



BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

Mandate and Composition

Mandate	The BiodiverCity Advisory Committee provides Council and Administration with strategic advice on matters affecting urban biodiversity in The City of Calgary. The Committee advances the commitments and procedures identified within <i>Our BiodiverCity</i> , Calgary's 10-year biodiversity strategic plan and <i>The Durban Commitment: Local Governments for Biodiversity</i> .
Composition	5 Members who represent the technical industry or research field. 2 Members who represent the ecological literacy field with a background in art, education and/or communications. 2 Citizens-at-Large with an interest in biodiversity and ecological literacy. 4 Members of City Administration.

Details

Chair	Lea Randall, Conservation Research Population Ecologist, Calgary Zoo
Summary of initiatives, projects or work completed or ongoing in the last year.	Please see Attachment A
Outline of 2021-2022 work plan.	Please see Attachment B
Challenges to fulfilling mandate. <i>(COVID impacts will be documented in the next section)</i>	<p>The Committee's mandate is to provide,</p> <p><i>"...Council and Administration with strategic advice on matters affecting urban biodiversity in The City of Calgary. The Committee advances the commitments and procedures identified within <i>Our BiodiverCity</i>, <i>Calgary's 10-year biodiversity strategic plan</i> and <i>The Durban Commitment: Local Governments for Biodiversity</i>."</i></p> <p>The Committee acts as a conduit between Council and Administration</p>



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	<p>to advance biodiversity conservation and awareness. There have been challenges fulfilling this mandate. In brief they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Biodiversity conservation requires cross-corporate coordination and thus prioritization among City business units. Generally, this work has been associated with Calgary Parks, but needs to be embraced cross-corporately for success. b) Reduced staffing and budgetary support to Calgary Parks, the lead business unit responsible for the BiodiverCity Action Plan, continues to have an adverse effect on the timeliness of document and plan delivery to the Committee, as well as implementation on biodiversity-related projects. In turn, this limits what the Committee can review and bring its expertise to bear on.
<p>Additional information you would like to share with Council.</p>	<p>Please see Attachment C</p>

Impact of COVID-19

<p>How many meetings were held since March 2020?</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Advisory Committee (BAC) met twelve times, every month in 2020, with the exception of August and a day planning session in February 2021</p>
<p>How has public participation in meetings been impacted? Please identify any barriers to accessibility, participation, etc.</p>	<p>Public participation in meetings, in terms of BAC public members, has not been impacted by COVID-19. The BAC has had virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams and the public are able to join at any time through this technology.</p>
<p>How do you manage to continue the work of the committee in the current situation?</p>	<p>BAC work continues using Microsoft Teams, through email between Committee members, and by phone calls.</p>



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Attachments:

- A. Summary of initiatives, projects or work completed or ongoing in the last year
- B. Outline of 2021-2022 work plan.
- C. Additional information you would like to share with Council