

Spring 2017

WATER TO EARTH MONTH

Nanaimo River Watershed and Water Treatment Plant Guided Tour

Wednesday March 22, 2017 10am–4pm \$10/person (limited seating so register today!!)

Come see the amazing journey our drinking water takes from the mountains to our homes! Enjoy an exclusive guided bus tour of the upper Nanaimo River Watershed, followed by a tour of Nanaimo's innovative new Water Treatment Plant. Forestry representatives and City water staff will be on hand to discuss forestry, water quality, future plans and answer questions. Don't forget your camera! Meet at Bowen Park (Wall Street Parking Lot)



VIU "Water Documentaries" Film Night Wednesday April 12, 2017 7:00 - 9:00pm

Enjoy a selection of short films relating to all things water. Appreciate the beauty of aquatic ecosystems and learn about the ongoing efforts to protect our most precious resource, around the globe. There will be something for all interests!

Nanaimo Earth, Water & Wild Foods Festival



On Sunday April 23, 2017, come celebrate Earth, Water, and Wild Foods at Bowen Park from 11am -3pm. The festival will feature vendors of local wild food products and chefs offering unique samples of foods made with local wild plant ingredients, information booths from related community groups, demonstrations, workshops, live music, kids activities, guided plant identification & stream walks through Bowen Park and much more.

For more information on other events and walks during **Water to Earth Month** and how to register for workshops visit: <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/water2earth> or download the [poster information](#)

Our Volunteers, hard at work...



DISCOVER
MONTESSORI

Thank you to our volunteer groups, who've braved this year's crazy weather to continue helping out in our parks over the winter season.

A busy crew on **Protection Island** finished up 2016 with a big clean up party of Smugglers Park, luckily, just before all the snow arrived

Vancouver University Community Care Group - spent a wet Saturday in March re-foresting sections in Neck Point with Douglas Fir and Cedar trees

Bill's Place has continued to visit Piper's Lagoon a couple of times a month as new stewards of this park in our **Adopt-a-Park Program**

Discover Montessori School has also become stewards of the Beaufort Forest in our Adopt-a-Park Program and have been busy teaching their students the importance of natural biodiversity, the effects of invasive plants and the importance of caring for our green spaces.

Dover Bay Highschool Eco Club is also gearing up for more work and planting in some of our local parks this spring.

And to other individuals and group who have been busy helping out in our parks, a huge thank you for all your efforts and willingness to be a part of keeping our parks beautiful.



Smugglers Park,
Protection Island



VIU COMMUNITY
CARE at Neck Point



BILL'S PLACE
at Piper's Lagoon

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Invasive Plant Work Parties

Maintaining our natural areas and restoring the integrity of our native ecology depends on you. Join our invasive species work parties with other like minded individuals.

Please call Parks & Rec at 250-756-5200 to pre-register, wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them.

Broombuster at Tourism Info Centre

Mon, Apr 17, 2-4 pm (155197)

Sun, May 21, 9:30-11:30 am (155194)

Broombuster at Oceanview Park

Sat, Apr 22, 9:30-11:30 am (155191)

Sun, Apr 23, 9:30-11:30 am (155192)

Broombuster at Norsea Park

Thurs, Apr 27, 6-8 pm (155611)

Invasive Plant Removal & BBQ at Piper's Lagoon

hosted by Bill's Place

Fri, May 5, 10-2:00 pm (155777)

Broombuster at Third Street Park

Sun, May 7, 9:30-11:30 am (155193)

For more info on how to get involved with the Broom-busters visit broombusters.org



Knotweed—Invasive Species Alert

Japanese, Giant & Himalayan Knotweed are members of the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae) from eastern Asia and have hollow (except the Himalayan species), upright, bamboo like stems growing to 3 to 16 feet. Knotweeds thrive in roadside ditches, water drainage systems, irrigation canals, They are also found in riparian areas, along stream banks, and in other low lying areas with high soil moisture.

Impact on humans and the environment: The species forms dense stands that crowd out all other vegetation, degrading native plant and animal habitat & can create a fire hazard in the dormant season. It is difficult to control because it has extremely vigorous rhizome roots that form a deep, dense mat. & can re-sprout from fragments.

What should you do?

Please report any sightings of this species to the contacts below.

- **Spread the word, not the weed:** don't purchase, grow or trade knotweed, use soil and gravel that are not contaminated
- **Avoid:** digging and cutting this species as this can cause further spread.
- **Wash:** plant parts and seeds from vehicles, equipment and personal gear before leaving infested sites.
- **Dispose:** of any knotweed parts and contaminated soils in the proper manner

Mesh Net Knotweed Control Trial Underway

As part of the City's Invasive Plant Management Program, two sites within Bowen Park are currently part of a study being coordinated through the Province of BC to assess the use of steel netting as a containment & control method for Knotweed within riparian areas. The trial involves monitoring the re-growth of knotweed along the Millstone River that have a steel mesh net anchored over them. The mesh net is expected to restrict the growth and spread of the Knotweed. It is hoped this technique will offer a method to contain the growth of knotweed along sensitive riparian habitats, where the use of herbicides is not allowed.

For more information on Knotweed, contact the Coastal Invasive Species Committee at <http://www.coastalisc.com/>.
Or visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives.



BEFORE



AFTER



CLOSE UP

Got Ivy, Broom, Blackberry, or Daphne?

Bring it to the Drop Zone!! Available for homeowners to drop off invasive plants for disposal **from 11-3pm at Bowen Park (off Wall St) on...**



- **Sunday, April 23**
- **Saturday, May 27**

For more information on our restoration projects or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact:
Deb Beck – Recreation Coordinator
Rob Lawrance – Acting Parks Planner