



# COMMITTEE REPORT

To: **Mayor Schaffer and Councillors**

Subject **Green Teams of Canada Partnership**

Report #: 16-041

File #: 0540.08

From: Parks, Recreation & Environment Advisory  
Committee

Doc #:

Date: October 19, 2016

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## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council directs staff to explore a fee for service partnership with Green Teams of Canada to run habitat restoration events in the City of Langley each year.

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## PURPOSE:

To present a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation and Environment Advisory Committee requesting that staff explores a fee for service partnership with Green Teams of Canada.

## POLICY:

Per the following excerpt from the committee Terms of Reference the committee is requesting Council approval to direct staff on this matter.

(10) A Committee does not have the authority to commit funds, enter into contracts or commit the City to a particular course of action.



## COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

At the Parks, Recreation and Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on Oct. 6, 2016 a presentation was made by Lyda Salatian, Executive Director and Lower Mainland Manager of the Green Team of Canada. The following is an excerpt of the meeting minutes regarding this matter.

*In January 2011, Lyda began the Lower Mainland Green Team (LMGT) by contacting parks staff in the Lower Mainland and asking if she could organize a group of volunteers to remove invasive plants, plant native plants and trees and pick up litter. Using the social media site [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com), Lyda began organizing volunteer work parties and had 23 people show up to the first event to pull ivy.*

*To date, the Lower Mainland Green Team has grown to 2,968 volunteers; run 255 activities in 16 municipalities; won one (1) national award and three (3) local awards; removed 87,000 pounds and 1,150 cubic meters of invasive species and planted 8,800 native plants species.*

*Activities are offered from March to July and September to November. Work parties are usually run on Saturdays and Sundays. Youth focused activities run on weekdays.*

*Two prior activities have been run in the City of Langley: Portage Park youth event – April 4, 2015 and Sendall Gardens ivy pull on July 6, 2013. LMGT has worked collaboratively with LEPS since 2012 and has received a letter of support from Langley Field Naturalists. They would like to propose the creation of a fee for service partnership with Green Teams of Canada to run habitat restoration activities in the City of Langley each year.*

*They propose that some of the benefit to the City is to engage citizens, especially youth; increase public education of the threat of invasive plants; media exposure for the City of Langley and its parks and provides great value as the cost is \$800.00 per event as they will contribute matching funds plus the in-kind use of volunteers. Additionally, the LMGT shows the impact of the work through a write-up and photo album with 50-150 photos immediately following each activity.*

**MOVED BY Committee Member Burgess-Parker**  
**SECONDED BY Committee Member Millsip**



*THAT the Parks, Recreation and Environment Advisory Committee recommend that council direct staff to explore a fee for service partnership with Green Teams of Canada to run habitat restoration activities in the City of Langley each year.*

*BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED there was a motion to amend*

*MOVED BY Committee Member Wuest*

*SECONDED BY Committee Member Millsip*

*THAT the motion be amended by adding that the fee for service work parties target City of Langley volunteers as much as possible.*

*BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED ON THE AMENDMENT it was noted that youth focused events are coordinated with the local schools and only open to the community the event is held in. The weekend events are community focused however, they are open to anyone who may be interested in participating.*

*THE QUESTION WAS CALLED ON THE AMENDMENT and same was*

**DEFEATED**

*Committee Members: Burgess-Parker; Tod; McDowell; Marshall; Millsip and Butler opposed.*

*THE QUESTION WAS CALLED ON THE MAIN MOTION and the same was*

**CARRIED**

## **STAFF COMMENT**

Staff believes this is worth trying in 2017 and that the \$800 cost/event can be funded from the existing operating budget. The events will be monitored to see how effective they are and if we want to continue them in the future.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

None



**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not approve the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Paul Albrecht  
Chair, Parks, Recreation & Environment Advisory Committee

