

Here's a brief recap of what was discussed at the February 8 gathering.

Julie Burr of the Environmental Science center gave a presentation on what the ESC does, how important it is, and how it ties in with Sustainable Burien. They provide indoor and outdoor programs in many area schools that include holding sessions in parks [especially Seahurst Park] to provide hands-on experience with the environment. In 2007 they worked with nearly 7,000 clients/students to provide over 11,000 hours of programming. Much of their work is done by volunteers and it gives many people an opportunity to see the outdoors in a way that they may never have been able to before. The ESC is also in the final stages of raising funds to build a state of the art environmental learning center in Seahurst Park. That facility would also be available for community groups, See their website for more about ESC. <http://envsciencecenter.org/>

Then we continued working on plans to get one or more Community Gardens started before the City's Pea Patch will be ready. We've come up with some great ideas and there are definite possibilities.

We also discussed our proposed interactive map which would be used at the Burien Strawberry Festival and hopefully tied in with the 4th of July Bike Event. And we're working on organizing a Grand Opening Ceremony or something similar for all the new miles of bike lanes that have and will open in Burien.

We looked at some sample logos that Tom S. had designed for us and narrowed it down to two favorites. Suggestions were made and Tom will tweak them some more. Anyone else is welcome to submit samples too, the criteria are that they be in a square format, contain only a logo/image and the words "Sustainable Burien" [with room somewhere to add more as needed, like: "Endorsed by" or whatever else may be appropriate. They also need to be two color logos to keep printing costs reasonable. Black counts as a color, but any two colors are OK as long as they also look good printed in black and white.

Planning continued for the Burien Strawberry Festival. We started some sign-up sheets for the different tasks that will be needed. We have tents/booths available from members and we have someone who can get a large map printed once we have the data. Jean has offered to provide native Beach Strawberry plants in small pots that can be handed out at the Festival.

We're working on helping the Parks Department develop and monitor the recycling and composting program at the festival and will be working to encourage vendors to be as green as reasonably possible.

It sounds like we'll also be able to have a solar oven and possibly at least one other solar powered display. The deadline for applying for space at the Festival is in April, so if you've got ideas of things to do please attend our next Gathering and help get it started. We have to finalize some of our plans in the next two gatherings.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 8, 2009. 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Burien Library. Our guest speaker will be Diana Crane, Director of Sustainability for PCC Natural Markets. We'll have more details for that gathering soon.

The gathering after that will be Sunday, April 5, 2009. 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM also at the Burien Library. This gathering is one week early due to the Easter holiday.

A couple of unrelated notes:

You can now recycle Brita water filters and #5 plastics through Preserve's Gimme5 program. For details see <http://www.preserveproducts.com/recycling/britafilters.html>

Seahurst Park has Goats. But only for a few more days.

<http://www.goattrimmers.com/> has been hired by the Burien Parks Department to clean up areas in several parks. They spent about 10 days working in Matheson Park to prepare a large area for future expansion of the park. Then they spent a few days in the Hermes Depression area off of SW 128th. On Saturday afternoon they moved into Seahurst Park. There are lots of areas that need the help, but for now they're just expected to work one area in the northwest corner at the Shorewood entrance. There are just over 100 goats busily eating blackberries and holly. They'll nibble on just about anything, but those are two of their favorites. In just 24 hours they did a great job on one section, eating all the greens and smashing down the blackberry stalks. It's the first time in years that you can see the ground in there. They'll finish that section by Monday morning and be moved across the trail to another section for a couple of days. If you've got kids [and even if you don't] you should go up and take a look at them. If you bring a few carrots or some lettuce some of the goats will eat out of your hand. Check with the goat herder first, there's an electric fence penning them in. This Google Map will show you where they are. Be careful where you park so that you don't block any driveways or the road down the hill.  
<<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=47.485026,-122.355326&t=h&z=15>>