

# **Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

## **President's Report 2024**

**Yves Dansereau**

**Our vision is that individuals, communities, and governments recognize the Weaselhead as an important natural area that connects people with nature, and work collaboratively to embrace and protect it.**

**The goal of the Society is to protect and maintain the rich biodiversity of the Weaselhead/Glenmore area for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone in Calgary, now and into the future.**

**Members and Guests;**

**Welcome to AGM 2024,**

**We meet in person, and for those on ZOOM thanks for "Zooming-in".**

**This report is an overview of this year's highlights....**

**Personnel and Board**



**Members**



We have 2 outgoing board members this year:

- \* **Matt Wallace** has “many irons in the fire” and has decided to concentrate on fewer involvements. He will be an asset to the City Wide Citizen Science initiatives he spearheads. And will still be available to consult with us even though he will not pursue his directorship. Matt had been with us since 2019 and has been in part responsible and champion of our Citizen Science programs.
- \* I wish to thank **Nicole Krawczyk** for her 3 years as Treasurer, Nicole also revamped our internal accounting spread sheets and procedures to simplify our daily accounting work and her help in running the casinos. Nicole has also opted to resign and I sincerely wish her well in her endeavours.

#### **Our Board this year (2024) consisted of the following volunteers**

- **Yves Dansereau** : President
- **Gary Haerle** Vice-president:
- **Dawn Fark**: Secretary: Casino Chair.
- **Nicole Krawczyk**: *Treasurer, outgoing*
- **Susan Ryan**: Director, Physical environment, geomorphology, water resources.
- **Karen Wang**: Director
- **Kris Kerkermeier**: Director
- **Mat Wallace**: *Citizen Science, outgoing*
- **Paul Finkleman**: Past President.

#### **Contractors to the Board**

- **Maureen Luchsinger**: Executive Director
- **Rebecca Schwab**: Communications officer

#### **Our contractor naturalists responsible for our programs**

All will perform duties with our Education program delivery, leading events in the Weaselhead, managing invasive plants and the SWCRR Impact Study

- **Dylann Golbeck**: Now with Alberta Parks, and is sometimes available for our programs.
- **Sara Jordan-McLachlan**: Education Coordinator.
- **Lisa Dahlseide**: SWCRR Impact Study and spokesperson
- **Kaya Konopnicki**: Invasive Plants Program.
- **Georgia Blum**
- **Laurie Dolph**
- **Jocelyn Grosse**
- **Julie Walker**
- **Shaylene Taylor**
- **Emma Marple**
- **Ray Hawkins**



## January 2024 “Go Forward” Goal Setting Meeting Highlights

This year we decided to focus, define and prioritize our initiatives and develop goals for each initiative for the year. We also categorized our initiatives as priorities for the current year or long-term priorities. This work will also be used in the Habitat Management Plan as the basis of our work schedule.

#	Initiatives	Priority	Category  *New deliverables	Responsible
	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – June 20, 2024	High	Short-term*	Rebecca
	Nocturnal Sanctuary Designation	High	Short Term*  Ongoing – when achieve designation	Maureen
	Habitat Management Plan	High	Ongoing*	Yves
	SWCRR Impact Study	High	Short-term*	Lisa
	Education Programs	High	Ongoing*	Spencer
	Community Events	High	Ongoing	Rebecca
	Invasive Plant Program	High	Ongoing*	Dylann
	Calgary Captured/ Calgary Connect	High	Ongoing	Sara
	Citizen Science	High	Ongoing	Matt
	Key Biodiversity Areas	Med	Short-term*	Matt
	Education Building	Med	Ongoing	Lisa
	Media Relations	Med	Ongoing	Yves
	Website	Low	Ongoing	Yves
	Finance/Fundraising	High	Ongoing	Yves/Maureen/ Nicole
	Communications	High	Ongoing	Rebecca
	Professional Development	Med	Ongoing	Dylann
	Relationship Building	High	Ongoing	Yves/Gary

The following is an example of some of the initiatives and the responsible players assigned to each item We reported during the year our progress. Many of these had subgoals with details and deadlines.



## The Education Program

By Sara Jordan-McLachlan



**This is a very important part of the Society’s endeavour, much time and effort is directed to this program. It is our belief that the most important first step in preservation is Education. A population, that knows how important a natural area such as the Weaselhead is, will be more likely to respect it and help us in its preservation.**

Our Weaselhead education programs have been busy this past year!

### **Fall 2023**

Was busy right up until the weather took a turn towards the end of October. Unseasonably cold temperatures resulted in several cancellations but some classes were brave and still came!

### **2024 Spring and fall**

This spring we welcomed back some familiar faces and introduced some new ones with Julie Walker returning as a Naturalist and Emma Marple and Ray Hawkins joining us.

Our Education Coordinator Spencer Smith stepped away from his position to join the fight against wildfires this spring but Sara Jordan-McLachlan was able to step in his place.

Our spring was jam packed with classes running from the beginning of April through the end of June. Between September 2023 and June 2024 there were:

188 k-12 classes introducing roughly 4415 students,

580 parent volunteers and 229 teachers to ecoliteracy in the Weaselhead.

Fall has been a bit quieter but we have been able to work on some new programs including trialing a new Invasive Plant Program designed for grades 7-9 and hosting Science 14 (grade 10) classes for the first time. The new curriculum for grades 1-6 is gradually being adapted into our programs with full updates expected for the spring of 2025.



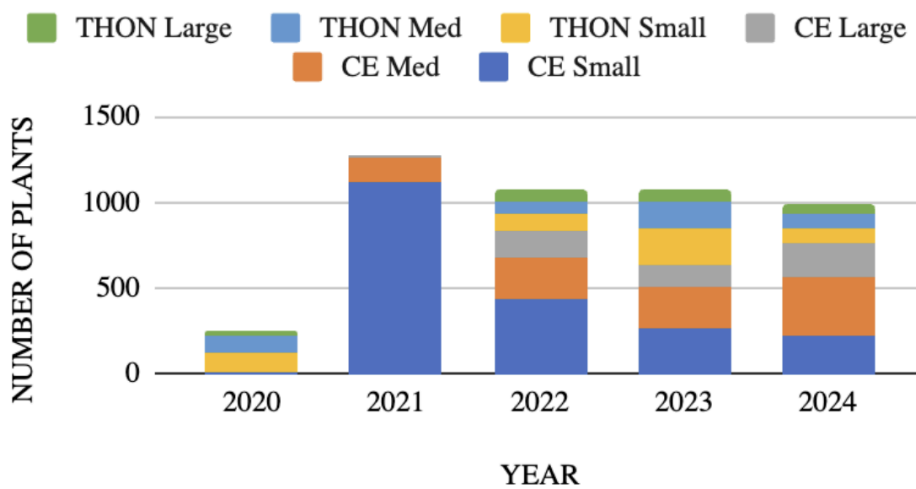


# Invasive Plant Program Summary

## Program Statistics

Number of Programs: 22  
 Number of Volunteers: 285  
 Volunteer Hours Contributed: 529

## Woody Plants Removed by YEAR



## New Programs

### Rooting For Change

The *Rooting for Change* for Youth Central empowers youth with essential STEM and communication skills to manage invasive plants, and fosters the next generation of environmental stewards dedicated to preserving local ecosystems. Participants gain practical experience and become advocates for biodiversity, helping to safeguard natural areas for future generations.

This year 9 youths participated in the program. Over the 4 weeks they learned about invasive species, went into the field to tag and remove invasive species, and developed communication material to teach people about invasive species.



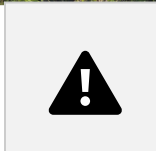
## Invasive Plant School Program

A new Invasive Plant Program was developed for Grade 7-9 (although it is suitable for High School as well). In the program students learn to identify invasive plants, understand their ecological impact, examine adaptive traits that enable them to outcompete native species, and apply environmental monitoring techniques to assess ecosystem health and the role of human activities in invasive species spread and management. New educational materials and games were created to help students learn about invasive plants.

We had 4 classes come through for the program for a total of 102 students. During the program they removed 185 Cotoneaster and 30 Tatarian Honeysuckle for a total of 205 plants taken out!

Teacher Feedback for the Program:

*“The outdoor Ed and Art teachers arranged this field trip as a collaborative activity. We communicated our intention to the Grade 7 science teachers. These teachers reported back that this day was excellent for introducing several topics from the grade 7 science curriculum. For some students it reinforced vocabulary in a hands-on way and for some it was a great living example of science in our community and the real world.”*



## Wildlife

Partnering with Miistakis Institute and Calgary Connect Program we are monitoring wildlife use of the park by wildlife using motion activated cameras:

- Please be vigilant.
- There is constant evidence of black bears, cougars, coyotes constantly frequenting the park. This year there were also frequent sightings of moose and other ungulates. Please be aware that ungulates can be more of a threat than bears.

### High Water - Low Water



- **Very High Water:** You all have probably have noticed the water level in the Reservoir was very high this year. That was intentional due to the Major Watermain Break that occurred this year. Calgary was at high risk of disruption of delivery of drinking water to Calgary Households. This had to be done to shore-up the water supply for the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant near the dam. It normally supplies water to half of the population. It did for much more of the Calgary Households during the crisis.
- **The Boardwalk;** The boardwalk will be built in sections, supported by piles drilled in the Weaselhead. updates soon.



## SWCRR Impact Study is Completed



**Dylan Golbeck, Cassiano Caue Possas Porto, Lisa Dahlseide**

The final report of our SWCRR Environmental Impact Study is now posted on the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society website. Thank you to all contributors and especially the hard work of Lisa and Dylann and all the advisors, volunteers and staff that made this possible. Great work team!

The Final SWCRR Environmental Impact Study Report 2024 covers the environmental impacts from the Southwest Calgary Ring Road Project on the Weaselhead Special Protection Natural Area from field studies from 2016 through 2022 with interpretations and recommendations. Read it here:

[Final SWCRR Environmental Impact Study Report 2024](#)

We have also created a Condensed Final SWCRR Environmental Impact Study Report 2024, which is a summarized version of the full Final Report.

Read it here:

[Condensed Final SWCRR Environmental Impact Study Report](#)

Read more about the study and previous year's reports [here](#).







WGPPS had a great year for its involvement in citizen science (also known as Community Science) events throughout Calgary in the parks we steward.

### Creek watch 2024

#### **Creek Watch Samples (June 11 - September 15):**

- 15 Visits
- Nearly each week but we had a few gaps / double-ups

#### **Information Collected:**

Air Temperature, Water Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Ammonia Nitrogen, Phosphorous, pH, Chloride, (occasional observations of biological indicators).

- Dissolved Oxygen: Generally very stable hovering around 8 -10 mg/L. We had one outlier recorded at 1mg/L (perhaps a spelling error).
- Ammonia Nitrogen: Consistent at 0.25 mg/L. 3 outliers recorded at 0.0 mg/L.

Phosphorous: Rang

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Michelle Debruyn (Creek Watch Staff) | • James           |
| • Narda Ray                            | • Ari (?)         |
| • Anita Kung                           | • Jessy (?)       |
| • Rowan Maher                          | • Jess (?)        |
| • Sarah Vermaak                        | • Shubhpreet Kaur |
| • Jessica Stewart                      | • Matt Wallace    |
| • Amanda Deis                          |                   |

- e between 0.0 mg/L and 0.06 mg/L. mode of 0.02mg/L (n=7 samples)
- pH: Consistently between 7.8-8
- Chloride: Consistently between 10mg/L(summer/fall) and 15mg/L (early summer)

All of the data can be viewed on the CreekWatch Data Portal here:

<https://www.riverwatch.ca/science-data/>

#### **Notable / frequent comments left by volunteers (recorded on data sheets):**

- High water levels (sometimes a safety hazard with limit access to the water's edge);
- Several cases of reported swimmers at the site;
- Beautiful weather/ skies;
- Lots of human activity observed including fishing, cycling, pedestrians, and kayakers/canoers.
- Occasional spill of chemicals in the lab and requests for a new thermometer/ replacement supplies.

#### **Volunteers (Sample Visits Made):**



## Nocturnal Sanctuary Progress

Yves Dansereau



## Report

The Royal Astronomical Society Canada (RASC) Board of Directors approved establishing the Nocturnal Sanctuary designation for the Weaselhead.

They are aware Weaselhead Flats will be the exemplar and look forward to the formal application.

We will be working with Roland Dechesne and Bob King on finalizing the application for the City of Calgary.

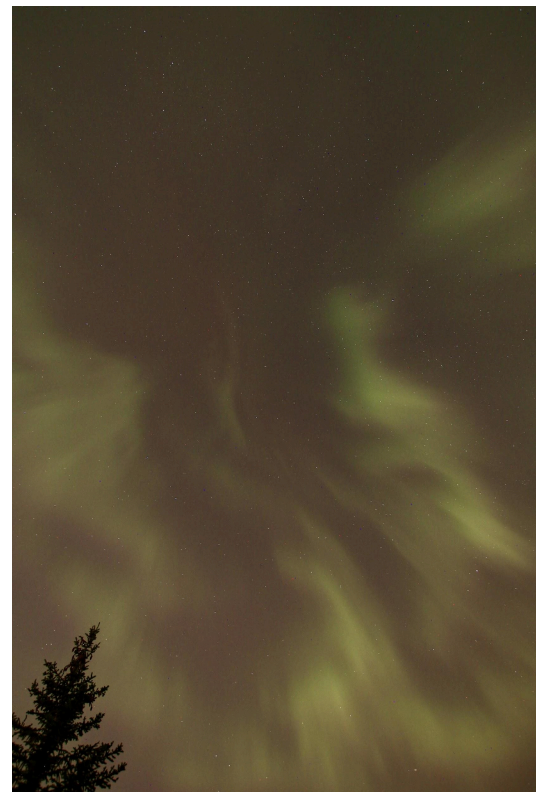
We took some more light measurements this summer.

We, the WGPPS cannot sign off on the designation, it is a requirement from the RASC that the signatory has to be the “Owner” of the properties being considered for the designation.

It is now all in the hands of the City and has been a regular item of discussion at our meetings, including a presentation from the RASC to the Parks Management personnel.

Stay tuned our meetings with the city are resuming after a hiatus for the summer field work many of the park staff needed to accomplish.

Note: There is the issue of nighttime safety on the regional pathway. This includes the issue of lighting. The City will make a final decision, and the park is officially closed.



## Weaselhead Event Outings



events held in 2024

Total Events	28
Total Participants	630



Break down of Events:

Guided Hikes	11
Webinars	2
Citizen Science	5
Public Event Booths	5
In Person Talk	2

Partnership events:

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### **Partnership Events**

Rothney Astrophysical Observatory

City Nature Challenge

Parks Canada

World Migratory Bird Day at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Mayor's Expo

Alberta Biodiversity Festival at Bow Habitat Station

CPAWS

Elbow River Watershed Partnership

Calgary Outdoor Adventure Show

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Keep an eye on our website and subscribe to our newsletter (or become a member) to find out what will be happening in 2025.



### Event Detail : Annual River Cleanup and pathway Cleanup

This event is a keystone in the stewardship of the Park. It is run annually by Paul Finkleman, this year we have seen again (2024) an uptick in the quantity of garbage found in the park.

A big Thank you for the approximately 70 Volunteers



# CASINO 2025

Wednesday **APRIL 9** and Thursday **APRIL 10**

*This is our biggest fundraiser!*  
*Volunteers needed*

## Casino



Casino Weaselhead/Glenmore Park

Society (WGPPS)

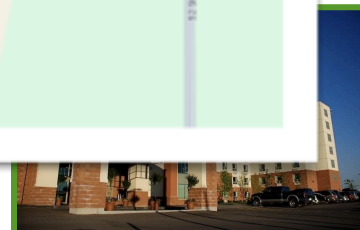
Casinos are our main source of funding outside of the educational programs.

This year again it will be held at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino.



NOVEMBER

13




## Cooperation with City Hall

Habitat Management Plan for the Weaselhead/Glenmore area Park

### Purpose of Habitat Management Plan:

Provide a clear strategy and timeline for managing the ecological health and function of the park to achieve biodiversity outcomes. Focuses on habitat conservation and restoration  
Prioritizes resource protection while balancing nature based recreation  
Identifies collaboration opportunities

The City of Calgary and The Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society have signed a Data Sharing Agreement and an Agreement that puts us as one of the official participants in the management of The Weaselhead and Glenmore Park. We meet monthly except for summer where the City staff is active doing field work. At such meetings we cover items such as the Nocturnal preserve, safety issues, park rehabilitation, ongoing physical work, impact of user visits and abuse that once in a while occurs.

 <p>April 1, 2024</p> <p>Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society PO Box 36032, Lakeview PO Calgary, AB T3E 7C6 Attention: Yves Dansereau</p> <p>Dear Mr. Dansereau,</p> <p><b>RE: Letter Agreement – Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society</b></p> <p>The City of Calgary, through its business unit Parks and Open Spaces (“<b>The City</b>”) approves the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society (the “<b>Society</b>”) to provide educational programs, habitat monitoring and stewardship activities in the Weaselhead Flats.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT</b></p> <p><b>THIS AGREEMENT</b> (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) made effective as of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</p> <p><b>BETWEEN:</b></p> <p><b>THE CITY OF CALGARY</b>, a Municipal Corporation of the province of Alberta (hereinafter referred to as “The City”)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OF THE FIRST PART</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- and -</p> <p><b>WEASELHEAD/GLENMORE PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY</b>, a non-profit organization with an office in the City of Calgary, in the province of Alberta (hereinafter referred to individually and collectively as the “Licensee”)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OF THE SECOND PART</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(referred to herein individually as a “Party” and collectively, “Parties”)</p>
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The specific areas covered by this agreement includes all of the Weaselhead and parts of North and South Glenmore park considered “Natural Areas” where most of our Educational Programs and Invasive Plant Programs exist.

This summer we were lent digital equipment and our naturalists trained in their use for identification / mapping of invasive vegetation. This also means that our current data has to be integrated in the city’s database. We have access to this database. many years of our work is now shared with the city for bilateral benefit



### What can you do as a user of the parks reporting problems:

- **Phone 311** this is important; it adds to the statistics and aids in determining what resources are needed. Repeated problems add to the importance index in the database.
- **Load the 311 app** on your portable devices, and use it to do your reporting to 311.
- <https://www.calgary.ca/311/mobile-app.html>
- **Take geo-located pictures** of the issue send them to 311.

- —>**DO NOT** interact with people at the scene breaking bylaws or causing problems. **(Personal Safety Concern)**

You now have an avenue to elevate the importance of your complaint.

- **Send all the information you have to:**
- Maureen Luchsinger ([weasel@theweaselhead.com](mailto:weasel@theweaselhead.com))  
and/or
- Yves Dansereau ([president@theweaselhead.com](mailto:president@theweaselhead.com))

### What happens with the information sent to us ?

- Problems you report will be mentioned at the monthly meetings and added to a data space City parks management shares with us.
- This in the long run will help the people managing the parks attract funds and resources needed to deal with issues.
- For example:
  - Funding regular visits by Bylaw Officers currently is not a priority and attracts costs.
  - If it is determined that funding such visits is less expensive than the remedial work needed to repair damage in the parks and the negative effect on wildlife; budgetary justification will exist to have a Bylaw Officer visit the parks to warn and/or ticket people transgressing the existing bylaws.
  - The issue of education and enforcement of the bylaws governing the parks is an important issue to us, as we foresee an increase of park usage (and abuse) by Calgarians with the densification of the city.

**I am grateful to the City, as it has been observed that there has been more visits in the Weaselhead by Bylaw Officers. Mostly on weekends. (Summer 2024).**



## In Closing

A big Thank You to all our Naturalists, Board of Directors, Members and friends for making the society what it is: enthusiasm and dedication. ...filled with talent,



**The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society  
is an inclusive organization**

Yves Dansereau

President, The Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society.



