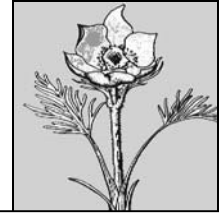


Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 63

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2020

President's Report

Anne Burke

As I write, the City and the Province are enforcing covid-19 restrictions, so please obey those and stay safe.

At the outset, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Michael Hallworth and John McFaul, President of Nature Calgary, both long-time FONHS members, for a generous donation from the Beryl Hallworth Memorial Fund. Beryl is perhaps best known among us for *Nose Hill: a Popular Guide* (1988). However, she was also a botanist, teacher, curator, and naturalist with the University of Calgary. When the 1980 "Calgary's Natural Areas: A Report by the Natural Areas Committee of the Calgary Field Naturalist's Society" was submitted to the City, it included her report on Nose Hill.

An article "Saying Goodbye to Beryl Hallworth" was published in *Iris The Newsletter of the Alberta Plant Council*, No. 37 Spring 2000. After her retirement, Mrs. Hallworth continued working on a variety of projects: involving safeguarding Nose Hill as a protected area, identifying plant specimens in the herbarium, and working on histories of the expeditions of pioneer naturalists to western Canada. We owe her so much for her dedication, diligent work ethic, and expertise!

Our archives are housed at the Taylor Family Digital Library of University of Calgary. The collection consists of historical

information, briefs, plans, proposals, reports, submissions, copies of legal papers, and maps relating to the preservation and development of Nose Hill Park. It also contains executive papers including minutes, membership lists, financial statements, newsletters, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and photographs, relating to the Nose Hill Park Communities Board and various other groups with an interest in Nose Hill. They include "Citizens for Nose Hill", the Nose Hill Park Management Advisory Committee and, of course, the Friends of Nose Hill Society.

The Nose Hill Park Communities Board was formed to provide public input. In response to public discontent, the City reviewed the zoning issue and, in 1980, approved the Nose Hill Park Master Plan. That document, representing the first stage of a master planning study, presented three alternative concepts for a recommended 2740 acre (1109 hectare) park on Nose Hill. The park environment was described as a grassland plateau with five major coulees supporting grassland, aspen groves, and shrub vegetation. About 200 plant species, 70 bird species, and 15 mammal species were identified on the hill.

Nose Hill was proposed for designation as a "natural environment" park in order to preserve its natural and visual qualities, and for compatible recreational activities. Of the

five park zones to distinguish management strategies, a "natural environment" zone was assigned to the majority of the park in all three concepts. Each emphasizes different objectives by means of a unique combination of recreation facility/activity options. See the Abstract in: "The Nose Hill Park master plan: concept alternatives" (Unpublished master's thesis by J.H.None., University of Calgary, 1980).

On 19 June 1994, the Nose Hill Park Centennial Scroll was presented to the Glenbow Archives, by the Nose Hill Park

Communities Board and the Friends of Nose Hill Society. The Scroll lists individuals involved in the preservation and creation of Nose Hill Park. There is a fulsome collection of clippings, reports, correspondence, and other materials, such as **1992-2010 — 2 cm of textual records — which consists of Friends of Nose Hill Society newsletters.**

Anne Burke



Additions for the Archives

FONHS encourages further additions to our archives. Recently, we were offered some more material.

"Dear: Friends of Nose Hill Society, In the distant past, the mid 1980s, I had a very minor role in advocating for the creation of Nose Hill Park. I am now cleaning out my basement, and have a few documents from that time, as well as just over a dozen buttons, as well as one bumper sticker. Is any of this of interest to you? Cheers and thanks."

—————
"Hi everyone,

I'm a new regular to this beautiful park in our city. Actually just started hiking up there in June 2020 despite having lived nearby for 15+ years, for which I feel really silly. I regularly come across litter, debris, graffiti, and other sad spectacles of humanity. Mostly dog poop though. Crazy amounts, sometimes even in baggies. I'm semi-retired and I like to hike up in the park daily, and have started packing out others' trash. Would you care to add me to your volunteer list? I use the 14th street lot.

Also I'm recording all of my trails through the region in an effort to capture all the major routes for an app (I'm retired from a software firm). This, and the website, leads me to think that [if] the FONHS organization could use some serious IT help, I'd like to see what I can do. If you'd care to connect me with the right folks. Attached is a recent photo of the aspens up in NHP, **2020 06 Aspen Grove, Noir (2)**"



Our public FONHS Facebook group, founded in September, 2009, now has 238 members who post photos and share breaking news about Nose Hill. Here are some recent samples.

Re: "Ignorant and disrespectful: **Blackfoot medicine wheel vandalized at Nose Hill Park**", article by Jason Herring, Calgary Herald, 8 October, 2020. "To the individual who did this, shame on you," said Ward 4 Councillor Sean Chu. Although the City recommended more signage, we believe this could be an opportunity for better bylaw enforcement. The Blackfoot Confederacy said they would visit Nose Hill to fix the monument. Councillor Chu condemned the incident and added Calgary Parks staff have offered to assist in the repair. *Police advised that the medicine wheel is not personal property, so it would not qualify as any kind of criminal offence.*

Deaths of 3 Coyote Pups

After a 311 call app, The Friends of Nose Hill received the news that the City is going to pursue the reasons behind three sad coyote pup deaths; assured us this shocking incident will be investigated; and plans to share any information they find, once they have some. Here are details on what has taken place so far (and we have a message that a pup's remains are being tested now).

From: Calgary Parks To: Ward 4 - Andrew Chin <Ward04@calgary.ca>
Subject: Coyote Pups Found Dead at Nose Hill Park. Ward 4 comment please.

On 12 August 2020, our wildlife contractors recovered two dead juvenile coyotes from Nose Hill. One was in poor condition, but the other was in much better condition, and its remains are in the possession of our contractors. As is proper protocol, we contacted Alberta Fish & Wildlife to provide guidance on whether (or not) they would like to perform a necropsy on the coyote. As of today [21 September 2020]

we are still waiting for direction from them. While we were attempting to make contact with Fish & Wildlife, we are also looking into what other sources are available to perform a necropsy for us. If Fish & Wildlife do not have the resources, at this time, we will find another source to investigate for us. I will keep everyone updated, as we find out more information and I will push to get some answers as soon as possible; but I am being told that this may take months. **Regards, Lincoln, IPM Lead for Calgary Parks**

Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

From: Calgary Community Standards, Community Services, The City of Calgary

Wildlife

While it is currently prohibited to feed or tease wildlife in Calgary Parks, there are no bylaws against doing this on private property. The City wanted to understand whether a bylaw prohibiting feeding and teasing wildlife would be supported in Calgary with what exceptions. "Teasing" means to annoy the animals by irritating them or causing them harm. It also means to disturb them by interfering with their normal functions or causing the animal anxiety.



WOULD YOU SUPPORT A BYLAW THAT PROHIBITS FEEDING AND/OR TEASING WILDLIFE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY? So far, the survey has yielded a majority, since red indicates "yes", and grey indicates "no".

Upon review of the input, the following are themes for responses regarding exceptions:

1. This theme focuses on adding an exception in the bylaw to allow feeding birds on private property. It suggests that feeding birds benefits the birds and the person since food sources for birds can be scarce in colder months and feeding birds brings joy and education to some people. It also suggests that feeding squirrels should be exempt but with the use of proper feeders.

2. This theme suggests support for this bylaw addition and notes that there *should not be* exceptions to the bylaw. It addresses concerns for the welfare of wildlife when they rely on humans for food. It also suggests that feeding wildlife on private property jeopardizes the animal's life and wellbeing and has the potential to draw more dangerous wildlife to residential areas.

3. This theme focuses on adding an exception in the bylaw to allow property owners to feed wildlife **for rescue purposes**. It advocates that sometimes interventions are required to rescue an animal in distress. It also suggests that rescue activities of wildlife on private property should involve wildlife officials or rescue organizations.

4. This theme focused on clarifying the definition of 'teasing' and sought to have different rules and consequences in the bylaw for feeding wildlife and teasing wildlife. *It equated teasing with animal cruelty*. It also suggests behaviours such as shooing an animal off the property should not be considered teasing.

Dog Early Warning System

To respond to concerns raised regarding behaviour in on-leash areas and off-leash parks, the City is exploring a voluntary dog early warning system (DEWS). Such a system is a bandana colour program using one or more of the colours of traffic lights. It is intended to give owners the opportunity to indicate to others how their dog should be approached. The City wants to understand whether this would be a campaign of interest to Calgarians.

Let us know what you think and also contact the City and your elected representatives.

And finally we received the following thoughts from Nose Hill itself.

To: Dear Glenbow@glenbow.org
Cc: Friends of Nose Hill
information@fonhs.org

Dear Glenbow,

The planet slipped into a new decade...2020. Years with a zero are human-celebrated somewhat, but this one was special - a double number, and one with a second meaning of perfect vision...or of perfect hindsight.

Nose Hill am I - a large urban natural area, preserved by visionary Calgarians as a refuge for people, pets and wild creatures into perpetuity in the year 1980 – another zero. That makes my current incarnation 40 years old.

For hundreds, even thousands of years, people and animals have walked across my surface, birds have nested in the trees that grow in my ravines and in the open meadows on the plateau. Over the centuries, bison have roamed, cows have grazed and humans have hiked up the escarpments to find a view or sometimes a temporary home.

I am now surrounded by a city of over a million humans, a few of whom came to visit regularly meandering the trails with their friends and dogs. Others came by infrequently to watch special sky events like comets or planets or a beautiful sunrise or sunset, but most Calgarians had never set foot on my trails.

I have witnessed many changes from weather and changing climate and change due to wars on distant soil, but no time was ever so intense and sombre as early in the year of 2020.

It seemed quite sudden. One day - more and more people arrived on foot from their

cars or on bicycles. It was like a procession of thousands every day. Parking areas on my periphery were full - from before the sun rose over the eastern horizon through to the end of the day.

From the sound of their footprints and voices, people were moving more slowly than usual along the trails – often alone, sometimes in small groups or in pairs several metres apart. It seemed to me that they all dressed in dark colours.

The other thing I noticed was that laughter had almost stopped altogether. People still spoke kindly to one another, but joy had fallen away from their conversations. They were very respectful of my natural state - hardly anybody littered as they passed across my surface, and if they did, there was always someone who came by soon afterward and picked up any loose ends.

All around me the city had become very quiet. There was almost no traffic along the usually busy main roads that form my borders. The sky itself was almost completely silent and devoid of the usual jet trails. The

sky grew increasingly open and undistracted in its beauty. All I could hear over the footsteps of humans was the sound of spring bird activity and the frequent passing of a low-flying helicopter. It was all so new. It seemed peaceful, yet somehow disturbing... What had happened?

This lasted for weeks and weeks...and then very gradually things began to become more familiar to me again. There was a little more traffic at regular hours all around me, people began to wear more colourful clothing and move more purposefully. Somehow it sounded as though their footsteps were lighter, though they still remained farther apart on the trails than before...

Perhaps never, yet I wonder – will hindsight from my Nose Hill perspective ever reveal the reason for this strange spring with the clarity of 2020 vision?

Janne Hicklin, July 2020

Friends of Nose Hill Society

Membership Year: 2021

\$20.00

Name _____

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Address _____

Phone Number _____ **E-mail address** _____

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:
**Friends of Nose Hill Society, PO Box 45024, Brentwood Post Office,
Calgary, Alberta, T2L 1Y4**

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The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Please include your name and phone number with submissions.

The views expressed are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the FONHS

The Friends on Facebook

The Friends of Nose Hill have a Facebook Group. If you are a Facebook member, check out the group: "Friends of Nose Hill Society". It has 238 members and about 3000 images so far. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.

Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: ervan@ucalgary.ca

New members can join the Friends of Nose Hill by mailing \$20.00 to:

Friends of Nose Hill Society

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