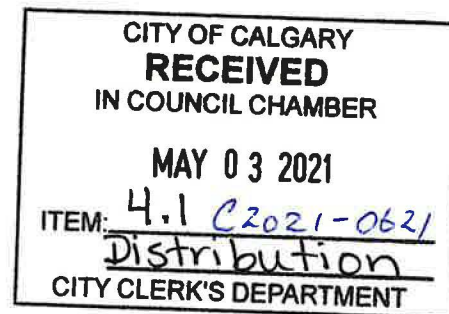


# BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

- ▶ Provide review and advice to Calgary City Administration to advance Council-approved Our BiodiverCity, Calgary's 10-year BiodiverCity Strategic Plan
- ▶ The Committee supports The City with moving forward each of the four biodiversity principles:
  - ▶ Ecological Literacy
  - ▶ Ecological Resilience
  - ▶ Collaboration
  - ▶ Integration
- ▶ engaging stakeholders, communications and reviewing City policies related to biodiversity



# Habitat Restoration



- ▶ Restoration often occurs opportunistically but not necessarily in context of priority habitats on lands managed by Parks, Transportation, and Water Services
- ▶ Calgary Parks has identified and prioritized parks in need of restoration
- ▶ Currently the city is only on track to meet about half of the 20% target of restoration of open spaces by 2025 (832 ha)
- ▶ Need additional capital funds and staffing to meet targets



# Recommendations

- ▶ Build a cross-corporate restoration program
- ▶ Greater investment in Parks to meet 2025 restoration target
- ▶ Set either an achievable restoration target and/or extend target deadline

# Environmentally Sensitive Area Loss (ESA)

- ▶ ESAs are key natural components of the regional landscape, providing essential ecosystem functions and services.
  - ▶ flood mitigation
  - ▶ drinking water supply
  - ▶ maintenance of regional biodiversity
  - ▶ preservation and connectivity of unique habitats and landscapes
  - ▶ provision of culturally and economically valued resources and opportunities

# Environmentally Sensitive Area Loss (ESA)



# Environmentally Sensitive Area Loss (ESA)

- ▶ In 2019, the City of Calgary lost about 58% of ESA identified in Biophysical Impact Assessments
- ▶ We acknowledge that there are many competing land uses
- ▶ Ultimately, it is far less expensive to protect land than it is to restore it (~\$35,000/ha to restore)
- ▶ Likely not equivalent habitat for biodiversity to that found in environmentally sensitive areas

# Recommendations

- ▶ Use or develop additional mechanisms or utilize current mechanisms to a greater extent to preserve ESA
- ▶ Prioritize preserving ESA that is biodiverse or rare ecosystems and habitats and areas that have been identified as important in the Ecological Network
  - ▶ connectivity corridors
  - ▶ Shelterbelts
  - ▶ steppingstones between core areas
- ▶ Develop a comprehensive spatial map of known and potential ESAs and existing rare habitats and track loss

# Loss of urban forest

- ▶ While the BAC supports densification within the city rather than developing undeveloped lands, we support the retention of the urban forest including on private property
- ▶ Recommend developing a list of species of trees and shrubs that add to the biodiversity of the City of Calgary





# Eco literacy

- ▶ BAC supports Calgary's proposed designation as a Bird Friendly City Designation
- ▶ BAC Recommends:
  - ▶ establish a Biodiversity Day annually on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in alignment with International Day for Biological Diversity
  - ▶ Continue to support the City Nature Challenge Calgary
  - ▶ Update City of Calgary website to communicate biodiversity messaging to citizens and to highlight the work and recommendations of the BAC