



2021 Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership

Summer



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The SNAP Program

Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP) is a unique program that brings together the Green Timbers Heritage Society, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society, and City of Surrey. SNAP's goal is to restore, enhance and promote stewardship of Surrey's urban forest.

SNAP provides meaningful work experience for youth who are interested in pursuing careers in the environmental sector. Since 2001, SNAP has employed over 230 students, many of whom have gone on to related careers across the Lower Mainland and beyond.

The summer team consisted of two teams – the Field and Outreach Team – with a total of ten youth. Youth work to enhance natural areas, care for City trees and educate the community about the urban forest.



"The most rewarding aspect of my job is doing important environmental work that has an immediate impact on the health of our urban forests. Working with like-minded, enthusiastic, and passionate people really enriched my experience with SNAP." – Yanik, Field Team Leader

"My biggest takeaway from this job is that going out of your comfort zone is extremely valuable and beneficial. These new experiences have really helped me grow and have encouraged me to continue trying new things." – Charlotte, Field Team Member



Achievements

"I greatly enjoyed watching my team members confidence and skills further develop over the course of the summer. As neither had much prior outreach experience, it was very rewarding to help them put the skills they already had towards environmental education." – Amy, Urban Forest Outreach Team Leader



The 2021 Summer SNAP team:

Interacted with **over 900** people



Provided base maintenance to shade trees covering **4613 m²**



Removed **196 m³** of invasive plant material covering over **6470 m²**



Worked in and enhanced **30** parks



Field Team



“Getting hired by SNAP was one of my biggest accomplishments. I didn’t have a lot of work experience related to the environmental field and this job has equipped me with skills and experience that will help me in the future. I am very proud of the work I have done this year and I am excited for the future.” – Jared, Field Team Leader

The Field Team works to restore, maintain and enhance the ecological integrity and functioning of natural areas in Surrey. They remove invasive plants, pick up litter, maintain previous planting sites, and provide tree well renovations to shade trees.

This summer, the Field Team worked in 30 different parks across Surrey, removing 17 invasive plant species. In total, the team removed 196 m³ of invasive plant material covering over 6470 m² of natural areas. The team also provided base maintenance for shade trees covering 4613 m².

The team also worked with the Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP) at Hyland Creek Park and Mud Bay Park. Together, they removed invasive species along creeks to enhance the urban forest and wetland habitat for local wildlife. In the fall, SNAP and SHaRP will return to Hyland Creek Park to restore the area by planting native trees and shrubs.

The Field Team contributed great value and hard work in caring for Surrey’s urban forest.

Urban Forest Outreach Team

The Urban Forest Outreach Team raises awareness of the benefits of urban forests, promotes environmental stewardship, and fosters a sense of community connection with Surrey's parks.

The Urban Forest Outreach Team was active in 13 parks throughout Surrey, providing nature interpretation and information about parks and City services. They interacted with over 320 park users and removed over 90 litres of litter, while providing positive messaging on how to maintain Surrey parks' beauty and appreciate the value and benefits they provide.

This year, the team learned to engage with the community on virtual platforms such as social media, online webinars and by developing educational videos to support our non-profit society partners. They engaged with over 60 youth through Online Youth Nights to encourage high school volunteers to be stewards of Surrey's parks. In addition, they taught high school volunteers the importance of removing invasive species and how to safely do it.

"My biggest accomplishment this year was gaining more confidence in myself and my skillset. Having a supportive team and freedom to take initiative created a positive and uplifting atmosphere in which I was able to do my best work." – Isabel, Urban Forest Outreach Team Member (far right)



"My biggest accomplishment this year was learning how to identify over 30 native and invasive plants found in Surrey!" – Phaedra, Urban Forest Outreach Team Member



Thank you for supporting SNAP!

Collaboration is built into the fabric of SNAP and continues to play a key role in its success. Despite uncertain circumstances this year, the SNAP Teams contributed great value in caring for Surrey's urban forest and gained valuable career experience. The SNAP team would like to thank all the program partners for their continued support and the unforgettable experiences.

The 2021 SNAP program was made possible through funding from the City of Surrey and the Canada Summer Jobs program. Finally, thanks to all the youth that participated in SNAP this summer for their tireless work ethic.

