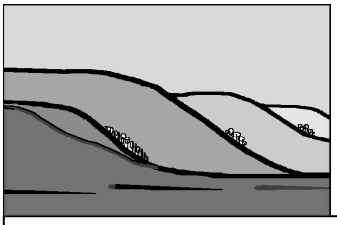
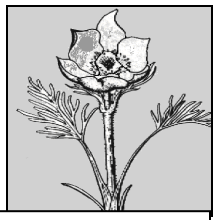


Nose Hill

News and Views

fonhs.org



Number 56 **The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter** **Spring 2017**

President's Message

Anne Burke

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended and we expanded our board by special resolution from four to six directors, plus the Executive. All of us have been very busy with civic issues, Society business, and special projects too. We meet regularly at the Nose Hill Library.

There have been questions and concerns about what kind of construction was occurring on Nose Hill. It could be for a cell tower.

Councilor Sean Chu is tasked with Nose Hill Park. We read in his Ward 4 newsletter about The North Calgary Water Servicing Project 2017-2020. The Nose Hill Park portion of that project will be completed in two phases: Phase 1: Soil Sampling (Mid-February - Early April 2017) and Phase 2: Construction (Summer 2017 - Summer 2018). The executive director of the Calgary Heritage Authority received this response from Calgary Parks: *"The test holes are being done in part to determine the presence of any archaeology as the route should not impact any known sites. The project has received clearance from The Province."*

From what I understand at this point, the application by the City was under the province's Water Act which regulates such proposals. The process involves a public notice, with the application number, and a request to respond within seven days. A written statement of concern should describe what are relevant matters under the Act, how the filer will be directly affected by the activities proposed; the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where applicable, the distance between the land owned or used and the site, and contact information.

Environment and Parks Regulatory Approval Centres review each written statement of concern and decide to accept or reject the submission as a valid statement of concern. Such statements are public information. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a notice of appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Although public involvement is a key component of the approval process (the Act says the public must be notified of all approval applications) the Director may waive the notice requirement in an emergency, when the activity is considered routine, or adequate notice has already been given. A routine activity is one that will result in minimal or no adverse effect on the environment.

At first we were told that the project for a new water main from Big Hill West Pump Station to the Beddington Reservoir would depend on "existing pipes" in the Park. We also had a question about what other routes were considered, since the brochure alluded to Nose Hill as the "preferred alignment". The pipe will traverse Nose Hill

Park from the SW to the NE using tunneling technology, up to 90 m (300 feet) below the surface. Indeed, the 21 test holes, six inches (15 cm) in diameter, would suggest that the site was not previously tested. As a result, we have followed up and further correspondence from the Project Engineer appears later in this newsletter.

Feel free to contact the Councilor's Office at ward04@calgary.ca, if you want to ask further questions on this, or phone 403-268-3727.

Dark Skies Initiative

City-wide streetlights retrofit (e^2 Street Lighting Program)

Nose Hill is an important site for nocturnal habitat and enjoyment of the night sky, and needs our stewardship to ensure the Park remains protected. Council has approved a city-wide retrofit of 80,000 streetlights during 2015-2018 as part of the e^2 Street Lighting Program. Over 45,000 LED installations had been done as of August 2016.

There are approximately 90,000 streetlights in Calgary and the 80,000 installations will be completed by the end of 2018. The remaining 10,000 lights do not qualify for replacement because they are decorative and an LED equivalent may not be available that is economical for the project.

May Count of Plants in Bloom

The Alberta May Count of Plants in Bloom is an annual event sponsored by Nature Alberta.

- Objective: to record plants in bloom throughout Alberta during the last week in May, using a standardized approach.
- Purpose: to provide information on the distribution of flowering plants in Alberta. This information monitors the spread of non-native species and provides insights into the response of plants to variations in climate.

Anyone who is familiar with Alberta wildflowers can participate. You select a natural area and record the plants you see blooming then forward the list to the Count Compiler: Kim MacKenzie. Email her at kim.mack@goldpaw.ca.

For those who would like to participate in the Count we will soon have an information package which we will post on our website fonhs.org.

It is no problem at all if you find a flower that you don't recognize. It can be ignored in your Count. (Or you can photograph it for later identification).

FONHS Guided Walk

The FONHS is hosting a free guided walk (2 hours) on Nose Hill to identify flowers and discuss the May Count of Plants in Bloom.

When: Wed May 17, 2017 @ 7pm
Where: Nose Hill parking lot at 14 St NW & 64 Ave NW.

Please register at: information@fonhs.org

Our guide, John McFaul, is a professional naturalist who has been leading nature walks and hikes for 30 years. A native Calgarian, he received a BSc degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Calgary. John is an honourary member of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society (Nature Calgary) and

has been awarded the prestigious Loran L. Goulden Award and the Frank and Alice Harper Memorial Award from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (Nature Calgary). He is an accredited Professional Interpreter with the Interpretive Guides Association (alpenglownaturehikes.ca.

Friends of Nose Hill Society Photo Contest

I recently met with a member of the Bowmont Natural Environment Park Committee, to discuss their successful photo contest. A group of our members has taken the initiative to organise the inaugural Friends of Nose Hill Society Amateur Photo Contest. All Nose Hill Park enthusiasts are welcome to participate! See page 5 for details. Examples for each of the four suggested themes are shown below and on the next page.

For more information, email: friendsofnosehill@gmail.com, or consult our website at **fonhs.org** for guidelines and to download entry forms.

Due to concern about preserving sensitive areas in the Park, the forms include a "Respect for Nose Hill Park Ecology" declaration, with a link to the Parks and Pathways Bylaw:

"Notwithstanding any other provision in this Bylaw, no Person shall leave a Pathway or Trail while in…… the escarpment zone in Nose Hill comprising that area from the Nose Hill Park Boundary up to but not including the multi-use Pathway or Trail. (34M2005, 2005 August 08)"

As always, thank you for your support, and please remember to renew your membership, only $20.

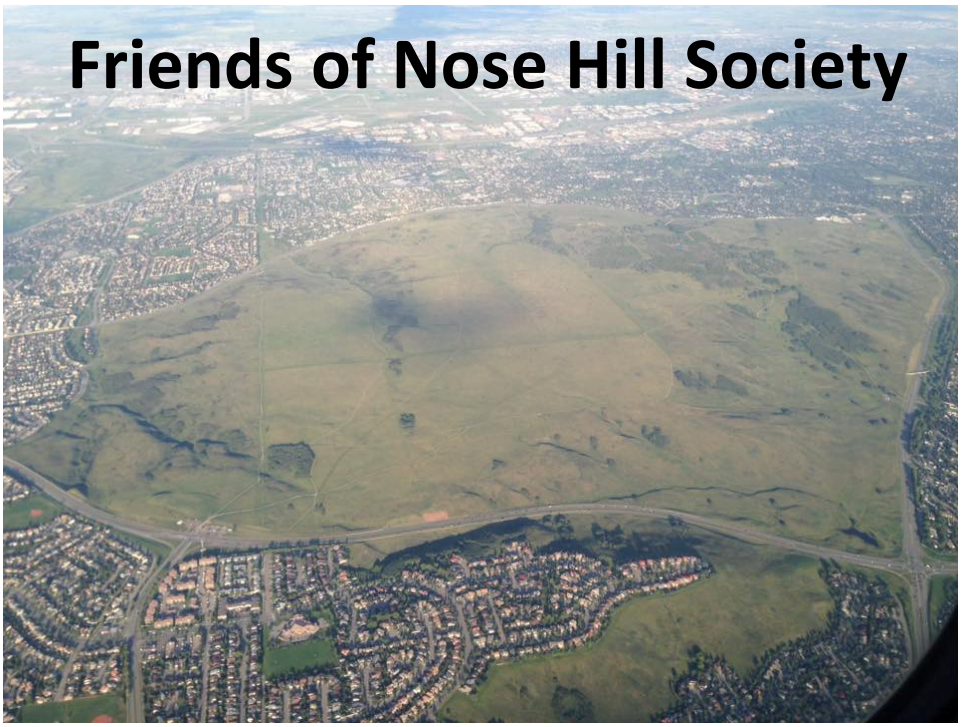
Anne

Landscapes and sky views of Nose Hill Park Tara Little

Flora and fauna of Nose Hill Park Tara Little

Environmental threats to Nose Hill Park Tara Little

Urban astrophotography from Nose Hill Park Tara Little



Sami Houry

Inaugural Amateur Photo Contest

- Open to all Nose Hill Park enthusiasts.
- A maximum of four photo submissions, one for each of the four contest themes.
- Photo contest themes include:
  - **Landscapes and sky views of Nose Hill Park.**
  - **Flora and Fauna of Nose Hill Park.**
  - **Environmental threats to Nose Hill Park.**
  - **Urban astrophotography from within Nose Hill Park.**

Photos must have been taken between October 1st 2016 and September 30th 2017**.**
Guidelines and entry forms are available for download at fonhs.org or by request.
Email contest entry forms and photo(s) to friendsofnosehill@gmail.com with the subject heading 'Photo Contest'.

Key Dates:

- **Photos must be submitted by midnight September 30th 2017.**
- **The judges will convene in the month of October 2017.**
- **Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in November 2017.**

Nose Hill Water Project

From**: David Lagore, P. Eng., Senior Project Engineer,** Project Engineering - Underground (MC #436) Infrastructure Delivery, Water Resources City of Calgary. Tel: (403) 268-4778. Fax: (403) 268-5709. E-mail: david.lagore@calgary.ca

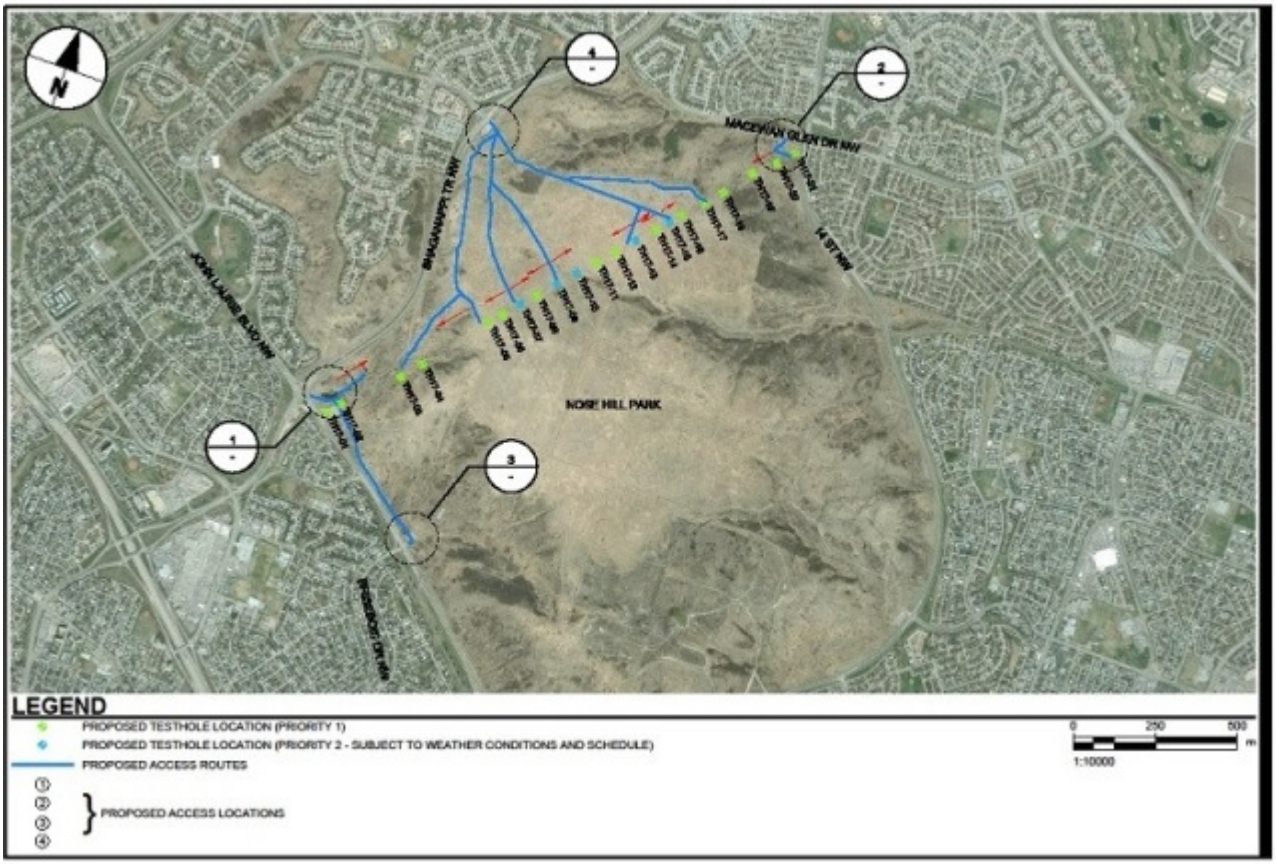
"Thank you for your inquiry regarding the work being undertaken at Nose Hill Park. The City has engaged the services of AECOM Canada, to perform preliminary design work on the North Calgary Water Servicing project. For the geotechnical drilling work in Nose Hill Park, the following preparatory activities were undertaken: Wildlife surveys were completed by AECOM's professional biologist, on February 13th, 2017. He has provided recommendations to the team, regarding Restricted Activity Periods pertaining to bird species as well as implementation of applicable setbacks for all other wildlife as specified by the *Alberta Wildlife Act*, *Migratory Bird Convention Act*, and *Alberta Environments and Parks Integrated Standards and Guideline*s.

Individual borehole site locations were previewed on site, and mitigation strategies were implemented so as not to impact rare plant species. This work also occurred prior to mobilization of equipment. Surface soil cores were removed and kept intact at the start of the drilling process such that they can be replaced at the conclusion of drilling. In Nose Hill Park, the following bird species have been identified as known to occur, or to have potential to occur: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, □Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, □Sprague's pipit, Baird's Sparrow.

Almost half of the Park's grassland area is dominated by native grass species. Within this area, Rough Fescue-Parry Oatgrass, Rough Fescue-Golden Bean and Western Wheatgrass are the most prevalent native grassland plant communities. A minute amount of Needle Grass-Parry Oatgrass also exists. Non-native grassland communities include Bluegrass, Western Wheatgrass-Bluegrass phase, Smooth Brome, Smooth Brome-Quack Grass and Alfalfa-Wheatgrass.

Shrublands include the Rose/Snowberry plant community type. There is also presence of Choke Cherry/Snowberry, Saskatoon/Snowberry, and Wolfwillow/Bluegrass. The main mitigative component of the work involves completion of the drilling work during the winter season, thereby reducing impact on plants and soils.

A number of additional measures are in place to reduce impact. These include: minimization of site area used for the drilling location, □and ensuring that team members are made aware of wildlife and requisite buffers. □All equipment is washed prior to entering the Park. Use of established pathways for transport of equipment, whenever possible. □Use of geotextile fabric and plywood at drill locations. All test hole locations are inspected prior to drilling to preserve rare plants. □A soil plug is removed prior to drilling, and replaced at conclusion of each drilling operation. Alteration of operations in the event that thawing temperatures are encountered. Parks-approved restoration seed mixes will be used for reclamation of each site. Should you have further questions, feel free to contact me."



City of Calgary Water Services

Light green dots: proposed test-hole locations priority 1
Blue dots: proposed locations priority 2, subject to weather conditions and schedule
Blue lines: proposed access routes
Numbered circles are proposed access locations

Friends of Nose Hill Society
Membership Year: 2017 **Fee: $20.00**

Name_____ **RENEWAL** 9 **NEW** 9

Address_____

_____

Phone Number_____ **E-mail address**_____

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:
Friends of Nose Hill, Suite 171, 130-5403 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary, AB T3B 4Z1

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Nose Hill News and Views

is published by

The Friends of Nose Hill Society
Suite 171, 130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta T3B 4Z1

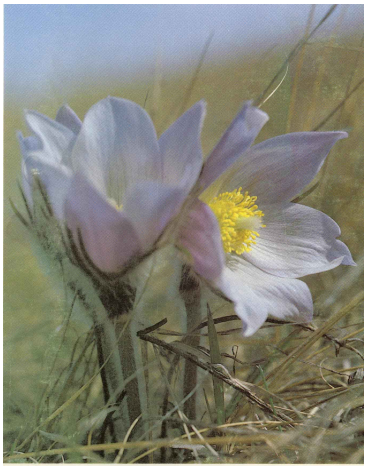
Website: fonhs.org

Editor: Robert van Everdingen
Design & Layout: Robert van Everdingen
Printing: Brentwood Printing Inc.

The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Please include your name and phone number with submissions.

The views expressed are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the FONHS



The Friends on Facebook

The Friends of Nose Hill have a Facebook Group. If you are a Facebook member, check out the group: "Friends of Nose Hill Society". It has 64 members and 1277 photos so far. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.

Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: ervan@ucalgary.ca

New members can join the Friends of Nose Hill by mailing $20.00 to:

Friends of Nose Hill Society
Suite 171
130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary, AB T3B 4Z1