



## Become a Park Steward!

Vancouver has some of the world's most wonderful urban parks. These parks are so special in part because of people like you who volunteer their time to the care and stewardship of the parks' ecological health.

### What kind of program is this?

Park Stewards is a pilot program that will be run by the Park Board. We are seeking volunteers to assist with maintaining some of our key biodiversity and urban forest restoration sites in parks. Being a pilot, there will be a limited number of participants in the first year; these participants will be invited to offer their feedback on the program so we can improve the program as we move forward.

### Who is a steward?

You! A steward is a person who takes on the responsible care of something. A CEO can steward the advancement of a company; a bee keeper can steward the health of bees; and, in this case, a steward can help enhance the biodiversity and urban forest health in the City.

Some sites will be suitable for a classroom of children or youth, some will be more suitable to an individual or small group. You can bring your family, including kids.

### What is expected of me?

The primary role of a Park Steward in this pilot phase of the program is to help manage invasive plant populations in recently planted areas. Each Park Steward will "adopt" a site and tend to it throughout the year. The Park Steward will be expected to contribute at least 6 hours per month of volunteer time to the care of their site.

### What's in it for me?

- Park Stewards will be able to visit the site they adopt on a flexible schedule. You can bring a friend, bring your dog, come in the rain, come on a Monday, Sunday or a sunny day!
- Annually, the Park Board will host a Park Stewards celebration where volunteers and Park Board partners will be invited to share stories and experiences, hear what's happening in other parks and enjoy some food and drink.
- The Park Board will provide training, a high-visibility vest, tools and other supplies you might need to be successful.

## Where can I pitch in?

**Everett Crowley Park** is the home of Earth Day Vancouver and was formerly the Kerr Rd dump. After the dump was decommissioned 50 years ago, the site has slowly been reclaimed by the forest, with some ongoing help from the Park Board.

Your tasks at Everett Crowley Park will include: keeping invasive morning glory and clematis from crowding young trees; trimming and digging invasive Himalayan blackberry roots; planting trees and shrubs in the appropriate season; keeping the Park Board up-to-date on your progress

**Jericho Park** has perhaps one of the most interesting stories in the City! In recent history it has been known as a site of importance to local First Nations, a logging camp, Vancouver's first golf course, a military sea plane base and, now, a park with a unique combination of sandy shoreline and upland forest.

Your tasks at Jericho will include: keeping invasive morning glory and clematis from crowding young trees; trimming and digging invasive Himalayan blackberry roots; removing English Ivy from trees and understory; planting trees and shrubs in the appropriate season; keeping the Park Board up-to-date on your progress

**5<sup>th</sup> and Pine** is a pollinator haven in a dense urban neighbourhood. Built entirely from recycled materials, the flowers and shrubs planted here will provide essential habitat for urban pollinating species including mason, bumble and honeybees!

Your tasks at 5<sup>th</sup> and Pine will include removing weeds from among the pollinator plants, keeping an eye on the health of the flowers and shrubs, speaking with passers-by about the value of the space and updating the Park Board on your progress and any observed issues.

If you have an idea for stewardship in your local park, please email [parkstewards@vancouver.ca](mailto:parkstewards@vancouver.ca) to talk about it!

**If becoming a Park Steward interests you, please sign up today!**