

President's Report 2025

Yves Dansereau

Mission Statement

*We advance and foster environmental
learning, experiences, protection and
appreciation to support communities that
embrace and conserve our natural spaces*

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.

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

NOVEMBER 17 2025



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1

Personnel and Board Members

**On behalf of the Society, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board Members
Volunteer Leaders and Contractors for their significant contributions to the success of the**

WGPPS.

We have three outgoing Board Members this year. Thank you for your time and dedication.

- * **Kris Kerkermeier:** Will no longer serve on our Board. He has expressed his willingness to act as a resource when we have issues where his expertise can be of use to us.
- * **Carl Chala** Has opted to resign due to his return from retirement to full time employment.
- * **Karen Wang** has not renewed her involvement
- * **Our Board this year (2025) consisted of the following volunteers**

- **Yves Dansereau** : President
- **Gary Haerle** : Vice-president
- **Dawn Fark:** Secretary, Casino Chair
- **Carl Chala:** Treasurer outgoing
- **Susan Ryan:** Director, Physical environment, geomorphology, water resources
- **Karen Wang:** Director outgoing
- **Kris Kerkermeier:** Director outgoing

Non Board Volunteer Leaders

- **Paul Finkleman:** Annual River Clean-up

Contractors to the Board

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

Our Contractor Naturalists responsible for our programs

- **Sara Jordan-McLachlan:** Education Coordinator, Calgary Connect
- **Lisa Dahlseide:** Citizen Science, SWCRR Impact Study and spokesperson
- **Kaya Konopnicki:** Invasive Plants Program
- **Georgia Blum**
- **Laurie Dolph**
- **Julie Walker**
- **Emma Marple**
- **Ray Hawkins**



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2025 “Go

Forward”

Goal Setting Meeting Highlights

We revised and updated the goals and accomplishments. Main points still on the front burner are the Nocturnal Sanctuary and abuse / bylaw infringement in the Park.

We also decided to enhance and help with problems like swimming, off leash dogs and dog presence in restricted areas, as well as cycling on pedestrian only trails.

This will be done by “boots on the ground”, making the public aware of our presence. The resulting initiative is the Steward Program discussed later in this report.



SPONSERS



Ducks Unlimited
Canada

NT'S REPORT 3

The Education Program

By Sara Jordan-McLachlan

This is a very important part of the Society's endeavour, and much time and effort are 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 Natural Environment Park is will be more likely to respect it and help us in its preservation.



Our Weaselhead education programs have been busy this past year!

Spring 2025

All our Naturalists that joined us in 2024 returned for spring 2025 as we debuted new programming for kindergarten to grade 6 that aligns with the new Alberta science and social studies

ies curriculum. 107 classes visited in the spring ranging from kindergarten to biology 20 (grade 11). Feedback for new programs was positive with teachers pleased with how the new programs met curricular connections, supporting their work directly. After the season Naturalists gave their feedback and based on this, programs are being shifted to themes that can be used across multiple grades that will help our team better deliver outcomes. For the fall, programs remained the same as the spring with work ongoing to make the shift.

This spring also saw a new partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) providing funding to Weaselhead program development integration with DUC and subsidies to schools to attend wetland programming at the Weaselhead! Ten classes from the CBE and CSSD benefitted from

the subsidy this spring   This partnership also provides opportunity for our team to work with Ducks Unlimited Canada to support teacher training in the Weaselhead.

Summer 2025

New opportunities this summer with summer camp programs from Mount Royal University and Ilm Quest requesting full day programs from the Weaselhead. Six classes came through this summer between these opportunities.

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Fall 2025

Beautiful weather started off the fall season in mid-September with 23 classes and 5 girl guide groups visiting beginning September 15. Unfortunately, October was greatly affected by the teacher's strike that began on October 6 resulting in the cancellation of all classes (30) from October 7 to the end of the month. Ten classes still attended between October 1-6. All schools that have had to cancel showed interest in rebooking either for "at school" programs when they return or spring outdoor programs. We are hopeful that once teachers return we will receive some interest in "at school" programming over the winter.

Outside of school programs this fall, our Naturalists supported the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and MRU to guide a walk with Blackfoot knowledge holder, Running Coyote to learn about Indigenous plants. We also worked with MRU and Miistakis on a guided hike highlighting some of the work happening in the Weaselhead including Calgary Connect, the Impact Study and our Invasive Plant Program.

Girl guides and Scouts groups have also been guided through the Weaselhead by our Naturalists this fall.

2025 numbers

Between April 2025-October 2025 there were 152 classes and guide/scout groups that attended the Weaselhead engaging almost 4000 participants with the Weaselhead and our programs. The cancellations of classes due to the Teacher's strike affected 692 students that would have come to the Weaselhead.

This time has allowed for updating to "at school" programming to themes including biodiversity and ecosystems, landscape changes and human history, rivers and wetlands, dark skies, beavers and recreational impacts that can be delivered to schools as soon as they are back. Outdoor programming will also be ready to go with these themes for spring 2026.

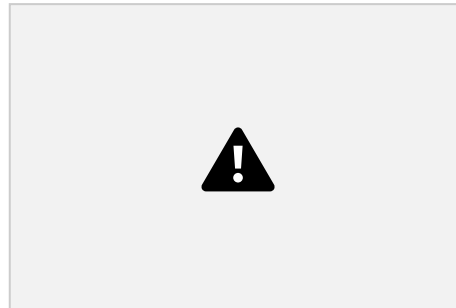


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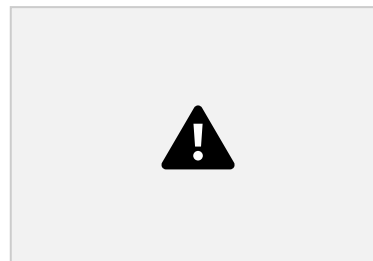
SPONSERS **The Invasive
Plant Program**
By Kaya Konopnicki

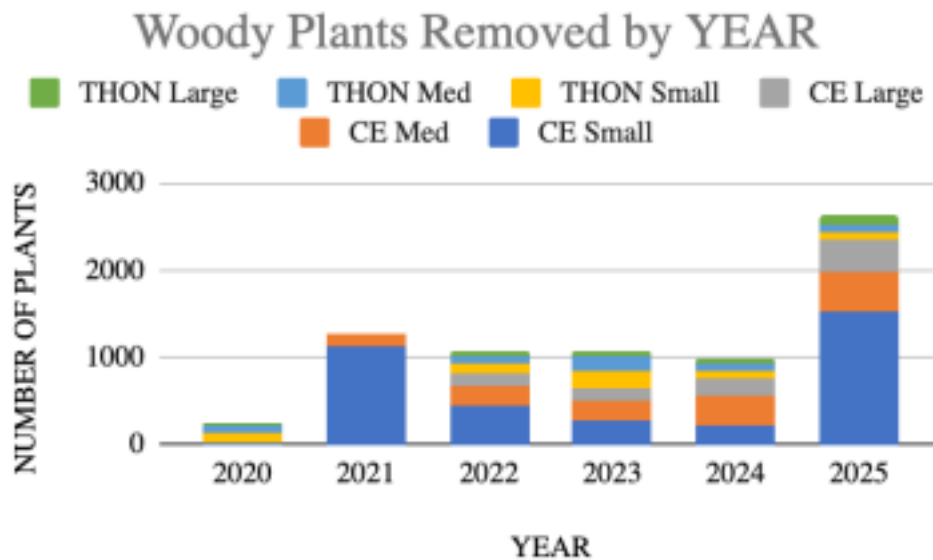


Invasive Plant Program Summary

Program Statistics

Number of Programs: 25
Number of Volunteers: 286
Volunteer Hours Contributed: 736
Number of Peking Cotoneaster removed: 2351
Number of Tatarian Honeysuckle removed: 279
Number of Common Buckthorn removed: 48





Corporate Programs

We had 2 corporate programs with Stantec this year. They were a great success and the teams that came had a wonderful time learning about and removing invasive species!



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Building Roots

This year, the Building Roots program with Youth Central gave young people hands-on experience as emerging environmental leaders. Sixteen youth learned to identify, map, and manage invasive plants and deepened their understanding of native species through a quadrant study in the Weaselhead's native grasslands.

Participants also created their own herbarium, carefully collecting and pressing plant specimens

to support future learning and plant identification.

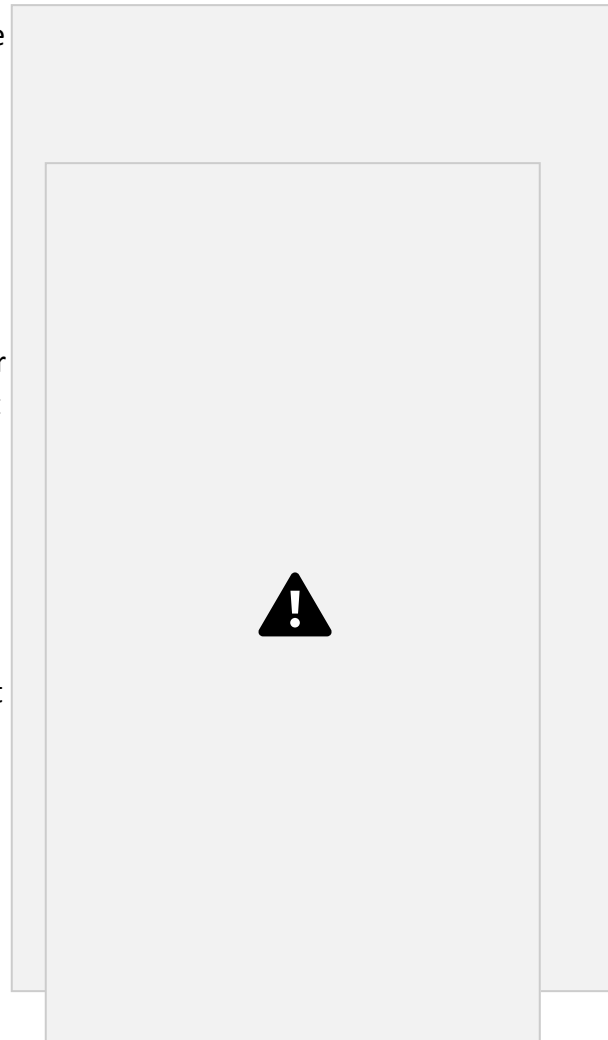
Alongside STEM and communication skills, youth gained practical construction experience by building four native seed libraries. These free libraries will be placed in the Weaselhead, the Tsuut'ina Nation, and nearby communities to encourage residents to grow native plants and support biodiversity.

By the end of the program, youth left with real-world conservation skills, confidence, and a stronger connection to the land, helping grow the next generation of environmental stewards.

Public Outreach

This year, we brought the Invasive Plant Program into the community by hosting outreach booths at several local events. Our team connected with residents at the City of Calgary's Spring Cleanup, Lakeview Family Fun Day, Mother's Day at the top of the hill, two events at the Bow Habitat Station, and the Tsuut'ina Open House. These conversations helped raise awareness about invasive species, their impact, and how people can get involved.

Throughout the season, we also displayed educational posters at the Weaselhead entrance and near the shed, highlighting different invasive plants found in the area. Visitors were encouraged to take photos of any invasive species they saw and report them on iNaturalist, helping us expand community-driven monitoring and support early detection efforts. We also created a Project on iNaturalist to keep track of all invasive species identified in the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park areas.



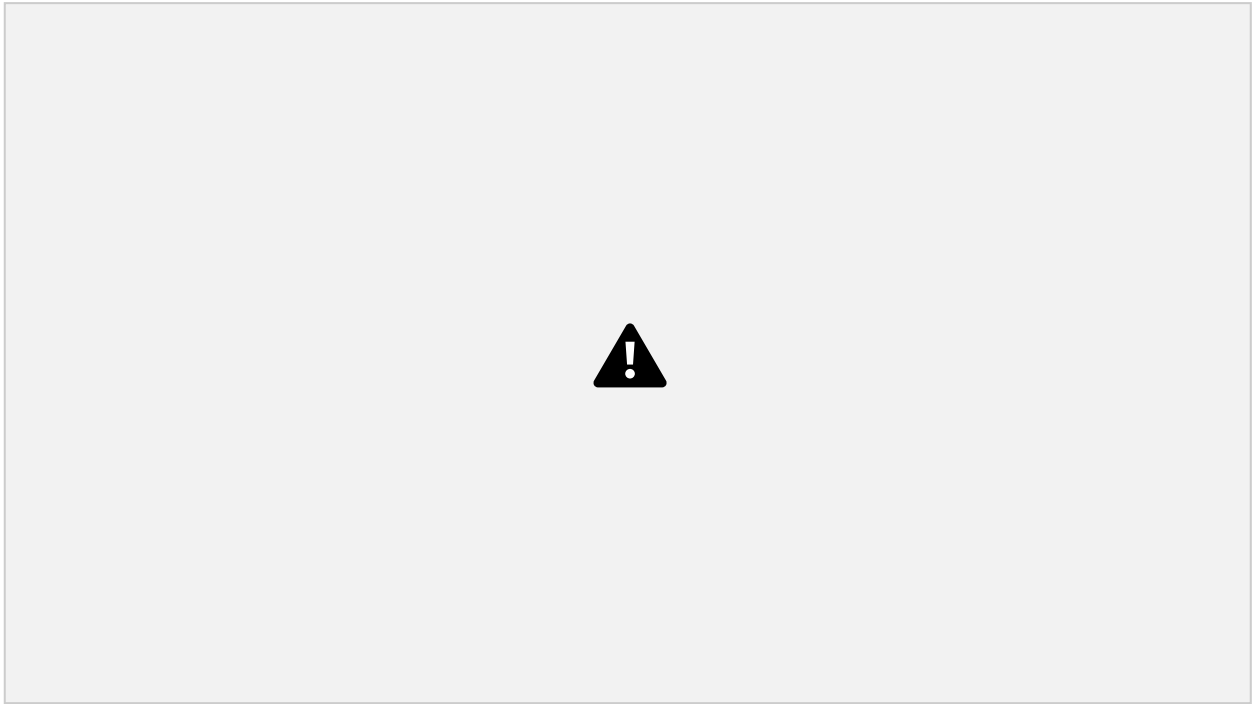
This year we built a stronger relationship with the Tsuut'ina Nation and our Invasive Plant Program. We held 2 invasive species workshops with their staff, wrote an article for their newsletter, and were able to attend their Open House. This partnership strengthened our understanding of their challenges with invasive plants on their land and we were able to share knowledge that we have gained developing our Invasive Plant Program.

Invasive Plant School Program

A new Invasive Plant Program was developed for Grade 10-12. In the program students learn to identify invasive plants, understand their ecological impact, examine adaptive traits that enable them to outcompete native species, apply environmental monitoring techniques such as quadrats to assess ecosystem health, have the chance to mechanically remove invasive species, and the role of human activities in invasive species spread and management.

Materials made for both the Building Roots and the previous Grade 7-9 program were incorporated into this program.

The program will be made available over the winter and teachers will be able to book it for the spring.





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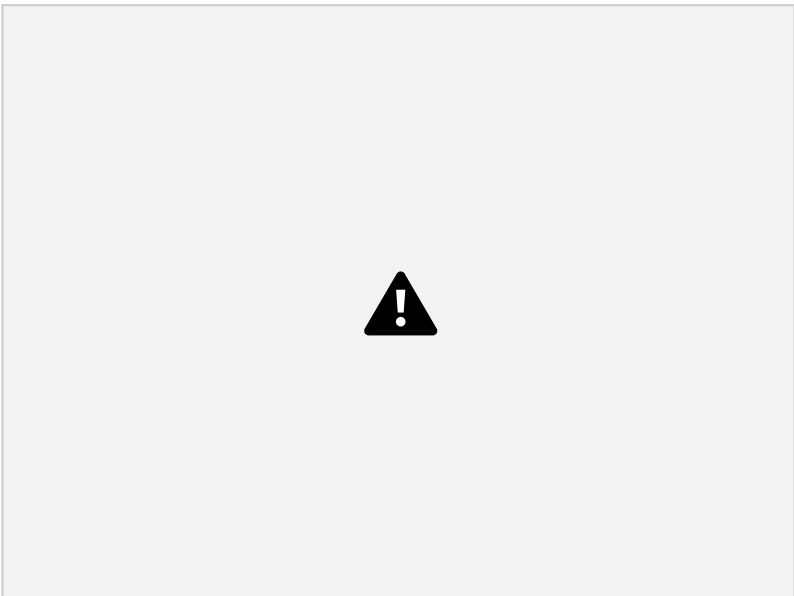
Citizen Science Creekwatch and Stewards Program

By Lisa Dahlseide

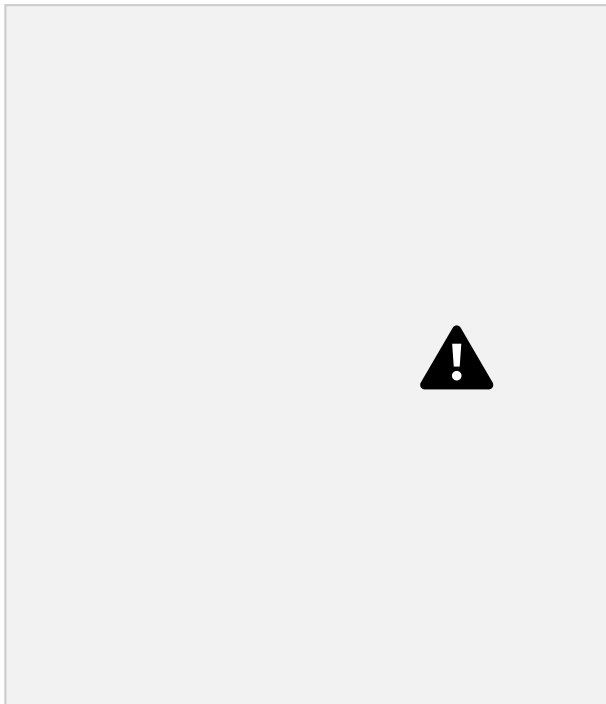
CreekWatch

Program Description

The purpose of the program is to analyze water samples from the Elbow River as "Stewards of our Waterways." We are determining the health of our waterways by monitoring the various physical and chemical characteristics of the system. This data is analyzed to determine if there



are changes of concern. **Program Highlights**



Water temperature has been as warm as 17 degrees Celsius and we have recorded a rise in phosphorous levels over the years. Our Citizen Scientists contribute valuable data leading to a better understanding of the changes in the Elbow River and the watershed.

Volunteer Opportunities

Citizen Science - hands-on volunteering that involved actual scientific experiments. A great opportunity to learn about our waterways and the effects of development. Volunteering in the outdoors in a beautiful part of Calgary.



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Program Timeframe

Program started at the Weaselhead in 2022 and runs from May until October but may vary depending on the weather. Ideally volunteers would be testing every week, but we also accept bi

monthly or monthly testers. This volunteer role takes about 1.5 hours to complete and requires initial training time.



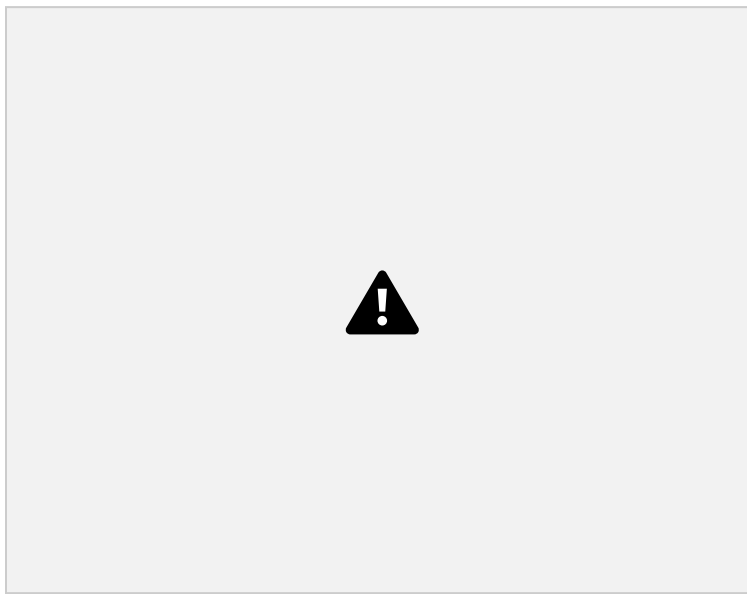
Results

CreekWatch water quality data has remained consistent in safe values.

Three water quality tests were conducted, July 15 (WGPPS CreekWatch Volunteers), September 23 and October 20 (by LYNX Students).

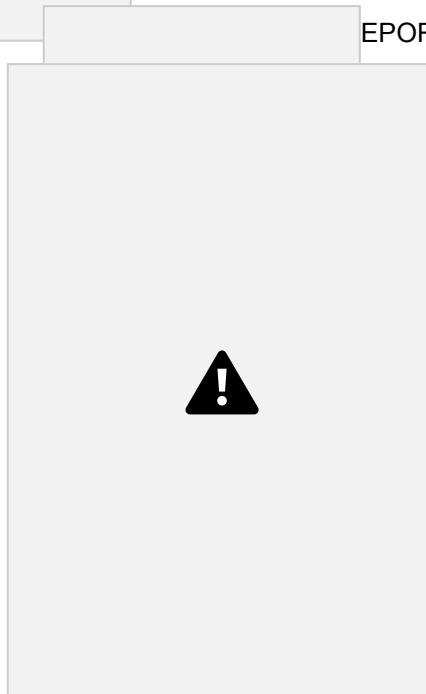
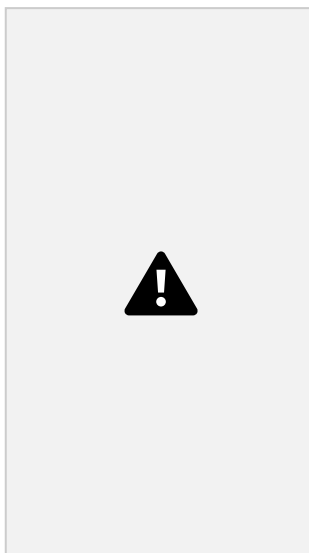
We had 8 CreekWatch volunteers. A big thank you to all our volunteers.





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New program !!!!

Steward Program

New Program !!!!

Program Description

The purpose of the program is to provide a presence on the land on a regular basis by hiking designated trails and recording information including park users, areas of concern, and plant and wildlife sightings. The program provides the opportunity to document scientific information through our Citizen Science and Invasive Plant initiatives. The role is to provide “boots on the ground” to gain a bet

ter appreciation of the use and misuse of the Weaselhead, as an ambassador to the Weaselhead.

Program Highlights

Stewards have enjoyed wildlife encounters with squirrels, beavers and birds. One found a trail cam intentionally covered up with a leaf, and uncovered it. Many fallen trees crossing the path have been documented and reported to the city for removal. And together we build our 311 reports of off-leash dogs and bikes off trail. As a team, we are working towards improved conservation and protection of the Weaselhead.

Volunteer Opportunities

The opportunity to enjoy the Weaselhead while hiking and learning more about the natural environment of the Weaselhead. The program provides a chance to meet community members and others interested in conservation. Stewards receive an orientation and formal training as well as information communication sessions and updates through WhatsApp.

Program Timeframe

The program runs year-round and requires a minimum of eight shifts per year, any time of the year. Stewards must patrol in groups of two for a duration of 2 hours per shift. Volunteers can schedule times most suitable to them. A police reference check is required as is attendance at training sessions.

16 Stewards signed up in 2025.

18 Steward Reports have been submitted between June 11- Oct 9

A big thank you to all our volunteers.

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Event Participants

Total Events 25

Total People Reached 959

Guided Hikes 11 Webinars 1 Citizen

Science 4 Public Event Booths 6

In-Person Talks 3



Partnership Events

Rothney Astrophysical Observatory
City Nature Challenge
Alberta Community Bat Program
World Migratory Bird Day at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Mayor's Expo
Alberta Biodiversity Festival at Bow Habitat Station Mountain Equipment Company
Leave No Trace
Teacher's Convention
Lakeview Community Association
Tsuut'ina Nation
Friends of Fish Creek

WGPPS Events Events By Rebecca

Schwab





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By Paul Finkleman

We once again had a VERY successful Weaselhead Pathway and Shoreline Clean-up.

In early May with 90 participants of all ages helping out. Despite the cooler than usual weather,

it was still a great turn-out, and spirits were high.

Over the past 31 years, we have had 40 clean-ups. (From 1995 to 2004, we had clean-ups in the spring AND the fall.) Averaging approximately 60 people per clean-up, with each person picking up (again, an average estimation) 100 pieces of litter per person, that works out to close to a quarter of a million pieces of litter that volunteers have picked up, from cigarette butts to



dilapidated old bikes, from candy wrappers to Kleenex tissues. And that's not including the numerous tidbits of trash picked up by a number of people as they stroll through the natural area year around!

A big "THANK YOU!" to ALL the volunteers who have helped to keep the park as pristine as possible all these years. That chirping, rustling and hooting that you can faintly hear in the



2025



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 13

WGPPS CASINO FUNDING

Event Organized by Dawn Fark



- 2-night casino April 9 & 10, 2025 at Deerfoot Inn & Casino
- 36 volunteers - 4 new volunteers
- Received \$88,241.62
- To be spent over the next 18 - 24 months
- Volunteering for a casino is a significant time commitment and it's getting harder to find volunteers

This the most important part of our funding.

A big thank you to all our volunteers.

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Cooperation

The City, Neighbours and other focus groups



Calgary Connect is a long term, multi partner wildlife monitoring project that has been ongoing in the City of Calgary since 2017. This past year included some exciting news as the project received funding for another 3 years from the Calgary Foundation! In addition to continued remote camera monitoring in the

City of Calgary, including the Weaselhead and Glenmore Parks where 11 cameras are still operating, the project is expanding to understand landscape connectivity beyond the City in what is being called "Nature's Network". As part of this work, cameras are going to be installed in parts of Rocky View and Foothills county near roads that have a high number of wildlife/ vehicle collisions. The WGPPS is excited to continue this work!

- 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.
- 2025 has been a particular eventful regarding bears. Many sightings and one forced relocation due to discovery by a young bear of human food and fruit bearing trees in local communities.





Working with “Parks and Open Spaces”

High Water

We have submitted a letter outlining the effects of high water levels in the reservoir. The primary objective remains ensuring the City of Calgary maintains adequate reserves of fresh water. No significant changes in reservoir management are anticipated as a result.

Northwest Corner of the Park

Erosion continues to shift the Elbow River toward Weaselhead Road (TsuuT'ina). Engineers and geotechnical specialists are monitoring the situation closely. This erosion is not related to the high water levels in the reservoir; it tends to accelerate when river flow exceeds approximately 40–45 cm/s.

Please exercise caution in this area—the riverbanks are permanently unstable, and many unofficial trails have either eroded away or now lead to dead ends.

Invasive Plant Management

Our Invasive Plant Program continues to work closely with the City's Pest Management operations, and this collaboration remains strong. The recent discovery of a spent munition shell by individuals using metal detectors has resulted in a change of focus for our work, our efforts have now shifted toward North Glenmore Park, where invasive species remain abundant and accessible. Management strategies of invasives in the area once occupied by the former “Camp Sarcee” is under review

Boardwalk Project

The boardwalk project remains under active review, and the commitment to proceed still stands. Several steps must be completed before construction can begin, including consultations with federal agencies overseeing Navigable Waters and with the Department of National Defence due to potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) concerns.

Additionally, the regional paved trail west of Beaver Pond is slated for relocation rather than reconstruction. Geotechnical assessments determined that rebuilding the existing trail would be both cost-prohibitive and damaging to the hillside. A boardwalk or similar alternative is currently being evaluated.

Public Conduct – “Nude Beach”

Issues of **nudity** and **lewd behaviour** near “Nude Beach” have been discussed with both City Parks staff and our Ward Councillor.

It is important to note that public nudity falls under police jurisdiction, not bylaw enforcement. If you witness inappropriate behaviour, particularly in the presence of minors, please contact the Calgary Police Service non-emergency line at 403-266-1234.

Representatives from neighbouring communities have expressed strong concern, noting that such behaviour is disrespectful and offensive.

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Habitat Management Plan – Weaselhead/ Glenmore Park

Status: Near completion.

The Habitat Management Plan will provide a clear strategy and timeline for maintaining the ecological health and function of the park, with a focus on:

- Habitat conservation and restoration
- Protecting resources while supporting nature-based recreation
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration

This plan will serve as a key framework for achieving long-term biodiversity and stewardship goals.

Progress Report Sanctuary designation

The **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)** Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a *Nocturnal Sanctuary* designation for the Weaselhead. They recognize that **Weaselhead Flats** will possibly be an exemplar site and are looking forward to receiving the formal application.

We are currently working with **Roland Dechesne** and **Bob King** to finalize the application on behalf of the **City of Calgary**.

It should be noted that the **Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS)** cannot sign off on the designation. RASC requires that the signatory be the *owner* of the lands being considered—therefore, the responsibility lies with the **City of Calgary**. The matter remains a regular topic of discussion at our meetings.

RASC representatives have also presented the proposal to City Parks Management and staff.

Note: Nighttime safety along the regional pathway continues to be an important consideration, particularly regarding the issue of lighting. The City must take this into account in its final decision, even though the



park is
officially closed at 11:00 p.m.

Progress has slowed for both WGPPS and the City due to spring-through-fall fieldwork undertaken by City environmental staff. We anticipate the document will be finalized and signed during **Q2 2026**



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All Visitors to the park

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

Step 1 – Record and Report

- **Stewards:** Enter all relevant information in the spreadsheet and **forward it to Lisa Dahlseide**.
- **Call 311** – this is *very important*. Every report contributes to the City's data, helping determine where resources are most needed. Repeated reports strengthen the *importance index* in the City's database.
- **Download and use the 311 mobile app** to submit reports directly from the field:



[City of Calgary 311 App](#)

- Whenever possible, **take geo-located photos** of the issue and include them with your 311 report.

Safety First – Always !!!!!!!!!

- **Visitors:** Do *not* interact with individuals who are breaking bylaws or behaving inappropriately. Your **personal safety is the top priority**.
- **Stewards:** Follow established procedures.
Engage as a **team only** and **only if** the situation is clearly safe. **Never act alone**.

Step 2 – Share Information

If you've submitted a 311 report, you can help us understand the scope of the problems by forwarding all relevant details (including photos and the 311 service request number) to: •

Maureen Luchsinger: weasel@theweaselhead.com

• **Yves Dansereau:** president@theweaselhead.com

Collecting this information over time helps us notify park management and identify recurring concerns and secure the **funding and resources** needed to address issues effectively.

When to Contact Police

- For incidents involving **nudity or lewd behaviour**, contact the **Calgary Police Service** non-emergency line: **403-266-1234**.

- For any **emergency or threat to personal safety**, call **911** immediately. NOVEMBER 17 2025



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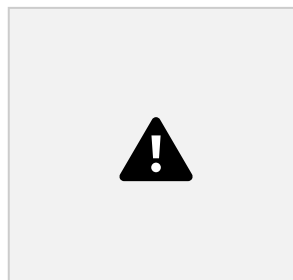
In Closing

Acknowledgements

A heartfelt *thank you* to all our **Naturalists, Board of Directors, Members, Volunteers and Friends** for making the Society what it is—an organization filled with **talent, enthusiasm, and dedication**.

Your continued commitment, volunteer spirit, and deep appreciation for the natural world are what allow us to protect, study, and celebrate the Weaselhead and Glenmore Parks. Whether through fieldwork, outreach, research, or community engagement, each of you contributes to the vitality and success of our shared mission.

Together, we have built a community that not only cares for these remarkable natural spaces, but also inspires others to understand and value them for generations to come.



The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society
is an inclusive organization

With sincerity, Yves Dansereau

President, The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 19