



South Coast Conservation Program

South Coast BioBlitz

Backgrounder for Regional Partners

www.sccp.ca



What is a “BioBlitz”

Why a BioBlitz for the South Coast?


Role of the SCCP and Regional Partners

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What is a “BioBlitz”?


 A BioBlitz is a 24-hour inventory of all living things in a given area, often a local park.

 The term was coined by National Park Service naturalist Susan Rudy while assisting with the first BioBlitz at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington D.C. in 1996.

 A bioblitz has the dual aims of establishing the degree of biodiversity in an area while connecting local citizens, community groups and land use managers with concepts of conservation science.

 Specialists in various disciplines like botany, entomology, ornithology all play a role. Some BioBlitzes become an annual event.

 Scientists establish a base at a point close to the area to be blitzed and provide expertise in identifying species found by the public as well as doing their own inspection of the area.

 Ideally, a full BioBlitz takes place over a full 24-hour period as different organisms are likely to be found at different times of day (like bats, insects etc.). While only daytime blitzes over shorter periods are equally popular, the results will less accurately show the variety of life in the area.

Why a BioBlitz for the South Coast?

- ❑ **The South Coast is home to some of the highest levels of biodiversity and species at risk in the province.**
- ❑ **The resiliency and sustainability of this valuable natural capital is under significant stress.**

Threats:

- **Habitat loss;**
- **Displacement by other species; and**
- **Habitat degradation.**

Causes:

- **Human activities.**
- **Invasive species.**
- **External stressors, notably climate change**

Role of the SCCP and Regional Partners

The SCCP's primary objective is to coordinate and facilitate the maintenance and recovery of species and ecosystems at risk on the South Coast of B.C.

Conserving biodiversity and protecting species at risk is also important to the regional and municipal authorities.

By working in partnership, the SCCP through events like BioBlitzes can pool resources and expertise to identify and conserve species and ecosystem diversity on priority regional lands with the goal of:

- ❑ Increasing the capacity of regional and municipal authorities to identify species at risk occurring within their areas of management.
- ❑ Engaging regional and municipal staff, community stewardship groups, naturalists, and the public in more effective species at risk conservation.
- ❑ Ensuring information and adequate tools are available to maintain species and ecosystem diversity for respective land use authorities and decision makers.
- ❑ Provide necessary baseline information to guide the long-term management and monitoring of species at risk and their habitats in these areas.

Deliverables & Timelines

Key targets for 2011 are:

- Conduct two “BioBlitz” events in priority regional areas on the South Coast.**
- Conduct two, one-day workshop on the identification of priority, locally relevant species at risk, as well as providing stewardship practices training to improve skill sets.**
- Encourage BioBlitz team participants to become involved in conservation activities for other areas of their regional landscape in order to add to the regional knowledge base.**
- Report out and inform land use managers and decision makers of the biodiversity values present in their jurisdictions.**

Timing of the Harrison Hot Springs BioBlitz has been scheduled for the weekend of July 15-16. The second event is for Stanley Park in partnership with the Stanley Park Ecology Society, scheduled for August 19-21.

Stewardship Practices Training workshops will be held in the Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver in September/October 2011.

Data synthesis and reporting for both will occur subsequent into the fall of 2011.

Harrison BioBlitz Draft Itinerary

Itinerary

The preferred focus is the Crown portion of the East Sector lands southeast of the Village center along with a potential secondary focus on the Miami River greenway.

Event	Date/Time	Location	Comments
Pre-Blitz BBQ and Outreach	Friday July 15, 5pm-9pm	Rendall Park – Esplanade Ave.	Friday late afternoon – participants arrive (out of town and local) as able for a BBQ and outreach session at Rendell Park with displays and BioBlitz info for the public and to secure potential volunteers for the BioBlitz. Open to public
Bat watch	Friday July 15 9pm-10:30 pm	Could be along the dyke near the confluence of the Miami and Harrison Lake, East Sector or a spot near the Lake by Rendell Park.	Bat survey with BCIT students. This Depends on where dusk bat foraging is known to occur (usually over water near forested area is great) and do we want it public or not? 9:00-10+pm (bats tend to have a peak forage period at dusk then slows down after a while). Need to confirm they can do Friday night.
Dawn Chorus-Bird Survey	Saturday July 16 5:30 am – 8:30am	East Sector and Miami River Greenway	Dependent on participant numbers for areas surveyed
– BioBlitz –	Saturday July 16 9am-4pm	East Sector (and Miami River Greenway)	Greenway team if sufficient people and or who may require easier route for blitzing – has more public component Provide any thank you gifts to participants.
Dinner tally and BioBlitz debrief	Saturday July 16 5pm	Old Settler Pub?	if sufficient interest reconvene at local eatery for feedback, rough tally of days findings and debrief.

Roles & Responsibilities

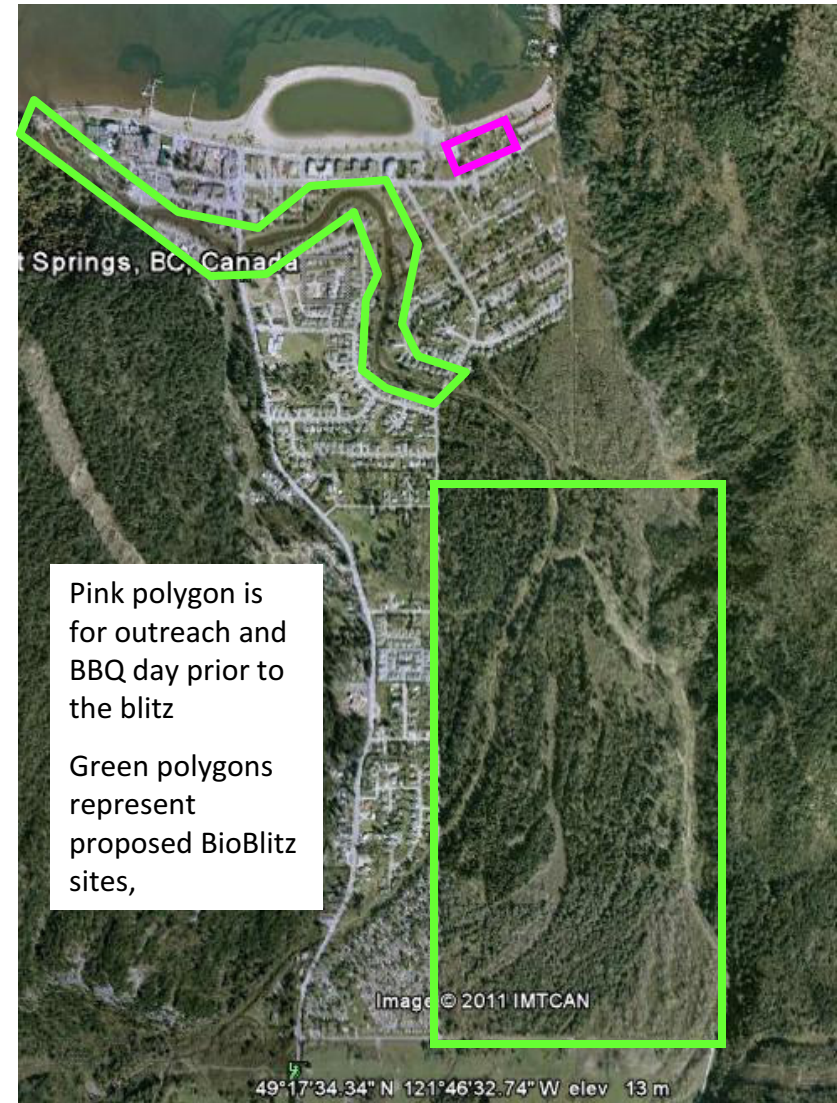
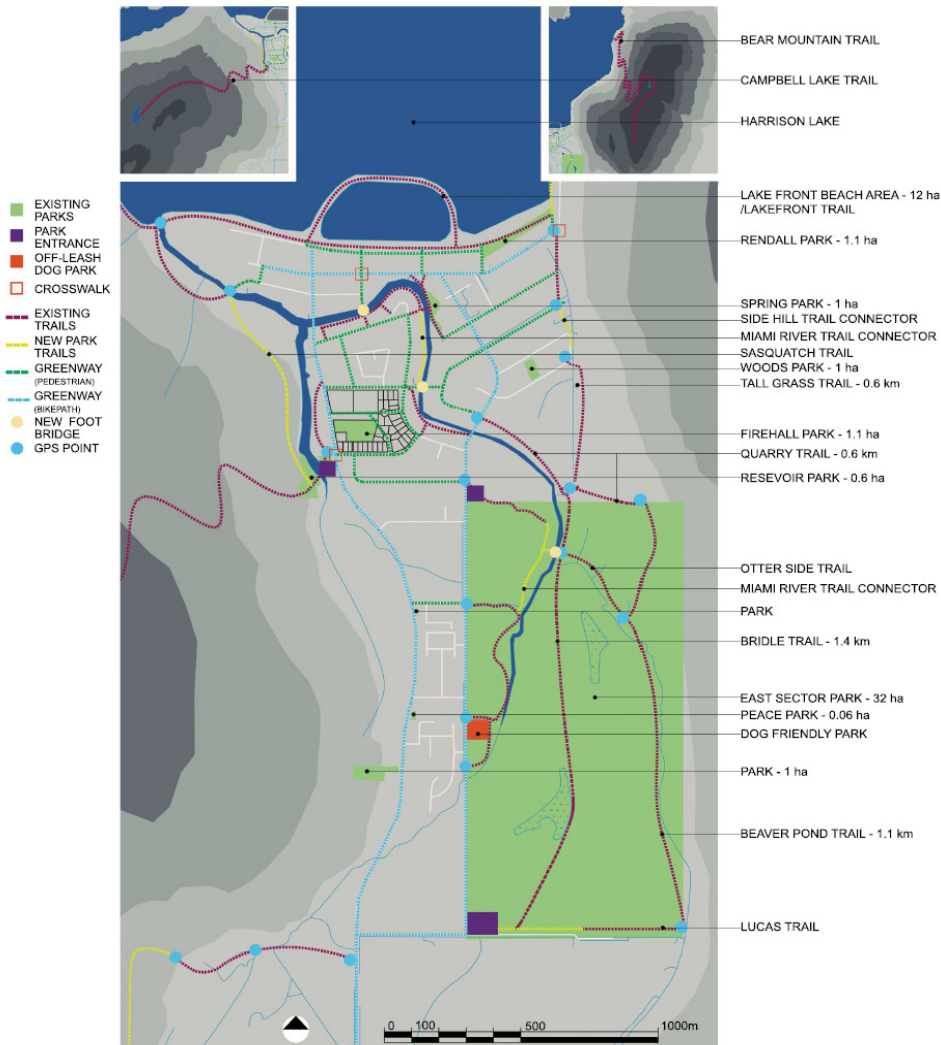
Task	SCCP & FVWC	Miami River Streamkeepers	Other partners and sponsors
Project coordination	Lead – SCCP	Assist through in kind volunteer time & resources	
Workshop & BioBlitz activities	Lead-both	Assist through in kind volunteer time & resources	Assist through in kind resources and services
Overhead & Administration	Lead-FVWC		Assist through in kind resources and services (e.g. use permitting, liability coverage)

“Other partners and sponsors” include regional land use authorities, local municipalities, First Nations, industry and commercial businesses.

“Resources and services” may include but are not limited to components like printing of event posters and flyer, discounts or donations for accommodation, catering or participant thank you items. Other components include contributions of local ecological and traditional knowledge and expertise.

Proposed BioBlitz sites: East Sector (Village and Crown portion) & Miami River Greenway

PROPOSED FUTURE TRAIL MAP



Pink polygon is for outreach and BBQ day prior to the blitz

Green polygons represent proposed BioBlitz sites,