



THE CITY OF CALGARY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

AL DUERR
MAYOR

September 1997

The Honourable Premier Ralph Klein
Room 307, Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Klein:

Re: Patterson Woods
Calgary, Alberta

On behalf of the citizens of Calgary, I am pleased to submit The City of Calgary's proposal for the acquisition of Patterson Woods.

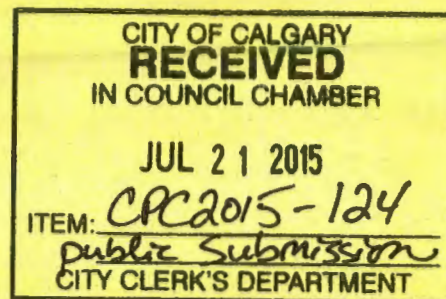
Patterson Woods is located on the Paskapoo Slopes on the south slope of the Bow River valley west of Sarcee Trail. Support for the protection of the Paskapoo Slopes has been the subject of public interest for many years. Patterson Woods is the most critical component of the Paskapoo Slopes ecosystem. It sits at the crossroads of the Bow and Elbow River wildlife corridors and as such is integral to the maintenance of healthy natural habitats throughout the city. Acquisition of this parcel, in conjunction with anticipated future municipal and environmental reserve dedications, will eliminate the need for further acquisitions in this area and will retain this extremely important natural ecosystem.

Protection of natural environments is a high priority for all Calgarians. Acquisition of Patterson Woods will certainly confirm the Province's commitment to the natural heritage of our city and province.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Yours truly,

Al Duerr
MAYOR



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Protection of the Paskapoo Slopes has been a high priority for Calgarians over a number of years. While this intention is certainly noble it has become apparent that acquisition of the entire area is unrealistic. Upon careful review and assessment, The City of Calgary has identified the protection of the Patterson Woods parcel as the highest priority for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Paskapoo Slopes.



Careful review and consideration has concluded that this parcel is the most environmentally significant part of the Paskapoo Slopes. Acquisition and integration of this parcel into Calgary's river valley park system will ensure the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem throughout the City.



ISSUE

Patterson Woods is at the crossroads of the Bow and Elbow River corridors. Its ecological importance can be measured in many ways.

Patterson Woods is one of the most ecologically diverse land parcels on the entire Paskapoo Slopes and possibly within the entire City of Calgary. The complexity, quality and number of habitats in one location are rare and unique. High quality and numbers of native species are characteristic of this area. The vegetation is virtually weed free and typically represents numerous high quality species.

These diverse habitats provide food, cover, resting, nesting and breeding areas for a wide variety of animals and birds.

Development of this area will severely fragment the entire area and interrupt positive wildlife movement between the Elbow and Bow River corridors. An intact Patterson Woods acts as an important nucleus to the entire Paskapoo slopes habitat. In turn, removal or fragmentation puts the entire Paskapoo Slopes at risk.



Development of this area will significantly disrupt wildlife movement, nesting, resting, escape and thermal cover and will lower food availability.

The entire Paskapoo Slope dominates the views in western Calgary. Calgary is a city largely defined by its natural landscapes. Calgarians value the maintenance of this natural visual heritage

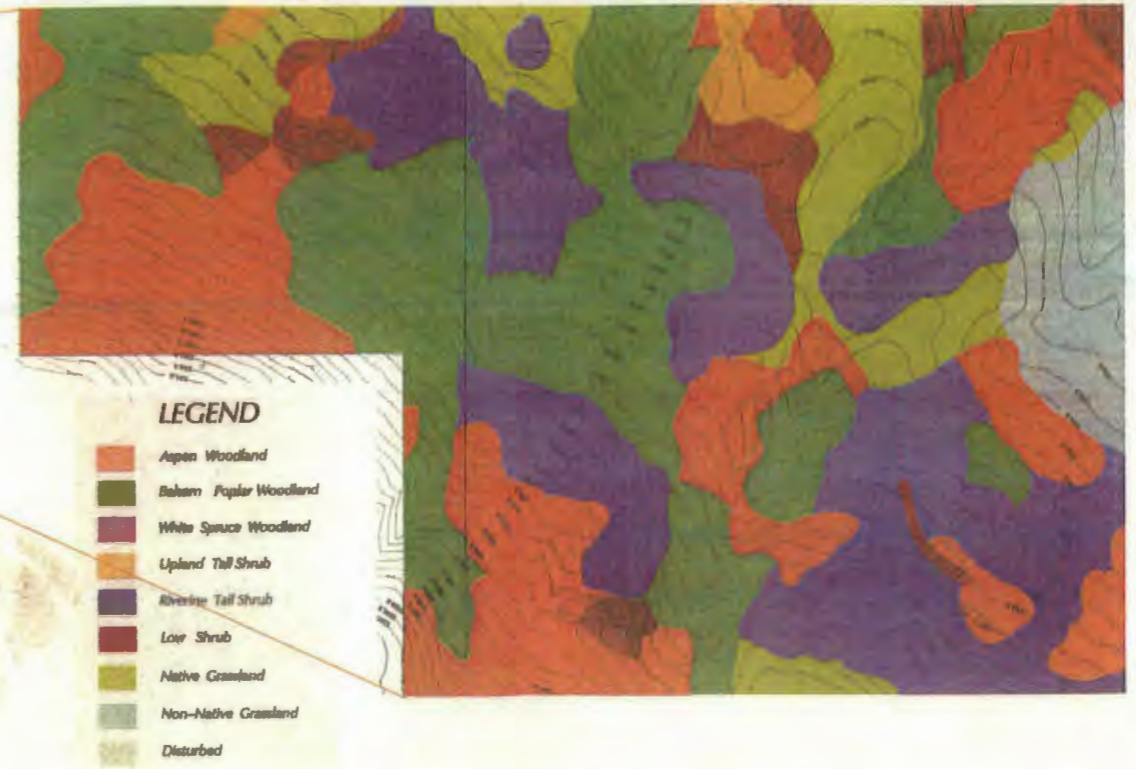
as being an important aspect of their community. The major tourism corridor through Calgary west to the Rocky Mountains runs adjacent to the slopes. The Alberta landscape in itself is a major tourism attraction that is valued and deserves protection.



Calgarians have told us that one of the reasons that they support the protection of their urban natural areas is for the recreational benefits that these places provide. Patterson Woods offers diverse land forms and vegetation communities that will enhance passive outdoor recreation opportunities in western Calgary.



Wildlife Corridor is indicated in green.



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H

ow can we work together to protect Patterson Woods?

The Alberta Government has the opportunity now to become partners with Calgarians for the protection of this highly valued parcel of land. The City of Calgary encourages your continued support for the protection of Alberta's natural heritage.

