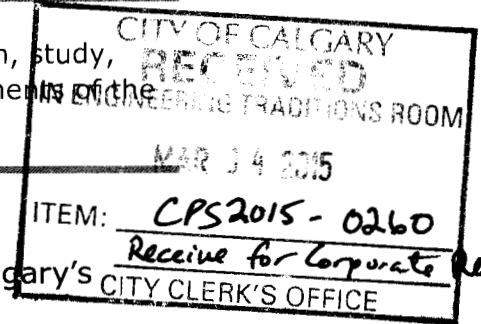




Encouraging the appreciation, observation, study, conservation and protection of all components of the natural world.



Nature Calgary brief on the City of Calgary's

10 year biodiversity Strategic Plan

March 4, 2015

Madam Chair thanks to you and the committee for the opportunity to speak to this plan and to Calgary Parks for giving Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) the opportunity to have meaningful input into the plan.

1. Nature Calgary

- Established in the early 1950's, 500 members
- Promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of Calgary's Natural Areas
- Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (its creation and nature centre), Nose Hill
- Provide speaker series and nature walks
- Publish many books related to Calgary Natural areas.

2. Importance of Calgary Natural Areas to Calgarians

- Natural Areas full of Calgarians unplugging from the virtual world, recreating and de stressing.
- Many of the natural areas have local community groups who's focus is the protection of their local natural area
- Thousands of Calgarians volunteer in helping the city maintain the quality of its parks
- Thousands of Calgarians, especially our children, take part in natural history educational opportunities within Calgary's natural areas.

3. Important Role that Council has played in protecting:

- Glenmore Reservoir/Weaselhead – Grant MacEwan while on council played a very important role in protecting this natural area.



- Inglewood Bird Sanctuary
- Nose Hill
- Griffith Woods
- Ralph Klein Park, Legacy parks – Haskayne and Bears paw Natural Areas
- River Valleys Plan, Urban Parks Master Plan, Nose Hill Master Plan, Natural Areas Plan, Urban forest Plan, Greenway Plan, Calgary's Wetland Management Plan

4. Biodiversity Strategic Plan

- Logical follow up to councils previous efforts.
- Monitoring the biodiversity of Calgary's natural areas with the establishment of an Ecological Integrity Index for each natural area is fundamental to the success of the plan. The sooner the better.
- Nature Calgary has a lot of expertise and a volunteer base that can be of great assistance to Calgary Parks in monitoring the health of the Natural Areas.
- Think globally act locally – e.g. Neotropical migrants
- LAB Durban Accord for Biodiversity adopted by City Council 2011

5. Legacy

- By accepting this plan and sending it on for council's approval you will be performing a vital link in the process of protecting Calgary's biodiversity now and most importantly as a legacy for Calgary's future generations.

"In Wildness is the Preservation of the World"

Henry David Thoreau.



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