managers
- + 20+ in Parks roles over the years, at least 10 currently.



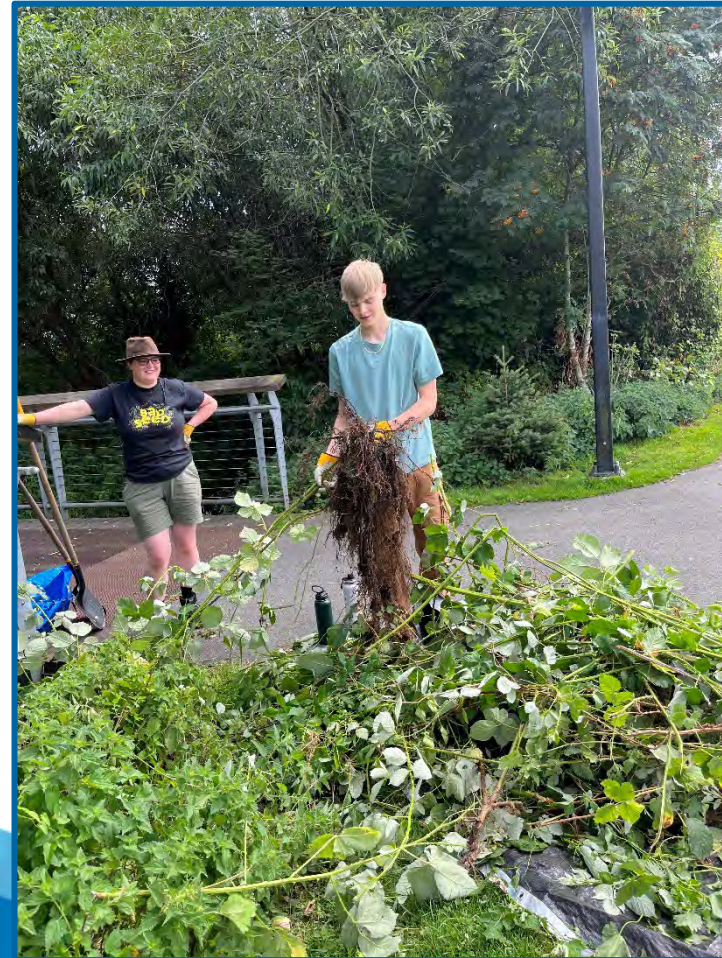
# Park Operations People!

Youth Employment Initiative



# Status Quo

- Seasonal help for an extended term
- The need for change
- How did we get here?



# POP was born!

- Intent
- Commitment
- Funding
- Terms / logistics



# Where did we start

- Recruitment
  - Where
  - How many applied
  - How many interviewed
  - How many did we hire





# Challenges / What we learned

- Very 'green' – need a lot of mentoring
- Need flexible schedules
- Different type of interviews
- Best fit



# Opportunities

- Staff Development
- Interpersonal skill development
- Park Ops as career choice – exposure / diversity
- Building a future generation



# POP Participant Testimonials



# Thank you for listening!

- Sara Yastremski [syastremski@coquitlam.ca](mailto:syastremski@coquitlam.ca)
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