

BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

Annual Report for 2022



BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

- Formed in 2015
- Our BiodiverCity: Calgary's 10-year biodiversity strategic plan
- To advise Council on integrating biodiversity objectives into City policies and programs
- 10 public members, who have expertise in biodiversity and ecoliteracy and care about sustainability and our city
- 5 members of City Administration

Linkages with Other City Objectives

Connect biodiversity to related policies such as:

- Climate change
- Sustainable development
- Strong neighborhoods
- Community resilience
- Human wellness

Measuring Success is Critical

Our BiodiverCity states that by 2025 we will:

- Evaluate landscapes in Calgary and set targets for conservation measures to identify, protect and manage ecological cores and corridors
- Restore 20 percent of Calgary's current open space to increase biodiversity
- Identify invasive species in Calgary's open space and complete strategies for their management

Climate Change

- Climate and Environmental Management Plan and Budget for 2023 to 2026
- Biodiversity increases resilience to climate change
- Biodiversity contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions
- BAC will work with Council and with the Climate Advisory Committee to implement the climate plan

Environmentally Significant Area Loss

ESAs are key natural components of the regional landscape, providing essential ecosystem functions and services:

- flood and drought mitigation
- downstream water supply
- maintenance of regional biodiversity
- preservation and connectivity of unique habitats and landscapes

Calgary is losing ESAs:

- 38% of ESAs identified in biophysical impact assessments were lost in 2021

Restoration of Open Spaces

- Restoration often occurs when opportunities present but not necessarily in the context of priority habitats
- Calgary Parks has identified and prioritized parks in need of restoration
- Only on track to meet about 36% of the 20% target of restoration of open spaces by 2025
- Could add utility and road RWs to restoration priorities
- Investing in additional staff could accelerate progress toward the target

Committee Ecoliteracy Initiatives

- Builds public support and participation
- City proclamation of the International Day of Biodiversity in May 2022
- Black-capped Chickadee chosen as the Calgary City Bird
- The City of Calgary BiodiverCity Awards at the Calgary Youth Science Fair
- City could further promote pollinator gardens

Our BiodiverCity, Calgary's 10-year biodiversity strategic plan

- Term of the plan is 2015 to 2025
- Calgary has accomplished much of its intent
- Falling short of some targets
- An updated strategic plan and a report will be expected by citizens by 2025
- BAC looking forward to providing advice

Working Together

- BAC will reach out to other advisory committees on overlapping mandates
- Open invitation to Council to join committee meetings
- BAC will continue to provide information to Council
- How can BAC respond to Council's need for information at the right times?
- Please contact us