



# Nose Hill

News and Views  
**fonhs.org**



Number 58

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2018

## President's Message

### Anne Burke

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended. Jenna McFarland, from the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, joined us and answered questions about wildlife sharing our urban environment.

We introduced the winners of our photo contest (whose photos are on the website). Thank you to all those who submitted entries, our volunteer judges, and donors from City Council for contest prizes (Sean Chu, Ward 4, Druh Farrell, Ward 7, and Ward Sutherland, Ward 1).

MLA Karen McPherson, for Calgary Mackay-Nose Hill, asked to use some of the pictures on her new banner stand. "We would like to feature Nose Hill in the photos and figure you would be the best place to find beautiful photos. Please email or call so we can discuss." We shared the contact information with the photographers

A Wikipedia editor asked us to review the entry on Nose Hill Park. She says she added a bit of content, since she was also asked to be a volunteer in the Wikipedia Library through Gallery, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM). The editorial model is to use reliable sources that are available with the Creative Commons copyright license, in other words, all content, photos, texts, and other media must be free and shareable. More and more, they want content that is already online so the "url"

can be used. "I am mentioning this in case anyone in your group would like to contribute content, correct grammar, spelling, copyedit, etc. If so they could contact me. Wikipedia volunteers are not paid and none of the images have fees attached."

I was interviewed for an article "An Uphill Battle: How Calgarians banded together to protect nature and create Nose Hill Park" (January 19, 2018). It was published in the CREB: Now section of the *Calgary Herald*. The article, by Gerald Vander Pyl, described the establishment of Nose Hill Park, and the steps taken since then to protect it from development. Ian Halladay, John McFaul, and Sheldon David also contributed to the article. "We owe it all to the people back in the '70s that fought to (protect) that land. And now it's up to us to maintain it as intended." See <http://www.crebnow.com/tag/nose-hill/>

### Parks and Pathways Public Survey

There was a Parks and Pathways Public Survey, in February, which is part of a review of the Parks and Pathways Bylaw. The results will be compiled and form part of "The What We Heard Report" posted on the City website at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca), in spring/summer, 2018.

The Project team will determine the next steps. In the Fall of 2018, the Updated Bylaw will be drafted and sent to City Council for their approval.

The 2003 Parks and Pathways Bylaw states that no park user shall:

*(d) damage or destroy any wildlife habitat; or (e) pester, feed, or otherwise interfere with any animal in a Park. No person shall leave a trail or path while in the escarpment zone in Nose Hill, compromising that area from the Nose Hill Park Boundary up to, but not including, the multi use Pathway or Trail.*

While the current bylaw provides for special treatment for "Natural Areas" such as Nose Hill, the public survey was not park-specific. Park users were asked to name activities they might enjoy in any (all) parks, such as: food or sport/game equipment vendors; picking weeds or fruit; horseback riding; "parkour (a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training); tobogganing, playing golf (e.g. disc golf, mini golf etc): and if park hours specified are "too specific".

The City reports that the way we use parks has evolved since 15 years ago. For example, in recent years, "ungulates" (hoofed mammals) such as goats, have been introduced to our parks to help manage weeds. Segways (two-wheeled motorised personal vehicles consisting of a platform for the feet mounted above an axle, and an upright post surmounted by handles) have been seen on pathways, as well as new technologies, such as drones

Hundreds of permits or letters from the Parks Director are issued every year for many uses. A City official told me that the aim is to reduce the bureaucracy (paperwork). However, the City was

interested in seasonal closure for coyote denning, as well as closure of trails to promote native grasses. FONHS could play a role in public education.

### **Calgary Parks launched a new citizen science program**

(from Samantha Managh, City Parks Ecologist, Landscape Analysis)

**Calgary Captured**, a new Calgary Parks initiative, is a citywide citizen science program that has seen the installation of 70 motion-activated remote cameras in 13 City parks, including Nose Hill Park.

This project pairs cost-effective wildlife monitoring tools (trail cameras) to capture data about wildlife habitat use and movement around our urban environment with the aim of enhancing citizen eco-literacy through participatory stewardship action.

**Calgary Captured** offers YOU a novel way to peek into our local parks and classify wildlife caught on camera. With your participation, tens of thousands of wildlife images can be reliably classified in only a few weeks.

We welcome your participation by:

1. Going to [Zooniverse.org](http://Zooniverse.org): and search for 'Calgary Captured' to begin identifying species
2. Join the Conversation: be sure to click the #talk button on the last screen before you submit your observation to let us know if you found something really great!

Log on today and start experiencing your parks from the comfort of your own home. 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!

### **Update on the North Calgary Water Servicing Strategy**

(from City Waterworks, Feb. 12, 2018)

- The design team will be commencing the detailed design phase in Q2 of 2018. (The proposed alignment of the pipe traverses Nose Hill Park from the south west to the north east and will be constructed using “tunnelling technology”, up to 90 metres below the surface).
- At this time, no further field work is anticipated in the upper plateau of the park, as the geotechnical investigation was completed in March 2017.
- The earliest construction phase is currently anticipated to be 2020. This date is highly subject to change, based on budgeting and prioritisation.

### **FONHS on Facebook**

Our Facebook Site has 127 members, who regularly share photos (there are now 1703), and they also post breaking news. Two recent examples follow.

#### **Army Reservists training**

About 50 Army Reservists of the Calgary Highlanders were training on Nose Hill. While they have weapons, they do not carry ammunition, blanks, explosives, or pyrotechnics.

They practice low-level drills, in groups of 10, on Wednesday parade nights, and are willing to answer any questions from the public.

One of our board members talked with Major Andrew Beauchand about respecting the environment, being cautious around wildlife, especially the coyote dens, and picking up, after ourselves and while walking with dogs.

### **Orange Seeps from Trembling Aspen**

“I came across this bright, orange-coloured substance oozing out of the bark of several trembling aspen trees on the east slopes of Nose Hill (adjacent to North Haven). (See: photo). I think it's *Cytospora* Canker (based on my amateur web sleuthing). Has anyone else noticed this? I'm wondering if this fungus is a new appearance at Nose Hill or if (it) has been around for some time.”



We contacted Kevin Brownlee, who is with The City of Calgary, Parks Urban Forestry, North Area Zones 3 and 4, and Sheldon David, Parks Superintendent for Zone 3.

“After viewing the attached photo, it appears to look like *Cytospora* canker; however, the only way to obtain accurate identification would be to send a sample to the lab for diagnosis.

The fungus is prevalent in most native aspen stands. I would suggest that it is not new to this particular group. Healthy trees do not appear to be impacted, trees that are stressed are more susceptible. The canker enters the tree through some form

of wounding to branches or trunk. In its natural setting Urban Forestry does not consider it to be a pest but rather part of the eco system.

Should you require additional information please contact Parks Urban Conservation as they are the stewards of natural areas within The City. Thanks.”.  
(Kevin Brownlee)

“This looks to be a canker. I have a foreman going up there this week to look at it. We will evaluate it but it is part of Nature and we will probably be leaving it and just monitor for now. Thanks.” (Sheldon David).

### Letter to the Editor

Greetings:

Thanks for your recent article in the Feb. 2018 *Huntington Hills Honker* re: the History of Nose Hill Creek Valley, which re-kindled my interest in Nose Hill Spring Park, about 3 city blocks east of my residence. I find the history of Nose Hill Spring Park to be very interesting, and also deem the preservation of this small park and its natural Spring to be very worthwhile. I may not be the only person to have recently observed the condition of the print on the cairn to be almost non-legible, and the Spring and park area surrounding it to be seemingly overgrown with weeds, tall grass, and litter, during

warmer months. (Perhaps park maintenance may also be a little more challenging given the presence of nearby schools). I am unsure as to what extent the upkeep of the cairn, spring, and park is the responsibility of the City Parks Department, but am sure that all of the park's 'friends' would agree that this little park is worthy of regular maintenance. I do hope to have the opportunity to visit the park now & again in the spring, summer, & fall, as it seems to be such a beautiful little 'oasis' in Huntington Hills.

Bob Calder

### “Alleyway Ambles” in Support of Nose Hill Biodiversity: Jane’s Walk in Brentwood

For this year’s Jane’s Walk festival, Brentwood residents Polly Knowlton Cockett and Gloria Toole will be leading a morning Alleyway Amble to look at the potential of our local laneways in supporting biodiversity, plantings for pollinators, and gardening.

We’ll also discuss what other cities are doing regarding place-making and community development in these underappreciated yet capacious urban spaces, and brainstorm how we might lead the way in Calgary for rethinking our alleyways.

Supporting biodiversity in Nose Hill Natural Environment Park also means supporting connectivity for the species that move in, out, around, and through the park, perhaps especially pollinators such as birds, bees, butterflies, and bats.

We will start and finish at the Nose Hill Library on Sunday May 6,. from 2 to 4 p.m., and

wander on a walkabout through nearby alleys and past some of our community murals. Be on the lookout for details of all Calgary's Jane's Walks on May 4-5-6, 2018 at <https://www.janeswalk.calgaryfoundation.org/>

## May Count of Plants in Bloom

The Alberta May Count of Plants in Bloom is an annual event sponsored by Nature Alberta.

Objective: to record plants in bloom throughout Alberta during the last week in May, using a standardized approach.

Purpose: to provide information on the distribution of flowering plants in Alberta. This information monitors the spread of non-native species and provides insights into the response of plants to variations in climate.

Anyone who is familiar with Alberta wildflowers can participate. You select a natural area and record the plants you see blooming then forward the list to the Count Compiler: Kim MacKenzie. Email her at [kim.mack@goldpaw.ca](mailto:kim.mack@goldpaw.ca).

For those who would like to participate in the Count we will soon have an information package that we will post on our website [fonhs.org](http://fonhs.org).

It is no problem at all if you find a flower that you don't recognize. It can be ignored in your Count. (Or you can photograph it for later identification).

## FONHS Guided Walks on Nose Hill

1. A Birding Walk on Saturday May 12, starting @ 8:30 a.m. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by joining us. May is the peak time for migrating birds to return to Calgary, especially songbirds. It is a time when they are actively searching for and establishing nesting sites. The males will be singing to attract a mate. They tend to be most active from sunrise till 10am, hence the early start for the walk.

2. A Flower Walk on Wednesday May 23, starting at @ 7 p.m. (for 2 hours), to identify flowers and discuss the May Count of Plants in Bloom.

Both walk will start at the Nose Hill parking lot at 14 St & 64 Ave NW. Please register for the walks by emailing: [information@fonhs.org](mailto:information@fonhs.org)

Our guide, John McFaul, is a professional naturalist who has been leading nature walks and hikes for 30 years. He received a BSc degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Calgary. John is an honorary member of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society (Nature Calgary). He is an accredited Professional Interpreter with the Interpretive Guides Association.

## “Ladybird Fly”



This delightfully illustrated book by Calgary storyteller and visual artist Karen Gummo, is about a little girl who is fascinated by the ladybirds on Nose Hill. An early version, entitled “The Prairie Princes”, was reviewed in our Newsletter in Spring 2015. It has now been published. Copies are on sale for \$12, at Pages.

**Friends of Nose Hill Society**  
**Membership Year: 2017** **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, Suite 171, 130-5403 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary, AB T3B 4Z1**

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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 127 members and 1703 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](mailto:ervan@ucalgary.ca)

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

**Friends of Nose Hill Society**  
**Suite 171**  
**130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW**  
**Calgary, AB T3B 4Z1**

## **Breaking News**

The FONHS Board sat down with Sheldon David and George Stalker of City Parks on March 18, to share and discuss information. Currently, the Parks & Pathways Bylaw is under review. We believe there are different parks for different purposes. Although the survey's deadline was extended, our concern was that the questions are not park-specific. Many of the proposed uses are not applicable to natural environment parks, for example tobogganing on **any** hill at own risk.

We also talked about permits, the application process, and guidelines, if any. While we can appreciate the City's aim to reduce bureaucracy (and paperwork) we want to know that when human uses of Nose Hill conflict with the natural environment, City management will make wildlife and natural habitat priorities. Part of protecting the biodiversity is public education.

A field-test project will be marking the border of the multi-use area with four-foot posts (similar to Bowmont Park). Bylaw enforcement also depends on signs. The PUPPY Program will continue. There is a new APP available to find out your location on Nose Hill. There will be City programs for children during the summer. Trained educators will help the public to appreciate all the natural benefits in the Park. There will be more parking space at the Edgemont entrance. Remember to use the John Laurie overpass because it is safer than trying to cross the busy road.

The Calgary Urban Conservation Team pertains to Parks staff and Calgary-wide green space, but is not limited to parks. Here is a recent initiative.

### **Urban Coyote Information Session**

Representatives with the City of Calgary's Urban Conservation Team hosted an information session on urban coyotes on March 19th from 6 – 8pm at Vivo, 11950 Country Village Link NE in the Idea Lab room. This was a great opportunity to have questions answered by City representatives.

The session included:

- What does it mean to co-exist with coyotes;
- What is typical urban coyote behaviour;
- What is The City doing in relation to co-existing with coyotes;
- What the individual and community can do to co-exist with coyotes; and
- An opportunity for residents to talk with city officials about their concerns with coyotes.