

# Nose Hill

News and Views  
**fonhs.org**



**Number 59**

**The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter**

**Fall 2018**

## President's Message

**Anne Burke**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday Nov. 7, in the Pub/Lounge at the Triwood Community Centre, at 7 p.m. Please plan to join us and invite a friend! It is time to renew your membership for the coming year. Our mailing address has changed.

. Thank you to the Board members who met monthly. Two newsletters were published, in fall/winter 2017 and spring/summer 2018. We hosted a Birding Walk for International Migratory Bird Day, and a Flower Walk to discuss the May Count of Plants in Bloom.

Our outreach program continues, with a monthly "News from FONHS" column in many NW community newsletters. These are archived on the publisher's web site. Our Facebook Group has 144 members and there were 766 posts and 1990 photos. The postings by Group members are public; please note that the opinions posted are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Friends of Nose Hill Society.

Our web site at [www.fonhs.org](http://www.fonhs.org) has been redesigned completely. It now contains more up to date news and information about events related to Nose Hill; an archive of past Society newsletters; links with monthly reports for community newsletters; and information on many aspects of the Hill (wildlife, geology, history

etc.). From September 10 to September 16, 2018, there were 39 total visitors of which 38 were new visitors, and 116 pages were viewed. The average visitor spent 6 minutes and 19 seconds on our site.

On behalf of the Society I have signed The Protected Places Declaration: A Natural Legacy. In 1992 Canada signed the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. This work remains unfinished; global wildlife populations have decreased, and habitat was lost and degraded. We need to develop and implement action plans to ensure suitable areas are preserved. Canada has the opportunity to protect natural areas and meet the goals by 2020.

Seasonal Park Interpreters volunteer from June to October. City Sanctuary Hosts work year-round. The Parks Environmental Education Team may require police information checks.

There have been three guided Jane's Walks on Nose Hill that we know of. One was led by Shelley Alexander, an expert on coyotes and wolves; the second one by Alex Mowat, with Canadian Parks and Wilderness; and the Indigenous Walk 'N' Drum on the Hill, was led by Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes, from the U of C Native Centre, and Elizabeth Cooper-Dodds.

The City held a summer program called "Discover the History of Nose Hill Park!",

for children ages 6-12. They learned through guided walks, nature education, and activities to become natural stewards of local parks and green spaces. However, a shipping container, port-a-potties, and a hand-washing station remain beside the pond in the quarry area of the Hill. In the photo you can also see a seating area with tree trunks. We wonder how soon these will all be removed?



Urban coyotes are adaptable animals but with human interactions come conflicts, especially during denning season. This year was no exception. The City increased bylaw enforcement on Nose Hill during the summer. There was an informal public information session since the Park is a popular area for dog-walkers. Although it has one of the largest walking trails in Calgary, the "No dog" signs mean that the only Off-Leash area is the Multi-use Zone

on the plateau (on the top). Park users are encouraged to stay on the pathways and dogs must remain leashed in the parking lots, on the pathways, and elsewhere in the park. There are restrictions on human use in some areas of Nose Hill, such as the escarpment (slopes) and aspen woods, to protect the native plants and wildlife habitat. According to the Natural Area Management Plan, where recreational use and significant habitats conflict, protection of the natural resource will come first.

There are 150 Off-Leash areas in Calgary and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw will be reviewed in 2019. We are awaiting the draft Parks and Pathways Bylaw that will be debated at a Council Committee in the fall, before a Public Hearing of City Council. The review included an online public survey and the feedback was summarized in a "What We Heard Report" posted on the City web site at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca). We were told a second phase of engagement may be required. The final plan for the Calgary Pathways and Bikeways Plan Update reflects changes to the existing network, connections, and approved policies. A review of priorities will determine new pathways, bikeways, and missing connections. The goal is to improve citywide connections.

We have requested an update, including budget, on the Nose Hill Trail and Pathway "Improvement Plan" which promised to balance recreational use and environmental protection. Beginning in 2006, the City started implementing changes to address a variety of issues intended to lessen the impact of park visitors on wildlife and native vegetation.

**Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nose Hill Society,  
Wednesday November 7, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the Pub/Lounge  
at the Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Dr. NW.**

**Agenda**

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held 15 November, 2017.
- 2) Annual Report by the President
- 3) Approval of the audited Financial Statements
- 4) Appointment of Auditors for the coming year
- 5) Election of Officers
 

Elections will be held for the following positions, for two-year terms: The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and four Directors. Nominations for these positions should be received by the Secretary of the Society before the start of the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary and two Directors will continue serving the second year of their terms in the coming year.
- 6) Other Business: The future directions of The Friends of Nose Hill
- 7) Adjournment

**Guest Speaker**

We have invited a special guest speaker, **Samantha Managh, Parks Ecologist, Landscape Analyst, Calgary Parks, Urban Conservation, City of Calgary**. She is happy to answer any questions you may have.

This is a chance for you to take a peek into Calgary's local parks when people aren't around and see what the critters get up to! A Calgary Parks initiative, **Calgary Captured**, is launching Season 2; it is a city-wide citizen science program that has installed over 60 wildlife remote cameras in 13 Calgary parks. This season includes 70,000 photos from September 2017 to February 2018. Season 1 was immensely successful with over 120,000 images classified in a short 51 days!

Samantha Managh began her career at a not-for-profit environmental research institute. Through her time there, she developed skills in various conservation-related disciplines that include spatial analysis, research design, wildlife management, transportation ecology, and citizen science. Currently, in her role with Calgary Parks, she is responsible for citywide landscape analysis and leading citizen science programming.

**Friends of Nose Hill Society**  
**Membership Year: 2019** **Fee: \$20.00**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL 9** **NEW 9**

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:

**Friends of Nose Hill, PO Box 45024, Brentwood PO, Calgary, AB T2L 1Y4**

### **Mapping Habitat Connectivity in the City of Calgary**

Samantha Managh, Parks Ecologist  
 Calgary Parks Urban Conservation  
 The City of Calgary  
 Samantha.Managh@calgary.ca

The City is well known for its park system and has one of the largest urban parks in North America, Nose Hill Park, covering 11 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the northwest quadrant of the city.

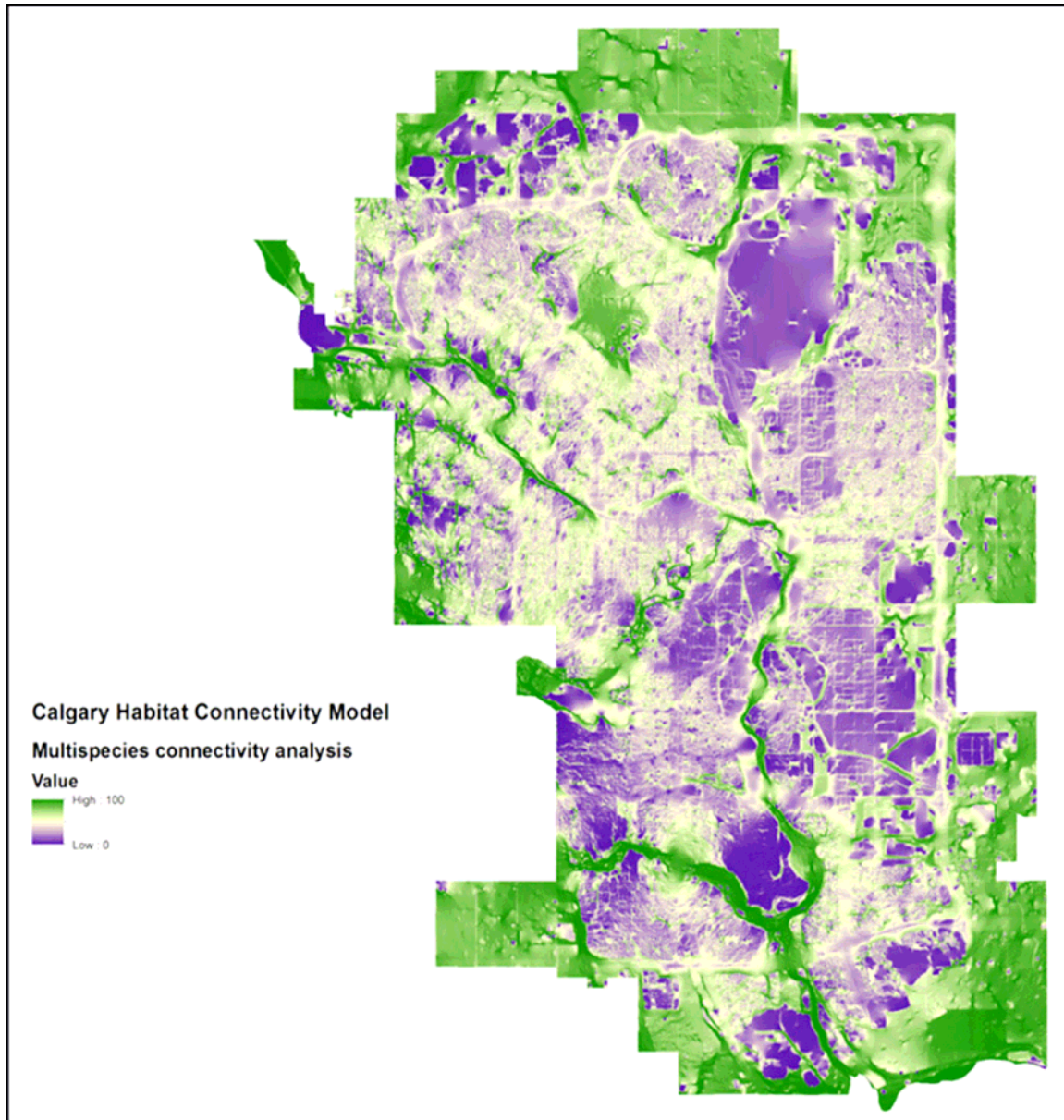
However, fragmentation of these areas due to urban growth is an ever-increasing threat to maintaining healthy wildlife populations. The City recognizes this and is committed to identifying our existing corridors and developing strategies to best protect them.

Urban development, busy roads, and other human alterations to the landscape can create barriers to animal movements and may pose a threat to the long-term survival of some wildlife populations. In addition to the continued conservation of existing areas of unfragmented habitat, the City is focusing on identifying and developing strategies to protect key movement corridors, or stepping stones for wildlife, between habitats.

The figure (*on the next page*) shows the habitat connectivity model for Calgary. Green areas indicate where there is high potential for wildlife movement, while purple depicts parts of the city that would be difficult for animals to move freely through.

In the model, we assume that animals would find it easier travelling through open habitats such as native grasslands, which would provide lower resistance to movement than busy roadways, industrial areas or fenced neighbourhoods.

The City can now move towards prioritizing areas for protection and restoration that will have the most impact on maintaining and improving connectivity within the city.



Values range from Low (purple) to High (dark green)

(Excerpt from Bow River Basin Council Newsletter, Volume 16, Issue 4; [www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca))



## Executive & Board 2018

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## Nose Hill News and Views

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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 144 members and 1990 photos so far. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park. We also welcome your photos for our new web site at [www.fonhs.org](http://www.fonhs.org).

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: [information@fonhs.org](mailto:information@fonhs.org).

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

**Friends of Nose Hill Society**  
**PO Box 45024, Brentwood Post Office**  
**Calgary, Alberta T2L 1Y4**