

Creating Coventry is a community-driven plan to improve and connect our neighbourhood's parks.

It is a collaboration between community residents, the Northern Hills Community Association and Vivo for Healthier Generations.



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Good Morning

I'm Moraig McCabe, resident of Coventry Hills and creator of the volunteer led Creating Coventry project. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to let you know what matters to me, and how important our local park network is to communities.

Living in the Northern Hills, we are lucky to have access to many local green spaces, whether that be a soccer field, a natural, green corridor, or a network of smaller parks and playground spaces.

Parks are more than just green spaces that look nice. These green spaces are vital to the health and wellbeing of the residents, and allow us to:

- Connect with one another, making our neighbourhoods safer.
- Learn how to grow food and eat well, through volunteer run community gardens and the healthy eating education sessions they run.
- Get active and exercise, whether that be in a community or City organized activity, or by more spontaneous play.

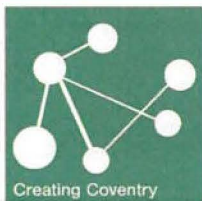
This is especially important for the many in our area who don't quite qualify for the low-income recreation passes, or those who can't get in to the oversubscribed classes at Vivo.

- Improve our air quality, by virtue of the trees and plants (as a previous speaker mentioned).
- Help protect our pollinators, through corridors designed to help them traverse our city's network of roads and built up spaces.

CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

SEP 12 2018

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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT



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If designed well, then these naturalized green spaces within our parks, with native wildflowers, also help to reduce watering and maintenance costs for the City, through the use of water-wise and environmentally tolerant plantings instead of grass.

I'm here today because I'm concerned about the proposed cuts to the Parks Capital budget.

As some of you are aware, communities like Coventry Hills and Beddington are working on plans in partnership with Parks to help to replace many of the ubiquitous developer-installed tot lots with resident chosen alternatives. Many of these alternatives are designed to be more inclusive and actually cheaper than spending \$75K on a replacement tot lot, that has the same equipment as all the others. The community led plans have been designed to make the network cheaper to maintain, while still providing more of the things residents want.

Communities and volunteers are happy to help, but we can't do it all ourselves – we need help from the City.

Without the help and vital partnership of all the various specialists at Parks, from our local representative to ecologists for our planned pollinator pods, and the capital budget which provides in-kind services for rebuilding parks, benches and more; without funds that community organizations can use as matching for grant funding, projects like Creating Coventry wouldn't happen. Playgrounds and rec spaces will just have to be taken out and grassed over, which neither meets the directives of Council, nor the will of Calgarians.

Working with communities on projects like Creating Coventry provides a long-term benefit to both residents and the Council budgets, but requires capital funding.

Thank you.