

SEP 12 2018

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*Recd for Corp Record*  
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Colleen McCracken: Calgary Horticultural Society Presentation

Hello I would like to introduce you to the Calgary Horticultural Society.

The Calgary Horticultural Society has been educating and supporting Calgary's gardening community since 1908. It is one of Canada's oldest, largest and most active gardening groups with more than 4,000 members and 350 volunteers. Over the years, we have delivered classes, hosted events, planted over 20,000 trees, published gardening books and magazines, answered gardening questions, supported over 150 community gardens

We believe that as the gardening community grows, the city's quality of life is enhanced, and so is the environment.

A healthy and green city as a Council priority is our priority. Our vision is a city that gardens for life! Gardening touches many aspects of life:

provides physical, mental and social benefits

connects people with nature, reduces nature deficit disorder,

learn about science and create art and

gardening together in a communal setting reduces isolation and

builds a sense of community

The Society's focus is education.

We:

- Educate on ways and means to garden successfully in this challenging climate, and as a result assists gardeners enhance and beautify the city
- Work to foster environmental stewardship of watersheds, soils, the urban forest and the climate
- Contribute knowledge to food growing and building community connections by supporting community gardens

Our Key Programs:

Garden Show- A two-day event that celebrates spring and all things gardening. We attract 5,000 people each year.

Courses and Talks-. A wide-range of topics are presented throughout the year.

In 2017 we launched its own Master Gardener Course , which was gifted to us by the Zoo. It is a north American acclaimed program.

Plant and garlic sharing events

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Education is open to the public

Demonstration and Teaching Gardens -A traditional suburban yard has been transformed from a lawn into an outdoor classroom.

Community Gardens program now in its 17th year, is designed to strengthen them through education the creation of a network of gardens resources, expertise

The Calgary Horticultural Society and The City of Calgary have a long-standing relationship right back to our roots more than 110 years ago as part of the City Beautiful movement working to make the city more attractive to newcomers..

Today that relationship continues.

We support The City's messages about water, invasive plants, integrated pest management, rebuilding the urban canopy, orchards in community gardens and climate resiliency and now integrate them into our education programs

The Society and its volunteers can provide expertise, and expand The City's capacity to leverage resources to build knowledge and behavioural changes for Calgarians to help the city manage resources more efficiently.

Gardening is one of the ways in which Calgarians have a direct impact on water consumption and storm water quantity and quality. Our research (2015) indicated that 45% of Calgarians 55% of Albertans are gardener. Our target and our reach is residential gardeners. We have this audience and can reach out to them in a variety of ways

To-date we have connected with 1,500 Calgarians through this program to protect Calgary's water supply, use water wisely, keep our rivers healthy and build resiliency to flooding.

We also delivered 4 years of community talks through the ReTree YYC reaching more than 500 Calgarians to help the City's efforts to build a tree culture and rebuild the urban canopy.

Calgary has matured and is beautiful. Steps to rebuild the canopy, protect and enhance special historical places like Reader Rock garden, Loughheed House, the Dean House, Fort Calgary – all contribute to the value of Calgary.

Park are brimming in the summer months with newcomers sitting together celebrating, open spaces are full of families. Community gardens and urban farming are all part of a healthy and green city that I urge you to continue to fund City initiatives in this area. Cutting back will really make the city suffer.