



Calgary

**BiodiverCity Advisory Committee
2019 Q1 Special Report to Council**

Special Council Meeting focused on Boards,
Commissions and Committees
2019 March 4

CITY OF CALGARY
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IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

MAR 04 2019
ITEM: 9-2-1 C2019-0238
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The BiodiverCity Advisory Committee was established by Council in March 2015 to:

- Advise Council and Administration on matters of biodiversity
- Advance BiodiverCity Strategic Plan and the Durban Commitment

Committee Meetings

The Committee meets once every month, not including August
11 meetings in 2017 (includes annual 5 hour workshop)
11 meetings in 2018 (includes annual 5 hour workshop)
2017/18 total meetings = 22

Field trips

2 (1 site visit/year)

Sub-committees

Two sub-committees have been established

1. Literacy sub-committee
2. Conservation sub-committee

They have met 10 times in total over the last two years.

Highlights 2017 - 2018

- Meetings with individual councillors
- Staff Survey on biodiversity awareness and interest
- Vital Signs survey gauging citizens biodiversity awareness
- Review various documents including:
 - BiodiverCity Action Plan
 - Urban Wildlife Management Report
 - Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Calgary Youth Science biodiversity award
- Walk21 conference participation
- Numerous presentations by various administration staff pertinent to the committee's understanding of City operations as they relate to the committee's mandate

Highlights of 2019 Work Plan

- Further refine BiodiverCity Action Plan
 - Establish targets and the indicators, milestones and metrics that measure the progress in obtainment of those targets.
- Review on ad hoc basis Calgary Parks, Urban Conservation documents.
- Review documentation from other business units relevant to biodiversity
- Youth science fair, support and award
- Develop communication strategies (council, public and stakeholders)
- Site visit to restoration site(s)
- SME presentations to BAC
- Annual report to SPC CPS

Challenges to fulfilling mandate

- The current iteration of the BiodiverCity Action Plan is lacking in targets and the indicators, milestones and metrics of those targets that allow for the evaluation of the progress of the BiodiverCity Strategic Plan. It only extends to 2020 whereas the Strategic Plan has a 2025 target date.
- A clear understanding as to what advice and information that councillors and the public wish to receive regarding the value of conserving Calgary's biodiversity.
- Insuring a cross-corporate awareness of the importance of biodiversity.
- Capital funding is not allocated within the City's current budget for a naturalization/restoration program, which is foundational to the Strategic Plan.