

Healing Community Gardens in full bloom this summer

By Amber Hyde

Summer is in full bloom at Parks Foundation Calgary! Gardeners have been hard at work planting, weeding and growing their gardens at Haultain Park and Loughheed House. Through weekly horticultural therapy sessions, participants have seen their plants flourish and grow, made new friends and learned about botany and horticulture.

Working in collaboration with our incredible community partners has enabled children, youth and adults of diverse abilities to participate in our Healing Community Gardens Program. Participants come to us from: Cerebral Palsy Association of Alberta, Calgary Chapter for Cerebral Palsy, Society for the Treatment of Autism, Learning Disability Association of Alberta, Alpha House Society, VRRRI, and Between Friends Club.

Under the leadership and direction of Mary-Anne Robeson, MIR, HTR, Haultain Park comes alive Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings when children and adults come to nurture their gardens. On Saturdays at Loughheed House, children, youth and adults work hard on their edible gardens.

Colleen M. has been attending the Wednesday afternoon sessions at Haultain Park, and appreciates the approach of the program.



Program participant Colleen M. waters her plants in Haultain Park

“I really enjoy coming each week and watching the plants and flowers grow. Horticulture is a very good therapy for people with disabilities. I enjoy the people and the pretty area at Parks Foundation Calgary”.

Without the dedication of our incredible volunteers and generous supporters, this program would not be possible and we would like to thank the following for their commitment: The Calgary Foundation, Cenovus Energy, Newalta, Agrium, and Individual Donors.

Supported by Mary-Anne, the tireless efforts of our volunteers is having a meaningful impact on the community and we would like to acknowledge: Janet Melrose, Karyn Booth, Kath Smyth, Jean Hendry,

Frances MacMillan, Jenn Melrose, Leslie Warner, Lynn Bowers, Marie Maitland, Bridget Given, and Erin McFarlane.

Also a special thank you to Garden Retreat and Greengate Garden Centres for their donation of plants and plant materials, and to Totem Building Supplies for donating materials for a garden shed.

A sincere thank you to the volunteers that helped us build our shed - Jesse, Phillip and Barry from Newalta that started the process, and Eric, Sean and Josh for finishing it off!

Find out how you can volunteer or support this project by contacting us today.

Successful summer for the Building Playgrounds and Communities Grant Program

This summer has been an exciting and busy one for the Building Playgrounds and Communities Program. The strength of Parks Foundation Calgary's (PFC) partnership with the City of Calgary Parks, community and corporate support has been outstanding. So far, nine new playgrounds have been installed in communities such as Dover, Dalhousie and Sandstone. Not only have these playgrounds been built successfully, but the very experience of building has been an enriching one for the volunteers and community members who have taken part. Darcy Reding, a volunteer from NAL Resources wrote to PFC to let us know how much he and his team enjoyed volunteering to build Dover's Playground. "We had a wonderful time...this experience was valuable to both ourselves and the community. I was amazed at how grateful and appreciative the community was and we express our thanks to those that went out of their way to treat us so well".

Karen Foster, manager of the program for Parks Foundation Calgary can't help but feel pride when a new playground is constructed. "There is great satisfaction when the playgrounds are completed and children are playing on them".

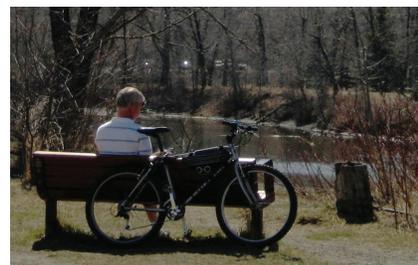
Karen and the Building Playgrounds and Communities Committee are gearing up for another playground build in Forest Heights on August 21st. This will be a large playground project supported by Kaboom and will include over one hundred volunteers to help construct the playground, plant flower beds and lay pathway.



Dover playground before (top) and after (bottom)

When a humble park bench becomes a seat of inspiration

By Pam Oliver, Kirby News



Calgary's parks and pathways are a valuable feature of the city's urban landscape. After a walk it's pleasant to rest on one of the benches installed along the way, soaking up the sun and enjoying the view.

Both the parks and the benches can easily be taken for granted. For instance, how did the benches get there, and what are the stories behind the inscriptions on their plaques? It's impossible not to be inspired by the words and the obvious love and warmth behind them. "To our mother," reads one, "who gave us roots and gave us wings." What a wonderful mother; what a wonderful family.

Choosing a Parks Foundation Calgary bench to honour a loved one's member is an easy decision for most families. Delores Youde and her brothers wanted to memorialize their mother, Minnie Evanson, and a bench in Sandy Beach came instantly to mind. "My Mom and I used to spend so much time walking there" says Youde. When it came time to choose a way to remember her mother, Delores and her brothers immediately thought of the happy times their families had shared at Sandy Beach. "We'd been going there since I was six years old, picking Saskatoon berries. Mom would make pies and muffins," says Youde.

When deciding on an inscription, fate stepped in. "One of my brothers found the inscription which was part of a poem on a plaque in a little gift shop," says Youde. "Those we love remain with us, for love itself lives on. Cherished memories never fade; they live on in our hearts".

The rightness of the choice of a bench is reinforced every time they see other people in the community, who remember their mother, use the bench. This sharing and connectedness adds another layer of joy to their memories.

Parks Foundation Calgary is delighted to inform the public that after many years of requests, dedication benches in NoseHill Park will soon be available. Please Contact us for more information.

East Calgary Greenway comes to life

When Parks Foundation Calgary began designs for the East Calgary Greenway, the first leg in its larger Calgary Greenway plan, it was just that; a design. Today 4.3 kilometers of this design are complete.

Recently Parks Foundation Staff walked the completed section of the pathway on a beautiful sunny day and were not only delighted with how beautiful it is, but at how well used it proved to be! We saw bicyclists, runners, walkers and commuters. We also saw a wide range of plants, birds, insects and animals including wild horseradish, Red Wing Blackbirds, Mallards and Richardson Ground Squirells. All these sights confirmed our belief in how important this project is for Calgary and how it has already begun to enrich the lives of our citizens.

One man, out for a ride with his young son, spoke to us and told us how much he enjoyed the pathway and how important he thought the project was. As he said “pathways need to connect to things like parks. If you make a pathway that allows people to get to all different sorts of things, they will use it!”

As we and our partners move forward with our plans, we are excited to one day walk the whole Greenway (perhaps over a few days as 96 kilometers in one day would be quite a feat!) to see how Calgarians will use and enjoy the pathway and many features the Greenway will boast.

Parks Foundation Calgary and its partners, including all levels of Government and the Calgary Herald, will be hosting a major event to celebrate the completed section of the East Calgary Greenway this coming September.

To find out how you can help support Parks Foundation Calgary’s largest project to date, visit us online or call (403) 974-0751.



Apply to the Amateur Sport Grant Program Today!

The next deadline for Amateur Sport Grant Applications is **September 15th**. Don’t miss out on this opportunity. Past recipients have included Calgary United Soccer Association, Crowfoot Minor Hockey Association, Alberta Snowboarding, Alberta Biathlon and Baseball Calgary.

The Amateur Sport Grant Program is dedicated to supporting the continuation and enrichment of amateur sport in Calgary. Funding is made possible through the joint community partnership of the Calgary Flames Hockey Club, the Saddledome Foundation and Parks Foundation Calgary.

We encourage you to visit www.parksfdn.com today to find out more about this grant program!



Clock wise from top left; St. Francis High School weight room, Foothills Swim Club, Altadore Gymnastics Club, AA Ringette Calgary Foundation

Parks Foundation Calgary says goodbye to long time employee Brenda Smyth

Parks Foundation Calgary said goodbye this spring to veteran employee Brenda Smyth. Brenda worked for PFC for 10 years beginning as the Executive Assistant and later as the manager of the Bench Dedication Program and Amateur Sport Grant Program. Brenda was highly organized and passionate about her work and will be missed. We wish her a relaxing and happy retirement!

PFC hired a new and enthusiastic employee Amber Hyde. Amber has taken over the role of Executive Assistant and is also managing the Horticultural Therapy Program. Parks Foundation Calgary's Board of Governors welcome its new members Rick Nicholson, Principal, Trivest, John Houghton, Counsel, Lawson Lundell LLP and Penny Leckie, President, P. Leckie Professional Corporation. Rick Nicholson has taken over for Ian Playfair as Chair of the Finance committee. Also new to the finance committee are Robert Harper, CA, David Inhaber, CGA and John Zeller, MBA, CMA.

We welcome our new staff, Board of Governors and committee members and look forward to continuing our good work with their added expertise.



Brenda Smyth waves goodbye after ten years working at PFC

A colorful poster for the '2ND ANNUAL HAULTAIN AND FIRST STREET FESTIVAL'. The top left corner says 'VICTORIA PARK urban calgary'. The central illustration features a large sun, a windmill, and two people riding bicycles on a path. The text '2ND ANNUAL HAULTAIN AND FIRST' is in large green letters, with 'STREET FESTIVAL' written vertically on the right. Below this, it says 'Sunday September 12, 2010' and 'Featuring: Market Collective'. At the bottom, it lists the location 'Haultain Park (225 - 13 Avenue SW) & First Street SW' and the time '11 AM - 5:30 PM', along with the website 'www.victoriapark.org'.

Parks Foundation Calgary Dedication Benches are coming to Nose Hill Park!



Contact us today for more information.



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