

Our mission is: To engage the community through activities and awareness
to conserve a truly unique naturalized urban park.

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CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS, 1992 - 2022

This year the Friends of Fish Creek are pleased to celebrate our 30th Anniversary! Since 1992 we have worked with community members, Park Management and a variety of community partners and supporters to help protect and preserve this park. Stay tuned for information about our exciting plans to celebrate our thirtieth year of bringing the park and community together!

PARK PROTECTOR NEEDED

**Start the New Year by becoming a Fish Creek
Provincial Park Protector!**

Fish Creek Provincial Park is a cherished natural green space we are fortunate to have in the city, and all of the Friends' programs and activities are designed to help preserve biodiversity and ensure a sustainable park environment. We rely on personal donations from community members like you to support our conservation, stewardship, and engagement activities here in this park. Through the Park Protector program, a monthly donation will be effortlessly withdrawn from a credit card of your choosing and you will receive a valuable tax receipt for your contribution. The Park Protector monthly donor program is the most convenient way to support Fish Creek Provincial Park everyday. Choose to donate \$10, \$30 or even \$50 each month, and rest assured that your hard-earned donation will be used effectively and efficiently right here in Fish Creek. For more information please visit

friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup



Photo: White-tailed deer, Ken Wright



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FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES

RE-ENVISIONING FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES

KATIE BAKKEN, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

Fish Creek community members are rich in knowledge and ideas. We are fortunate to have experienced many situations when infrastructure and programming have been improved precisely because engaged community members shared their ideas.

In 2021, a newer community member approached us with the idea to reclaim the historic great blue heron nesting site west of the Bow Valley Ranch. This former preservation zone, which is no longer used by herons, has now been fully reclaimed, with all the derelict posts and fencing removed from the site, allowing the area to experience natural processes once again.

In 2020, the single track trail was rejuvenated because a long-time volunteer approached us with the idea and took the lead in carrying the project out, from mapping the signs to leading the volunteer outings.

We truly appreciate when community members bring new ideas and a sense of commitment, and would like to create a more proactive process for greater efficiency, productivity and community engagement.

Currently, Fish Creek Speaker Series largely consist of simply informing the community. In support of our goal of facilitating higher-level engagement and fostering a more proactive process for managing new ideas, we are re-envisioning Speaker Series.



Most Speaker Series events will continue to feature a multi-media presentation highlighting a topic related to nature, wellness, cultural heritage, and so on, but a handful of events each year will take on a new focus, such as a volunteer fair or a pitch night.

A volunteer fair is a great way to showcase current and upcoming volunteer opportunities to invite and hopefully inspire community members to get involved.

A pitch night is a chance for community members to share ideas and feedback about pre-approved projects or propose new projects that aim to restore, reclaim, or enhance either existing infrastructure or current programming project. New ideas would need to be submitted in advance through an online form. Working with AEP, Friends staff would then create a shortlist of the most feasible ideas, and invite those proposing the short-listed ideas to pitch them to the community at the pitch night. The community could then voice their support, ideas, questions or concerns relating to the projects. Our goal is for community members to actively take part in every step of the process, from intention to implementation, of the chosen project.

If you have an idea for a special project, stay tuned. The spring newsletter will include an article explaining how to submit your idea! We hope you will continue to join us for Fish Creek Speaker Series events, which will remain online for the time being, and we are looking forward to returning to in-person programming at the Environmental Learning Centre when the time comes.

QUIZ QUESTION

In what year did the Provincial Government purchase the Bow Valley Ranch area from Patrick Burns in order to begin developing Fish Creek as a park?

The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

WELCOME BACK, DYLAN!

SHANA BARBOUR, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

Last summer, we had the pleasure of hosting Dylan Barnes as a Canada Conservation Corps (CCC) intern. He worked with us between June and September, lending critical and consistent support as a Native Nursery Champion, Weed Watcher and Riparian Monitoring Steward, while also spending many hours planting poplars, whipping weeds and helping us to pilot bio-control work for the first time. Dylan proved to be such a perfect fit for our organization, that we invited him to join us as our newest, full-time staff member. On December 13, he came on board as a Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator, with a focus on poplar forest stewardship.

Dylan has a Bachelor's degree in Social Cultural Anthropology from the University of Calgary, and has also completed SAIT's Automotive Service Technician program. He is active as a volunteer, with past involvement in Calgary Reads, Humans of Calgary, and Pioneer Camp Alberta, in addition to outdoor leadership training and experience. The CCC internship gave Dylan the opportunity to begin following his heart into the outdoors, and time spent with the Friends helped him to understand the importance of community, as a

critical part of successful environmental conservation work.

He looks forward to helping to foster and grow our connections to community through citizen science work, and to

inspire others to help us continue our pursuit of a sustainable Fish Creek, that future generations can enjoy as we do today.

We would also like to express our thanks to [Eco Canada](#), for supporting Dylan's position through their Science Horizons wage subsidy program. Welcome back, Dylan! We are so pleased to have you join our team.



COVID-19 SAFETY UPDATE

The Friends of Fish Creek are committed to safety in all we do, and are doing our best to respond and adapt to the changing public health situation. Under our new proof of vaccination program, volunteers must show the proof of vaccination QR code or medical exemption documentation in order to be able to see and sign up for shifts. We are grateful to each of our volunteers for diligently working to prioritize safety for all throughout the pandemic.

Volunteers can learn more about the proof of vaccination program by logging into [MyImpactPage](#) and reading the "News" section. Those wishing to register for public programs will need to indicate in the program registration form that they will present their Alberta Vaccine Record QR Code or medical exemption documentation when they arrive for the first program session.

To read more about the new Alberta Vaccine Record system, please visit <https://covidrecords.alberta.ca/home>

SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS PRESENTED BY ALTALINK

FISH CREEK COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOW IMMENSE SUPPORT FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink program (BFK) supports over 200 local children's charities each year in Calgary, and is run in conjunction with the Shaw Charity Classic presented by Suncor golf tournament. The Friends are very grateful that Learning Naturally was once again accepted as a Birdies for Kids charitable program in 2021. Through BFK, donations are matched up to 50% by the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation and go a long way in supporting Learning Naturally here in Fish Creek.

The TD Learning Naturally program provides children between grades K - 6 from economically disadvantaged schools with an unforgettable field trip here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Without this program, these children may not have the same opportunity to explore this breathtaking natural area within the city as other school-aged children do. For many of the students in this program, their TD Learning Naturally field trip acts as not only their introduction to Fish Creek Provincial Park but to nature itself here in Canada.

Through personal donations we raised over \$5,630 and would like to thank everyone who donated. Special thanks to the Sarjeant family for their most generous contribution of \$4,000! The Friends would like to thank Shaw Communications and Suncor for donating an additional \$858 and \$430 respectively.

After the donations were matched, we raised \$11,046 in total, making 2021 the most successful Birdies for Kids campaign to date! With these funds we will be able to provide 1,140 children with a truly memorable outdoor learning experience in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the TD Learning Naturally field trips have been put on hold for most of 2020 and into 2021, but we are pleased to announce that regular Learning Naturally programs resumed this past autumn and are taking place at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre at Shannon Terrace.

Thank you again to all donors for supporting this essential educational program, and special thanks to the Patron Group, Shaw Communications and AltaLink. Your support has ensured that the TD Learning Naturally program will continue to enrich the lives of Calgary's youth for many years to come.

Birdies for Kids donations will go a long way in helping to provide unforgettable learning opportunities for children in this amazing park through the Learning Naturally program.



THANK YOU TO IN-LINE PIGGING SOLUTIONS

The Friends would like to express our sincere gratitude to our friends at In-Line Pigging Solutions for their most generous donation of a Ford F150 truck. This gift came unexpectedly at the end of 2021 and we are thrilled to have another stewardship vehicle available for use. In-Line donated our Dodge 5500 in 2020 and have once again gone above and beyond what it means to be a generous, community-focused business. If you would like to help out the Friends with vehicle expenses like fuel, maintenance and insurance please [visit our website](#) or Text WHEELS to 587-417-6606. And keep an eye out for our new stewardship truck out in the park this spring!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL!

The Friends' Second Annual I ♥ Fish Creek online fundraiser came to a close at the end of October and we are truly grateful to everyone who participated last year. With your help we surpassed our goal of \$15,000 to raise \$15,661! Thank you to everyone who took part in the campaign and helped us raise much-needed funds in support of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

I ♥ Fish Creek proceeds will go a long way in supporting conservation and stewardship expenses that are not covered, or are only partially covered, by grants and other sources, like tree-wrap wire and truck costs like fuel and maintenance. Over the course of the month, community members gave close to \$8,300 in personal donations and the Friends are sincerely grateful for this demonstration of generosity.

A new and exciting feature of the I ♥ Fish Creek campaign this year was the 50/50 online raffle. We are very pleased to announce that long-time volunteer and Friends supporter Robert Bakker won the 50/50 draw and was awarded the grand prize of \$4,500. Congratulations Robert! Thank you to Robert and to everyone who took part in the raffle.

For the second year in a row, the Friends teamed up with Charity Auctions Today to host an online silent auction, and it was wonderful to see so many community members bidding on the various items. We

appreciate the support and involvement from everyone who took part in the auction. This important component of the fundraiser would not have been possible without the efforts of our Community Action Team volunteers Angel Spasoff and Ron Deshayes, who requested and retrieved items from businesses and helped raise awareness about the fundraiser within the community.

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for donating auction items: Avenida Pet Clinic, City & Country Urban Winery & Tasting Bar, Clyde Vincett LTD, Calgary Co-op Deer Valley, Eau Claire Distillery, Fish Tales Fly Shop, Highwood Golf, Holistic Institute of Health & Fertility (South location), Kensington Art Supply, McKenzie Meadows Golf Club, Pensak Houghton Dentistry, Calgary Cycle (Pure), Rocky Mountain Soap Company, Soffritto, Sunny Cider, Drops of Gratitude, Canadian Tire - Southland, Chris Gibbs Photography, Wellwithin Chiropractic (at The Shoppes of Bridlewood), Capital Chevrolet Buick GMC, Patagonia Calgary, Field Stone Fruit Wines, Katie Bakken, Richard Gotfried MLA, Saje Natural Wellness, Pan Sciore, Monogram Coffee, London Drugs Heritage Plaza, Cafe Jindo, the Italian Centre Shop Willow Park, Alan Lam Photography and Oakley Canada.

Thanks again to everyone who took part in this important fundraiser!

Photo courtesy of Julie Gourdeau

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

THANK YOU STANTEC!

SHANA BARBOUR, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

Stantec biologist and Friends' staff conducting nest search at Lafarge Meadows.



Late in 2020, the Friends entered into the Enhanced Partnership with Societies Pilot Project (EPP) with Alberta Environment and Parks, giving us the opportunity to leverage the power of partnerships and community as we continue to grow and develop our professional skills and, by extension, the scope of work we are able to address in Fish Creek.

Last year, much of our learning was related to ensuring we abide by Provincial and Federal wildlife legislation, and incorporate best practices into our fieldwork. In particular, we needed to become familiar with the [Alberta Wildlife Act](#) and the [Migratory Bird Convention Act](#), both of which are intended to protect wild animals from potential harm. Even a group as well-meaning as the Friends could inadvertently cause stress or harm to wildlife when engaged in stewardship fieldwork, particularly now that we are using an integrated approach to invasive species management that includes more physically disruptive activities like weed-whipping and mowing in some areas. So, to ensure we were on the right track, we reached out for support.

In our volunteer community, we were fortunate to find someone familiar with legislation, who was able to

provide us with a great deal of direction, and who also connected us with the folks at Stantec for additional support. Not only does Stantec have a handful of professionally designated wildlife biologists on staff, who regularly deal with these Acts, but they also offered to become an official sponsor of our vegetation management project in 2021. On several occasions, Stantec biologists visited our project sites in Fish Creek to conduct pre-disturbance migratory bird nest searches, and provided the information we needed to ensure we conducted our fieldwork safely, and with the required *buffers* in place, in areas where bird activity was observed. And not only did Stantec provide the professional consultation and fieldwork support that we needed, they also provided a \$5,000 sponsorship that directly supported the cost of paying for professional biologists' support.

This year, we hope to continue our partnership with Stantec, as we expand on our important vegetation management work. We look forward to continuing to build our own knowledge, experience and capacity to be involved in pre-disturbance nest search work, with their support. We also hope to begin doing this work more independently as we learn, grow and build our organizational capacity to do so.



Yellow-headed blackbird at Lafarge Meadows. Photos, Alan Lam

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

POPLAR FOREST STEWARDSHIP IN FISH CREEK

SHANA BARBOUR, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

Several years ago, it was brought to our attention that the poplar forest in Fish Creek is – for the most part – a same-aged cohort of trees, and in some areas, there is a lack of natural regeneration. This means that, if these trees die and are not naturally replaced by new trees, there could be a significant impact on the ecological health along the creek. Poplars play an important role in helping to hold the banks of the creek in place, while also creating cool, shady areas that are necessary for the spawning of some fish species. And of course, they provide important habitat for many different kinds of urban wildlife that inhabit or travel through the park.



Newly planted poplars with Groasis Waterboxxes at Bow Valley Ranch.

With the support of the [Tree Canada](#) Treemendous Communities grant and financial support from [PrairieSky Royalty](#), we were able to pilot this new poplar planting program, and begin using [Groasis Waterboxxes](#), which capture and slowly release rainwater throughout the year. Each tree location was digitally mapped via ArcGIS Fieldmaps, so we can easily return in subsequent years to assess how

well they establish and grow. We also received important funding through AEP's [Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program](#) grant, to support both the ReWilding and poplar planting work; in fact, this grant will support the continuation of this work until 2024.

In 2014, we began working with our partners at Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), [Cows and Fish](#), [Trout Unlimited](#) Canada and the [Venturers Society](#), on ReWilding (riparian restoration) projects intended to help mitigate the impact of high water and flood events. In the beginning, this work focused mainly on transplanting dormant willow stakes into the ground, but eventually began to include planting native balsam and narrow leaf poplars, in our efforts to diversify the age class of these tree species. We have continued this work every year since then, and last year began to expand on that work with a new poplar planting initiative.

In total, we planted 197 native poplars at the Bow Valley Ranch, with Waterboxxes and tree cages (to protect them from active beavers in the area), and completed three 50 m ReWilding sites at Votier's Flats, at which the following were planted: 66 native poplars (a combination of balsam and narrowleaf), 35 potted willows (Bebb's willow, yellow willow, and sandbar willow), 15 woods rose, and 17 other shrubs (a combination of red osier dogwood and Saskatoon).

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT - CONT'D

Two additional sponsors also provided important support in 2021: [5 Star Trees](#), a long time sponsor, provided us with a significant discount on the trees and shrubs we purchased; and [Terra fibre](#) provided a discounted price on the biodegradable hemp weed suppression mats and hemp mulch that we piloted last year. We would also like to thank Gerard Fournier, from [For Trees](#) nursery in Didsbury, for providing consultation and fieldwork support.

Of course, 2022 is shaping up to be an equally busy year. We will be making a concerted effort to recruit and train volunteers to digitally monitor our ReWilding and poplar planting sites, to ensure trees and shrubs are

establishing well and receiving the care and maintenance they need. We will also need to recruit additional Watering Assistants, to help with the ongoing maintenance of the ReWilding sites, in addition to Native Nursery Champions, who help with the watering and ongoing maintenance of native vegetation at the Venturers' native plant nursery. And of course, there will be lots of planting fieldwork needed between June and October!

We look forward to continuing the partnerships and volunteer relationships that have helped us get where we are today, and to another exciting year of environmental stewardship!

ANOTHER GREAT PARK WATCH SEASON!

SHANA BARBOUR, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

Thirty years ago, a group of concerned citizens began working in Fish Creek Provincial Park, wanting to ensure the park was well cared for. By doing so, they created the Friends and built the foundation of our Park Watch program, which is still going strong so many years later! In 2021, 63 volunteer Park Watch Stewards were trained, forming 30 teams that worked between May and October, and logged a whopping 1,344 volunteer hours (just over 10% of our total volunteer hours for the year!) Approximately half of the teams also spent time directly engaging the public, providing information or answering general questions about the park and the Friends, in addition to park-related issues such as dog and trail etiquette, how park regulations are enforced, and the impacts of recreational rock dams.

Stewards reported 340 observations via ArcGIS Field Maps throughout the season, and most of these observations were related to unauthorized structures, like stick forts (17% of all observations made), graffiti (13%), litter (12%) and fires in non-designated areas (10%). And as usual, Stewards went that extra step, by

collecting 243 kitchen-catcher sized bags of garbage throughout the park, a huge additional service that some teams choose to provide.



Park Watch represents an important link between the Friends and Alberta Environment and Parks, as we work together to ensure that Fish Creek stays a safe, beautiful and enjoyable place for all who visit. We are grateful to each and every Park Watch Steward who volunteered in 2021, and hope they will all join us again this year!

Pictured here, Park Watch selfie

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

SUN VALLEY DRIVE MOWING SEASON 2021

ELAINE MURTA, SUN VALLEY DRIVE GROUP VOLUNTEER



The section of Fish Creek Provincial Park along Sun Valley Drive S.E. is a much-loved, much-used part of the park. While some users are unaware of, or uninterested in, the geological, archaeological and agricultural past of the grasslands along the south side of the valley, all users appreciate the green space, the wildlife and the recreational opportunities the area offers.

Historic maintenance of these grasslands was completed by fire, grazing and, after settlement, haying and mowing. Because the community would not support a burning, and because grazing is expensive, mowing the area is the best option. The Friends of Fish Creek agreed to allow a pilot project using volunteers to mow approximately 40 percent of this area of the park in an attempt to control invasive weed species.

The first mow was done shortly after a nesting bird sweep was finished in the spring of 2021. Subsequent mows were scheduled to comply with the Migratory Bird Act even if it was not necessarily warranted for weed control. We found that teams of two were the most efficient – spelling off the driver, answering questions and comments, and picking up litter. Along with plastic bottles, there was quite a selection of vintage glass bottles, whole and otherwise, that had to be removed.

The results from a weed control perspective were:

- no leafy spurge or creeping thistle were allowed to flower or set seed.
- no expansion of the size or numbers of plant colonies.

One unexpected benefit from the project has been community building. At first, the volunteers spent a lot of time explaining the reasons for the project and pointing out the targets. With the extra awareness, pathway users are checking out the progress for themselves.

The volunteers expected a mix of reactions from neighbours and park users. We were surprised that the response has been uniformly positive - from “we love how it looks” to “when will you mow our section?” and “how can I join the mowing team?” The volunteers have answered these last two questions by suggesting that they approach Friends of Fish Creek with their proposals, and by attempting to arrange safety training for additional volunteers.

In addition to the much-improved invasive weed control over the mowed sections, park neighbours and users have enjoyed using these areas for picnics, kite flying, and other recreational activities. There has also been a noticeable reduction in the amount of litter, including dog waste. Along with watching our Cooper’s Hawk family hunt, we have seen coyotes, ravens, robins, and even chipping sparrows searching for prey.

YOUTH IMPACT IN 2021

EMMA STROUD, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

The Friends are pleased to announce that we had really exceptional support from youth volunteers in 2021! Youth from a number of organizations helped out with poplar planting, riparian restoration, weed pulling, clean-ups and tree wrapping. In total, youth volunteers removed 365 kg of invasive weeds, planted approximately 30 poplars, and wrapped over 100 trees along Fish Creek.



Invasive tufted vetch pulled from the Stream Changes Loop near bridge 11.

scentless chamomile and ox-eye daisy in Votier's Flats, as well as common tansy and tufted vetch around Friends restoration sites.

The Canada Wildlife Federation's [WILD Outside](#) program works with youth to conserve and inspire the conservation of Canada's wildlife and ecosystems. The Friends have been lucky to get a helping hand from this group the last two years, joining us for weed pulls, tree



WILD Outside leader and youth volunteers at Lafarge Meadows. Photo, Kate Hanna.

The Friends were grateful to work with [Youth Central](#) again this year, which is a Calgary non-profit that connects youth with group volunteer opportunities. Energetic young people from Youth Central came out to four weed pulls and a clean-up, removing

wrapping and poplar planting throughout Fish Creek. WILD Outside leaders were also trained on invasive species ID and removal in the Weed Watcher training session the Friends held with the



[Alberta Invasive Species Council](#) (AISC) in the spring. Leaders Em and Kate from WILD Outside were outfitted with a Weed Watcher kit to remove and dispose of invasive species. WILD Outside leaders led three Weed Watcher outings, removing 130 kg of weeds from Lafarge Meadows and Shannon Terrace.

This past summer, the Friends fostered a new partnership with [Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth](#) (CBFY), a Calgary-based non-profit organization (pictured above). The CBFY works primarily with New Canadians and their families who have recently settled in Calgary.

Together, and with the support of Alberta Environment and Parks and the [Biosphere Institute](#), we co-hosted a five-part Bridge to Nature program for approximately 20 youth. After taking part in an introductory session to learn a bit about the park, participants were invited to take part in three hands-on stewardship outings and an experiential bear awareness walk. Participants learned how to protect natural spaces, by not littering and by staying on pathways for example, and how to safely enjoy the outdoors. The outings included a pizza lunch and the occasional chance to ride the minibus, which was definitely a highlight for many of the participants. The series was such a success that plans are already in the works for a continued partnership with the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth in 2022!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2022 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EMMA STROUD, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Do you have free time and want to take part in volunteering opportunities in Fish Creek Provincial Park? The 2022 volunteering season is just around the corner, and we are looking for people to assist with various programs. Not only are there opportunities available for our longstanding programs, such as Park Watch, Weed Whackers, and Riparian Monitoring and ReWilding, we have a few new opportunities this year!

Create an account on our online volunteer system, [MyImpactPage](#) and select your "program interests" so we can communicate when opportunities and training sessions are open for sign-up.

Family Nature Events (T, PIC/VSC)

This year, we will be hosting free monthly opportunities for families to connect with each other and nature while having fun outdoors. If you love chatting with the public and helping to set up and take down events, please check off the "Family Nature Events" Program Interest in your MyImpactPage account.

**Tour Guides & Assistants (T, E&W)**

We are also planning to reinvigorate our tours program, and will need volunteers, both as Tour Guides and

Tour Assistants to get this program off the ground. If you enjoy public speaking, long walks in the park and sharing historical or ecological information to the public, this role may be right for you!

Weed Watchers (T, F)

Invasive weeds are pervasive throughout Fish Creek

Program Codes

T – training/orientation provided

F – flexible, once trained you can tailor shifts to fit your schedule

S – sign up for pre-scheduled shifts that work for you

E&W – mostly evening and weekend shifts

PIC – Police Information Check required PIC/VSC – Police Information Check

Provincial Park, and we need help to locate and remove them! After a successful first year of the program in 2021, we are excited to team up with the Alberta Invasive Species Council and other partners to train volunteers on invasive plant ID and removal/disposal. Pair up with a teammate and take action by using our app to mark the location of invasives and removing these problematic plants.

Weed-Whipping/Mowing Crew (T, F)

Mowing and weed-whipping is a veritable strategy for tackling dense patches of invasive weeds like Canada thistle, which are difficult to control by hand. Weed-whipping and mowing volunteers will be trained on native and invasive plant ID and best practices when working in native grasslands to minimize disturbance. To prevent birds from using mowed areas for nesting, mowing/weed-whipping will be performed on a weekly basis from June to September.

ReWilding Site Monitors (T, F, S)

Take part in monitoring our restoration sites using the ArcGIS digital app. Since 2014, the Friends have restored nearly 750 m of riparian habitat on the banks of Fish Creek. Maintenance tasks in restoration sites could include adding additional tree cages, pruning, staking, flagging, weeding, repairing fences, and so much more!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CONT'D

Stewardship Truck Crew (T, F) - With the addition of our stewardship truck, we will need helping hands to ensure our ReWilding sites are maintained, whether it be watering or fence maintenance. Make connections by working in a small team and providing direct assistance for the health and sustainability of our ReWilding sites.

For more information and links to apply to volunteer, visit our [Volunteering Basic webpage](#). We look forward to working with you to bring the Friends' 2022 programs to life in Fish Creek!

GET TO KNOW FISH CREEK

KATIE BAKKEN, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

In November 2019, we successfully piloted a new event format at *Family Nature Day* at the Hull's Wood day use area. Visitors could listen to a Blackfoot story, learn about wildlife tracks and birds, roast marshmallows, join in a campfire sing-along and try snowshoeing.



Long-time Friends Volunteer Kumiko Kamiike teaches a family about wildlife tracks at Family Nature Day in 2019.

We now have two program seasons' worth of experience and know-how around creating safe, pandemic-friendly events. We are already collaborating with partners and volunteers to host free monthly events in 2022. ***Get to Know Fish Creek*** will take place on the fourth

The overwhelmingly positive feedback inspired us to work with a group of enthusiastic volunteers over the 2019/2020 winter to come up with a plan to host regular Family Nature Nights in 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic put a wrench in those plans.

In October 2020, we collaborated with partners to host a pandemic-friendly *Living with Beavers Day*, consisting of staggered, small-group walking tours with interactive tour stops around the Marshall Springs storm water ponds and down the hill into the beaver coexistence site. Again, we received much positive feedback from event participants and volunteers.

Saturday of each month, where visitors can enjoy interactive exhibits, small-group walking tours and fun activities centered on a theme, such as winter, beavers, geology and more.

We hope you will join us with your family or cohort to ***Get to Know Fish Creek!*** Event details can be found on our [Events Calendar](#). Always check the Events Calendar before attending a *Get to Know Fish Creek* event to confirm event time, location and other details.

To support this new initiative by making a donation or becoming an Event Sponsor, please [visit our website](#).

Thank you to all community members who supported our GivingTuesday fundraiser by donating towards this important educational program. Special thanks to Kim Sarjeant and Michael Vines, who each gave an extremely generous \$1000 donation! The Friends raised over \$2,830 for Family Nature Days in a only a few days near the end of November and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who donated.



FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ONLINE

Check out unique Friends of Fish Creek products online! All funds raised through the online store help the Friends enhance our message of conservation and environmental stewardship focused on this cherished urban park. Support your park in style or pick up a gift for a friend!

New Items

- **Friends of Fish Creek Toque** - Black with white Friends brand. Warm and cozy with synthetic insulation that traps heat and allows moisture to escape, \$25.00 each or 2 for \$45.00
- **Long Sleeve Tee** - Features Word Cloud. 100% polyester jersey with wicking technology, \$20.00
- **Bat Houses** - Support healthy bat populations by providing them with a shelter near your home. Available in black and grey. \$75.00
- ***Hopecrumbs - Finding My Way Through Grief*** - The new book by Leonor Henriquez Leon, \$15.00

More Exciting Products

- **Cap** - 100% Cotton, tan with green embroidered brand on front and website on reverse, \$20.00
- **Travel Mug** - 14 oz, Stainless Steel with dual-wall, foam insulation and swivel lid, \$20.00
- **Enamel Mug** - Perfect for field work, camping or while watching your favourite shows, \$20.00 or 2 for \$30.00

For more info on these and other amazing items visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/store>

MEMBERSHIP SHOWS YOU CARE

The Friends of Fish Creek enjoy our role as the link between the community, partnering organizations, local businesses, and Park Management. In 2021, thanks to ongoing support from members like you we were able to adapt and modify existing programs, like the Beaver Coexistence project and the Lending Library for volunteers, and launch new and exciting programs like the Fish Creek Ambassador program and the Sun Valley Drive project. The Friends of Fish Creek do not receive regular funding to run our more than 30 programs that benefit the park and community, and we are reliant on a variety of sources such as grants, program fees, personal donations and membership revenue to support our activities.

Now is the best time of year to renew your Friends of Fish Creek membership or to become a member, as we are providing memberships that will be good until December 31. Membership fees are: \$35 - individual, \$45 - family, \$25 - senior individual, and \$30 - senior family. Your membership contribution will go a long way in helping us to create a community of informed park users and in turn benefit the park landscape. Friends members receive benefits like admission to our Fish Creek Speaker Series programs, a discount on the popular Birding Courses, a discount at select local businesses, and the ability to vote at our Annual General Meeting. Show your support for Fish Creek Provincial Park by becoming a member or renewing your membership today. To renew your commitment to Fish Creek Provincial Park please mail in the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/membership>

QUIZ ANSWER - AUTUMN ISSUE

Which unwelcomed and invasive non-native fish species has recently been discovered in Fish Creek Provincial Park and other Alberta wetlands?

Answer: The Friends became aware of the invasive fish known as Prussian carp within the park in autumn 2020. A concerned volunteer reported seeing a dozen people harvesting buckets of carp out of a Marshall Springs storm pond, and we believe that these fish were released here, to be fished out later for human consumption. The Friends are raising awareness about this issue through promoting Alberta Environment and Parks' "Don't Let It Loose" campaign, and educating Albertans about the introduction of invasive species into water bodies.

STAFF

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2022 EXECUTIVE

Chair	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair	David Mitchell
Treasurer	Phil Greer
Governance Chair	Henry Villanueva
Secretary	Kari Horn
Director at Large	Christina Steed
Director at Large	David Breckon
Director at Large	Neil Groeneveld
Director at Large	Michael McCreadie
Park Liaison	Andrew Schoepf

Membership Form -

The Friends of Fish Creek, PO Box 2780 Stn M Calgary, AB T2P 2M7
403-238-3841 info@friendsoffishcreek.org www.friendsoffishcreek.org

For info about the Park Protector program visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup

Name: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Address: _____

City and Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Work place (optional): _____

☐ Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will

Membership: Individual ☐ \$35.00 Family ☐ \$45.00

Senior (+60 years of age) Individual ☐ \$25.00 Family ☐ \$30.00

Donation: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Please Fill out: Membership \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

To pay online: www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership or donate on CanadaHelps.org

(Charitable Registration #891199747 RR0001)

Signature of donor or member: _____

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to become members. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more or if requested.