

CITY OF CALGARY
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ITEM: 9.45 EC2025-0309

Distrib - Presentation

CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

NATURALIZATION

A WILD IDEA



**Roses are pink
Flax is blue
Calgary roadways
This is my wish for you**



The Problem

The sides of our roads and green spaces in our community are being overrun by invasive species and weeds because commonly used turf does not choke them out.



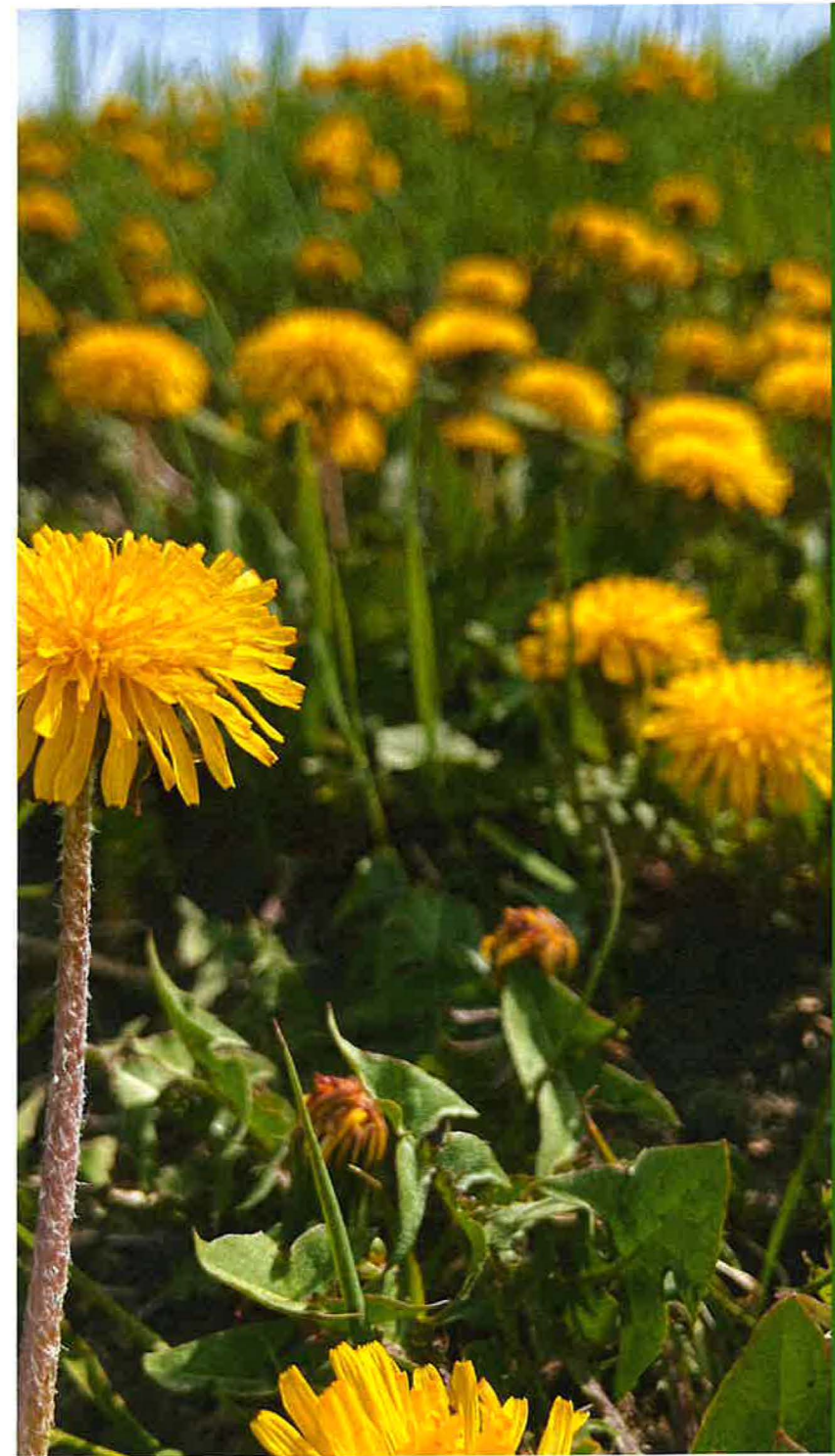


The Problem

- no drought resilience
- no flood mitigation
- we are paying to mow low quality, low value green stuff (lots of weeds) that brown quickly
- no ecological benefits

What This Isn't:

- Letting weeds grow everywhere and stopping all mowing.
- In fact, post-construction, rapid weed growth is what's happening creating unsightly and hazardous conditions.
- Weeds and invasive species grow faster than our mowing cycles.





The Proposal

A multi-year plan
let's residents know:

The Why: Benefits to our City

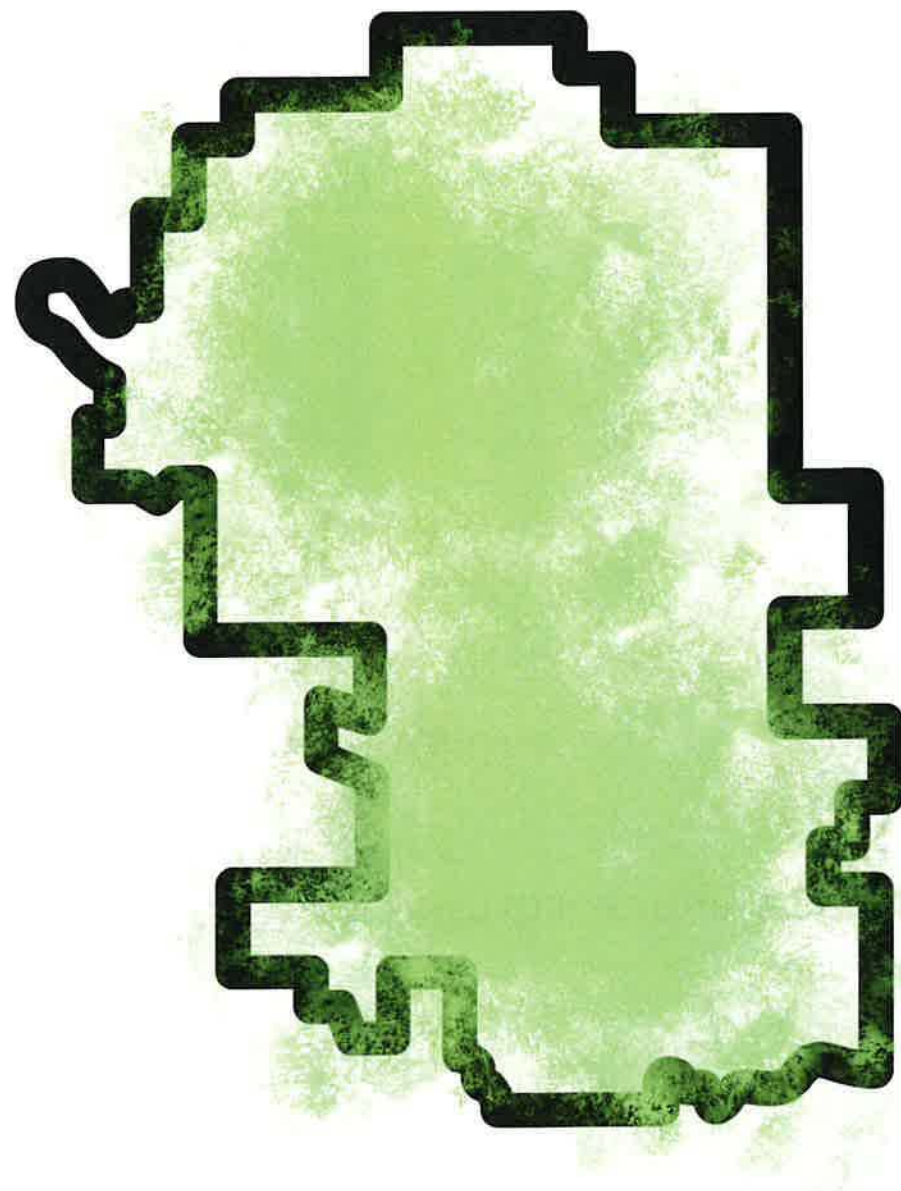
The Where: Not everywhere

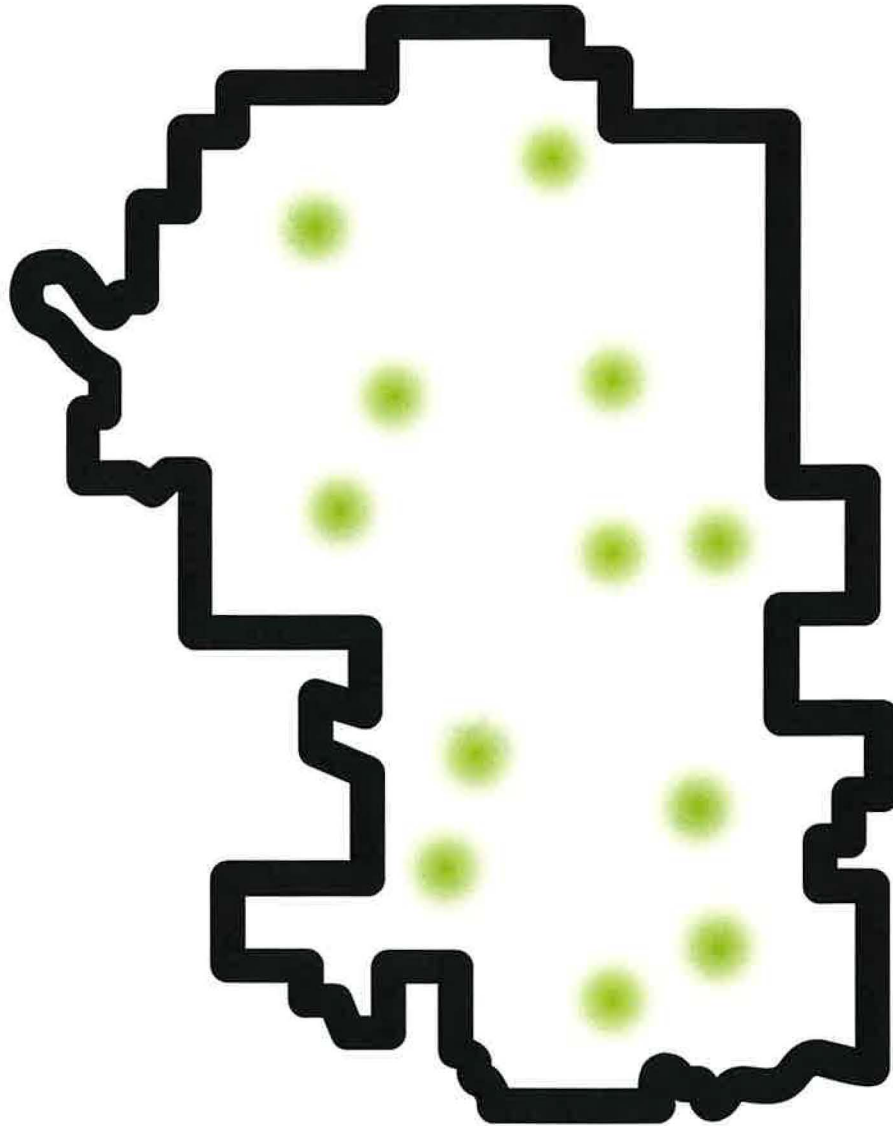
The How: Education about naturalization

The What: Learnings residents can use in their
own yards

What This Isn't:

All roadsides or grassy areas.





What This Is:

Direction to create a plan that is strategic and takes into consideration:

- safety including sightlines
- fire hazard
- budget availability



What This Is:

- Selection and planting of dedicated species that are native to Prairie Grasslands
- Use of species that compete and win over invasive species
- Drought & flood mitigation
- Wildfire resilience
- Improved habitat for pollinators
- Long term plan with cost savings



Who's Hip to this Plan?

- Calgary Fire Department
- Parks
- Roads/Mobility
- Infrastructure Services
- Climate



You belong among the wildflowers

-Tom Petty





**Let's not pasque up
this opportunity.**