

The Calgary Greenway is heading South!

The Greenway Capital Campaign has taken tremendous strides over the past few months. Along Phase 1 – East Calgary Greenway, Parks Foundation Calgary has been able to secure several key sponsors to completely fund this portion of the project. Calgary philanthropists Don and Hazel Skinner have committed significant funds towards the project, and to recognize their donation, the East Calgary Greenway pathway will be named in honor of their son, Bob Skinner.



Completed 32nd avenue wetland

Calgary Greenway Capital Campaign Chairman Jim Davidson has also generously donated funds towards the project.

The East Calgary Greenway is nearly complete with all seating nodes, interpretive and directional signage being installed. As soon as the weather cooperates, all the native plantings as well as the two playground areas along the pathway (near Airport Trail NE and Memorial Drive SE) will be installed. The off-leash dog park along 64th Avenue NE that will include a 20-car parking lot will also

be constructed once weather permits. A recent visit by staff to the East Calgary Greenway was exciting as we were able to see the completed wetland and signage and enjoyed speaking with local residents out walking their dogs. One gentleman told us how he has been enjoying cross country skiing along the pathway this winter season, proving that the Calgary Greenway really is a year round destination.

The second phase of the Greenway is currently under preliminary design development. Phase 2 will begin at the Western Irrigation District Canal, pass Ralph Klein Park, meander through several newly developed southeast communities and connect into Fish Creek Provincial Park. Phase 2 will be approximately 17 kilometres in length and have unique one-of-a-kind recreational amenities.

Phase Two of the Calgary Greenway will feature wetland interpretive centres, a family fitness park and a dog training park.

Due to the abundance of natural and constructed wetlands in this area, Phase 2 is deemed the Greenway Wetland Experience. Parks Foundation plans to construct several wetland interpretive centres to educate people about our fragile watershed and to protect sensitive natural areas that contain numerous plant and animal life. Other unique amenities

include a family fitness park and a dog training park.

With more young families moving to the southeast, Phase Two of the Calgary Greenway will be enjoyed by thousands each year.

Parks Foundation Calgary, through the Calgary Greenway, is creating a place that will connect people to each other, to nature and to their surrounding communities. We hope that you will become a part of this iconic project by becoming a donor and telling others to support the Calgary Greenway also.



Signage and garbage receptacles along Greenway



Phase 2 will include a family fitness park

BPC Program continues its important work in 2011

The Building Playgrounds and Communities Program (BPC) will be busy this year supporting community and school playground projects across Calgary. Parks Foundation Calgary is helping 21 groups as they work to secure funding and grants for their playground projects. Two large accessible playgrounds are in the final planning stages. New playgrounds will be in Rainbow Park on Radcliffe Cres. SE and in Spruce Cliff on Poplar Rd.

Thanks to the hard work of PFC and the generosity of Boardwalk Rental Communities and also Boardwalk Charitable Trust the new playgrounds will include ramps, climbers and creative play structures for all ages and abilities. The smooth accessible rubber surfacing will allow children and families to move freely around all the play structures. BOWEN Workforce Solutions has also made a large contribution to the Rainbow Park site as well as Sandlewood Developments to the Spruce Cliff site.

On May 30th, Telus is contributing funds and volunteers to build four small playgrounds in the Martin-

dale community. Not only will they construct four playgrounds but volunteers will enhance the community by cleaning up the park, painting games on the pathways and mulching the gardens. On June 10th and 11th, a new playground has been selected for the Calgary Marlborough Community on Maryvale Cres. Foresters are providing all the volunteers for two days to complete the project.

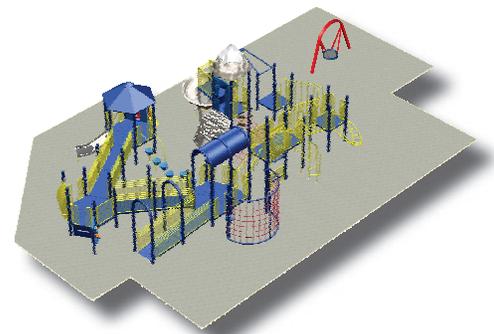


Future Design for Marlborough Park

ATB Financial has provided a donation to the Albert Park - Skate Shack Playground project on 12th Ave and 26th St SE that will be installed by ATB volunteers in June. The new playground will have a spider web net, orbiter spinning structure and decks and

slides for all age groups. This project will give the local children a safe place to play and socialize since the skate shack facility is heavily used throughout the year.

Parks Foundation Calgary continues to work hard to find other corporations and private individuals who share in our vision for safe accessible playgrounds for all of Calgary's children. The BPC Program, in partnership with City Parks, has for the last two years worked to give Calgary's children safe and exciting play structures and the lasting legacy of this program can be seen in playgrounds across our city. We are excited to continue our hard work this year and reach out to even more communities.



Future Design for Rainbow Park

THE CALGARY GREENWAY  100 km of outdoor destinations and pathways encircling Calgary.



 Rivers • Parks • Sports

For more information please visit www.parksfdn.com **CALGARY HERALD**

Parks Foundation Calgary now has a mural at the Calgary Airport in the WestJet baggage claim area.

Parks Foundation Calgary honours two long-time volunteers with commemorative benches

Parks Foundation Calgary has, for 25 years, worked tirelessly to help enhance the quality of life for all Calgarians. From Calgary Rotary Challenger Park, to the soon-to-be-completed Harvie Passage Weir, our projects help green this great city and enrich the lives of each and every individual who calls Calgary home. While staff work hard to realize our goals, it is our strong volunteer base that helps keeps this Foundation alive and thriving.

Our annual holiday celebration is an opportunity for our board and staff to recognize all the wonderful donors, partners and volunteers who make each year so successful. At our celebration this past December, we were able to recognize two volunteers who have been supporting PFC and its mission since 1985.

Bill Selby and Terry Hawitt were presented with plaques honouring their decades of support of Parks Foundation Calgary. Their plaques will go on benches in our home park, Haultain Park.



Terry Hawitt and Bill Selby were honoured at PFC's holiday celebration

Terry Hawitt was one of the “founding fathers” of PFC and a past chairman. His vision and belief in preserving Calgary's natural environment has led to 25 years of greening our great city.

Bill started with PFC as the Director of Development and played a major role in bringing the Bench Dedication Program to life. He remembers receiving phonecalls at home from many individuals and at all hours of the day wanting to know more about the new benches popping up throughout the city. Today the bench program is a major part of our city's heritage and nearly every greenspace in Calgary features our benches.

We thank both of these great men for their years of support and passion for our city and our foundation.

The Genesis of Parks Foundation Calgary

By Terry Hawitt

The lack of parks in the downtown area of Calgary had always bothered me. Having worked in other volunteer organizations, the concept of a volunteer citizen organization to develop parks occurred to me. I discussed my idea with an official at City Parks who thought it an interesting approach to parks development. So did the then-mayor, Ralph Klein.

The Mayor asked Tom Walsh (who became PFC's first president) if he would look after the necessary legalistic work and put the resulting organization into operation.

Despite being in the midst of a recession, it was thought that our new organization could raise the funds

(\$750,000) to build a park on land acquired by the City from Greyhound Bus. The park would be called James Short Park. The month was May and PFC had six months to raise the necessary funds needed by November.

Several months went by as PFC worked to get its bearings. With considerable effort and hard work, PFC met its commitment and raised the funds needed to build the park.

I was very pleased with the positive results and the power of our new foundation. In my opinion this indicated that a volunteer citizens organization had the potential to play a very active part in the development of parks in conjunction with the City and

its various departments.

Over the past twenty-five years Parks Foundation Calgary has had good fortune to build parks and playgrounds throughout Calgary and my early optimism has materialized in a very successful manner.



James Short Park, PFC's first park project

Spring is on the way and our Horticultural Therapy Program is ready to grow!

At Parks Foundation Calgary we're gearing up for spring and are looking forward to another growing season! We are excited to be offering the Horticultural Therapy Program again this year and expanding it to a new location! Because of the generous support of The Calgary Foundation, New Horizons for Seniors Program and Cenovus Energy, we are able to have two sites, Haultain Park and Calgary Rotary Challenger Park, where four programs will be offered.



Our Horticultural Therapy Program involves all sorts of activities for youth and adults

This year the program will focus on growing edible produce and learning how to use what is grown.

We are happy to report that we have already developed new partnerships this year with Aspen Family & Community Network Society, Stardale Women's Group Inc. Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary, and will have children and youth participating in the program. This year, two of the programs will match seniors with youth where they will have the chance to learn and

grow together as they create beautiful greenspaces in their communities.



Volunteers are needed for many aspects of the program, like aiding in planting

If you would like to support the program there are different ways you can help:

- Contribute your time and gardening skills to share with participants
- Host a workshop for participants and/or volunteers in your area of expertise: First Aid, Healthy Eating/Living, Maladaptive Behaviours, Disability Training, Cultural Sensitivity, Working with the Aged
- Financial support – for as little as \$100, you can help provide transportation for a participant to attend the program

We look forward to watching the participants and the gardens flourish throughout the summer! If you want to get involved, contact Amber Hyde at ahyde@parksfdn.com.

Project Update on River Passage Park

Parks Foundation Calgary in partnership with City of Calgary Public Art will be hosting an information session Thursday, April 14th, 2011 at the Inglewood Community Centre from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

Citizens of Calgary will have an opportunity to see final design drawings and plans for the park land. Environmental artist Lorna Jordan, Landscape Architect George Harris and representatives from the City and PFC will be onhand to answer questions.

Come out and see a sneak preview of this exciting project!



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