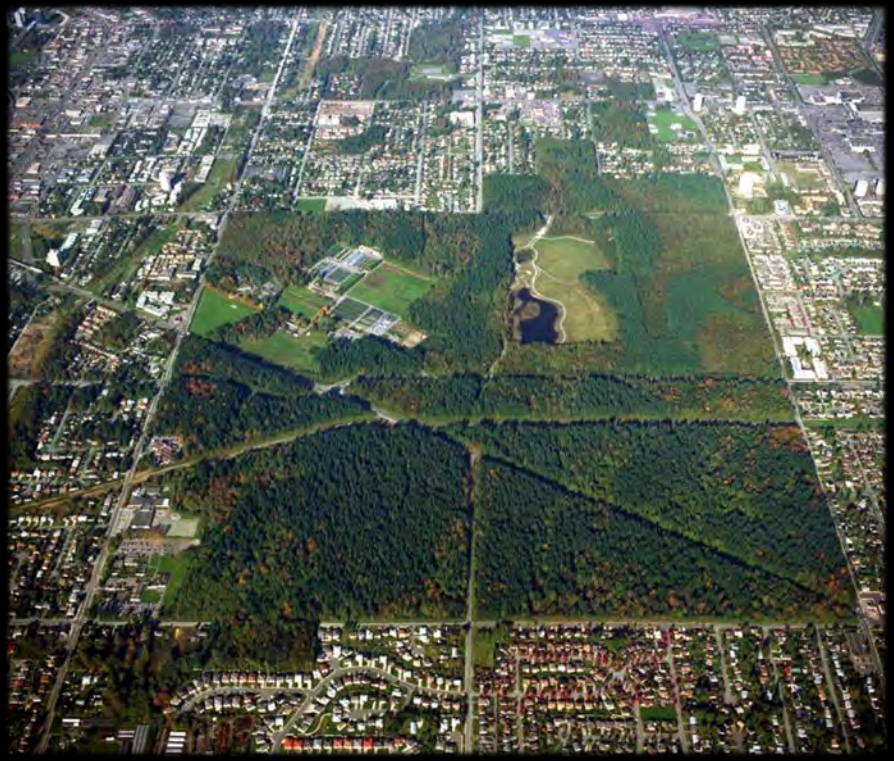
SNAP: Surrey's Natural Area Partnership

Presented by Owen Croy

City of Surrey

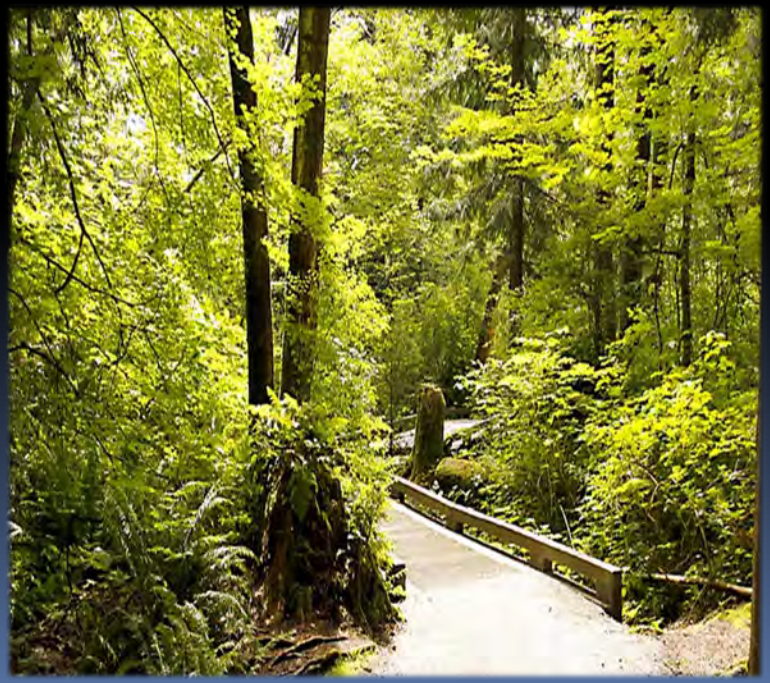
About Surrey

Surrey's Urban Forests



Sunnyside Acres

Green Timbers Urban Forest



Growth of Advocacy and Support

Formation of *SNAP*: The Surrey Natural Areas Partnership

- Green Timbers Heritage Society
- Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society
- White Rock and Surrey Naturalists

Characterized as "*a unique community partnership, bringing together local community groups with the goal of promoting the stewardship of Surrey's natural areas and parks*."

SNAP in Year 1 (2000)

- City develops the work plan
- Four students hired by GTHS
- City did broad oversight
- 40% natural area restoration
- 40% public education

SNAP Over the Decade

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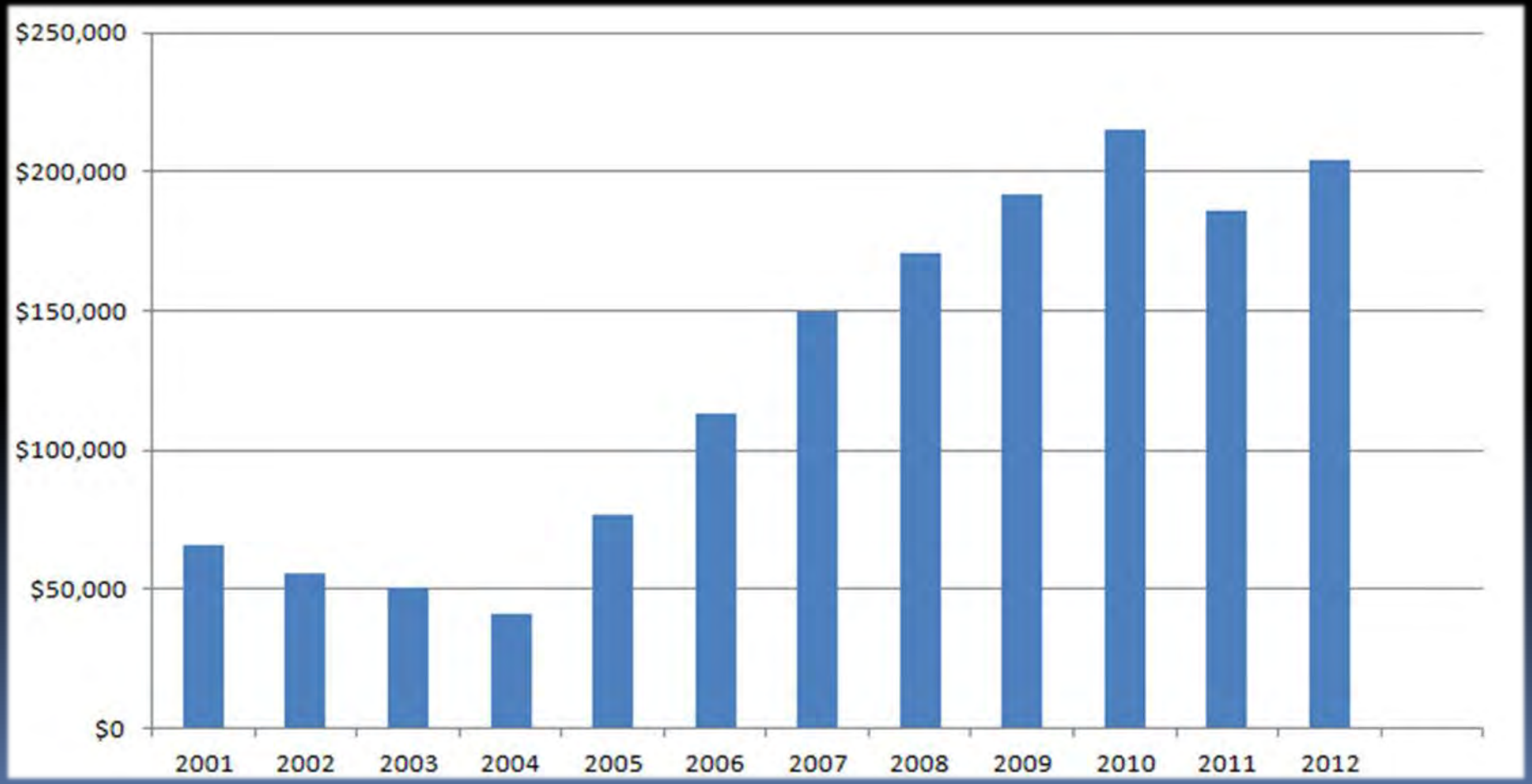

SNAP Volunteer Programs

- Eco Rangers
- Habitat Restoration Assistants
- Special Events Assistants

SNAP Day Camps

SNAP Gets the Word Out

The Province

It starts here.

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT OPINION BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE TECHNOLOGY

Volunteers wage war on invaders

Plant species run amok

BY MIKE RAPTIS, THE PROVINCE

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Volunteers work Sunday to clean up Blackie Spit Park and restore fish and wildlife habitat at Crescent Beach in South Surrey.

Photograph by: Submitted, The Province

It's an invasion of the beach snatchers.

Two youth environmental programs and a group of community volunteers are working to take Blackie Spit Park back from a couple of invasive plant species Sunday near Crescent Beach.

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Partnership benefits Blackie Spit

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 Surrey/North Delta Leader 17

Habitat restoration crew members and volunteers build bird, duck and bat boxes in Green Timbers Urban Forest.

PHOTOS BY EVAN SEAL THE LEADER

Youth SNAP into action

City program keeps parks free of invasive plant species

by Evan Seal

EVERY YEAR a group of environmentally conscious youth restore and enhance Surrey's natural areas, parks, forests and boulevards.

For the last 12 years, members of Surrey's SNAP Program (Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership) have worked in partnership with the City of Surrey and three non-profit organizations, The Green Timbers Heritage Society, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society to promote environmental stewardship and to educate the public about the benefits of having natural spaces in their communities.

Using an in-depth database of invasive plant species, members of the Green Timbers Heritage Society and the City of Surrey are able to determine what areas need to be addressed, and what specific plants need to be removed or planted, and that information is then passed on to SNAP team members.

"Often residents will use local parks as a place to dump yard waste and trimmings, not realizing this can lead to the spread of many invasive species," explained SNAP Program Coordinator Stephen McGlenn. "So through our outreach and education events in the various communities, we try to mitigate yard waste dumping behaviour."

SNAP also uses interactive nature camps to teach young kids the importance of nature in the city.

"Many volunteers are looking to experience working in the environmental field, really to see what it's like," said McGlenn, "and SNAP is a really good stepping stone for many students."

This year, SNAP staff and volunteers removed invasive species of plants and litter from nearly 3,300 square meters of city land.

For more information about the program or the various volunteer opportunities, visit www.surrey.ca/snap

photo@surreyleader.com

A member of the habitat restoration crew removes a Himalayan blackberry cane, one of the most common invasive plant species.

Selected SNAP Statistics

- ***69,000 cubic feet*** **invasive plants removed**
- ***14,750 cubic feet*** **garden waste and refuse removed**
- ***4314 children*** **attended SNAP environmental day camps**
- ***6800 pamphlets*** **on taking care of natural area handed out**
- ***23,900 residents*** **canvassed about their boulevard trees**
- ***8,650 native trees*** **planted**

Bottom Line: Thousands of park visitors **given the "Green Touch" through the SNAP program**

Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society

CITY OF SURREY

SNAP WRAP

SNAP

The Green Timbers Heritage Society

WHITE ROCK AND SURREY NATURALISTS