



The Little Book of Happy Thanks

Thank you

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



We're learning...naturally.

As the executive director of Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society, I have seen the tremendous outpouring of love and support for Calgary's largest urban park. Our programs, which are for both the young and young-at-heart, help our mission to protect Fish Creek Provincial Park's natural environment and inform park users.

I have a particular love for our Learning Naturally program. The Learning Naturally program teaches economically disadvantaged and newly immigrated children from schools across Calgary the wonders of the natural world and the importance of environmental conservation. For children to better understand how they interconnect with nature, the Learning Naturally program offers a variety of curriculum-linked activities that teach them about being active outdoors, respecting nature and understanding the diverse ecosystems of Fish Creek Provincial Park. We believe that when children have new and fun experiences in nature they become lifelong lovers of nature.

In an effort to share the impact of this program has in our community, we've created this: our little book of happy thanks. Filled with the artwork of past year's participants, I hope you will consider supporting this program as a financial donor.

Kindly,
Nic DeGama-Blanchet

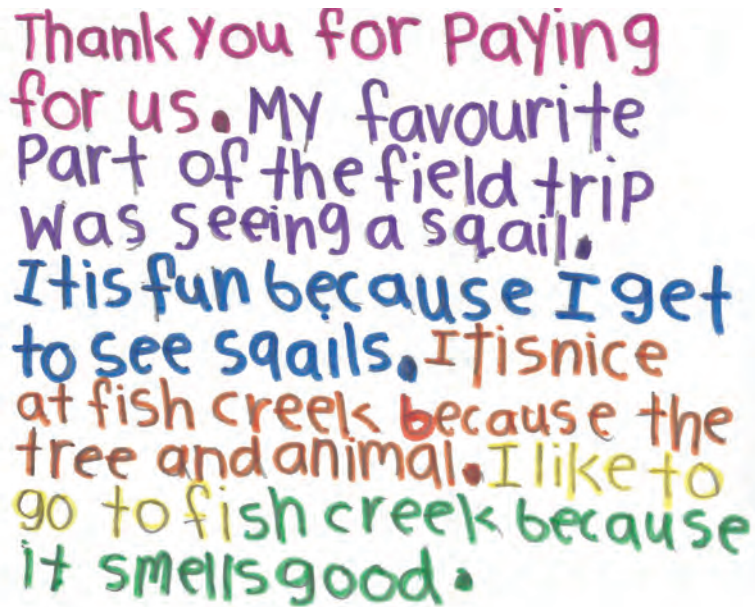
"My name is Taylor. I'm from James Short Memorial. I'm in grade 3. My teacher is Ms. Shaw. I learned new animal facts. When we got there, a squirrel kept throwing acorns down out the tree."



squirrel

Why we do what we do

Our mission is to deliver top-quality, curriculum-linked outdoor education for Calgary's children to inspire social awareness of conservation, a consciousness of sustainability and a passion for nature. We want to inspire a new generation of informed, engaged and aware park users who support a culture of stewardship and conservation.

A photograph of a child's handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in various colors of marker: pink, purple, blue, orange, and green. The handwriting is somewhat messy and childlike.

Thank you for Paying
for us. My favourite
Part of the field trip
was seeing a sqail.
It is fun because I get
to see sqails. It is nice
at fish creek because the
tree and animal. I like to
go to fish creek because
it smells good.

The Learning Naturally Program builds curriculum connections that enable students to experience first hand what they learn in the classroom.

Friends of Fish Creek delivers this program to:

- Foster community involvement and engagement with the park
- Educate a future generation about the wonders of the park and the natural world
- Promote responsible usage of an amazing natural space
- Encourage children to enjoy the park through recreational activities

Enriching the lives of Calgary's children

The Learning Naturally Program creates opportunities for economically disadvantaged and newly immigrated school children to learn about nature in Fish Creek Provincial Park. It operates weekly during the spring and fall and is delivered by dedicated Friends of Fish Creek staff.

The program is tailored for children from kindergarten to grade six. Children learn about the wonders of the natural world and the importance of environmental conservation through programs like Insect Intrigue, Wildlife Cycles, Plant Communities, Wetlands, Tree Tales, the Fish Creek Family, Fish Creek Land Histories and Stories, and much more.

The cost of this program is approximately \$10 per student to attend. Through grassroots fundraising efforts, the Friends of Fish Creek delivers this program at no cost to parents or schools.



A child's butterfly



A child's falcon



A child's deer

I would like to thank you for paying for our feild trip bus ride to fish creek park! We wer learning about the red squirrel and woodpeckers. I am from James short memorail in grade 3. We saw a squrrel droping pinecones from a pine tree! And my classmates wer trying to cech them.



Our Thanks

Without the generous support of Calgary's families, businesses, communities and individuals, we would not have the opportuntiy to offer this program.

Sincenely: Caitlyn

Building a strong relationship with nature

Our actions impact the environment. Learning Naturally Program encourages children to respect the environment around them and instills a passion for environmental protection and sustainability. Children increase their knowledge about plants and wildlife, including young and newborn birds and mammals they may come across in Fish Creek Provincial Park.



NATURAL AREAS LIKE FISH CREEK PARK ARE A WELCOMING PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY AND SPEND TIME


By spending time in Fish Creek Provincial Park under supervision and leadership, children become increasingly comfortable in the Park and want to spend more time in exploring the outdoors. We want children to view the Park as an extension of their own backyard.



IT'S ESSENTIAL TO COMBINE LEARNING WITH FUN

The concept is simple. Children learn more and retain information longer when they're having fun. Learning in a new and exciting way, students become more aware of their surroundings in nature and gain enjoyment from identifying animals, recognizing plants and distinguishing bird songs.



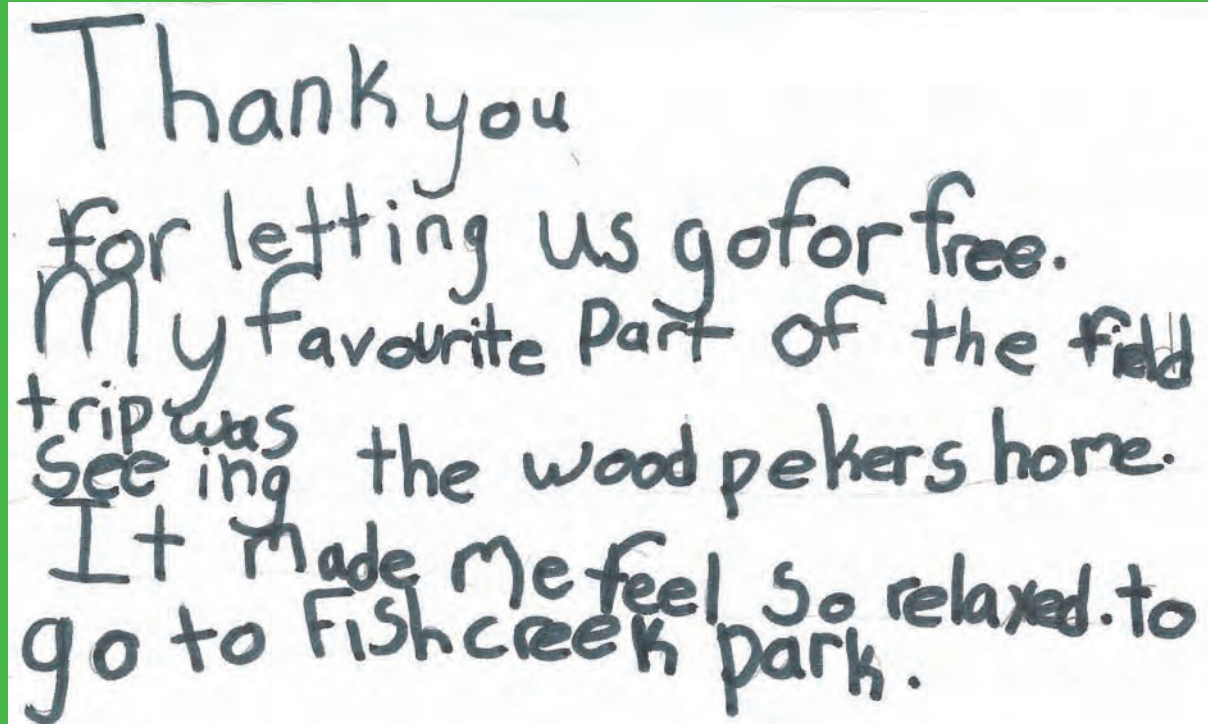


"I learned so much. When we went for a walk, I hugged every tree I saw, and if you have ever been there that's a lot of trees. I think I got a whole lot of splinters, but that's part of the fun."

Love: Sydney

Sharing our world with nature

Ecological integrity, social well-being and economic growth are deeply interdependent on each other. When children learn about nature at a young age, they can see how they can make an important difference in the world by living responsibly.

A photograph of a piece of white lined paper with handwritten text in black ink. The handwriting is in a casual, child-like cursive style. The text is arranged in several lines, with some words being larger than others, such as 'Thank you' and 'fishcreek park'. The paper is set against a solid green background.

Thank you
for letting us go for free.
My favourite part of the field
trip was seeing the woodpeckers home.
It made me feel so relaxed to
go to fishcreek park.



Refining “return on investment”

Connecting to the natural world is essential for children's health and development since it strengthens their body, mind and spirit. Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, less aggressive and show better concentration. Your sponsorship in Learning Naturally is an investment in a future generation of healthy children.

"Thank you for inviting me to Fish Creek Park. I really want to come again. I like going there because we got to learn about things about bugs."

- Jennifer, grade 3

Thank you for your money and
your help to bring us to
Fish Creek Park and to
help us learn. I know you
paid big money to bring us
to Fish Creek park and I
can't pay you back but
this is the best I can do
and thank you very much!

Trishia St. Rupert School

Help us build strong communities

Friends of Fish Creek has developed programs to help foster community involvement, educate the public about the wonders of the park and the natural world, and protect this natural area. Our programs encourage people to respect Fish Creek Provincial Park and take responsibility for its well-being. We encourage people to enjoy the park through recreational activities and provide ways for the community to contribute to an area that means so much to them.

By educating children about nature and environmental awareness, we are teaching them how their actions impact the environment and to think on a larger scale. Students develop confidence and curiosity and these lessons get integrated into everyday life.

Our staff and volunteers are passionate about getting people outside to enjoy nature responsibly, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park, and playing an important role in conservation.



Our goals for 2015 and beyond is to teach children to:

- *Appreciate and co-exist with nature*
- *Be mindful of their surroundings*
- *Play safe outdoors*
- *Embrace new surroundings*
- *Feel at peace and relaxed by nature*
- *Think about how they belong to the environment*



How you can support Learning Naturally

Every donation dollar goes directly toward the service delivery of Learning Naturally. Through grassroots fundraising we're able to offer this program to more eager school children each year.

ONETIME GIFT

Can be made through our website, through CanadaHelps.org or by calling the office.

MONTHLY GIVING

Divide your gift into smaller, monthly automatic donations.

SPONSOR A CLASS

Call our office to have your family or business sponsor an entire class of students.

Printed on 30% recycled paper.

Get in Touch

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