



SNAP 2012

Mid-Summer Report

Prepared by Stephen McGlenn, SNAP Coordinator

Coordinator update:

As it's the half-way point in the summer, I'm currently conducting mid-summer performance reviews with each SNAPer. This is a chance for me to check-in with everyone in SNAP and their supervisors at the City to review how each SNAPer has been fulfilling our expectations, to improve on areas that are identified as needing improvement, and to provide feedback regarding the SNAP program and their overall performance. At the beginning of the year, each SNAPer was asked to set three goals for their own professional development, so this review will also be a simple way for me to determine if these goals are being met, and to see how SNAP can prepare our students for their future careers.

The SNAP team is well on its way to fulfilling our goal of promoting environmental stewardship. Overall, I feel all the SNAPer's have been performing exceptionally well in their duties; they really do make a great team! Everyone seems to appreciate the opportunity SNAP has given them and wants to do their best to make the most of it. And that goes double for me; thanks for all your support so far! I hope the last half of this season is as rewarding as the first half!

Habitat Restoration (HR) Team:

HR has been maintaining a great pace and quality in their work. The City definitely keeps them busy! Many HR projects are ongoing throughout the summer, such as blackberry removal, planting maintenance sites, and working in the partner parks. They have completed or nearly completed several invasive "packages" given to them by City staff; so far tackling the Scotch Broom, Tansy, and Impatiens packages, while currently working on the, Holly, Laurel, Lamium, Ivy and Periwinkle packages for the rest of the summer. Here is a quantitative summary of volume and area removed for each species up until now (note the total of over 2500m² area removed!):

<u>Species removed</u>	<u>Area Removed (m²)</u>	<u>Volume Removed (m³)</u>
Himalayan Blackberry	184.275	31.375
Impatiens	1885	0*
English Ivy	2	0.05
Lamium	388.35	7.25
English Holly	4	3
Periwinkle	0.25	0*
Scotch Broom	43.75	9.15
Tansy	13.5	2.625
Yellow Flag Iris	5	0.25
Total Invasive Species	2526.13	53.7

*Species with 0 m³ volume removed are left on site to decompose, as the plant matter poses no risk.

The HR team has also spent ten full days maintaining plantings by the City and SNAP in previous years, and almost two weeks in total on garbage pickup, yard waste removal, planting projects, trail closures, and meadow sweeps at Green Timbers.

What's to come for HR:

The HR team has now become HR Teams 1 and 2! With the addition of a second truck starting early July, we've promoted our HR Team Member, Chelsea Nerpio. Chelsea will now be Team Leader for the second HR crew. In addition, we're pleased to welcome our new HR Team Assistant, Rimi Plaha. Rimi is a local grade 12 student who will be attending the University of Waterloo for Environmental Engineering in the fall, and will be joining Team 1 full-time for the rest of the summer!

Look for the HR team in the partner parks throughout the rest of the summer! Here is our tentative July schedule for when we'll be in the partner parks:

- July 3rd and 4th @ Blackie Spit (Knapweed & knotweed removal, fire checks & packages)
- July 11th, 12th & 13th @ Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest (Holly and Laurel removal)
- July 18th, 19th, 20th & 23rd @ Green Timbers (Meadow maintenance, Holly and Laurel removal & Lakeshore cleanup)

Special events: We're currently in the planning stages for two Nature Matters events with the Salmon Habitat Restoration Project (SHaRP), one on July 16th in Mud Bay and the other in later August. More details to come!

Environmental Outreach Teams:

Natural Areas – Matt & Maria have really taken to their role in Outreach as exemplary communicators and positive messengers for SNAP and our natural areas. Their dynamics as a team has resulted in very effective messaging. To date, they have canvassed close to two thousand homes in Surrey, speaking with over seven hundred residents about the City of Surrey's yard waste programs, the benefits of natural areas and environmental stewardship, and presenting a friendly and informative message about SNAP and the partner groups. To date, they have delivered 552 yard waste stickers, 391 welcome wagon packages, and 710 various brochures. Of the residents that they have spoken, over 80% of those interactions have been rated as positive and well received.

Specimen Trees –As returning employees from last year, Jess and Gurtej have demonstrated commitment and passion for their work with SNAP and with the Specimen Trees crew. Having just completed their first visits, Jess and Gurtej have canvassed an astounding four thousand, eight hundred and four trees! Now, they will go through their data and determine which of those trees need to be revisited a second and third time. In addition, they have been promoting the City of Surrey's watering bag program, and have been able to encourage over two hundred residents to participate in the watering bag program.

Special events: Both SNAP Outreach teams have been attending special events. In total, they have reached an estimated four thousand people at public events. Here is a list of events they have attended so far:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children's Fest	May 24 th , 25 th and 26 th
World Ocean's Day	June 3 rd
Newton Community Festival	June 9 th
Surrey Fest	June 16 th

What's to come: Both Outreach teams will be continuing in their outreach duties throughout the summer, and looking forward to participating in more community events, such as Surrey Fusion Festival, Burns Bog's Jog for the Bog, DIVERSEcity, and Movie Nights in the Park.

Look for the Outreach – Natural Areas team in each of the partner parks every Friday as they rove and fill kiosks with brochures!

Environmental Education Team:

Jaime and Ally have been training hard with Surrey Nature Centre (SNC) staff throughout the month of June, shadowing nature programs, attending special events, learning interpretation skills and time management, and generally preparing for the day camps, which start July 3rd! They helped SNC staff set up and run activities at Children's Festival, World Ocean's Day, and Scales n' Tails, all very successful events. July and August will be dedicated solely to day camps, so the ED team will be extremely busy from now on! Here are the themes and dates for this year's day camps, all of which are being held at the Surrey Nature Centre:

- Creepy Crawlies (July 3rd – 6th, July 30th – August 3rd)
- Outdoor Survival (July 9th – 13th, August 27th – 31st)
- Nature Discovery (July 16th – 20th, August 7th – 10th)
- Wildlife Trackers (July 23rd – 27th, August 20th – 24th)

Volunteer Coordinator:

Our SNAP volunteers have started! Amelia has been hard at work these past 2 months getting ready for Eco-Rangers and Habitat Restoration volunteers, providing training, park orientations and scheduling. We have twenty six Eco-Rangers so far, who will be starting their shifts on Tuesday July 10th at Surrey Lake. They will also be volunteering in pairs in these areas: Green Timbers, Sunnyside Acres, Blackie Spit, Fleetwood Park, and Cougar Creek. Their shifts run in two hour segments anytime between 12pm and 6pm. They will be delivering positive messages to park users about interesting natural features and artefacts, as well as promoting proper environmental stewardship. Watch out for Eco-Rangers throughout Surrey and stop and say hello, and pass along any feedback to me or Amelia that you may have about them!

Additionally, the beginning of July has also seen the beginning of the Habitat Restoration (HR) volunteer program. So far we have eight volunteers signed up to work with the HR teams. The HR

volunteers are with the crew for a full seven hours, taking direction from the crew leader and team members, and performing most of the tasks that the HR crew performs, save for the operation of power equipment. We're hoping they'll provide lots of help throughout the summer and maybe even apply next year as employees!

Thanks for reading, if you have any questions, please call or email!

Regards,

Stephen McGlenn
SNAP Coordinator
Office: 604-501-5132
Cell: 778-991-9225
Email: snap.program@gmail.com