

Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 61

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Fall 2019

President's Message

Anne Burke

We have recently produced two issues of our Newsletter, fall 2018 and spring 2019, and we are pleased to have "News from the Friends of Nose Hill" published in several NW Calgary Community Newsletters. Our monthly column can be found under the "[Friends of Nose Hill](#)" category of the My Calgary website at <https://mycalgary.com/category/friends-of-nose-hill/>.

Our own website fonhs.org is regularly updated with news, views, and links to Park issues, as well as documents about the history of saving the Park from development. You are also welcome to browse our Facebook page. The Facebook account now has 182 members and 2,615 photos to date. Please note that the opinions posted by users may not necessarily represent those of the Society.

Our longstanding member Marjorie MacQueen has contributed an archive of Nose Hill-related materials now donated to the Glenbow Archives. If you are interested in visiting this important collection of local historical material, check the University of Calgary website for details about the opening of the physical space this fall. You can also visit and browse online by going to <https://asc.ucalgary.ca/glenbow/>.

Our board member Patricia Fedkenheuer was interviewed by CBC radio during a morning report. She moved to Brentwood in the 1980s and Nose Hill has always been the place to go for walks, almost daily. The stunning view included sage colours, dew on wild roses, both native and invasive grasses, and a lovely place at a quiet time of day. There were goldenrods, white prairie asters, bluebells, pink and white roses, and such fragrances. The pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, enjoying the ground cover, "to every flower there is a season!" Note that the bluebells are not the weed "creeping bellflower", and keep yourself at a distance from the wildlife. The John Laurie overpass is a safe means to access the Park

Our board member Polly Knowlton Cockett, who is an instructor in the Education Department at the University of Calgary, serves on the City's Biodiversity Advisory Committee. She conducts the very popular Students and Stewardship program in Brentwood's "Whispering Woods". She also writes "Natureground": Environews, leads Jane's Walks, and is President of the Grassroutes Ethnoecological Association.

Unfortunately its beauty does not protect Nose Hill from challenges. The

public reported delayed emptying of garbage cans; off-leash dogs where



Fred Mensink

ground nesting birds are at risk; and conflicts between dogs and wildlife (deer, porcupines, and coyotes), especially during denning season. Some park users recommend more enforcement of the bylaws, to include the parking lots, perhaps by using undercover bylaw officers, or security cameras placed to record park use by humans, dogs, other animals, and birds."

On the topic of cameras in parks, the Calgary Captured Project has set up 60 cameras in 15 parks citywide. The program received a grant from the Calgary Foundation. Any photos of humans, whether or not they are aware of the cameras, are destroyed. Chris Manderson, Urban Conservation Lead, reported images of people going skinny dipping. Someone held up a postcard of a grizzly bear in front of the camera. The very popular program is working to filter out images of humans.

The City collects information about the number of calls to 311 about wildlife. Here are the numbers of sightings for

Calgary's **10 most reported animals** for the period 2005-2019:

Coyote: 12,224,
Deer: 4,192,
Bobcat lynx: 2,654
Moose: 1,324
Skunk: 921
Duck: 428
Cougar: 419
Rabbit: 417
Porcupine: 385
Fox: 293

Some animal oddities were reported on 311 calls during the same period: Raccoon: 107, Rat: 9, Peacock: 9, Wolverine: 3, and Alligator: 1.

Executive member Eve Robertson contributed some photos from recent walks on Nose Hill. "You will see an example of the typical damage to the new pathways that our recent heavy rain caused".



Eve Robertson

She was worried about what the trail making would do to the flax in the area,

marked with a cross on the map below, but thinks it has recovered "better than ever"



On Sunday April 21 there was an Earth Day Nose Hill Crocus Cruise Trip. The leader was John McFaul, one of our members from Nature Calgary.

The May Plant Count is a Nature Alberta Initiative hosted by the Alberta Native Plant Council. It was, as usual, done during the last week of May. This grassroots "Citizen Science" project encourages the development of stewardship for natural areas through volunteer participation. Calgary and Edmonton area species lists can now be used as datasheets. We support the program by posting information on our website and in our spring newsletter.

As noted in "Back in the Day", by Rick Wierzbicki (*Edgemont Community Newsletter*, 20 August 2019), the Native Species Parkland Project was 29 years ago. Over 100 Edgemont residents transplanted native sod, bushes, and trees, taken from a portion of the undisturbed prairie to the north of the



Eve Robertson

community centre, to the slopes. Clumps of Aspen and Wolf Willow from the soon-to-be-obliterated prairie ecosystem were scooped up with bucket loaders and replanted, as well. Several other native species such as Buffalo-berry, Bearberry, Shrubby Cinquefoil, and Alberta Wildrose were acquired from a local native plant greenhouse and planted.

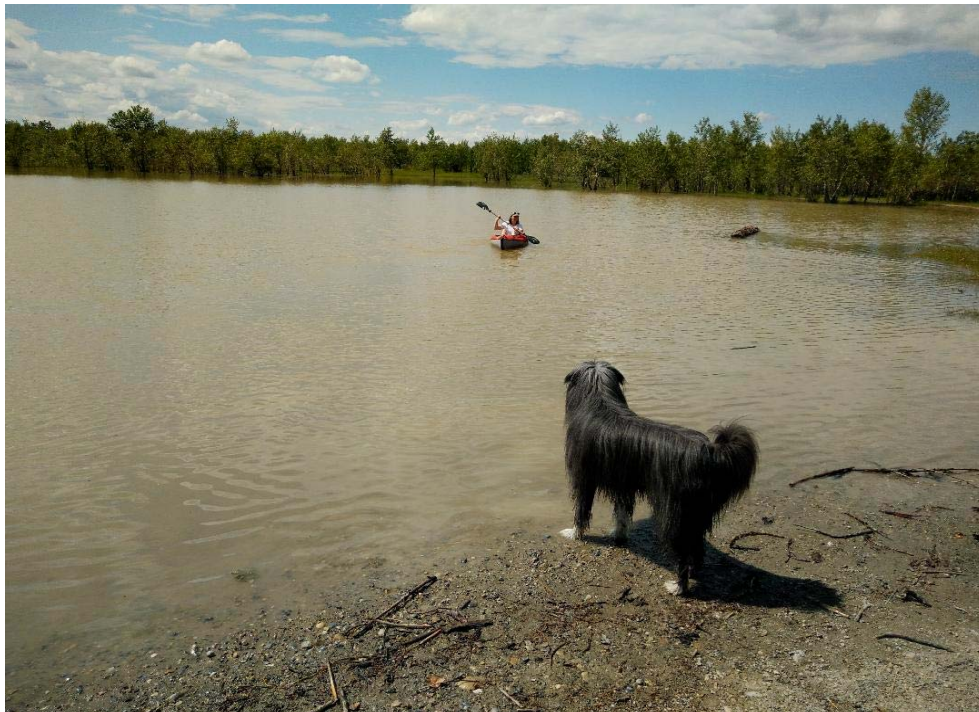
We received a variety of requests. A typical one asked: "What can I do for Nose Hill?... If I can be of any use, monitoring anything there, be it wildlife, path erosion, parking entrance, etc, I would love to help." As FONHS is not able to handle any systematic monitoring, the questioner was directed to contact City Parks.

We are often contacted by teachers and university students who are doing research about Nose Hill. For example: "I am a science teacher at Ted Harrison School. The grade seven team and

myself are looking at taking our students to Nose Hill Park in the next month or two to look at the geological features and history of the land. Do you do any guided walk through the park or have any resources to help support our teachers?"

Usually students and teachers are directed to the Calgary Public Library that has many resources suitable for various age groups. Simply go to the Public Library website and enter the search term "Nose Hill Park".

And, finally, Jacquie van Lierop wrote: "I do believe I am the first person in history to kayak on Nose Hill." After an epic storm turned the pond/puddle into a lake, she couldn't resist and on June 30 hiked up to the 14th Street parking lot with her Advanced Elements inflatable kayak to enjoy a leisurely afternoon paddle on "Nose Hill Lake."



Pat Salt

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Nose Hill News and Views

is published by

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

Website: fonhs.org

Editor: Robert van Everdingen

Design & Layout: Robert van Everdingen

Printing: Brentwood Printing Inc.

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 182 members and 2615 photos 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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