



# Nose Hill

News and Views  
fonhs.org



Number 66

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2022

## President's Message

by Anne Burke

As always, there are many news items and many views to share about Nose Hill Park. We read about and see firefighters and grass fire units respond on Nose Hill, especially during dry and windy conditions. The causes may be investigated but the follow-up story of the positive impact on vegetation will not be documented, unless by researchers. Indeed, a burning program for Nose Hill Park should be examined periodically, based on monitoring information and new scientific knowledge. By managing the natural process instead of preventing it, we can improve habitats for native plants and animals and reduce the risk of out-of-control wildfires.

### LOFT 112 Nose Hill Park Card

We were approached by Loft 112 to help distribute cards designed by artists to reflect communities, specifically the very attractive Nose Hill card. The artist Suzanne Hunter has given her permission for us to publish her winning image. The text reads: *Nose Hill park is alive. The pulse of the land pulls us into our own hearts. Evidence gathers as we roam amid the echoes of those who were here before us. Driving by one day, looking up, I felt- this hill knows me.* In a recent email, she added: I feel

very honoured you wish to include my art work in your newsletter! I love Nose Hill, as we all do!



I found the items in the image last summer at the base of the old dead tree that stands alone looking over 14th Street. If you ever find out who placed the items there please tell them that I was also deeply moved to discover

them and I imagined what reverence they represented. I respectfully took a photo and left their offering untouched. Thank you again for this honour. Here is a link to a story about this project. HYPERLINK:

<https://livewirecalgary.com/2022/02/03/oft-112-cards-community-calgary/>

The card project showcases citizen connections to their Calgary communities - LiveWire Calgary.



**Filming in Nose Hill Park**, for "Colours", by the SAIT Film and Video Production program, was on Monday, February 14th, 2022, 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. The project, which centers on a couple coming to terms about their relationship, had a 22-person camera crew with one person as talent. "Our production will be operating within safe COVID-19 mitigation guidelines as set forth by Alberta Health." If you have questions about filming, please contact the Calgary Film Commission at:

[film@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com](mailto:film@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com)

**Professional Dog Walkers Off Leash Permits.** The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw limits an off-leash dog walker to 6 dogs. Bylaw changes coming into effect by 30 September 2022 will permit qualified professional dog walkers to walk more. Any handler must respond to nuisance behaviours, maintain voice and sight command with each dog. Community peace officers will work with dog walkers to achieve bylaw and permit compliance through education rather than to deny or revoke a permit, unless as a last resort.

**A Mural Project on the Pedestrian Underpass** (adjacent to Nose Hill Park) is near the intersection of 14th Street and 64th Avenue NW. There was a talk on the native plants of Nose Hill to celebrate the opening with a tour of the artwork. The pathway on the east side of the tunnel is paved and fully accessible. See more details at HYPERLINK: <http://www.fonhs.org/>

**Upgrades to the parking lot at 14th Street NW** across from North Haven community. The site features 17 parking stalls in the high/top parking area, which offers a panoramic view of the City. Check out the plan for parking off the lower access road too, with wider turning angles, as well as the new post and cable fence. To ensure Nose Hill Park is accessible for everyone to enjoy, improvements were made.

### **Bird Friendly Calgary Logo and Contest**

The City was certified as a Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada and will designate an official bird representative.



The birds in the running are magpies, blue jays, red-breasted nuthatches, black-capped chickadees and northern flickers. The bird species which receives the most votes will then be presented to City Council for official approval. The winner will be announced on World Migratory Bird Day on May 14 before Council makes the results official in June. Calgary (like Toronto, Vancouver, and London, Ontario) holds World Migratory Bird Day events on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May and has a Bird Team.



Former Alderman **Pat Ryan** was elected in 1974 for Ward 1 and re-elected in 1977 for Ward 2. Members of Council and City Administration offered their condolences to the Ryan family. Mr. Ryan made certain that the land for Nose Hill Park was secure from developers and available for future generations to enjoy as a natural environment park within the city limits. This included initiating Master Plans for Nose Hill and Glenmore Parks, as well as policy development for environmentally sensitive areas. One aim was to ensure that the environment

will be protected, preserved, and enhanced for the enjoyment of all people. Another was to facilitate in any way possible the involvement of volunteers in parks and recreation services. A third was to conserve a system of natural areas throughout the City.



**A Learning Grounds Naturalization Project** at the North Haven School (adjacent to Nose Hill Park) is also supported by the North Haven Parent Association. The project will benefit students and residents, especially seniors. A "natureground" is a publicly accessible, reclaimed and reconstructed site sustainable ecosystem, featuring native plants which have been rescued, seeded, or planted for the purposes of holistic education and enjoyment, maintained by local stewardship. HYPERLINK: <http://www.natureground.org/cng.html/>

Here are some common concerns, followed (**in bold**) by the principles of the Nose Hill Park Natural Area Management Plan.

## Memo from a Nose Hill Supporter

Dear Friends [of Nose Hill]

I've been walking on Nose Hill for 30 years and am distressed by the overuse and misuse of this precious park. Firstly, the structures that some people feel compelled to build whether it's tipi-like lean-tos in the woods or 'memorials' or piles of stones collected from an area (which could be part of an ancient tipi ring).

**ABORIGINAL USE: Archaeological sites, such as The Buffalo Rubbing Stone, require preservation and will be respected not only for the history they reflect but for their spiritual significance.**

Secondly, years ago I thought the city was trying to restrict number of paths used by marking and creating 'main' pathways. I remember a city parks person speaking about the hundreds of kms. of little trails crisscrossing and dividing eco-areas. These paths seem to be getting more numerous and wider.

**TRAIL MANAGEMENT: No management will allow trail degradation and habitat loss to continue and escalate. Trail impacts should be monitored closely by the Natural Areas Management Coordinator, in order to determine an acceptable technique to avoid further environmental damage.**

Thirdly, the use of the park by dog owners. Though there are some responsible dog owners, every time I walk there, I find abandoned doggie bags, piles of poop and those who leave

their cars and let their dogs run in on-leash sections. Is it possible to have bylaw officers stationed at parking lots for a week or more and issue warnings or tickets? I hate complaining and have made calls to the parks department about dogs and invasive plants, but feel the park is not getting the attention it needs to prevent irreparable damage. Thank you for your organization and perhaps you can provide some feedback to my concerns.

**The overall management goal re: dog use in Nose Hill Park is to provide off-leash areas while protecting wildlife and minimizing negative visitor experiences with off-leash dogs.**

"The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw" provides that any handler must respond to nuisance behaviours, maintain voice and sight command with each dog, and clean up.

**Coulees, slopes and escarpments will be designated on-leash areas. Dogs will be permitted on-leash on major pathways through the Porcupine Valley and Many Owls Valley Natural Parklands but will be prohibited from the Aspen Grove Natural Parkland. These areas are critical to the survival of wildlife and must receive the greatest protection from dogs and other visitor use.**

## A Memo from another Park Supporter

This email is about my concerns regarding Nose Hill Park & Bowmont Park and the proliferation of paths gouged by mountain bikes in those parks. I would like to know if the City Parks department has a plan when it

comes to mountain bikes and their use of Nose Hill Park & Bowmont Park.  
HYPERLINK:

<https://www.trailforks.com/region/bowmont-park/>

I see great damage being done by the bike tires to the fabric of the land (the gouging of deeper & deeper paths) plus the proliferation of new paths. I think this is a new situation created by the evolution of mountain bikes. The bikes with fat tires also mean that the park fabric gets no rest in winter as those tires deal with snow easily.

I would like to know what the plan is for these Parks. Are the bikers just to be allowed to "have at it"? Or is the Parks department aware of this damaging behaviour and about to designate certain City areas for mountain bike use? It is so unpleasant as a walker to navigate the bike-created narrow deep paths, to witness the Park destruction, to say nothing of having to be on alert to avoid a collision with these fast movers. I look forward to hearing that the City is going to curb this activity in Nose Hill Park and Bowmont Park.

**BIKE USE: The overall management goal for mountain bike use on Nose Hill is to provide an area where recreational biking can occur alongside natural resource protection and the minimization of negative encounters with other users.**

**Damage by Mountain Biking in Nose Hill Park.** When it comes to Nose Hill the City created the Trail & Pathways Plan and installed a small number of paths on the Hill slopes with a view to minimising the effect of foot traffic on the delicate undisturbed slopes of the Hill. If you take a look at the maps

for Trail Forks bike trails at  
HYPERLINK:

<https://www.trailforks.com/region/nose-hill-park/> and the official Nose Hill pathways, you will see that the biking community is just making a mockery of the Parks' department plans and recommendations. I can attest that the spider web of trails mapped by Trail Forks on the slopes of Nose Hill does indeed exist and that there are more trails than those mapped.

**Mountain bike damage should be closely monitored by the Natural Areas Management Coordinator. In the case of increased damage, bikes would then be restricted to non-dirt trails in the area. Education and Enforcement, in keeping with the Master Plan to avoid conflict with wildlife and other users, will be through zoning rules.**

These comments **in bold** are only a few of the recommendations from The Nose Hill Park Natural Area Management Plan. Do not hesitate to reach out to your elected representative on Calgary City Council. We have some new faces to educate and remind those who should know better about Nose Hill, our precious Natural Environment Park. If you are not sure who your Councillor is, simply go to HYPERLINK: <https://www.calgary.ca/citycouncil/findyourcouncillor.htm/>

Our voices are always stronger together.

## **Urban Coyotes**

**"Urban Coyotes Posing Little Danger to People: Living with Wildlife means respecting boundaries"**, an article by Shelley Marie Alexander, was

published in the *Calgary Herald*, Tuesday, 22 February 2022, section A9. This article was originally published on 13 February 2022 online. Here are a few excerpts. You can read the entire piece at HYPERLINK:

<https://theconversation.com/living-peacefully-with-coyotes-means-respecting-their-boundaries-174609/>

I have studied coyotes and other wild canids for over 30 years.

Co-existence with coyotes is possible. Coyotes are not, by nature, aggressive. But there is a pervasive myth that they are likely to attack unwarranted, and this belief is dangerous to the animals.

The city has a bylaw prohibiting free-ranging pets, which many people disregard.

Coyote pups are usually born around early April, known as "denning season", and coyotes shift into pup-guarding mode.

When coyotes react, it is to protect themselves, their mates or pups from an actual or perceived threat, like dogs chasing them or coming into a den area, or a person poking at the den with a stick.

What is most catastrophic to co-existence is when people decide to deliberately feed coyotes. That often is a death sentence.



Professor Alexander is an international canid specialist and the founder of the Canid Conservation Science Lab. Since 2001, she has worked as a faculty member for the Department of Geography, University of Calgary. In 2005, Shelley launched the Calgary Coyote Project.

***Living with Coyotes*** was the first of its kind, a website developed for studying coyotes in Canada and was designed to involve Calgarians in tracking observations of coyotes. In 2014, she founded the Foothills Coyote Initiative. She serves in a voluntary capacity on the Science Advisory Board for Project Coyote (USA) and is Science Advisor to Coyote Watch Canada.



**Habitat restoration supports biodiversity.** As a target, the City aims to restore 20% of Calgary's open space by 2025. To volunteer, email: [parksvolunteers@calgary.ca](mailto:parksvolunteers@calgary.ca). Naturalization is a type of habitat restoration, introducing native plants and hand-pulling invasive species (weeds). You can do so in your own backyard and read tips online. Other Habitat Restoration Projects can take years. If you are interested in a public park, read the Steps to Naturalization Project pamphlet and contact 3-1-1. For more information, go to: <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/parks/planning-and-operations/naturalization-initiative.html>

**Here is a reminder about the Annual May species count for Flowering Plants.**

This grassroots citizen science project encourages stewardship and appreciation of natural areas. All data should be collected during Count week (May 25-31). This is a Nature Alberta Initiative hosted by the Alberta Native Plant Council. Simply take a photo or record a description. Do not remove vegetation. There are many I.D. Guides: online, in paperbacks and hardbound books, and with Apps, such as Alberta Wildflowers, iNaturalist, and Picture This. To join, email: [mayplantcount@outlook.com](mailto:mayplantcount@outlook.com). FACEBOOK (META): [MayPlantCountNatureCalgary](https://www.facebook.com/MayPlantCountNatureCalgary), Instagram: [mayplantcount](https://www.instagram.com/mayplantcount), Twitter: [@mayplantcount](https://twitter.com/mayplantcount).

<b>Friends of Nose Hill Society</b>		
<b>Membership Year: 2022</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	
<b>Name</b> _____	<b>RENEWAL</b>	<b>NEW</b>
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_____		
<b>Phone Number</b> _____	<b>E-mail address</b> _____	
Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:		
<b>Friends of Nose Hill, PO Box 45024, Calgary, Alberta T2L 1Y4</b>		

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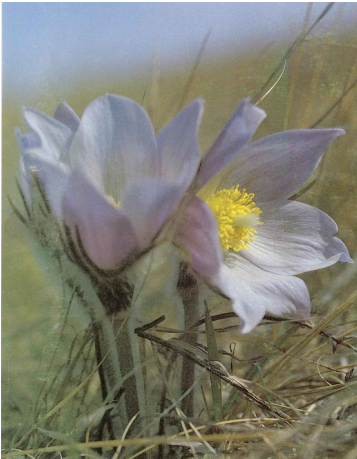
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Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: [ervan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ervan@ucalgary.ca)

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

**Friends of Nose Hill Society**  
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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 284 members and 2615 photos so far. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.