



Rewilding South Vancouver

The First Step in the Environmental Education and Stewardship Action Plan



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What is Environmental Education (EE)?

- Thematically linked Biodiversity, Urban Forest, Bird, Environmental Education and Stewardship
- Promotes or encourages outdoor experiences
- Programs or events that promote connecting to nature
- Ability to register through community centres or is offered through a partnership with a community centres
- Excludes food-related programming, but could include things like seed-saving, gardening or permaculture

Kensington

- Very limited partnerships and connections to EE instructors
- Centre located in a high-traffic area with varied topography, making access for seniors difficult
- Low community interest in EE; not highly valued or sought after
- Willingness to try new programs with proper resources

Sunset

- Has multiple partnerships including Moberly Arts and Culture Centre, Village Vancouver, Sunset Nursery
- Lack of interest from public
- Parents prioritize traditional academic activities; do not see value in EE
- Needs funding for free EE programs

Marpole-Oakridge

- Lack of public interest in EE programs and little available natural greenspace
- Food related programs have high attendance but limited by facility
- Transportation to and from outings is an issue
- New building is undergoing design and budget approval

Challenges



Risk and Liability

- Community Centres are liable for outdoor programs
- Seniors and children are high risk for injury

Funding

- Environmental Education programs are expensive
- Not enough money to subsidize low turnout

Facilities

- Limited natural parks near community centres
- Few on-site facilities for environmental education

Public Exposure

- Little current interest in environmental education programs
- Parents generally prioritize sports and academic programs

Few Partnerships

- Low turnout discourages partners from repeat programming
- Partnerships are mostly related to food services

Knowledge Gap

- Staff are generalists with a recreation background, little knowledge of potential partners
- Minimal experience with successful and effective environmental education programs

Adapting Existing Programs

Modify existing programs to include EE, instead of creating new offerings

Partnerships and Volunteers

Strengthen local partnerships, with a focus on volunteer based organizations

Grants and Funding Task Force

Create a Regional Task Force (i.e. South Community Centres) aimed to research, identify and apply for grants to provide the funding to expand EE

Project Context

This project is a collaboration with CityStudio and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and aims to understand the current state of community-based environmental education. We will be analysing the capacities and resources needed for enlarging environmental education offerings to the communities served by Community Centres. This project was triggered by the Environmental Education and Stewardship Action Plan, and is directly related to Priority 3 of the Action Plan.

Killarney

- Skating rink and pool takes up most of staff time and effort, makes creating new programs difficult
- Some existing interest in EE programs, particularly those that are free
- Current partners include Lori Snyder and the Vancouver Arts Colloquium Society among others

Champlain

- Surrounded by natural park and green space
- Variety of local partners but public interest, especially with seniors, is an ongoing challenge
- Funding for more and subsidized EE programs is needed

Opportunities



Program Fair

Develop a fair which showcases new ideas for programs, hosted with centres, local businesses, and instructors; would form the basis of a database of contacts for Programmers

Standardized Protocols

Create a protocol for out trips that outline safety, risk, and liability so that Centres are better prepared for out trips

Future Leaders

Investing in future leaders of EE by training youth leadership groups/clubs to develop projects and initiatives

EE Program Offerings for Winter Season 2017-2018:

