

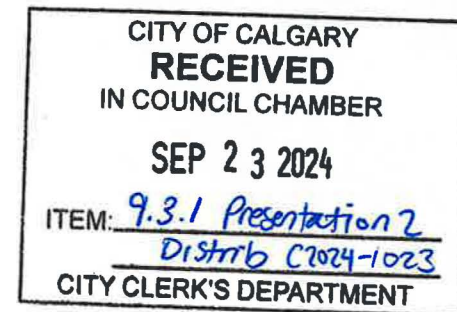


Cultural Landscapes – Parks & Open Spaces

2024 September 23

ISC: Unrestricted

2023-2024 White Goose Flying Annual Progress Update Report





Cultural Landscapes Projects

- Sweet Grass Salvage
- Land Acknowledgement Structures
- Indigenous Perspectives – Elder/Artist QR Code Project
- Guiding Circle



Sweetgrass Salvage Project

- Due to shifting seasons Indigenous Peoples are having a difficult time finding sweetgrass which is an important medicinal and cultural plant.
- Common sweetgrass grows near rivers, lake edges and wetlands. Sweetgrass is a cultural keystone species for Indigenous People.
- On June 22nd, after months of planning, in connection with the Blackfoot Confederacy, Calgary Parks successfully executed a Sweetgrass Salvage.
- The sweetgrass was found in a development area and transported to a secured City of Calgary Depot.



Sweetgrass Salvage Project - continued

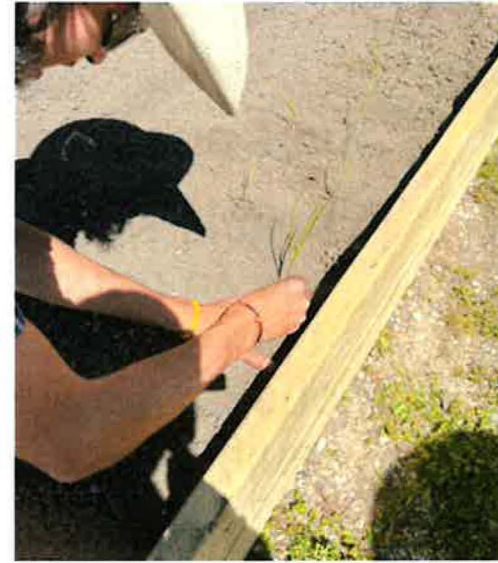
Indigenous Peoples are on the frontlines of climate change and disproportionately experience climate impacts.



This was an important project and is one of the first such initiatives that supports reconciliation through climate action.

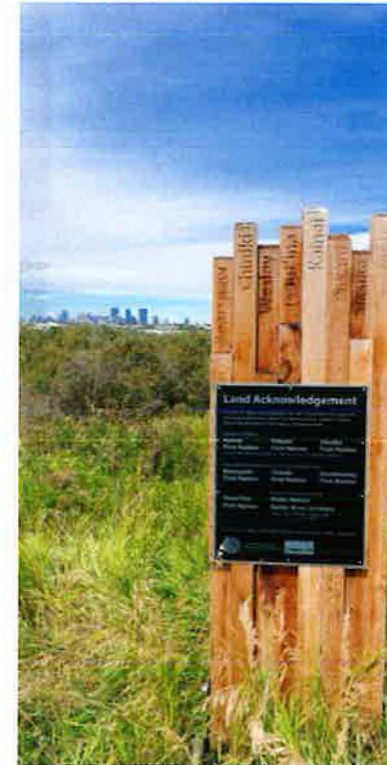


Sweetgrass Salvage Project - continued



Supporting Awareness

- In 2022, the City of Calgary's Parks and Open Spaces installed 25 land acknowledgment signs across various park locations.
- Parks worked together with Calgary's Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee and Calgary's Indigenous Relations Office on the development of the land acknowledgment text that was supported by all representatives of Treaty 7 and the Métis Nation.
- As the project continued, it began to include story telling directly from Indigenous Elders.



Land Acknowledgement Structures

Indigenous Perspectives – Elder/Artist QR Code Project

- Eight talented artists from Indigenous Nations were chosen to take part in a special project. They received inspiration from stories and teachings shared by Elders and Knowledge Keepers to create 24 unique pieces of art.
- Building on the 2022 land acknowledgement project, the Calgary Parks Cultural Landscape team has introduced the “Indigenous Perspectives” – Elder/Artist QR Code Project. This initiative incorporates existing park infrastructure and adds a new signage panel to enhance the experience of the park’s user.
- The Cultural Landscape team selected the locations for each art piece based on the story that inspired the work and the artist's vision.





Guiding Circle



- Parks & Open Spaces (P&OS) is currently developing an Elders' Guiding Circle (EGC) to provide knowledge and guidance to help indigenize the management of Calgary's landscapes. The EGC will have representation from each of the Treaty 7 Nations including the Métis.
- In order to accommodate our EGC, we need to create a warm and comforting space for our Elders. We want to provide a cultural meeting space for the Elders to practice ceremony and share teachings. 390a Piita Rise is an existing building that will be modified to accommodate the EGC for years to come. The central room of the building will become the meeting place for the EGC and the heart of Medicine Hill.
- **Elder:** The definition of an Elder varies from Nation to Nation. In general terms, an Elder refers to an Indigenous person who has been committed to learning and sharing knowledge and practices of their culture/Nation. These can also include Traditional Knowledge Keepers.



Business Units Involved

- Parks & Open Spaces
- Blackfoot Confederacy
- Climate and Environment – Climate Adaptation Team
- Water
- Public Spaces Delivery



Thank You