

## VIP Stewardship Team

The Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Stewardship Team is a volunteer program designed for people looking for an opportunity to be part of a regular, hands-on, stewardship group. A group where the commitment is extended to multiple dates over a season; the projects are more varied; the training more comprehensive and with project locations scattered throughout the Regional Parks system.

Stewardship Team activities will be scheduled for a minimum of two days per month, one on a weekend and one on a weekday, from approximately April through to October; occasional shoulder season activities may also be planned. Activities may take place in any Regional Park throughout the Central Okanagan. Volunteers on the Stewardship Team need not attend every activity; they can pick dates and activities that fit their schedule and/or preferred location, however, we ask that they commit to a minimum of 3 activities each season.

Team members will be notified of project opportunities via email and team members will respond with their availability. Activities may be capped in numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions so a quick response is encouraged.

Many of our natural areas in parks are at risk due to invasive species. Volunteers are integral to invasive species management and improving the ecological health of our parks. It is anticipated that the majority of events will be focused on invasive species and site restoration associated with their removal. However, other activities may include things such as trail brushing, Fire Smart clean-ups or citizen science projects. Some activities will take place in more remote areas of our Regional Parks and may require longer walks to get to project sites.

Volunteers will work together, while maintaining physical distancing, to accomplish a designated task. Participants will be provided with work gloves and any necessary tools. Team members are asked to bring their own drinking water; wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes or boots; long sleeves and pants are recommended.

To be a part of this group, please contact the volunteer coordinator at [park.volunteers@rdco.com](mailto:park.volunteers@rdco.com) and include '**Stewardship Team**' in the subject line.

This program is suitable for ages 10 and above but youth under 16 must be accompanied by a participating parent/guardian, and 16 to under 19 years must have a parent/guardian sign a project waiver.

As much as we love our furry friends, we prefer it if you leave them at home for volunteer events.

We strive to provide an accessible and inclusive environment for our volunteers that reflects the diversity of our community. Please let us know if there are ways we can accommodate your inclusion in this program.