

Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 48

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2013

President's Message

by Anne Burke

We have continued our advocacy efforts with articles on Nose Hill in the monthly community newsletters. We have regular board meetings and Society members are welcome to attend. I was interviewed by the *Calgary Herald* about the trapping of coyotes in a catch and release program.

The *Calgary Herald's Swerve* magazine carried a feature article on "YYCoyote" (April 5, 2013, pp. 24-27). The photos show the animals crossing the Peace Bridge and boarding the LRT. All in fun, of course.

As you may know, Nose Hill is one of the parks in which there is a University of Calgary coyote study underway. This is a research project of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and approved by the City of Calgary. Although the traps were removed when there were public safety concerns, the traps were reinstalled later after new signage, public relations information, and a media campaign (see page 3 for details).

There is a City of Calgary Hotline at 311 for coyote sightings. One of the population estimates is of 400-500 coyotes in Calgary, with 2,000 sightings. Coyotes are more active at dawn and dusk. We updated the website at fonhs.org with links for: rockies.ca/coyotes, wcm.ucalgary.ca/coyote/, and calgaryurbancoyote.ca.

There was an article in the *Calgary Herald* on the Calgary Amateur Radio Association's FM Repeater on Nose Hill. See: photo for the

colourful structure which is clearly an anomaly in a Natural Environmental Park (see photo on page 2).

The May Flower Count will take place during the last week of May. Contact Suzanne Visser, a University of Calgary botanist at svisser@ucalgary.ca, if you are interested in participating. A brochure, list of plant species, and details are posted on our web site (see page 4 for details).

New interpretive signs have been deployed on Nose Hill. The trail markers are part of the Nose Hill Trails and Pathways Project.

The City of Calgary Parks Department is recruiting for a new volunteer program being piloted in Nose Hill Park, June-October, in 2013. Information Sessions were held throughout the city at Community Association Centres (see page 4 for details).

The City of Calgary Parks Department is progressing on its 30-year vision for our city's municipal parks and open spaces. The initial framework outlines a draft vision, outcome areas, and goals. A more detailed version will be drafted in 2013 and available for public review once public feedback is gathered. To view, please visit calgary.ca/imagineparks. To provide your comments, please send an email to parks@calgary.ca.

See below some information from recent messages from Calgary Parks.

February 11, 2013

“Our budget for the 30-year vision consultation was \$54,000 which included hiring Leger to do intensive citizen research (phone survey, online survey, focus groups), hiring Planvision to facilitate and produce a summary report on our nine stakeholder workshops and conducting the eight youth sessions.”

March 20, 2013

“Thank you to everyone who provided feedback earlier this year on The City of Calgary Parks’ initial framework for a 30-year vision, called *imagineParks*. Overall, the feedback was positive.

A more detailed draft of *imagineParks* will be posted on our project web site in June 2013 for public review and feedback (rather than March as originally planned). This will allow more time for stakeholders to review the detailed document. As well, it will better align our project timelines with new Council

efficiency and effectiveness programs now underway.

After stakeholder feedback is collected in June, the 30-year vision will be presented to Council’s Community and Protective Services Committee in winter 2013.

To learn more about the draft 30-year vision for our municipal parks and open spaces, please visit our project web site at: calgary.ca/imagineparks”

March 27, 2013

(re: Biodiversity report, Draft 2)

“The report is with the director. Following her review it will go to the Mayor’s Office for review and drafting a forward. We’re anticipating this will happen within a month.”

Anne Burke



Would anyone like to sit here to admire this view?

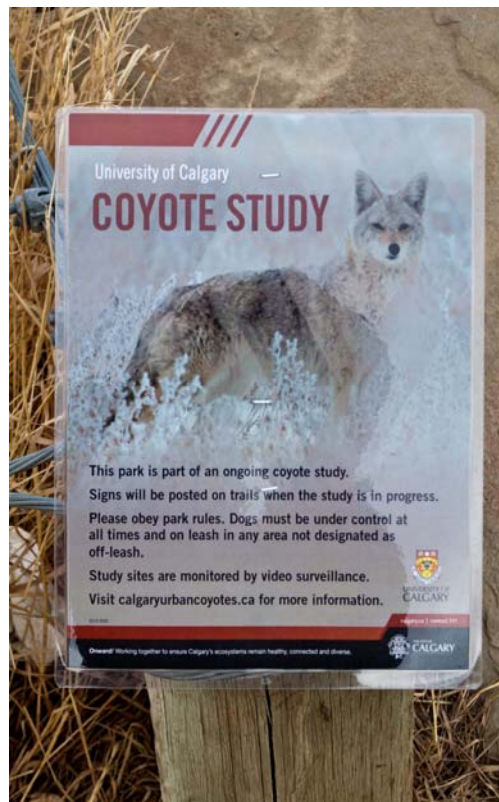
University of Calgary Coyote Study

Nose Hill Park is part of an ongoing coyote study. Signs will be posted on trails when the study is in progress. Please obey park rules. Dogs must be under control at all times and on leash in any area not designated as off-leash. Study sites are monitored by video surveillance. Visit calgaryurbancoyotes.ca for more information.

Please note: This is a catch and release program, which means coyotes are tagged, examined, and then released. This process involves humane trapping. At least 10 coyotes (city-wide) will be fitted with GPS collars to record and track their movements. The traps may be hazardous to dogs, for example, although they are set in on-leash areas, where accidental capture is less likely. Traps are in wooded or bushland sites, away from pathways and designated recreation areas.

As these activities will be carried out intermittently in a number of City of Calgary and Provincial Parks, we cannot post the times or dates. In addition to Nose Hill, Fish Creek, the Weaselhead, Acadia Escarpment (Bow River), and Bowmont are other parks involved in the study.

The traps will be covered in the day but set up to catch coyotes when they are active between dusk (from approximately 7 p.m. onwards) and dawn. Parks only close at 11 p.m. Please be careful using the park and stay safe.



May Count of Plants in Bloom, May 25 - 31

The Alberta May Count of Plants in Bloom is an annual event sponsored by the Alberta Naturalists. The object of the Count is to record a snapshot of all species in bloom throughout Alberta in the last week of May. This provides valuable information on the distribution and phenology of flowering plants in Alberta. This can provide, amongst other things, insights into the effects of variations in climate and helps with the monitoring of the spread of non-native species.

You can participate:

1. Choose a natural area.....your favourite route on the Hill perhaps
2. Print off the May Flower Checklist (see our web site fonhs.org). This lists the flowers that may be seen around Calgary at this time. (link below the flower thumbnails)
3. During the week of May 25 to 31 record the Plants in Bloom that you see. You don't have to be an expert to do this. Just note the flowers that you know. Those you don't know can be ignored or perhaps identified using a field guide. One which received a good review from Nature Calgary is *PLANTS OF ALBERTA* by Richard Dickinson. Lone Pine Publishing,
4. If time permits it is useful to record the flowering stage of each plant. e.g. in bud, % in bloom , full bloom, fading.
5. Record date, participant(s) names, location & habitat details and forward the checklist to the Count Compiler:

Suzanne Visser
3516 60st NW
Calgary T3B 5E8
or e-mail to: svisser@ucalgary.ca

Please submit Count results by June 30, 2013

Stewarding our parks can be as easy as PIE!
(from Calgary Parks Department)

NOW RECRUITING for a new volunteer program being piloted in Nose Hill Park in 2013

The City of Calgary Parks is looking for outgoing, park-loving volunteers who are passionate about nature and love to tell a good story. Parks Interpretive Experience (PIE) is a pilot program, now recruiting volunteers for Nose Hill Park. PIE volunteers help visitors become aware of the plants and animals that call this place home through stories, hands-on artefacts, and short interpretive activities.

Volunteers receive training in customer service, environmental topics, and interpretation skills; and then commit 12 hours of park time per month from June to October. If you are interested in learning more about this program, email parksvolunteers@calgary.ca for more information.

Related Skills and Interests:

You are an outgoing citizen who wants to play a role in making healthy, safe and vibrant communities. You want to increase and share your knowledge of nature, wildlife, plants, parks, environment, natural history, horticulture, history, sustainability, ecology, natural areas, invasive species, native plants, biodiversity and other topics as they relate to Calgary's parks. You are skilled in education, story-telling, public speaking, communication, and teaching others. You are a life-long learner!

Time Commitment:

In exchange for two full-day training sessions on Saturdays in the spring, you are able to commit to 3 shifts (minimum 12 hours) per month, June – October.

Training:

Training will be provided in interpretation skills as well as customer service, history, horticulture, ecology and cultural landscapes. Training will be a combination of in-class learning and field trips.

Benefits:

You will develop skills in communication, public speaking, teaching, knowledge of the natural world. You will build your knowledge of Calgary's parks and ecology and play an important role in the sustainability and stewardship of our parks and green spaces.

Project updates (from City Parks Department)

Over the past few years, a number of projects were undertaken in Nose Hill Park. These improvements to the park are intended to lessen the impact of park visitors on wildlife and native vegetation. Improvements will also enhance park visitors' experience, fostering appreciation for this beautiful park, celebrating its history and natural characteristics.

According to City Parks, planning and construction activities focussed on the following work:

- Implementing a Nose Hill Park education and signage program.
- Installation of approximately 80 interpretive signs is complete. Landscaping around the bases of the signs will be completed in the spring 2013.
- Off-leash signage was installed at the multi-use zone.
- Trail rehabilitation and closure of informal non-designated routes began in 2013. Trail rehabilitation will take place over the next few years in a phased approach.

As work progresses on these initiatives, please use caution near construction sites, follow detours and adhere to park signage. Please check back with City Parks for project updates or call 3-1-1.

Executive & Board 2013**President**

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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". 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 \$10.00 to:

Friends of Nose Hill Society
Suite 171130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary AB T3B 4Z1



The Nose Hill site will formally launch on June 6th, 2013, but it will be available for testing before then. A new website will be going up this week (in April). We will keep you up to date. Meanwhile, we've also just started a Facebook page if you'd like to connect with us there. We'd love to use it as a platform for ongoing feedback about the app. www.facebook.com/AgentsOfNature.

Get to Know Contest launching soon. Go to gettoknow.ca/contest/ for more info!