Pacific Parklands
FOUNDATION
Supporting Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

REEL
EARTH DAY
CHALLENGE

2021 REEL Earth Day Challenge Report

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SUMMARY

In 2021, the inaugural REEL Earth Day Challenge encouraged local film crews, productions, sponsors and other industry stakeholders to annually raise funds to be donated to the Pacific Parklands Foundation, a registered charity supporting Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Annually, this is a chance for B.C. film productions, who have consistently filmed in the regional parks over the years, to give back to those parks.

Industry sponsors contribute to the top teams' daily challenge totals, and the production that raises the most funds overall is recognized as the winner. In 2021, team "The Scriptures" took home the first place trophy.

The challenge was presented by Creative BC's Reel Green™ program and industry partners, Pacific Parklands Foundation and Earth Day Canada.

In 2021, $164,286 was raised by the REEL Earth Day Challenge to support Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. These funds were used to advance ten stewardship and restoration projects in eight regional parks across the Metro Vancouver region.

This report summarizes the measurable results and details on each project.

REEL EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

2021 IMPACTS

Location	Area Restored/ Protected	Trees/Bushes Other Plants Planted	Volunteer Hours	Invasive Species Removed	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years
Aldergrove Regional Park	24,000m²	2,500	428	2,000m²	172 tonnes
Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway	800m²	1,054	142	1,000m²	182 tonnes
Boundary Bay Regional Park	17,500m²	134	73.5	250m²	28 tonnes
Kanaka Creek Regional Park	1,150m²	975	366	0	191 tonnes
Tynehead Regional Park	200m²	168	168	0	32 tonnes
Capilano River Regional Park	4,000m²	700	N/A *Completed by contractor	3,250kg	134 tonnes
Pacific Spirit Regional Park	1,027m²	634	12	100kg	Unknown
Crippen Regional Park	2,700m²	760	158.5	0	92 tonnes
Total: All Projects	51,377m² (5.1 hectares)	6,925	1,348	3,350kg plus 3,250m²	831 tonnes

Reforestation in Aldergrove Regional Park

The restoration project at Aldergrove Regional Park began the conversion of a hay field back into forest by planting small trees of variety of species. The newly forested area will fill in a large open gap and improve the habitat connectivity by restoring a travel corridor for the species using the park. The project involved tilling the soil to break up the exiting hay forage, planting small trees, protecting them with vole and tree guards, mulching and moving an existing irrigation system to the site to help them establish over a period of years. There is also blackberry around the perimeter of the field which was removed in the flatter sections. The blackberry will need to be treated for several years before restoration planting could occur. Volunteers will be recruited to plant and maintain the project.

This project increases resilience and ecological health by removing invasive plants, increasing species diversity, and supporting biodiversity through the creation of additional habitat for the over 200 vertebrate species that use the park during the year, including several species at risk. Increased carbon sequestration is an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
24,000m²	2,500	0	2,000m²	9	This project improves habitat connectivity within the park and supports a multitude of species.

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:
7.1 tonnes	172 tonnes	7	230	428

Native Species Planting and Invasive Removal at Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway

The focus of the Sapperton Landing project at Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway was to remove dense thickets of non-native, invasive, Himalayan blackberry that dominated the area. After the blackberry was removed, the area was planted with native shrubs and trees. Additional work in preparing new areas for planting will take place in early April 2022 as part of the funded work.

This project improved the ecological health and supports biodiversity by removing invasive species and creating habitat for native species. Carbon will be sequestered by the trees and shrubs planted, providing an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
800m²	41	1,013	1000m²	14	Plant species selected for the site will benefit many pollinator species

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:	
6.2 tonnes	182 tonnes	6	52	142	NOTE: Carbon estimates were not available for all species planted

Habitat Restoration in Boundary Bay Regional Park

Boundary Bay Regional Park is home to rare and provincially at-risk coastal sand ecosystems. This project continued work to remove invasive species, re-establish native dune ecosystem plant species in disturbed areas, and install protective fences. Educational material and signage were also developed to increase public awareness.

This project restores and protects sensitive coastal sand ecosystems, only found in three remaining locations in the Metro Vancouver region. These ecosystems support a range of plant and animal species, some of which are considered to be of conservation concern and some are only found in coastal sand ecosystems. Among these are culturally significant plant species that continue to be used by local First Nations as food and medicine.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
17,500m²	0	134	250m²	5	Supports rare ecosystems and associated species

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:
1.2 tonnes	28 tonnes	6	34	73.5

Kanaka Creek Regional Park Restoration Project A

This restoration project continued work to naturalize a site previously containing buildings and other hard infrastructure. There are a number of invasive plants on the site which have been undergoing various treatments followed by plantings of native species. Reel Green funding was used to continue the program of replanting, followed by mulching to suppress weeds and conserve moisture.

This project increases resilience and ecological health by removing invasive plants and naturalizing important riparian habitat for salmon. This area is also used as a major wildlife travel corridor and the plantings included many berry producing native plants to support bears and other animals along this corridor. The trees and shrubs planted will also sequester additional carbon, providing an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
350m²	27	265	0	14	This project restores a portion of the Kanaka Creek riparian area, which in turn improves the habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species.

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:
1.7 tonnes	59 tonnes	1	39	183

Kanaka Creek Regional Park Restoration Project B

This restoration project continued work to naturalize a site previously containing buildings and other hard infrastructure. Restoration efforts included the use of machinery to de-compact the planting area and prepare the site, bringing in a soil amendment (nutrifor), planting of native trees and shrubs, and mulching of the area to protect the new plants. This project is restoring important upland habitat between Kanaka Creek and one of its major tributaries, Thornvale Creek. It will also provide important food sources for black bears and other wildlife.

Restoration of this riparian area increases resilience and supports local wildlife populations by improving habitat quality and species diversity. Carbon will be sequestered by the trees and shrubs planted, providing an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
800m²	49	634	0	18	This project restores important upland habitat between Kanaka and Thornvale Creeks

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:	
4.7 tonnes	132 tonnes	2	49	183	NOTE: Carbon estimates were not available for all species planted

Tynehead Regional Park Restoration Project

This project continued work to restore and naturalize a site in Tynehead Regional Park where a rental house once stood. Previous work prepared the site by removing invasive species, de-compacting and adding nutrifor soil. In 2021, additional planting of native vegetation took place, and the area was mulched to prevent growth of unwanted vegetation. Any invasive species that had regrown were also treated.

Restoration of this site increases the amount and quality of habitat available to wildlife and improves the ecological health of the area.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
200m²	20	148	50m²	16	This project contributes to the connectivity and biodiversity of the park

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:	
1 tonnes	32 tonnes	2	40	168	NOTE: Carbon estimates were not available for all species planted

Native plantings and invasive plant removal at Capilano River Regional Park

This project worked to restore a fragmented and invasive-infested riparian area in Capilano River Regional Park. Several invasive species were removed or treated on-site, and the site was mulched and replanted with native plants to prevent regrowth of invasive species. Additional plantings were completed in riprap areas along the shoreline. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the site will take place for at least 3-5 years to support successful long-term outcomes at the site.

Restoration at this site improves ecological health by removing invasive species, and increases long-term resilience of the forested riparian habitat by improving habitat quality and ecosystem connectivity. Carbon will be sequestered by the trees and shrubs planted, providing an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
4,000m^2	150	550	3,520kg	12	Supporting habitat for salmonids such as coho and chinook salmon, and steelhead

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:	
5.5 tonnes	134 tonnes	N/A	N/A	N/A	NOTES: Carbon estimates were not available for all species planted. As work was completed by a contractor, no figures for volunteer involvement are provided.

*Photos provided of the site before work took place. Restoration work was completed by a contractor during very wet weather, limiting the ability to take photos.

Meadow Habitat Restoration in Pacific Spirit Regional Park

This project converted a site dominated by non-native grasses and weeds to a native flowering meadow. The site was prepared with the addition of topsoil as a base for planting, and invasives were managed along the edge of the meadow. Seeds were planted in early summer and plugs were planted in fall. Camas bulbs were contributed to the planting by volunteers with Van Dusen Botanical Gardens. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will take place for at least 3-5 years to support successful long-term outcomes at the site.

Increasing native flowering meadow habitat increases biodiversity by supporting pollinator species and their predators such as birds and bats. In addition, it has created a beautiful space for people to enjoy and supports environmental education in the community.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
1,027m²	0	634	100kg	9	Building relationships with the community including Musqueam Indian Band, the Pacific Spirit Park Society and VanDusen Botanical Gardens and Nature Vancouver

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:
Unknown	Unknown	1	4	12

Wetland enhancement in Crippen Regional Park

This project enhanced a wetland that was created in recent years by beaver, as well as the adjacent riparian forest. Work included planting native shrub and tree species suited to the site conditions, and protecting the trees from damage by beavers and deer. Ongoing maintenance will occur through the stewardship program to ensure long-term success.

The plantings provide increased resilience for the wetland, increased biodiversity in the area, and valuable habitat for wildlife and salmonids using Killarney Creek. The project will also support ongoing stewardship involving the local community. Carbon will be sequestered by the trees and shrubs planted, providing an additional co-benefit.

Area Restored/ Protected	Trees Planted	Bushes/Other Plants Planted	Invasive Species Removed	Species planted	Other measures:
2,700m^2	600	160	0	11	This work creates habitat for recently confirmed aquatic species at risk (coastal cutthroat trout and red-legged frog) as well as several bird species at risk such as the great blue heron and common nighthawk.

Estimated Annual Carbon Sequestration at 50 years:	Estimated Total Carbon Storage at 50 years:	No. Work Parties:	No. Volunteers	No. Volunteer Hours:	
3.7 tonnes	92 tonnes	3	45	158.5	NOTE: Carbon estimates were not available for all species planted

2021 Challenger Teams

A HUGE thank you to the 2021 Production Teams. You made all of these projects possible. It's the individual team members who make this event so wonderful.

Founding Donors

In 2021, these trailblazing sponsors donated over $90,000 in support of the REEL Earth Day Challenge projects. This included an initial $25,000 contribution from the Pacific Parklands Foundation via the George Ross Legacy Fund.

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Thank you for your generosity.

Your continued support for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks allows us to keep up the good work (and good news).

Questions?

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