

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan What We Heard Report

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FALL 2024

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

Fall 2024

## Land acknowledgement.

The city of Calgary sits on fertile land where two rivers meet, where Indigenous Peoples have been gathering for thousands of years, sharing knowledge and storytelling, and planning for future generations. The traditional names for this place we know as Calgary are Moh-kins-tsis, Wîchispa Oyade, Otos-kwunee and Guts-ists'i - the land that has given so much to so many.

Calgary is located on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. This includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We acknowledge all Indigenous urban Calgarians who have made this city their home. Together, their spiritual and practical relationships to the land create rich lessons for our life as a community.



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## Introduction

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive and transparent summary of the feedback, opinions, and insights gathered from interest holders, participants, and the public regarding the Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan.

It aims to distill and present the key themes, concerns, and recommendations expressed by Calgarians, ensuring their voices are heard and used to inform decision-makers, plan development, and future actions. By documenting the perspectives and sentiments of those who have contributed, this report facilitates informed decision-making, fosters accountability, and promotes effective communication and collaboration.

### Project Overview

The Urban Conservation portfolio of Calgary Parks and Open Spaces is seeking to develop a 10-year habitat management plan (HMP) for the Edworthy Park located along the Bow River in SW Calgary.

The project will draw on the skills and expertise of various city staff throughout the management planning process.

### Project Importance

**Biodiversity:** The park is home to a variety of plant and animal species, making it a vital area for local wildlife. It supports diverse ecosystems, which are crucial for maintaining ecological balance.

**Historical Value:** The park has a rich history, dating back to its use by Indigenous peoples and later by settlers like Thomas Edworthy, who established a market garden there in the late 19th century.

**Recreational Space:** With over 5 kilometers of hiking and biking trails, Edworthy Park offers ample recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, promoting physical activity and well-being.

**Educational Resource:** The park serves as an outdoor classroom, providing educational opportunities about natural habitats, conservation, and local history.

### Project Objectives

The final deliverable of this project is the creation of the Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan report, with accompanying maps and figures (as per the Habitat Management Plan Framework, Calgary Parks and Open Spaces 2022.)

### Project Alignment

This work will provide the direction necessary to achieve the Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan. The guiding document for the plan is the Habitat Management Plan Framework (2022). Engagement overview<sup>i</sup>

A short overview of the engagement activities covered in this report.

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## Engagement Objectives

The purpose of this engagement was to:

- Understand past, present, and future park usage and its impact on the environment.
- Identify key environmental concerns and reasons behind them.
- Allow community and public input on the Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan.
- Increase knowledge and support for the plan's implementation.
- Ensure participants feel they had enough opportunity to share their ideas.
- Foster a sense of pride and stewardship towards the plan.
- Help participants understand the decision-making process behind the plan.

## Audience and Methodology

**Note:** Due to a water main break, the City of Calgary implemented water restrictions on June 13, 2024. This local state of emergency limited the scope of engagement for the Edworthy Habitat Management Plan, as officials had to restrict water use in the city. Edworthy Park [...] was located adjacent to the activity. Additionally, city washrooms were closed for renovations.

Engagement took place from June 13 to July 31, 2024. During this period, we interacted with over 200 people in person at three events and had 2,010 unique visitors to our portal page. The project was posted on social media. Sounding boards were placed in the south and north parking lots, and sandwich boards, along with coroplast signs, were positioned throughout the park on existing infrastructure such as fences, picnic areas, and pathways. Emails were sent to interested and impacted parties, including Calgary River Valleys, Bird Friendly Calgary, Nature Calgary, and the Edworthy Historical Society.

### Ward offices

The Project Manager sent emails to the primary representatives, Ward 6 (Cllr. Pootmans) and Ward 7 (Cllr. Wong), as Edworthy Park is located within their ward boundaries. Additionally, emails were sent to the secondary representatives, Ward 1 (Cllr. Sharp) and Ward 8 (Cllr. Walcott), since Edworthy Park is adjacent to their ward boundaries.

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## Community Associations

The following Community Associations were notified about the Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan:

- Bowness
- Coach Hill (part of Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association)
- Cougar Ridge (part of West Springs/Cougar Ridge Community Association)
- Montgomery
- Parkdale
- Patterson Heights (part of Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association)
- Rosscarrock
- Shaganappi
- Spruce Cliff
- Wildwood

As per the graph below. We had 2,744 views, 2,470 visits, 2,010 visitors<sup>1</sup>, 510 contributions and 255 contributors<sup>2</sup>.

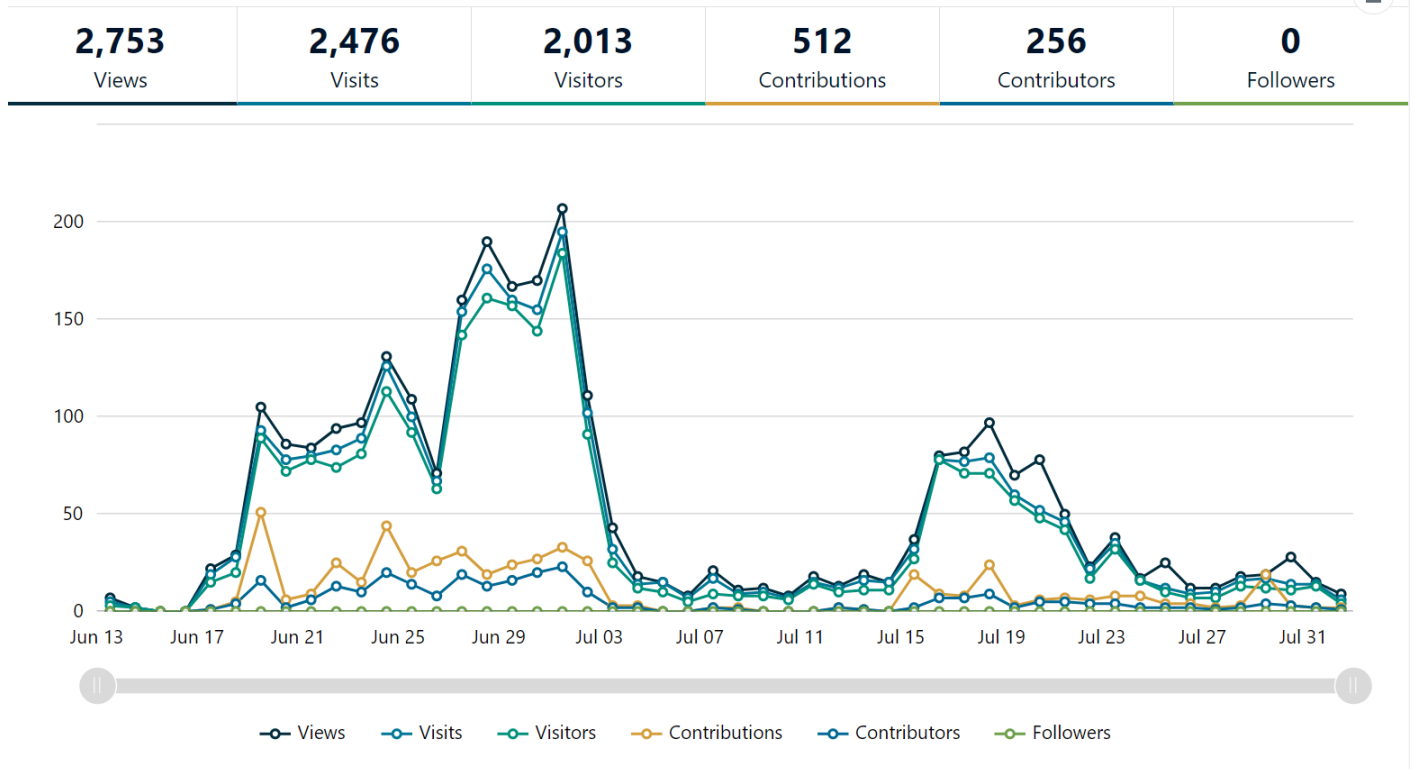


Figure 1: Portal page statistics

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Platform/Tactic/Tool	Dates	Numbers
Portal Page		
Main <a href="https://engage.calgary.ca/EdworthyHMP">https://engage.calgary.ca/EdworthyHMP</a>	June 13 – July 31, 2024	2,000
Family Zone <a href="https://engage.calgary.ca/EdworthyHMP/Family">https://engage.calgary.ca/EdworthyHMP/Family</a>	June 13 – July 31, 2024	30
Coffee and Conversations (online)		
TEAMS meetings (drop in) from noon – 1 pm	June 26, July 17, 24, 2024	5
Open House in the Park		
.	Sunday, July 21, 11 am – 3 pm	125
Park pop-ups		
Park pop-up 1	Sunday, June 23, 11 am – 1 pm	20
Park pop-up 2	Thurs., June 27, 11 am – 1 pm	20
Park pop-up 3	Sat. July 27, 1 – 4 pm	35
Static Displays		
Sounding Board (North parking lot)	June 21 – July 31	2,050 <sup>1</sup>
Sounding Board (South parking lot)	June 21 – July 31	2,050

## What We Asked

### Portal Page (main)

<https://engage.calgary.ca/EdworthyHMP>

### The Primary Question

How can we collectively manage the Lawrey Gardens and Edworthy Park natural areas in a consistent way to ensure positive and measurable biodiversity outcomes?

**Question & Answer** was divided into five sections:

1. Tell us about yourself
2. Values
3. Management practices
4. Future thinking
5. Parting thoughts

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 50 views per day at 41 days

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**Social Mapping Tool:** participants noted concerns and usage of the Edworthy Park on different maps of the area.

**Ask an Expert:** participants asked a question, and a subject matter expert (SME) provided a timely response.

## Open House in the Park and Park Pop-ups (in-person)

The following questions were asked:

1. How did you get here?
2. How often do you visit?
3. What do you love about the Edworthy Park natural habitat area?
4. What are your concerns about the Edworthy Park natural habitat area?

## What We Heard

*The following paragraphs are an overview of the major themes received from online and in person activities. For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section. For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.*

The park requires several improvements to enhance its usability and preserve its natural environment. Key suggestions include but are not limited to the following:

- Better signage and information to educate visitors about wildlife, plants, and invasive species.
- Weed control and the introduction of native plantings are essential to maintaining the natural prairie/foothills habitat.
- Community involvement is crucial for the park's upkeep, and efforts to control invasive species should be prioritized.
- Enhancing accessibility and infrastructure through improved drainage, designated bike lanes, and better pathways will reduce environmental impact and make the park more user-friendly.
- Existing infrastructure, such as the Douglas Fir Trail, needs better management to prevent erosion.

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Concerns have also been raised about the impact of recreational activities on the park's environment. This includes but is not limited to:

- Off-leash dogs and undefined paths are causing vegetation stress and compaction. To address this, clear pathways and designated areas for human use should be maintained while protecting natural habitats and wildlife.
- Public education and bylaw enforcement are necessary to protect native plants and restore habitats.
- Additionally, preserving wildlife corridors and managing building activities are crucial to maintaining the park's natural and cultural areas, which have been affected by development over the last 150 years.

**Note:** Feedback received also reflected the day-use (e.g., picnic sites, playgrounds, washrooms) areas of Edworthy Park, not just the natural habitat area. Even though the habitat management plan does not include these areas, they are often perceived as the same thing. Out of Scope themes can be found in [Appendix A](#).

## Summary of Input

### The Portal Page

#### The Primary Question

*How can we collectively manage the Lawrey Gardens and Edworthy Park natural areas in a consistent way to ensure positive and measurable biodiversity outcomes?*

Sentiment Analysis: Neutral (74), Positive (25), Negative (25), Mixed (17)

#### Verbatim samples

*The number and species of invasive plants in Edworthy continues to escalate. Many species are firmly entrenched now and beyond hope of getting them under control; it's too late now. What are you going to do to make sure that what remains of the natural prairie/foothills habitat is not lost?*

*By having clear pathways and areas for human use, while allowing the natural spaces to be natural habitats for wildlife and vegetation. Also improved management of the Douglas Fir Trail and paved pathway on the south side of the river to avoid the erosion so prevalent now.*

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To manage Lawrey Gardens and Edworthy Park for biodiversity, engage stakeholders, create a management plan with clear goals, restore habitats, monitor biodiversity, involve the community, secure funding, enforce protective policies, and collaborate on research and innovation.

## Key Themes

**Biodiversity and Habitat:** The park hosts a variety of species, including invasive plants. Efforts are needed to control invasive species and preserve the natural prairie/foothills habitat. Preserving wildlife corridors and managing building activities are crucial.

**Human Impact:** Human activities impact these spaces, leading to issues like litter (feces, plastics, needles, hazardous materials). More responsibility and better waste management are required. There are many concerns about intrusive activities like off-leash dogs, affecting the park's environment.

**Recreational Use:** Clear pathways and areas for human use should be maintained while protecting natural habitats and wildlife. The Douglas Fir Trail and other paths need better management to prevent erosion from recreational or overuse.

**Community Education and Engagement:** The park should have better signage for learning opportunities about the natural habitat. Community involvement in maintaining the park is essential.

## Question & Answer

### Q1. How do you usually get to the Edworthy Park natural areas?

Most participants get to the area by driving (78), followed by walking (52), then riding their bikes (49), with the lowest number taking the bus or other form of public transportation (2).

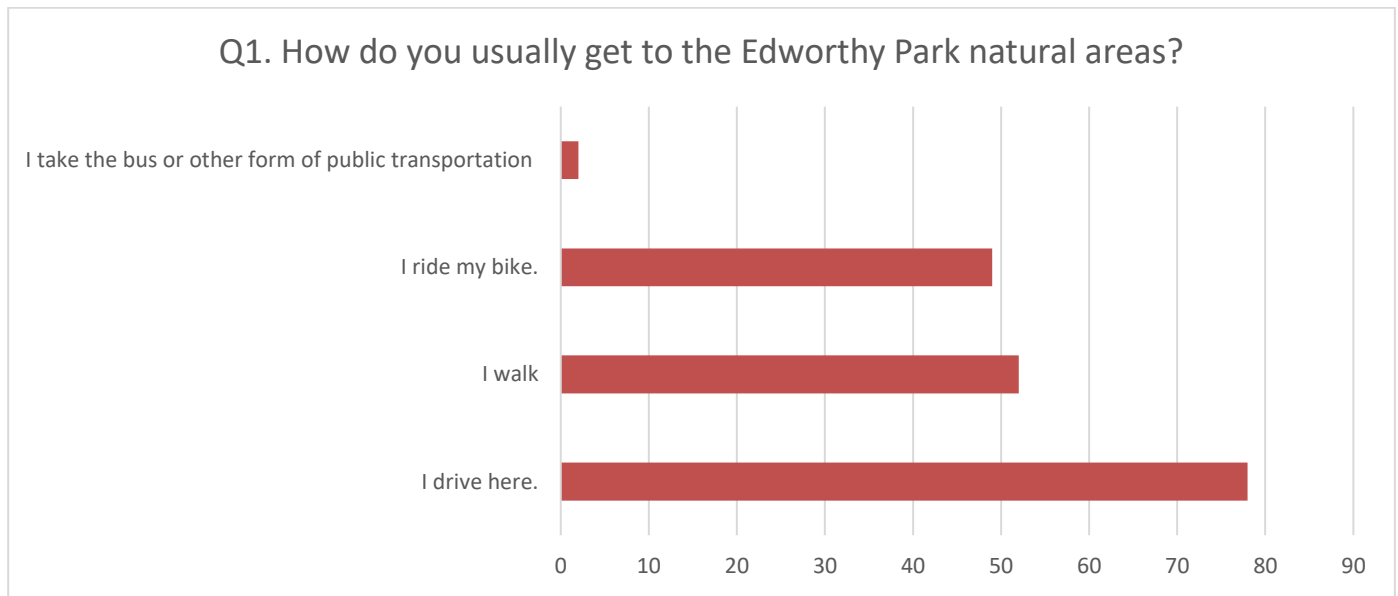


Figure 2: How do you get to Edworthy Park?

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## Q2. How often do you use the Edworthy Park natural areas?

The highest number of participants use the area frequently/daily basis (50) then a regular basis (48), followed by semi-regular use (40), followed by occasional users (38), High frequency users were lower (12), and lastly non-users (1).

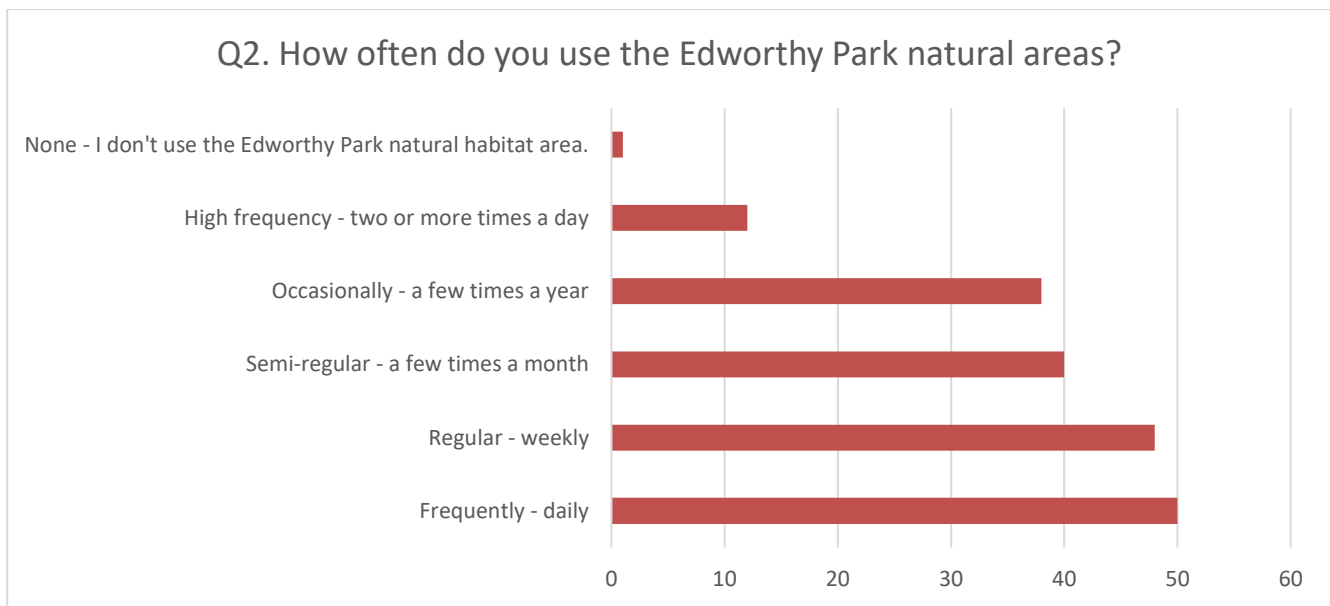


Figure 3: How often do you use Edworthy Park?

## Q3. How do you use Edworthy Park's natural areas?

As per Figure 4, participants use Edworthy Park's natural areas in the following ways:

- **Recreational activities:** included trail running, hiking, cycling, and walking/jogging. (171)
- **Health and wellness:** included peace and quiet, forest bathing (access to nature), wildlife observation and river access. (75)
- **Dogs:** both off leash and walking on leash. (45)
- **Family and community bonding:** included picnics/BBQ and gathering (e.g., playground, meeting for coffee/lunch/socialization, and exploring. (33)
- **Conservation efforts:** (7)

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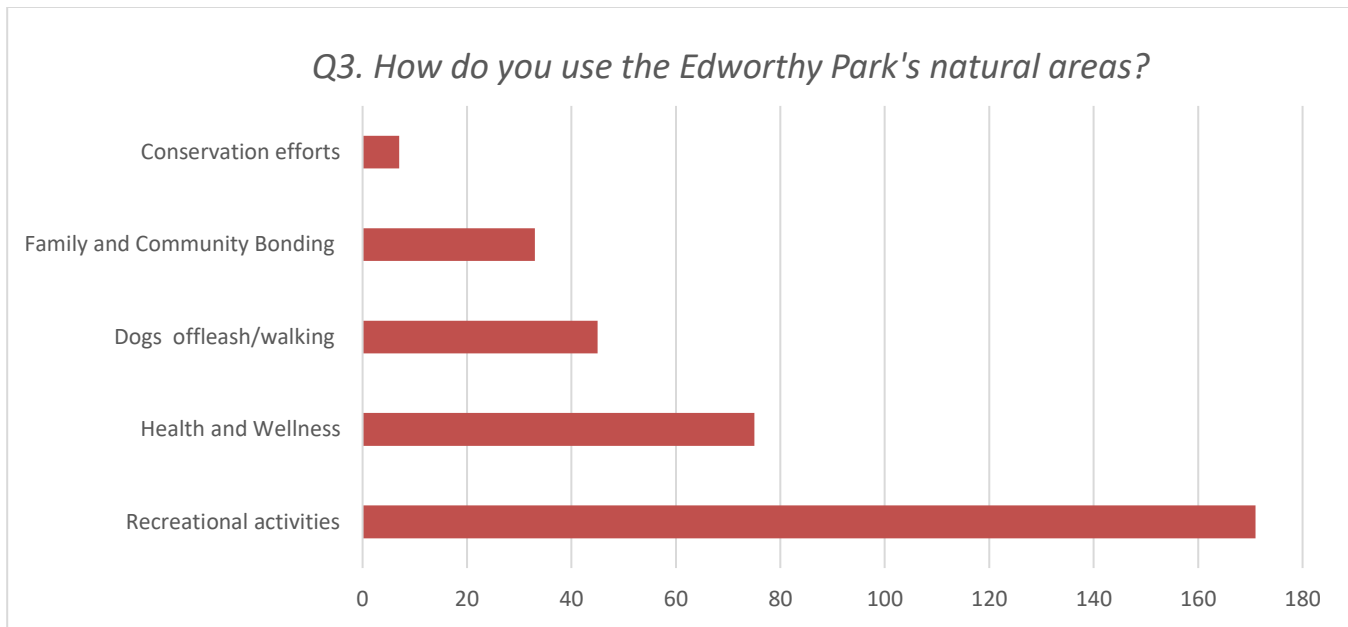


Figure 4: How do you use Edworthy Park's natural areas?

**Sentiment Analysis:** Positive (26) Negative (5) Mixed (4) Neutral (132)

## Verbatim

*Preferably, going for walks and relaxing/forest bathing; however, more often than not I end up cleaning garbage, dragging shopping carts up the hill to Cedar Cres Drive, picking up dog poop bags, and otherwise feeling disappointed by how this city and community have grown to accept this as normal.*

*I enjoy entering the natural areas to connect with nature, get away from devices, etc. Lately, as a member of the 'Adopt-a-Park' program, I pick up garbage and report abandoned encampments; not the most enjoyable activity but I feel I need to do something as the city does not appear interested.*

*On my bike. The natural trails offer some great inner-city mountain biking, specifically in off-peak hours when they are not busy.*

*I ride my bike down to the pathway and run from there. I always walk with my dog and start river floats from this location.*

## Key Themes

**Commuting and Exercise:** People use the park for commuting, taking advantage of the bike paths and trails. It is also a place for fitness activities like jogging, trail running, and hill training.

**Dog Walking:** The park is a favorite spot for dog owners, with designated off-leash areas and on-leash trails and pathways.

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**Family and Social Gatherings:** Edworthy Park is a common destination for picnics, family outings, and social gatherings.

**Mental Health and Relaxation:** The park provides a peaceful retreat for activities like quiet reflection, nature walks, and “forest bathing.” It is seen as a place to unwind and connect with nature.

**Nature and Wildlife:** Visitors appreciate the park’s natural areas for bird watching, botany, and observing local wildlife. The park’s natural beauty, including its trees, plants, and river, is highly valued.

**Recreational Activities:** People use the park is popular for a variety of activities including walking, hiking, biking, and running. Users like the options of both regional pathways and unpaved trails, making it suitable for different preferences.

**River Access:** Many park users enjoy sitting or walking along the river banks, floating on the river, fly fishing, and other low-impact sports by the water.

## Q4. What do you value most about the Edworthy Park's natural areas?

As seen in Figure 5, the most popular answer was access to nature (73), followed by trails (not paved) (37) and regional pathways (paved) (27). Next was recreational activities (12), followed by the wildlife (8) and river access (8).

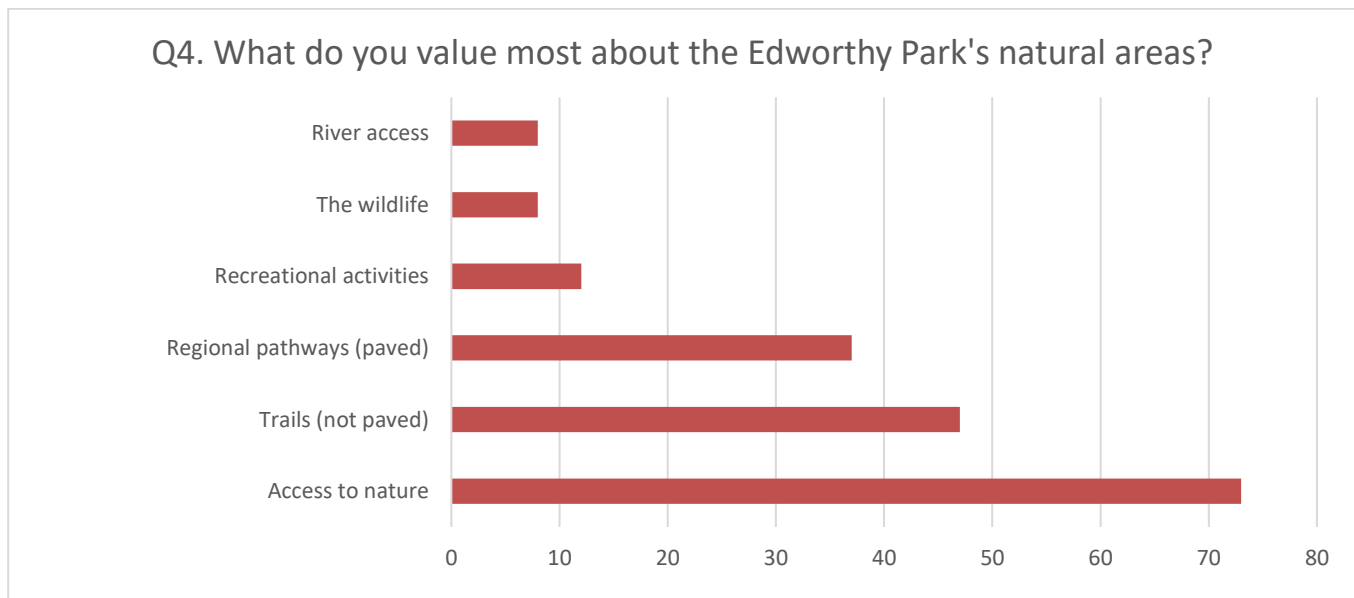


Figure 5: What do you value most about the Edworthy Park's natural areas?

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**Q5. Would you mind telling us a bit more about the answer you chose in the previous question?**

**Sentiment Analysis:** Positive (97) Negative (9) Mixed (14) Neutral (32)

## Verbatim

*All of the options listed are inter-related and these spaces need to be looked at with a systems approach that integrates care for the natural environment, wildlife, river (and other bodies of water that are found throughout with all sorts of hazardous waste and trash surrounding them), and trails so that all beings can enjoy. I wonder daily why Lawrey Gardens is an off-leash dog park given there are no garbage bins and the area is home to wildlife and sensitive flora.*

*All of the other answers are dependent on this one; nature. A healthy landscape supports wildlife, recreation, and the access to beautiful places. I like that cars are restricted to small parking lots, long may it continue. The area doesn't need improvement, it needs stewardship.*

## Key Themes

**Access to Natural Habitat (escape from the city):** The park provides excellent access to nature within the city, offering a peaceful retreat from urban life. It is appreciated for its natural beauty, including the river valley, Douglas Fir Trail, and Lawrey Gardens. is a strong emphasis on preserving these natural areas and maintaining biodiversity.

**Family and Community Use:** The park is a popular spot for family activities, including picnics, playgrounds for kids, and off-leash dog areas. It is seen as a great place for both kids and beginners to enjoy nature and recreational activities.

**Cultural and Historical Significance:** There is a recognition of the park's pre-colonial importance to Indigenous peoples, with suggestions for trail markers and an interpretive center to educate the public and promote reconciliation.

**Environmental Concerns:** There are concerns about the impact of overuse, maintenance of trails, and the presence of homeless encampments. The importance of preserving the park's natural beauty and biodiversity is emphasized. Some users call for better bylaw enforcement and preservation efforts to protect the park's natural area. The park is valued for its natural habitat, including a variety of birds, wildlife, and vegetation communities.

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**Q6. Rate your level of support for the potential use of the following habitat management practices in the Edworthy Park natural areas.**

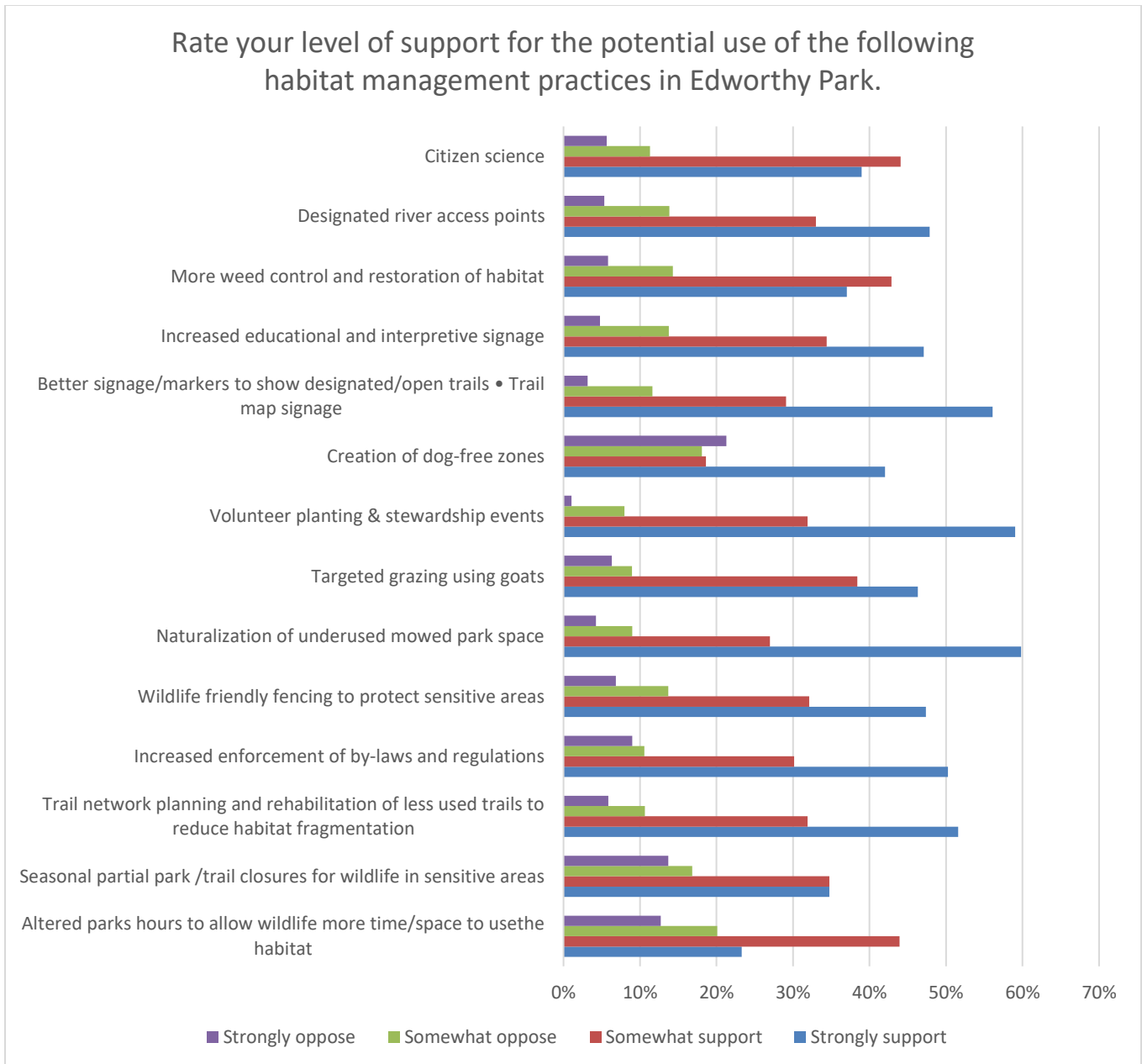


Figure 6: Rate your level of support [...] habitat management practices in Edworthy Park

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Management Practice	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Altered park hours to allow wildlife more time/space to use the habit	23 %	44%	20%	13%
Seasonal partial park /trail closures for wildlife in sensitive areas	35%	35%	17%	14%
Trail network planning and rehabilitation of less used trails to reduce habitat fragmentation	52%	32%	11%	6%
Increased enforcement of by-laws and regulation	50%	30%	11%	9%
Wildlife friendly fencing to protect sensitive areas	47%	32%	14%	7%
Naturalization of underused mowed park space	60%	27%	9%	4%
Targeted grazing using goats	46%	38%	9%	6%
Volunteer planting & stewardship events	59%	32%	8%	1%
Creation of dog-free zones	42%	19%	18%	21%
Better signage/markers to show designated/open trails	56%	29%	12%	3%
Increased educational and interpretive signage	47%	34%	14%	5%
More weed control and restoration of habitat	37%	43%	14%	6%
Designated river access points	48%	33%	14%	5%
Citizen science	39%	44%	11%	6%

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**Q7. Thinking about the Edworthy Park natural areas 5 years from now, what do you think will be the most valuable? What about 10 years? What about 20 years?**

**Sentiment Analysis:** Positive (50) Negative (16) Mixed (19) Neutral (68)

## Verbatim Samples

*In my mind, to ensure positive & measurable HMP outcomes we need to first acknowledge that humans are a part of nature and that this habitat sits just outside the core of a rapidly growing metro area. This natural park area doesn't exist within a vacuum. This isn't to say that our needs should be put above those of the more-than-human world, absolutely not. Is it not possible to create spaces where biodiversity can thrive and also where people are inspired to play their part in its protection?*

*Maintaining existing trails and natural areas in such a way that the existing balance between recreation and nature is maintained. The existing trails within the park, the Douglas Fir Trail for example, are an amazing resource for residents and proactive maintenance of those trails that currently exist will ensure that people using the parks are able to enjoy them, while reducing impacts of trails to nature and likelihood of trail braiding. Offleash dogs are not a benefit to park users or nature.*

*5 years: Improved trails, native plant restoration, and modernized facilities.*

*10 years: Thriving Lawrey Gardens, reduced invasive species, and the scenic Douglas Fir Trail.*

*20 years: Matured natural areas with increased conservation efforts*

## Key themes

**Accessibility:** Making the park accessible to all Calgarians and visitors, with improvements to amenities and pathways to accommodate everyone, including those with disabilities.

**Balancing Human and Wildlife Needs:** Finding a balance between human recreational activities and wildlife preservation. Ensuring that the park remains a functional habitat for wildlife while providing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

**Community Involvement:** Encouraging volunteer networks and community programs to help care for the park and its biodiversity. Programs like Friends of Fish Creek or Friends of Nose Hill Park can serve as models.

**Diversity and Community Awareness:** Emphasizing the importance of diverse habitats and community involvement in maintaining the park's natural beauty and biodiversity.

**Enforcement and Maintenance:** There is a need for better enforcement of laws and bylaws to maintain the park's natural beauty and ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable space for everyone.

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**Environmental Preservation:** There is a strong emphasis on preserving the park's natural landscape and wildlife. This includes proactive maintenance, reducing human impact, and protecting critical park spaces for future generations.

**Future Planning:** Long-term planning for the park's preservation, including selective closures for wildlife and riverbank stabilization, and addressing the impact of climate change on the park's natural areas. This includes trail network planning, habitat protection, and educational resources to promote awareness and appreciation of the park's natural features.

**Green Space and Biodiversity:** The park should continue to be a maintained or growing green space, supporting a diverse range of plants, animals, and natural habitats. Efforts to reduce invasive species and restore native plants are important.

**Preservation and Natural Habitat:** Preserving the park's natural areas, including the Douglas Fir Trail, and maintaining its biodiversity. Efforts to restore native plants and reduce invasive species are important.

**Wildlife Encounters:** The park is home to many coyotes and other wildlife, which visitors often encounter. There is a need for awareness and safety measures regarding wildlife.

## Out of Scope

**Q8. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about the Edworthy Park natural area?**

Sentiment Analysis: Positive (38) Negative (25) Mixed (15) Neutral (41)

## Verbatim

*Notes on Edworthy area and habitat that I believe are important: 1. Bank Swallow (SARA listed) colony along river right D/S of pedestrian bridge. The top of this bank should be protected from human disturbance and should not be stabilized. 2. Grazing is not an appropriate utilization of funds in the park; some weedy vegetation is found in the park, though I do not believe it is reducing biodiversity or ecosystem G&S. 3. Dogs, development, camping are largest env. impacts- should be focus of plan.*

## Themes

**Community Involvement and Programs:** Programs for young children to raise awareness and respect for nature are valued. Community engagement and volunteer efforts are essential for the park's upkeep and improvement. Encouraging volunteer efforts and community engagement in maintaining and improving the park. Programs like "Adopt-a-Park" and citizen science initiatives can help foster a sense of pride and ownership.

**Environmental Concerns:** Addressing issues like erosion, ice dams, and the impact of human activities on natural areas is critical. Sustainable planning and restoration projects are needed to protect the park's ecosystem. Addressing flood reduction, erosion control, and sustainable planning. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the park's natural areas and biodiversity.

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**Future Planning:** Long-term planning for the park includes maintaining its natural beauty, improving infrastructure, and ensuring it remains a valuable resource for future generations. Balancing human use with wildlife preservation is key. Long-term planning for the park's sustainability, including restoration projects, improved facilities, and better management of natural resources.

**Natural Beauty and Habitat:** The park is cherished for its natural features, functional habitats, and wildlife sanctuaries. There is a strong desire to preserve and enhance these natural areas.

**Recreational Activities:** The park offers various recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, and walking. There is a call for more dedicated paths, including a bike path on the hill and unpaved hiking trails like the Douglas Fir Trail.

**Wildlife and Habitat Preservation:** Protecting critical habitats and ensuring the park remains a refuge for wildlife. Balancing human use with the needs of wildlife through designated zones and careful management.

## Out of Scope

### Ask the Experts

**Question:** How far west does Edworthy Park extend?

There appears to be lot of city property west of the two houses and west of the former brick plant. There is an existing trail south of the railway that parallels the railway. If it is city property a nice hiking trail could be constructed between the railway track and Sarcee Trail

Received 4 upvotes

**Response:** Hi Paul, My apologies for the delay in response. Thanks for this question and suggestion. I will ensure that it is included in the What We Heard Report that is sent to Parks and Open Spaces, Urban Forestry as well as Administration and City Council - if requested. I've also added a map to this page that outlines the project area. Hopefully this helps.

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## Social Mapping

### Social Map 1: How do you use the Edworthy Park Natural Area?

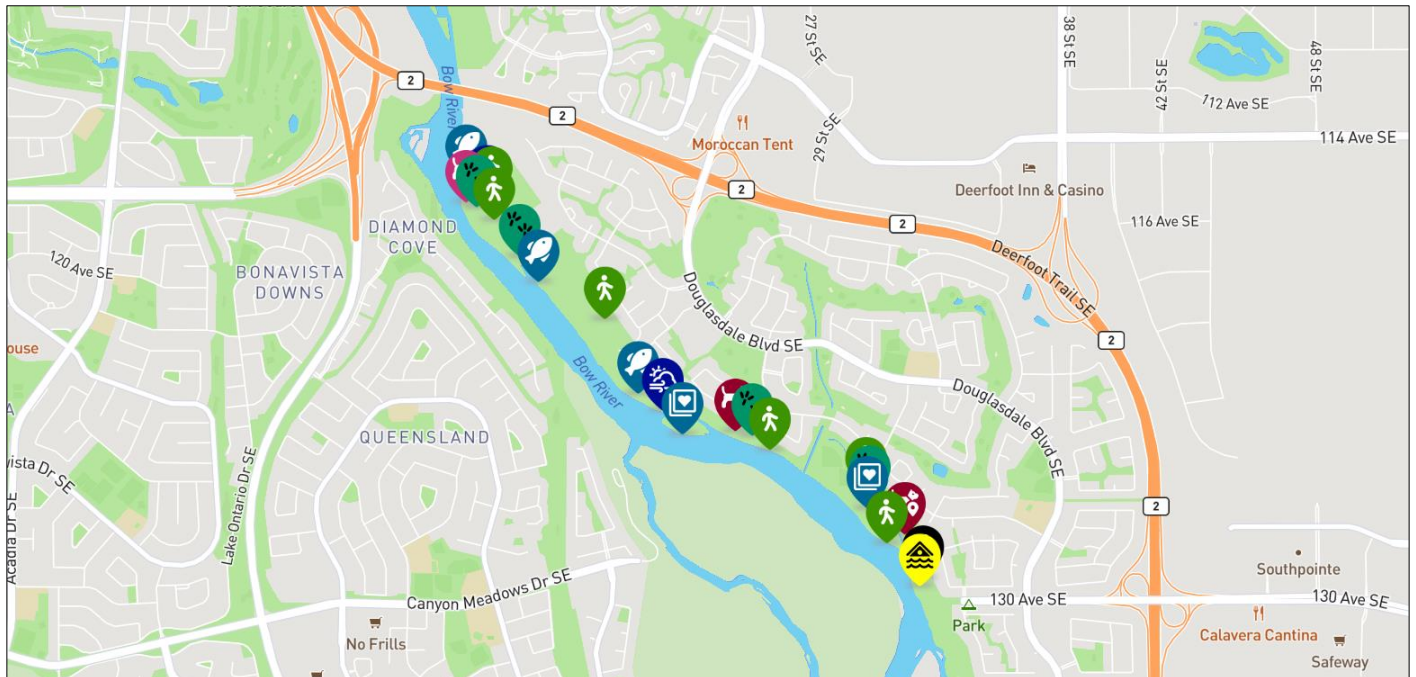


Figure 7: Social Map 1- How do you use the Edworthy Park Natural Area

- Sometimes less crowds here to access the river for fishing
- Come to this area to spend time outside and connect with the outdoors
- Sometimes fish here
- Love bird watching here
- I bring my dog here to swim sometimes and stay away from the crowds at Sue Higgins
- We like walking here
- We bring our Beavers/Cubs/Scouts groups here for hikes, geocaching, skating, and love showing them how close their homes are to natural spaces
- Walking and running all the riverbank trails
- Walk my dog all over this area
- Quiet walk in woods
- Quiet reflection wellness area
- Wellness and fishing quiet time to enjoy outdoors
- Watch wildlife & appreciation of quiet environment
- Watch eagles and wildlife
- Cycling loop through area and over bridge to Fish Creek Park at least a couple of times a week during cycling season.
- Walk my dog around the area (north and south) daily
- Often walk along the pathway through this area
- Beautiful space

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- Nice for fly fishing!
- Regularly walk through this park

## Social Map 2: What are your concerns for the area?

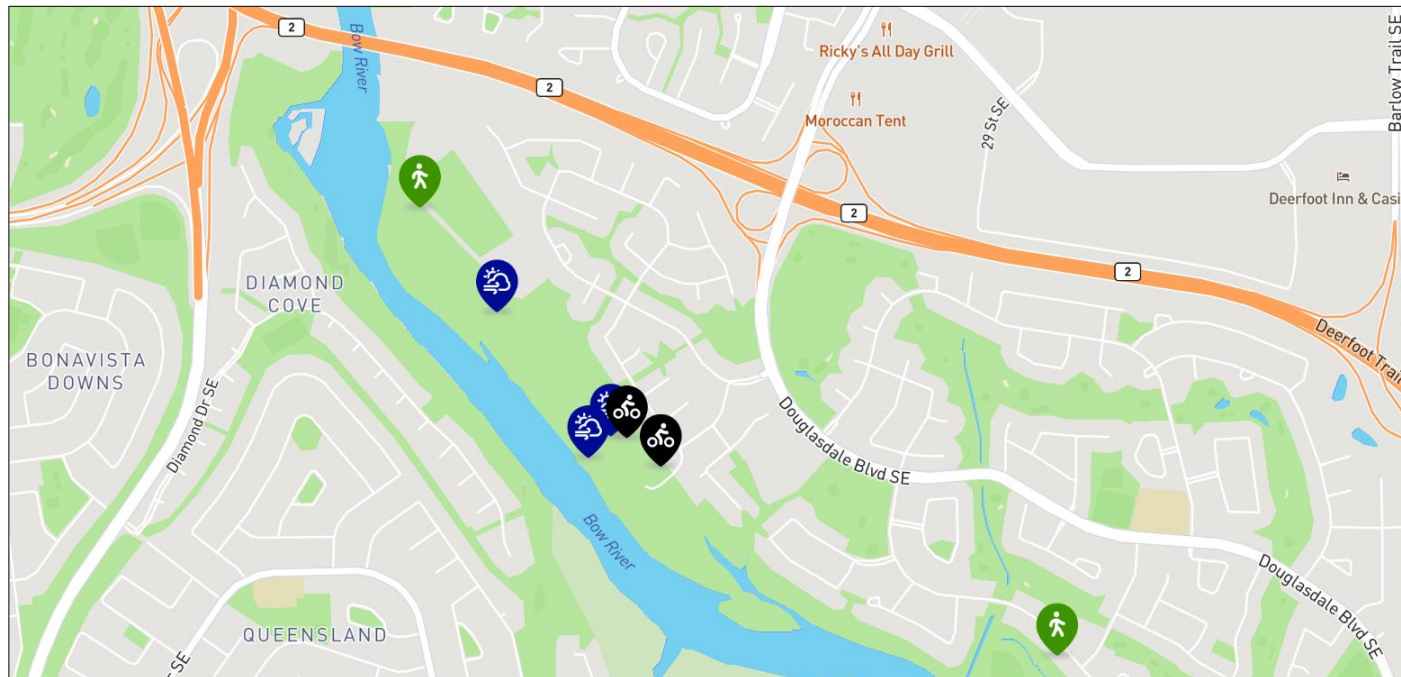


Figure 8: Social Map 2 - What are your concerns for the area?

- People making fire pits by the shore near the Douglasdale ball diamonds and the hill just south of it.
- Parks Canada doesn't seem to want to do anything about them as more and more keep showing up. 4 spots right now in that area. One day who ever doing them is going to burn the place down
- Too many motorized vehicles go way beyond the speed limit creating unsafe paths for cyclists and walkers.
- People ride their bikes fast through the forest and it disrupts the wildlife, destroys the grass, and creates dirt trails that are ever expanding.
- Protect park and natural grasses.

## Next steps

This input will be submitted to the Project Team and Consultants, and to both internal and external subject matter experts for consideration.

Public participation will be one source of input for the creation of the Edworthy Habitat Management Plan.

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

Fall 2024

## Verbatim

### Emails

**August 1, 2024** (engage@calgary.ca)

I will try to control my emotions and, at the very least, refrain from using profanity. I will try to be as principled and interest-based as well as respectful as I can.

Today, while out for my regular walk I encountered three situations that quite literally scared me. I felt threatened. I am not someone who feels threatened easily.

1. While hiking up the trail on Edworthy hill (at the south end of the south parking lot at Edworthy Park) I encountered two situations within an hour;
  - A woman and her large dog encountered me near the top of the hill as I was hiking up it. The dog charged me. It was growling and bared its teeth. It was off-leash. The woman failed to control her dog. Fortunately, a calm demeanour was enough to persuade the dog to move on. I feared being bitten or knocked down on the steep slope of the hill.
  - Two young women with two large dogs encountered me on that same hill the next time I climbed it (I climb it 2-3 times each day if I can). Both of them charged at me, growling and baring their teeth. Again, the women failed to control their dogs. When I asked them to leash their dogs they refused saying that it was an off-leash area. When I referred to the City of Calgary bylaw regarding the need to have your dogs under control at all times they scoffed and said they knew the bylaws and I clearly did not.
2. While finishing my walk on the other side of the Bow River on a path that goes parallel to West Campus Blvd. on the north side of the hill parallel to Shaganappi Trail NW I encountered a van. It was driving along the dirt path toward me and turned around when, I assume, the driver saw me. I continued to walk. When I turned a corner in the path I could, again, see the van. There was a woman walking toward me on the path. There was a man in the driver's seat in the van. There were three dogs (? Doberman pinchers) in the back of the van. The van was parked on the path – obstructing it. When I approached the van so I could continue walking on the path the man in the van opened his door and approached me. The dogs were barking excessively, putting their heads out the windows, and baring their teeth. They seemed vicious to me. I asked that the driver put up the windows so I could safely pass. He refused. I walked around the van giving it a wide berth but still afraid that the dogs would somehow get out the windows. I took a picture of the van and its driver as well as the van's license plate. Both the woman and the man seemed very upset with me. They drove off in a hurry. The Calgary police have been notified. .

While the last scenario is more of an issue for the police, all the stories emphasize, to me, a growing risk aligned with dogs off-leash in general. My intent in forwarding this letter to you is with regard to Edworthy hill. I am concerned about the general contempt for safety from anyone with a dog who encounters someone that even suggests a dog's behaviour is threatening.

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I am getting tired of this and have raised concerns about it many times in the past. I am thinking it is time that the City of Calgary does something about it before there is a tragedy!

- Since there is a general belief by dog owners that dogs can be off-leash on the **Edworthy Park hill**, dog owners do not seem to be aware of their responsibility to have their dogs under control at all times or do not understand what that means, dog owners regularly demonstrate defensiveness with regard to any challenge that their dog's behaviour is threatening, and dogs, well behaved or not, present a threat to anyone hiking up or down the Edworthy hill.

I suggest:

- Posting signs at both the top and the bottom of the hill reminding dog owners of their responsibilities and, ideally, prohibiting dogs on the hill unless they are leashed.
- Partaking in an educational awareness strategy to try to bring understanding, facilitate collaboration in the name of safety, and help save-face for dog owners.

While this may not be a top priority for the City of Calgary I predict that it will become one as more people with dogs compete with hikers on the hill. Therefore, I suggest acknowledging the challenge now and addressing it. Imagine what incentive there might be to do so if someone is seriously hurt in the meantime!

July 19, 2024 ([engage@ccalgary.ca](mailto:engage@ccalgary.ca))

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*While walking in Edworthy Park I noticed a sign that said if someone had suggestions about the park to contact the City or Calgary. I was unable to take a picture of the sign and do not remember the web site on the sign - hence this message.*

*I have two suggestions for improvement to Edworthy Park. I have been walking/jogging through the park for over 35 years. I have noticed that the biggest challenge is the increase in people using the park. I suspect this is one reason the park is undergoing renovations.*

*- The hill that goes from the south parking lot to the dog free zone at the top of hill can be dangerous for people who climb it if they encounter unleashed dogs. Unfortunately, dog owners seem to interpret the off-leash zone at the top of the hill to extend onto the hill slope itself and do not seem to understand that even 'good' dogs represent a potential threat to hikers on such a steep slope. I have raised this concern before.*

*There seems to be four challenges:*

- 1. Is the hill an off-leash area?*
- 2. How can dog owners be educated regarding the risks dogs pose to hikers on the hill slope?*
- 3. Should there be signs on the hill to inform dog owners.*
- 4. How can expectations be meaningfully enforced?*

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- The pedestrian bridge adjacent to Angel's Cafeteria can be very busy and bicycle riders can pose a threat to pedestrians.

I have also brought this concern forward before. The time when bicycle riders and others can freely travel over the bridge without presenting a threat to pedestrians is over. I suggest that all bicycle riders and people using motorized devices be asked/expected to walk over the bridge - especially as the south end of the bridge has a sharp turn and a blind corner.

July 18, 2024

Hi Rebecca & Patricia,

Thank you again for your patience in allowing me to make several digressions on today's call! As community members, we are very lucky to have you leading the engagement and HMP process.

Just for some initial context, I had initially reached out to Councillor Pootmans to organize a virtual/sit-down meeting in the hopes that I could pass on my concerns. I was told that that wasn't possible as a result of all of the competing interests/concerns in Ward 6; there simply wasn't the time. This led me to write a letter of concern so that, at the very least, I passed on what I thought was important information.

As the letter of concern that I sent to Councillor Pootmans is quite large, please find a Google Docs link below:

[Letter of Concern - Edworthy Park](#)

Unfortunately, even if I make the document a PDF, it's too large to attach in an email :/. Please let me know if you have any trouble opening it.

Please find below several links to YouTube videos. Three of the videos (1, 2 & 3) focus on the area of habitat with EP I am deeply concerned for. I am not sure if you'll find the videos helpful but they were created so Councillor Pootmans would have an idea of the scale of the degradation.

My sincere apologies in advance for any snarkiness/passive aggression that I may have voiced in the videos; depending on that day, I may have been a bit frustrated. I will say, even in the last month, my perspective has broadened and I have a greater appreciation for the challenges and constraints Calgary Parks, for example, is working with.

Here are the links:

[Video 1 - Base Encampment Area](#)

[Video 2 - "3rd Level"/Right-side Encampment](#)

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[Video 3 - "2nd Level/Left-side Encampment"](#)

[Video 4 - Site Visited by City Staff](#)

[Video 5 - Citizen Action](#)

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions or concerns.

Thanks again for creating space for this type of engagement.

## The Portal Page

### The Primary Question

**How can we collectively manage the Lawrey Gardens and Edworthy Park natural areas in a consistent way to ensure positive and measurable biodiversity outcomes?**

*More garbage cans along the river walk, particularly along the area closest to the trains and under the crowchild overpass. There are only 2 cans for kind of paths and they are always overflowing. More cans = more responsibility to throw away garbage/pet feces.*

*The number and species of invasive plants in Edworthy continues to escalate. Many species are firmly entrenched now and beyond hope of getting them under control; it's too late now. What are you going to do to make sure that what remains of the natural prairie/foothills habitat is not lost?*

*Wake up to the impacts that humans are having on these spaces. As a resident of the area who is trying to clean up and care for these areas, it's disheartening when it appears the city is neglecting this space that is being cut down, burned, laden with feces, plastics, needles, hazardous materials.*

*To collectively manage it, I vote for taking advantage of the area to plant more trees, improve the bike paths, limit the number of cars to be parked so the park has less noise and pollution, and provide more water and washroom facilities. A pickeball court would also be great.*

*The idea that these are natural areas are rather farfetched. They are at best cultural areas for at least the last 150 yrs. Moreover, with the various building activities such as the Paskapoo slope developments and fences around the tracks, any potential wildlife corridors have ceased to exist.*

*Maintain the status quo for access, but label areas that need to be protected.*

*Limit intrusive activities like off-leash dogs, dirt/mountain biking*

*Get rid of the parking and make access by transit or bike only*

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*Runners and cyclists can go anywhere. This is the only place to go without needing a car to let my dog run. Fenced areas are great for mini dogs but not 80 pound dogs. Don't force them into a small dirty ring or they'll go to school parks instead.*

*By having clear pathways and areas for human use, while allowing the natural spaces to be natural habitats for wildlife and vegetation. Also improved management of the Douglas Fir Trail and paved pathway on the south side of the river to avoid the erosion so prevalent now.*

*Raised plant beds to protect flowers and beautify the area. And a dock to keep the trail secure*

*I just want this natural area to be preserved as it is.*

*Fix all pathways and drainage issues, particularly south (west?) of the railway.*

*Make the paths accessible year round.*

*Make better signage so people know it's a park.*

*Maybe separate through cyclists to make the park easier to use for all.*

*More wild flowers*

*Create a fenced off leash dog park or parks. Create a proper pathway across the upper park so that ecological and historical areas are no longer trampled and can recover.*

*Ensure, weed control. And native plants thrive.*

*Get rid of the dogs and the thousands of people*

*It's a park, manage it by making it safe for people to use- trim hedges to keep unobstructed views from the pathway, trim greenery leading to river access points under the bridge. Maintain the wooden stairs and bridges in the hiking area. Be park stewards and make it safe/enjoyable for park patrons.*

*Have a Calgary Transit bus stop on both sides of the park (near Angels Cafe and on the side of Spruce Drive as well), so less folks drive and park in the park parking lot especially on weekends and holidays.*

*Remove Caragana bushes, create or improve some trails while closing off others, provide good access to the river but not everywhere, limit access to CP rail for crossing the tracks, improve the parking surface.*

*Reduce areas in the park that are accessible to dogs. I realize that people like to take their dogs to natural areas, but many studies have shown that dogs have a negative impact on biodiversity, particularly in large numbers.*

*Indigenous people have cared for this land for millennia. Excellent opportunity to give leadership back to it's original caregivers.*

*Set up barriers for reclamation and natural habitat rehabilitation*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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*I have no idea*

*Please prioritize the enjoyment and usage of the park by people. Plant and wildlife management is a good secondary goal. Please fix the path on the south side that has been in disrepair since 2013. Make the south side path an all year round path. Also address the increasing camping in edworthy park*

*Why hire someone? Don't you employ Ecologists and Gardeners?*

*That's an odd "primary question." Just run it like a park should, open to public, maintained weekly*

*Just leave it alone.*

*If this is the 'primary question', why is this answer to this question limited to 300 characters? I had a response that I've had to can because, for me, it's somewhat challenging to chew into this important question with a small soundbite. Perhaps there's an opportunity within the Q&A section.*

*Make all areas onleash, except for a ten acre area on previously plowed land on upper plateau; make all areas "stay on designated trails", restore fescue meadow (one entire natural habitat zone) into native fescue meadow; make a living natural museum out of all the diverse biohabitat zones.*

*Leave it as is, I feel like it works really well right now!*

*please use common language. Wording deters me from knowing how to answer this statement.*

*You can start by not building an unneeded and unnecessary interchange at Bow Trail and Sarcee Trail that The City is currently engaging Calgarians about (causing environmental and encroachment risk to Edworthy Park) -- instead, take that funding and invest it properly in habitat preservation!*

*Whatever the plan recommends, any implement program should be transitional in progress and time to preserve recreational access and use*

*I believe that biodiversity improvements in small patches of habitat such as this are best undertaken by minimizing disturbance and allowing for habitat connectivity. Habitat alterations including weeding and trail work can be undertaken by volunteers, to reduce costs and create connection to parks.*

*To manage Lawrey Gardens and Edworthy Park for biodiversity, engage stakeholders, create a management plan with clear goals, restore habitats, monitor biodiversity, involve the community, secure funding, enforce protective policies, and collaborate on research and innovation*

*By leaving the Mayor out of it*

*Provide ways to facilitate human interaction with the spaces that respect the biodiversity (e.g., re-open Douglas fir trail). New amenities for Edworthy park (a pump park or splash pad) would also be welcome.*

*Don't get rid of the douglas fir trail. It's an amazing natural trail in the middle of the city. The top portion that is currently closed is a lovely traverse high up on the bluff. You don't even feel like you're in a city which is so helpful for good mental health. Ppl need to connect with nature!*

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*Let natural areas be natural and put in the effort to respond to invasive species sightings. Stop letting park users claim ignorance for breaking laws. Issue tickets to EVERY OFFENDER, INCLUDING LITTERING OF CIGARETTE BUTTS. The city will have to do its job of managing the city (not worldly BS).*

*More show case (social media; print media; broadcast media) of all that Edworthy Park area offers (Angels Cafe, river embark and debark points for SUPers, rafters, kyaks, parking on both sides of river, training operations for Calgary Fire & Rescue, to name a few.)*

*Remove invasive non native weed species and get rid of all the garbage left behind from users and encampments. Also better define pathways and block off informal trails*

*Maintain the current natural habitat, including wildflowers and local shrubs. Add additional wildflowers where grasses have taken over natural habitat.*

*Remove invasive plants and replace with natives wherever possible*

*More park maintenance*

*The road down to the park from the south side is dangerous and ppl don't know how to share the road with bikes. A designated bike lane would make it a bit safer.*

*There is also a sewage smell in that parking lot by the playground. If that could be looked after, that'd be great.*

*Sound pollution is a serious problem in the summer. We come to parks to be a part of nature and every weekend there is some private event blaring music. Doesn't matter where you go, it the music follows. Music is for downtown events not the large parks. Ruins it*

*Continue to maintain pathways to encourage exploration of the area, without destroying natural areas with people going off trails*

*Low level grooming. Allow bugs and birds to use the area as nature needs to use it.*

*I think less management and more letting nature take care of nature. Remove dead branches and dangerous vegetation. Fix holes in walkways.*

*Encourage native plant species as habitat to support other native species.*

*If you need historical plant/bird data for the area I think some of the late Gus Yaki's records have been kept by Birds Calgary or Nature Calgary.*

*Could there be a self guided tour with signs that inform? There is so much history, flora and fauna in the area. It's such a shame that we don't educate others about this unique, special, beautiful area. We have other parks with guided tours, why not here?*

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*I AM COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THIS. WHO DECIDED THIS WAS A NECESSARY INITIATIVE? SPEND THE NEXT 10 YEARS ON THE DOZENS OR HUNDREDS OF OTHER AREAS IN CALGARY THAT ARE IN MUCH GREATER NEED*

*Built out the Douglas Fir Trail so that it is sustainable for future generations. Move unhomed residents out of the natural areas. Better police the dog park (why are there no poo bags available?) and control abuses.*

*Just a few blocks west of there the water pipes blew up. Please focus on basic services. There is no need for a 10-year HMP. Just maintain the park, keep it clean, and assist any persons who are choosing to live in the park to find proper housing.*

*Incentivize population to plant more trees and clean the river. Trying to balance wild life with human life. Prioritizing non human species*

*You could provide an entrance to Edworthy for vehicles off of bow trail that takes park traffic off of wildwood streets. Please.*

*Electronic scooters and bikes need rules almost hit numerous times - way too fast for these paths and trails.*

*I love the park the way it is. It is relaxed and a balanced space with both untouched nature and amenities together. I love bringing my dogs there, playing with my friends kids at the playgrounds and riding my bike through to the pathways.*

*Leave it alone*

*Make sure paths are wide enough and maintained. Keep it accessible and have washrooms available, and bins.*

*Fence the "Off Leash" area. Deer & moose frequent the area. Help pet owners control their dogs. I've cycled through Edworthy for the last 11 yrs on my daily commute, the stench of dog poop thawing in spring from the off leash is repulsive.*

*I think we can manage the Gardens in a consistent way by planting plant species native to Alberta. This benefits the soil biome as well as park aesthetic. As well as we should be planting more trees to provide natural shade to Calgarians, birds, squirrels, and other wildlife species.*

*Every winter+spring, a huge puddle develops along the bike path, about 100 m past the pedestrian bridge, south side of the river. Would be great if drainage could be added or the pathway raised about 12 inches.*

*Annual snow run off along the railway side path driving seniors to walk on the rail resulting in an elderly man being killed a few years back. I've in that area carries into July annually. Too many people fall and get hurt there. Add ditches or elevate path free from ice run off down the hill please*

*Keep dogs on leash.*

*Bikes stay on main path.*

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*The most critical thing is the parking lot. It needs to be paved and line painted.*

*Culture vegetation that is resilient to people and droughts*

*In the same way the city did with st. Pats island*

*It's much better than when the brick factory was there... please leave as is.*

*Ban urban camping and protect the natural areas at this location.*

*Limit access, let things grow, you don't need to measure it. Leave things alone. Less is more, you're over staffed*

*By being willing to not accommodate some uses and user groups. No resource can be all things to all people!*

*Identify biodiversity hot spots, avoid human negative impacts on those areas, designated trail system, dogs on-leash only, education and enforcement of guidelines.*

*Honestly, I don't think there's much that needs doing. Both areas are jewels in the city and rich sources of biodiversity, all the more impressive given how close they are to downtown. Actually, there is one thing: somehow promote more native squirrels and dissuade the invasive ones...*

*This question is ridiculously vague. I just came to say please do something to the North parking lot before I damage my car trying to navigate through it. There is no information here about the biodiversity goals or challenges so I don't know what you expect average citizens to say.*

*Edworthy does NOT need improving. But, removing/enforcing no sheltering is essential. Its uncomfortable, unsightly, & disturbing to be enjoying nature & then to come across garbage, smells of an encampment. It does not feel safe. No more structured place, please Do NOT destroy the naturalized beauty.*

*More trees, native plants for pollinators*

*We love Douglas fir trail. Please keep it accessible! Major issues: underground springs/water: BIKES making huge erosion: BAN them on this trail, they must stay on cement paths already provided off trail: railway tracks blocking water in: homeless creating paths which then erode from water runoff.*

*I think that to a large extent, the park should be left as is. Real biodiversity is difficult to achieve in an urban setting. The park's greatest value is as a recreational facility. Efforts to add biodiversity often lead to limiting recreation and that would be terrible in this case.*

*Continue with natural plant species. A bike lane is absolutely needed on the road down to the park. Edworthy park has become a main artery for cyclists to access downtown. Keep pathways on Douglas fir trail as natural as possible. This area is a unique place for a short inner city hike.*

*Use some Money to hire landscape specialists etc*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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*Why dont you just put condos in now and save us all the time and trouble of responding. I I think we all know what city of calgary “consultations” are about.*

*In my opinion, the dog park area is suffering unnecessary damage due to the lack of a defined path system. I know this conflicts with the park mandate, but the lack of paths leads to increased compaction and stressed vegetation.*

*Make a bylaw against balloons and glitter. Since the park is mainly used for large gathering litter is often left and threatens the species living there. Take away some of the playground spaces, there are 4 playgrounds within the areas, which effects the enjoyment of the park.*

*deal with the strong sewage smell coming from the washrooms by the south parking lot. It is smelt very strongly at the playground and makes it unenjoyable.*

*Maintenance of existing infrastructure. The Douglas Fir Trail has been ignored by the city for decades because they view the escartment as unstable, which is true, but the pathway can still be managed as a rustic pathway where periodically is repaired and users are warned to use at their own risk*

*Clearly define what activities and uses are acceptable and where they are best suited. Pathways are available that reduce conflict and access points (i.e to river or areas in park) passively direct traffic and reduce number of disturbances.*

*Making trails and pathways that are usable for a variety of different uses, like walking, running, cycling, strollers, etc. and are wide enough to be safe and enjoyable to use so that the rest of the park can be used for wildlife and natural areas.*

*Please create a safer route to the park. The paved hill down to the park has so many twists and turns and the dangerous tightness of the road is sketchy for bikers and people walking. Roads for just the cars should not be the only safe solution to get to the park.*

*The assessment seems reasonable however I don't trust the city to hear the voices of the people. Peoples opinions capture the things that aren't measurable. Is this plan going to consider the 100yr plan to preserve the Douglas fir trees and perpetuate their growth?*

*Fix erosion issues on Doug Fir trail and Edworthy Park off leash trails.*

*A paved & maintained path to edworthy via the south side(Wildwood) to encourage biking and walking down rather than driving!*

*Signage around the paths with photos and information about wildlife/plants in the area. Info on invasive plants and wildlife so people become more educated.*

*Some way to better protect the river. There was a shopping cart and a chair in the middle of the river when I was walking by last week.*

*minimize fragmentation and improve connectivity all the way between Paskapoo slopes to Pumphouse*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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*Better enforce existing and evolving use rules and regulations.*

*Remove the scary homeless people who live there!! Many people are scared to walk in the trails because of them. As a lady, it is scary to be told by drunk/stoned homeless, in the wood, "hey beautiful, wanna join us for some fun?"*

*So please... lets fix this so we can all enjoy those trails again!!!*

*Only way to do this effectively is to limit the number of people going into these areas. Not sure how feasible that is.*

*Add wildflowers for bees, plants that self sustain and grow fruit, like raspberries, and add signage near river areas that beavers and geese frequent to increase animal protection*

*Provide separate access from the south side in 3 streams - vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians*

*When the Bow overflows, there isn't much you can do to protect the riverside site's natural habitat. It will just be washed away like it was in 2015. So flood mitigation is protection. The bluffs and Douglas Fir trail should remain closed.*

*Fix the road at the off leash area first. Huge potholes - it's a disaster!*

*Education - people need to understand biodiversity and its importance in the area. Having more information signs, and perhaps even regular "tour guides" who can highlight these issues.*

*While I appreciate the complexity to this question, I believe that tax dollars are far better spent elsewhere. I also realize very little weight is placed on feedback that goes against the desires of those who do not respect tax dollars. 'Biodiverse' outcomes can wait.*

*Carefully. Make biodiversity a priority.*

*Make sure certain areas are off limit to the public, with signage explaining why (e.g. nesting sites). Provide adequate, clean and working facilities to discourage people from using the bushes.*

*Can a B.C.'er, who visits Calgary, weigh in? A clear paved path that leads right THROUGH Edworthy Park, is then marked with small signs, to let pedestrians know NOT TO CROSS THIS CLEAR PATH THROUGH THE PARK, or you will cross train tracks and get hefty ticket. Sheer stupidity! Fix this first.*

*Remove some of the lawn and plant native plant species. Empower people to manage noxious and prohibited noxious weeds (schedule guided weed pulls and make it a game or event with prizes and food). Once native plants are established, introduce disturbance (controlled burns, grazing)*

*Clear trails for connecting different systems (i.e. paved and Douglas Fir trails) and accessing river, to minimize development of 'social' trails*

*Leave it as it is*

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*Before you do anything you need to pave and line the parking lot at the bottom of Shaganappi trail.*

*Improve the trail system to move through the park. Improve the acres road down the hill to the park from spruce drive, make it safe for drivers, pedestrians and bikers, fix the Douglas fir trail, it's an incredible trail.*

*Prevent the amount of people who visit.*

*People will want use the fields for events so perhaps low flower meadows in open spaces that you can put a blanket down but has flowers for bees and birds and wildlife*

*More native trees and shrubs. There are so many wide open fields in Edworthy Park. They grass gets scorched in summer and fields are windy in winter. Animals and people would really benefit from more trees and shrines, especially Northside. And the homeless "urban campers", pollute and burn. Must go*

*Firstly an assessment of the current biodiversity of the area should be conducted utilizing already existing data (such as bird biodiversity found on the EBird app) and further assessment should be completed to fill in the gaps.*

*- limit additional human impact*

*- increase native wildflowers for bugs*

*Why would people bother to respond as the city of Calgary wastes money on engagement and does whatever they want. What a waste of my money hiring people to do these surveys.*

*Set one person responsible for the park. They should supervise/oversee/coordinate the useage of the park. This should include camp cleanups, path usage, tree health, maintenance, signage, enforcement.*

*Stop mowing the grass, allow for wild meadow areas to encourage more dragonflies, mowed lawns mean more mosquitos.*

*You can engage the community in removing invasive plants, planting native trees, and improving trails to reduce erosion while maintaining public access to a unique green space. You can also engage with CP Rail to improve streamflow under the main paved riverside path to keep it open year-round.*

*Is this really a question for a lay person? Providing biodiversity in a measurable way is a very technical question, something for a professional to answer. Because your question is obviously not for the lay person I wonder if the decision has been made and no input from park users is really wanted*

*N/a*

*Being that nature is biodiverse by its own definition, leave the parks alone and let nature do its work. The arrogance of all your blah blah blah terminology shows how much waste of time and money this city blatantly spends is shameful*

*Continue to preserve respectful entry to Lawrey Gardens by requiring pedestrian access.*

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*Invest in sustainable trail networks, particularly along the steeper South bank slopes, to reduce trail braiding and proliferation.*

*Ensure pathways are well maintained to focus traffic.*

*Increase informational signage to create an awareness of habitats*

*Use data from iNaturalist*

*Have informed "naturalists" do plant studies spring, summer and fall for at least 2 years. Plant studies meaning walking the whole area, not just a 3'x3' patch.*

*Clearly marked pathways to minimize trail braiding. Smaller garbage bins throughout the park to prevent garbage dumping. Keep an off leash for dogs.*

*Continue with dedicated site use but ensure sites are maintained for the intended purpose. Clean river banks of garbage and squatters. Signage. Maintain dedicated pathways.*

*By informing and engaging regular and casual users including communities bordering the area on the south of the river and directly across the river. Also raising awareness of the value of this area to other Calgarians who may be unaware it exists.*

*Please maintain the trail. This will encourage use of the area in a sustainable way by keeping people in a path and allowing them to enjoy nature.*

*That is a very difficult outcome to achieve with a major national railway line running through the south side and urban development up against the north side!*

*I would differ to the environmental specialists for biodiversity. I would however suggest the use of regular volunteers to help in different ways and to engage the citizenry with the park.*

*Create a bike/pedestrian access down to the south parking lot to prevent people from tearing up the hillside*

*Create new, improve existing and maintain pathways so that people stay on them and save the biodiversity.*

*Reduce the dog park access which has destroyed the upper area of the park. Restore the Douglas fir trail. Work with the park society cooperatively. Limit the expansion of playgrounds. Promote natural trail areas. Lose areas for rehabilitation. Increase fines for damage to the park area.*

*sustainable trails, safe and responsible use by people and protects the natural habitat, protecting green space, involve stakeholders in the plan/committee*

*A habitat management plan is usually a people management plan. People need to be discouraged from going into sensitive areas where they can impact biodiversity.*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

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*Start by doing a cost/benefit analysis on managing the park. Ignoring fiscal reality and just embarking on a project seems likely to end in failure for all except the people taking a pay check to do the 'work'. Determine a reasonable budget first, then decide how to effectively use the budget.*

*Keep vehicles out. Create proper beaches near the Shaganappi pump station.*

*Would an Adopt a Park model help?*

*Why is the City focusing on this "issue" when we do not even have a basic park plan for Paskapoo Slopes (the Slopes)?? The Slopes were acquired by the city 10+ years ago and is being segregated by increased and unmonitored bike, and pedestrian traffic.*

*Public education and bylaw enforcement to ensure people stay on designated trails. Public education about the destruction of native plants by trampling. Habitat restoration of the upper plateau of Edworthy Park, to restore parts of (most of) the fescue meadow.*

### **Q3. How do you use Edworthy Park's natural areas?**

Trail running with friends and exploring with my kids

We live nearby in Point McKay, so when we do our walks or bike rides along the Bow walking trail, we often cross the bridge and visit the Edworthy Park natural areas. We lived here for 10 years so know it quite well. We frequent Lawrey Gardens Park less.

Great place for biking and being close to nature.

Preferably, going for walks and relaxing/forest bathing; however, more often than not I end up cleaning garbage, dragging shopping carts up the hill to Cedar Cres Drive, picking up dog poop bags, and otherwise feeling disappointed by how this city and community have grown to accept this as normal.

Mostly bike riding and taking a moment to enjoy the area. It's awesome that we get to ride our bikes and not see or hear cars.

I walk my dogs daily for at least 60 minutes in and around the various areas. Sometimes meet with friends for a social gathering

dog park

Walk out dog from a neighbouring community. Typically use Upper Edworthy.

Off leash dog park. Best dog park in the city

Offleash dog walking

I walk through and enjoy natural areas. Identify birds. Enjoy nature.

## Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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I walk my dog and go for jogs.

For river access, trail running, bike riding. When I was a kid we had lots of picnics there.

I don't use them and only use the pathways

Jump in the water, BBQ and camp fire

Dog off leash

Walking trails, hiking, dog walking

I live nearby and frequently the walking/bike paths, river access, and have occasionally used the picnic areas for larger gatherings.

Walking the paths and fields, while sometimes riding through the pathways

Recreate with grandchildren. Accessing river Riding bike paths over years

I ride my bike around the area. I stop for coffee at Angel's cafe. this is my favourite corner in the city.

"I bike and walk the area. I like the shade in Summer and the cleared paths in Winter.

I like to do the loop from 14th Street To Angles over the bridge and back on the other side of the river."

Walking and biking

We wade in the river. My kids practice riding their bikes in the quieter areas.

Access to the river and to walk my dog.

I walk through the park with my dog, dad, and our friends (as well as our friends guide dogs).

I take my dog for a walk

Walking, birdwatching, and wading in the river.

friends/family bbq gatherings

Off leash dog walks, on leash hiking on the trails, and on leash swimming or playing in the water.

Walking, picnics, cycling

Walking with friends and my dogs.

AS a walking location among natural surroundings

Biking, hiking, river access and playground

To walk and to exit the bow river after kayaking or paddle boarding

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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Walk and take photos or visit Angel's Cafe.

Run on trails or pathway.

Biking, dog walking, hiking

I enjoy entering the natural areas to connect with nature, get away from devices, etc. Lately, as a member of the 'Adopt-a-Park' program, I pick up garbage and report abandoned encampments; not the most enjoyable activity but I feel I need to do something as the city does not appear interested.

Dog walking mostly. But I also have picnics and go out to the park to play music.

I walk my dogs here every day!

Walking, running, biking, bird watching, swimming and sitting by the river

don't. off beaten path. As single female no help would be available

Off leash with my dog

Walk the trails with my dog.

Walking

Walking, resting, cycling, visiting water/river/shore.

On my bike. The natural trails offer some great inner-city mountain biking, specifically in off-peak hours when they are not busy.

I walk, run and bicycle to and through Edworthy Park from my home nearby. In addition, I go birding there at all months of the year and enjoy fly fishing there during the summer months.

I walk, enjoy the river (e.g. stone tossing, reading my book) and play low impact sports in the park such as frisbee

Walking the pathways

Dog park, Douglas fir trail, river pathways, playgrounds

Walk my dog

"Biking or running on pathway

Used to love the Douglas Fir trail for walking and running"

Run/walk on the bike path with a friend's dog

Dog walking, bird watching, playground, bbqing

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

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Walking picnicking and Offleash

I ride through the park to commute to work. On weekends, we walk, cycle, run?c okay at the playground, paddle and float in the river, head over to Angels for ice cream

I run and play spikeball there

Running on paths

Hiking paths in Douglas Fir Trail

Walking.

As a chance to escape the pavement and concrete of the city without leaving the city. Calgary is blessed with wonderful natural parks and they should be treasured and protected.

Let them be.

I walk the Douglas Fir Trail

Running

Walking.

biking, walking, play with kids

I ride the pathways almost daily. When the Douglas Fir trail was open I would walk at least once a week if not more.

I bring my dogs to the river to cool off, I run on the pathways with my dogs, I bike through on my commute, I take my dogs to the off leash area up on the ridge. I love being able to walk in nature so close to home.

Trail running; biking; playgrounds and parks with my kids

Walking

Cycling

walking

Walk to and into the park , i also ride my bike and use the paved trails

Dog walks, kids playground, picnics, visits to the river, bike rides

I walk along the railway side when the ice melts off. The city has done nothing to make this path safer and it resulted in a death. Very disappointed by this. Ditching and other work should be done.

Walking, birding

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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Bike

Birding

As a rest area while biking.

Quiet reflection, nature walks, vigorous hikes, picnics, bicycle commuting.

Run, bike, play games in the fields, have family gatherings

Nature walks

I ride through them mostly—and remember all the past times I've been there through my life. Honestly, it's my favourite part of the city. I was married there this past February, just the latest of many important life moments that have happened there. I'm so grateful.

I ride my bike and look forward to sitting on a bench and enjoying the naturalized beauty. Please do not create more structured areas, there are plenty. Planting wild roses, blue flax in the structured areas would be nice but leave the rest as it is.

Bike paths

I ride my mountain bike there. The trails are limited but excellent. I also hike the trails occasionally.

I ride my bike through the park and use the road for hill training.

To walk my dog

I enjoy the beauty of nature, I love biking or running around there.

Picnics

I live close by so I will run , ride my bike or walk the dog.

I walk my dog, or explore with my children

Walk. Bbq. Play at the park. Meditate at the river go to angels

Running

I bike through them on my way to work downtown

Dog Park, hiking trails.

I walk, practice solitude.

Walk, bike, picnic, hike

See above - I spend time with my dog and my students here

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

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Run along the bike path (the Edworthy loop on both sides of the river), hike up the Douglas Fir Trail

Off leash dog walking (in designated area), daily runs (mainly trail), river access

I run on the paved paths and trails.

active transport, walking, walking the dog. Rafting access to river.

Running, walking my dog, cycling and working out on health course

I ride my bike down to the pathway and run from there. I always walk with my dog and start river floats from this location.

Bike and run

Running on Quarry, Douglas Fir trails

Walking

Playgrounds for my child especially the new one by the south parking lot, walk the pathways, sit by the water, hike Douglas Fur Trail, eat at Angels.

Walk around and look at possible birds/wildlife in the area.

Passing through on bicycle

Run, walk, dog walk, cycle, swim

Walking dog, hiking with kids, picnics

walking, play and natural areas with Grandchildren

I have been there for picnics, dog walks and hikes along the Douglas Fir Trail.

Mostly walking and watching the wildlife

Walk the dog on the trails by the river

Walking my dog and spending time in nature and the sun

I take children I care for on nature walks along the river towards Bowness.

Commuting, hiking, on-leash dog walking

Running and dog walking.

Walking path, trails, river access

Walking our dog

## Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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I walk on the pathways

Walking the paths

Walking and biking. I live in the Riverside Towers so this is the closest green space to home. I enjoy wandering looking at native plants and bird watching.

Walk or bicycle; observe plants and animals

Pathways, Angel's Cafe

"Mountain bike bottom of dog park

Road bike on paved paths / pedestrian bridge

Walk dog"

I run through Edworthy Park

Walking my dog

Picnics, biking, walking, relaxing

I walk here every day and will often do another 1 or 2 trips there per day with my dog. I love the Douglas fir Trail and am definitely disappointed by the endless closure of the trails there.

Hiking with kids, mostly short 1-2 hours

We drive from West Springs SW and park on the south side of the river near the new playground and train tracks. We've attended TimberNook programs and have frequented the park to play at playgrounds, throw rocks at the rivers edge and walk across the bridge to go to the cafe.

Hiking

I hike the Douglas Fir Trail, and run on the trails.

Fitness and spending time with family and friends

"I drive or bike to the park (live in westgate)

We go for walks, bike, go birding, run"

exercise and dog walking (4 km, 100m elevation per day)

I use them for walking, running, cycling, birdwatching, and sometimes even kayaking.

Hiking and birding

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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My young daughter likes to play at the playgrounds; my teen son and I enjoying running the pathways; our family has done picnics in the BBQ area; and we love to hang out on the rocks by the river!

I ride my bike through to access the Bow River pathway system. I also go to swim in the river in summer. From time to time I will use the mountain bike trails on the escarpment and out towards Eastlands.

Walking along the river and walking the Douglas Fir Trail.

Dog walking

Plant study, nature appreciation

Dog walk and also take photos of the wildflowers and bird watching.

Running on pathways.

Walking, jogging, and hiking year round. Also nature photography and birding.

Dog walking on trails, river access, Quarry road bike path

I used to use some or all of the trail almost daily. As I would now need to do a full loop down to the river and up the road or dog park then home, I am no longer able to use the park or path as frequently. I really miss this natural hike in the city and met friends from all over the city here.

Walking with friends

Walking to absorb nature, accessing the area down the east entrance to the Douglas fir trail.

Walking park and trails. Play around and in river. Occl walk trail south side

Commute to work everyday. Visit natural areas and river on weekends. Long walks on both sides or river.

Cycling through, hiking the trails (occasionally)

I predominantly use the off-leash park

Walking.

We walk through Edworthy Park

Nature walks to discover the area's biodiversity and geology/geomorphology.

Commuting to/from work. A forest bath makes my day.

Bird watching, botany watching.

I walked my dogs at Edworthy Park

Walking

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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## **Q5. Would you mind telling us a bit more about the answer you chose in the previous question?**

(Q4. What do you value most about the Edworthy Park's natural areas?)

*As a retired Professional Forester (35 years in field and as a long time manager) my interest in all things nature remains. As such, I most likely see and appreciate the natural aspects of the Park more so than many other users who possibly don't notice or understand them.*

*I live in Beltline and we don't have a lot of trees around here, unfortunately. So I often bike all the way down to Edworthy Park.*

*All of the options listed are inter-related and these spaces need to be looked at with a systems approach that integrates care for the natural environment, wildlife, river (and other bodies of water that are found throughout with all sorts of hazardous waste and trash surrounding them), and trails so that all beings can enjoy. I wonder daily why Lawrey Gardens is an off-leash dog park given there are no garbage bins and the area is home to wildlife and sensitive flora.*

*AS someone who has recently moved to Calgary, one of the things that I miss the most is having more nature and parks in the urban areas. Having this park somewhat near downtown is priceless.*

*The be able to use unabridged the extensive non-paved trails along the river and in/around EP and LG is what makes these areas (and Calgary) unique. That is one of the reasons why these areas are so popular with urban hikers, dog walkers etc. It would be horrendous if they are going to be limited or even worse fenced off with the sole purpose to generate an artificial natural area. Trying to get wildlife in these areas is rather cynical since all their corridors have been destroyed or fences off*

*Love the "escape" from the city, while still having great views of the City. Love the dog park.*

*Great spot to get away from the city*

*I use the bike path.*

*Very easy to get away from the busy city and feel like you are in a natural area far removed from the city*

*This city is progressively shutting off areas for off leash dog walking and it is wrong. Watching my dog run happily offlead helps my mental health like nothing else.*

*Birding, photography, joy in seeing lovely native plants.*

*During COVID, Edworthy Park became my and my dogs wonderful escape. And a beautiful oasis in the city that was an ungroomed, untamed park. I wouldn't regulate the space, it's perfect the way it is.*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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*All of the other answers are dependent on this one; nature. A healthy landscape supports wildlife, recreation, and the access to beautiful places. I like that cars are restricted to small parking lots, long may it continue. The area doesn't need improvement, it needs stewardship.*

*Nice destination - could be a combination of other answers, but the regional pathway brings people to destinations like the river, recreation, and picnic / park activities*

*It's great you can bike to the park, but then you run into way too many cars*

*Wild grasses and flowers, access to river*

*It is a quieter area in the central Calgary where you can hear the river and birds etc.*

*I live nearby and very much value having access to walking and hiking v trails, as well as the off leash dog area off Sarcee trail*

*I love the Douglas Fir Trail and it is my 'happy place' as soon I walk in from the north side. It would be great to see it restored from the significant deterioration from the 2013 floods as it has become somewhat inaccessible. As well, parts of the trail on the south/east side are not developed enough to withstand the seasonal weather and use of the trail can sometimes negatively impact the natural areas.*

*It is of great value to have access to natural habitats within close reach inside the city. Preservation and restoration of these is an important goal.*

*the access to nature helps me to relax. the bike paths are also very important to me.*

*I like the trees being away from cars and noise and having views of the river and wildlife. Seeing space and vegetation not concrete and buildings.*

*I mtb on the non paved as there are fewer people and dogs*

*It's a beautiful area that's like being out in nature but still within the city.*

*I love being near the river with my dog and just having a nice time.*

*As a person with a physical disability, with others who are blind, it's easier for us to walk on paved and shoveled pathways.*

*I would value the trails more but they are horrible, when it rains or spring time they are all mud and the whole park is unusable*

*Edworthy Park offers access to nature, which is becoming increasingly precious and rare in urban areas. Being able to walk through areas that are not heavily used (by humans and dogs) provides a much-needed sense of peace and sanctuary. I hope we can do whatever is necessary to keep these areas intact. My second response would have been the wildlife.*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

Engage Resource Unit What We Heard Report

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*Having a natural greenspace in the city but feeling like your in a forest far from the city helps with mental health and "forest bathing" meditation. And not having to drive, (or not being able to drive), out of the city to experience this.*

*I value the off leash dog park trails. Take my dog very often and he loves it.*

*I enjoy being at a park by the river. I really love the unpaved trails.*

*It's fun to have forested single track trails. It's feels like a natural adventure*

*I run on the pathways daily*

*I like to get off the paved trails - too many wheeled conveyances. So for hiking, it's great to have non-paved trails that go through treed areas.*

*"The primary question is allotted 300 characters whereas this question is given 500. Weird.*

*Well, I selected the 'Other' option as I value many things about the natural areas of EP. I can't really set aside one aspect that I value more over the other. I suppose I don't support how this question is framed."*

*I love that there's all kinds of trails that you can walk through. I also appreciate having access to the river. It's incredibly beautiful here.*

*I elaborated in my "other" answer. I love how large the space is, how many trees there are and all the trails. There is really no other place like it in the city!*

*I love that this area feels very natural with only a small amount of man made areas in Edworthy park itself. It feels like you're not in the city when walking in the Lowrey garden area and I hope it stays that way! I love the Douglas fir trail too. It's nice to have a hiking trail right inside the city.*

*great place for picnics, kids to play. 2 or 3 times have ventured into natural areas, but only tall grass in. paths vague, like area for picnics, hanging with friends*

*Off leash for/with my dog*

*Walk the trails with my dog.*

*I enjoy the gravel bar below the bridge and being close to the river, and the various paths... It's just pleasant to walk through the trees, I also do photography... Not sure what the Lawrey Gardens is... ??*

*As human beings, we need access to nature and natural spaces. There is room for all users in Edworthy park, which is a huge advantage!*

*Keep the natural trails as they are. the city has enough paved trails and it seems every year we lose more of the natural trails which are "upgraded" to paved or gravel paths.*

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*Edworthy Park and Lawrey Gardens provide excellent access to nature and natural habitat within the city and I enjoy being able to easily travel from my house to a fairly 'natural' park where a variety of birds, wildlife and vegetation communities are found. Recreational activities such as walking and biking are inherently important for providing access to enjoy the park and existing trails in the park provide a good balance of access and relatively untouched habitat patches.*

*The Bow river is beautiful. It can be peaceful at the same time wild. It allows me to relax and think creatively. My family just enjoys tossing rocks into that river.*

*It feels like leaving the city without needing to drive far*

*All are assets to Edworthy but the Douglas fir trail is what really sets it apart amongst other parks in the city*

*I love the trees and being by the river*

*Golf the paved trails were not there it would be less accessible for me and my young family*

*I enjoy the birds and water fowl in the river valley.*

*We enjoy walking and biking along the river*

*I bike through there. But also use the beach to pull over on the paddleboards in the summer*

*This is one of the areas within the city that maintaining natural habitat. All other areas are often grasses, which are mowed and have no biodiversity. This is one of the main reasons why I often visit Edworthy Park.*

*I commute through Edworthy most days during summer.*

*The trails allow access to nature and recreational hiking in the city. They are a great spot to introduce kids and beginners to hiking.*

*We like walking the Douglas Fir trail and we like to hang out by the river.*

*Let nature find its way.*

*I love the Douglas Fir Trail*

*This is a massively important link of the suburbs west of Sarcee to the rest of the cities pathways. Without this important area of pathways I would say calgary is unsuitable for quality of life and ability to enjoy urban green space and river.*

*it is a little nature-oasis in the middle of the city- very special*

*Playgrounds that are surrounded by nature, pathways, river*

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*I enjoy the regional pathway and that it's paved but the most important aspect is the access to nature. Please don't develop it anymore because that will impact the natural beauty and the wildlife that inhabit the area!*

No.

*"This is a hard one because I really value all the options listed. Unpaved trails to run on for happier joints, river access and off leash areas are my biggest priorities.*

*I wish there was a path along the road for biking, running and walking on the south side up to spruce cliff."*

*I don't love driving out of town on my own due to disability, or doing secluded trails solo as a woman, and at Edworthy I can get a forest escape within the city, safely.*

No

*Parks are an essential part of our city.*

*walking among the tall trees on the douglas fir trail is awesome. an amazing get away from the city, inside the city.*

*In love the use of chipped christmas trees on the trails*

*All parks are great - but edworthy is s special because you can recreate in the coty but it feels like you're not!*

*Walking and riding along this path in a shaded less traffic area is a much needed greenscape we all need inside the city but is presently unsafe on the paved pathway.*

*I love the biodiversity in the middle of the city*

*I commute daily on bike and appreciate riding in the trails and through the sliver of wilderness.*

*All those aspects are of great value to me. "Access to nature" is the most encompassing and emphasizes the importance of keeping the area as natural as possible while facilitating diverse uses.*

*Equal value on getting outside and being by the river. With homes filling up all green spaces, it's so important to preserve what's left*

*I enjoy the variety of habitats and the flora and fauna that are to be found there as well as the abiotic features.*

*I just love that I can be so central in the city and be immersed by nature. My primary, almost exclusive, way to access the areas is by bike, so while the pathways are centrally important to me, it's what I see there that prompted me to select "Access to nature."*

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*"I loved Douglas fir trail its wonderful to feel almost out of the city, the naturalness of it is the appeal. Too many parks are filled with playground equipment there are plenty of places for that please do not add more in Edworthy. Moving out the homeless encampments is important and should be enforced, it does not feel safe and its unsightly and its unsanitary. Our beautiful woods and trails do not need this added stress nor does the wildlife. Leave the south side of the river just as it is."*

*The trails are fun and mildly challenging on a mountain bike. If the Crakendale trail could somehow be added to the park, it would be excellent.*

*I ride my bike on the paved pathways and road.*

*The animals who live there. You touch our parks.you are going to mess up their homes*

*I want to say the wildlife, but sadly I don't really see much of it!*

*Playground and picnic, grassy spots for games*

*Trails paved and not paved.*

*This is a beautiful place for exercise. We come specifically because of the natural areas. It's a beautiful blend between nature and manicured picnic areas. Walking or biking down the hill to access Edworthy park is frightening. A dedicated pedestrian/bike path is really needed. There are so many blind corners and vehicle traffic is quite high even on weekdays.*

*I commute to work by bike year round*

*Edworthy Park provides great access to some of Calgary's wonderful green space. The path system (particularly in the upper area of the park) needs to be more defined to minimize "path creep" that park user create.*

*Not paved is better than paved. Trails have great vegetation, even on busy days it feels not crowded.*

*Nature areas, fully I disturbed is hard to find close to home. Love the access to the river, hiking trails and seeing wildlife for me and my kids.*

*There are so few wild spaces left that actually have any biodiversity - not only does life require this, it is important to leave space for humans to learn from the land.*

*When you hike up the Douglas Fir Trail, you feel like you are in the middle of the wilderness somewhere, not in the city! It is quiet, totally immersed in the forest, plus a good workout. It is so special because there are not many spots within a city that are so much like a wilderness area.*

*I am a long distance trail runner who uses these trails almost daily for training, and more importantly to spend time in nature*

*I love to run on the trails around the river.*

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*I really enjoy the area when travelling through it or stopping for a bit of recreation in the area. The natural aspect of this stretch of the river makes the journey more pleasant. The Regional pathways provide an easy way without driving to access these areas safely.*

*I love all of the things that are available to do and use in Edworthy Park, but I feel like the trail network in the Douglas fir trail is more unique and really lets you get into nature like very few other places in the city.*

*I love this park and use it daily for running and biking. I want the road to this park to widen and make it more safe for bikers and people walking so they don't have to drive.*

*It was really hard to choose one but the one that encompasses all is nature.*

*There are a lot of trails leading up the hill, a lot of the time leading to no where. Marked trails are a good idea. It feels like a construction zone sometimes.*

*Amazing natural setting*

*Access to nature is huge, but always by way of "real" trails (i.e. not just the main pathways). Fantastic spot for something so close to downtown.*

*I like to get off the beaten paths to talk about nature with grandkids*

*accessible yet natural paths*

*It's rare to have natural, secluded trails in large urban settings. I appreciate the opportunity to "escape" into such places when desired. I also believe the Douglas Fir Trail and Edworthy Park provide Calgarians a means to engage with knowledge and understanding of their pre-colonial importance to the indigenous peoples who lived here. Trail markers or perhaps even an interpretive Centre somewhere in the Park could help educate and invite the public more deeply into reconciliation.*

*All the natural trees and plants as well as the birds and animals*

*Unpaved trails down to the river, and the wildlife I see there.*

*I also love the trails and river access, but I most use the walking paths that are paved. These are all season recreation areas and it's nice to have somewhere reliable to walk when the weather is snowy*

*The 3 - 5 year-olds love seeing the beaver slips, and collecting the poplar shavings as evidence that beavers chew down trees to build dams. We talk about how the rivers carved the valleys in which the city's core is built, and discuss the local geography. We discuss coyotes, jack rabbits, deer, moose, owls, corvids, bobcats and other local fauna. We talk about the secession process of flora.*

*Prior to closure, I greatly enjoyed looping around the Douglas Fir Trail. I also enjoy the regional path connectivity.*

*I appreciate the paved and non paved trails. However I'm happy to forgo should it aid in reducing taxes.*

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*Pathways are great in winter when maintained.*

*Great place to walk dogs which I have been doing there since 1981*

*I love being able to access the water, especially on hot days.*

*I love the trails. I cannot wait until they are repaired again. It has been a long time.*

*The hills around Edworthy park are quite biodiverse. Also it is a great place to bird watch.*

*I am a runner and biker so the region pathway is key to my activities*

*We enjoy pathways, wildlife, nature and trails. We don't go there for other recreational activities.*

*I would like to mountain bike in Edworthy Park more. It would be ideal to create an official trail joining Edworthy Park and Paskapoo (there is a social trail that goes to close to the railroad tracks)*

*My favourite thing about Edworthy is the feeling of not being in the city.*

*We often ride our bikes down to and up from Edworthy Parks south side. It's nice to just sit and relax in the area as well.*

*The best thing about Edworthy park (up top and the natural area) is that it feels like actually 'being in wild nature,' as opposed to just another park. I just hope the city doesn't plan to make it less natural or wild, pave it, or put in more trails. I do think bikes should be banned from all the Edworthy trails, other than the paved ones, as they destroy the trails on the sides of the hills.*

*The playgrounds and picnic areas are great for younger kids. There's only 1 good playground though. The rest are in need of updates*

*Edworthy is the closest 'large' municipal park to our home. We have to drive to get there, but we go with the sole intention of spending time in nature. We go to wander around to explore but also enjoy having access to playgrounds and a place to buy snacks.*

*Cyclists*

*I use all of the options above. I run on the paved paths, especially in the winter as they are cleared. I hike on the trails especially the Douglas fir trail. I take my grandchildren bike riding on the pathways and to play in the parks. I also meet friends for outside coffee in the green spaces.*

*Nice to have a park on our doorstep*

*"1 access to nature*

*2 wildlife*

*3 regional activities*

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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*4 trails*

*5 river access*

*All of these are used monthly by us.*

*The wildlife corridor (Lawrence and Douglas fir trail) is an amazing example of a montane ecosystem in the city!*

*We appreciate the bird and plant diversity in the area. It provides both popular and seldom trails. I really appreciate both.*

*Having a place that feels so naturally secluded from human impact is so important for people physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually."*

*Access to nature and Recreational Activity (walking) also rate. The trails allow for both.*

*Calgary is mostly a grassland city, so the chance to experience a shaded forest on a naturalized trail is a unique and valuable one.*

*I love running through Edworthy park*

*As an avid birder, I appreciate the variety of different vegetation/trees, landscapes and the river. I usually upload the number and variety of birds observed to eBird.org; occasionally, I upload audio clips of bird songs also to eBird*

*I love the pathways - our family has used them for running, cycling, and providing access from Parkdale (where we used to live and still visit regularly) to Edworthy Park, so we don't have to drive!*

*The mountain bike trail system has quite a few sketchy spots where interaction with hikers and dog walkers can be a problem.*

*I am citified enough to want trails, but I like them as natural as possible, so not paved.*

*The best inner city trails to enjoy nature while I walk my dog*

*I prefer natural footpaths in natural areas. They are more intimate with the habitats.*

*Wildlife and trails not paved. It's a nice place for a walk with my dog to enjoy nature and time to relax from the busy urban life. I also enjoy the birds and wildflowers.*

*Maintaining access to the unpaved trails (especially into the forest) offers an opportunity to escape the city within the city.*

*I value the unpaved trail system as a way to feel like I am getting away from the city. Unfortunately there are many cyclists who do not respect the No Biking signs and create conflict and danger by biking these*

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trails. Also cyclists have created off shoot trails from the Quarry road bike path that is creating erosion and loss of habitat. The city needs to address this. Needs better bylaw enforcement.

This is a significant draw and benefit of living in Calgary and the area between downtown and west. It is sorely missed by individuals in far reaching areas of the city.

I value the natural area, all aspects, trees, shrubs, birds. I prefer the non paved trails that run along the south side of the railway tracks but also use quarry road and the bike paths. I also enjoy the riverside.

Great on a hot day. Kids love to throw rocks in. Dogs love a drink.

Paved trails are safer for multi use trail, summer and winter. Access to Nature makes my life better.

This location provides dual options to use the trails along the Bow (although the south side trail is in terrible shape)

I enjoy spending time with my dog at the off-leash but also appreciate the Douglas Fir trail for fitness and connecting with nature

Access to the outdoors is beneficial for human wellbeing. The more natural the better! In the 60 years I have visited it has changed so much. It is nice to see the usage however it has become overrun.

I love everything about Edworthy Park - it's a great walk from our house in Wildwood to do the loop through Douglas Fir Trail down to Edworthy Park and back up. It's amazing that's its home to so much wildlife and flora - perfect for destressing in addition to recreation. These areas connect people too - families, friends all connecting to enjoy nature and exercise. River access in the summer is also nice.

I am interested in the biodiversity that is to be found. I enjoy the natural setting. Forest bathing.

The pathways (even if they're awful condition) give connectivity and a much needed reprieve from the north side where you're assaulted by vehicle noise beside Memorial.

Edworthy Park, Douglas Fir Trail and Lawrey Gardens are part of a small (land area size) natural area that has a rich diversity of species. It has 6 or 7 habitat zones. The wildlife is threatened by overuse and incompatible uses. The preservation of the wildlife both flora and fauna should be the paramount consideration.

It's important to me to get my daily dose of nature.

A chance to have a hike close to home.

**Q7. Thinking about the Edworthy Park natural areas 5 years from now, what do you think will be the most valuable? What about 10 years? What about 20 years?**

Having good trails to explore that feel more rugged/natural within the city is very valuable!

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*It's absolutely imperative that the Park's natural areas be maintained over the next 5, 10 and 20 years even though there may possibly be political pressure to reduce the size and consider developing them.*

*Connecting with nature is a critical way for residents to improve moods & physical health. As well, it elevates the City's quality of life making it more appealing to both current and potential new residents.*

*Stop ignoring the impacts of people living in these spaces to whom the city is largely turning a blind eye to. Every month, new trails cut, trees are cut/felled and burned, garbage continues to accumulate (and the city clearly lacks the resources to clean this up). It is evident that the city is not funding this space. What other area in this city lacks garbage cans (with regular pick-up), washrooms (with regular cleaning/management), as well as trails that are in total disrepair?*

*An area that is accessible and provides nature connection. Provides social connection activities and bring Calgary to a level of being a green city helping fight against climate change. I'd love to see Oil & Gas companies that are responsible for most of the impact causing climate change, funds and invests in the park and other natural areas.*

*Keeping the areas freely open for Calgary's citizens. Yes, limited maintenance but do not try to get it into something it has not been for more than 150 yrs. The park it self should be for play, BBQs, social gatherings etc. The surroundings for urban hikers, dog walkers and anybody who wants to escape a busy city without being hindered by "stop" signs, fences and gates.*

*preservation of the natural space, having the space period will be the most valuable.*

*I would suggest removing Angels cafe as this is not part of the natural habitat.*

*The natural area in the middle of city.*

*Off leash dog walking*

*Natural areas exist and wildlife is supported. But also people friendly so all with diverse interests can enjoy!*

*Inherently, the plants that reside in the park are slow to grow and spread. So, it's understandable that some areas may get trampled and be seen as having a hard time bouncing back. With that in mind, we may think that human/pet activity is a problem in the park and fenced rehab areas should be prioritized. However, if we were to do a heat map of the park and its usage, we would see that the majority of people stay in a very select areas. They're third places for people to gather and connect.*

*The natural landscape, at all times. Minimize the human impact. Do not expand the infrastructure footprint. That being said, this is a major route for people biking downtown and should be maintained as such.*

*Think about the park edges and what can be done to better activate existing spaces without compromising the usage. Can the park edges be done in a way so that wildlife can co-exist? Fencing would not be preferable. Also can we have more river crossings in the longer term? I have observed wildlife using the bridge by Angel's cafe*

*Get rid of parking*

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*Leave it alone. It's working. Dogs upstairs people downstairs. Dog area is cheap and easy. Everyone is happy except a whiny runner who wants to go everywhere. She can go downstairs and avoid the dogs. I can't bring my dog into the chaos downstairs.*

*Clear use zones that allow nature, people and pets to have access and use — planning!*

*I would love to see another walking bridge span the river to make the southern part of the park more accessible. It is considerable distance between the bridge in Edworthy and Crowchild.*

*As the city grows, having access to nature will become even more important for physical and mental health. Restoration of habitats, and even stronger preservation of natural areas is paramount, including the fescue meadows of the upper plateau (currently subject to heavy off-leash usage).*

*Do not do anything. Do not waste money on consultants. Just maintain this beautiful area as it has been many years now. Please please concentrate on maintaining all roadways. Cutting grass and reducing toxic weeds in all public parks and boulevards. Stop with water restrictions. Stop with rezoning our beautiful old neighborhoods (which will destroy mature trees)*

*I think there's something wrong with the wording in this question. the most valuable what? from the previous question, what is Citizen Science? I just want the area to be preserved as beautiful as it is today.*

*A path by the railway line that could be used all year would be good with an attractive fence along the Cp rail line.*

*There are too many people figure out away to minimize that*

*Keep and improve river access. It's currently only accessible by able bodied people, it should be made accessible to everyone. It's a park, don't let parts get turned into an overgrown natural area. As our population continues to increase, there will be an increased need for park spaces.*

*I want it to be a place where animals and people can coexist.*

*It would be nice if Calgary Transit went to Edworthy park and stopped by Angels cafe. Thus encouraging people to use the bus to go there instead of drive. It would also be good for their to be a Calgary Transit Access sign beside Angels cafe so CTA drivers can easily find their passengers to pick them up instead of having to drive around the area thus trampling plants and small wildlife.*

*Protecting biodiversity and wildlife. As previously noted, the creation of dog-free zones is critical to this. I understand that people like to bring their dogs to natural areas of the park, but this takes a tremendous toll on wildlife, particularly as the number of visitors and dogs increases.*

*Plants and trees combating carbon footprint and providing better air quality for both human and animals.*

*Keeping it a natural area park in the middle of the city.*

*Feeling like you're out of the city*

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*Having a place for natural plants and for animals to be protected within the city.*

*Better parking management honestly. The north side is a gong show. And it really angers me that I often cannot find parking early on weekdays and most spots are filled with commuters. These lots should have time limited enforced parking for people to only use for recreation .*

*Having the public space*

*I don't think it requires much intervention. I do love the idea of goats mowing the lawn*

*A place to commune with nature without all the touristy things found in other City parks.*

*In my mind, to ensure positive & measurable HMP outcomes we need to first acknowledge that humans are a part of nature and that this habitat sits just outside the core of a rapidly growing metro area. This natural park area doesn't exist within a vacuum. This isn't to say that our needs should be put above those of the more-than-human world, absolutely not. Is it not possible to create spaces where biodiversity can thrive and also where people are inspired to play their part in its protection?*

*I think the most valuable thing it provides as a place for People to connect outside and to appreciate The beautiful natural diversity in Calgary/Alberta*

*Consistent access to this wonderful, accessible, natural space in perpetuity.*

*Keeping the area as natural as possible so people can keep enjoying it as it is. Restoration and maintaining the natural balance is important for this too.*

*What is citizen science- could mean anything*

*Valuable would be accessible road that's been totally replaced unlike the road to kanduhar as it resembles a war zone with potholes the size of small craters such a poorly maintained roadway how do you expect people to enjoy the park when getting there is a nightmare*

*A great, natural dog offleash area.*

*The natural trails, as they are. No need to "upgrade" the natural areas*

*Maintaining existing trails and natural areas in such a way that the existing balance between recreation and nature is maintained. The existing trails within the park, the Douglas Fir Trail for example, are an amazing resource for residents and proactive maintenance of those trails that currently exist will ensure that people using the parks are able to enjoy them, while reducing impacts of trails to nature and likelihood of trail braiding. Offleash dogs are not a benefit to park users or nature*

*"5 years: Improved trails, native plant restoration, and modernized facilities.*

*10 years: Thriving Lawrey Gardens, reduced invasive species, and the scenic Douglas Fir Trail.*

*20 years: Matured natural areas with increased conservation efforts"*

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*Access to the river and trail, no vehicle bridges*

*The lack of the current Mayor*

*Access to nature and recreational spaces for mental health and fitness. The Douglas fir trail, an amenity like a splash park to provide a safe way for residents to cool down in the summer and ease pressure off the river banks. Similarly a pump park could provide a facility to ease pressures on natural spaces.*

*Natural walking areas*

*"5 years- Rehab the Douglas Fir trail or other forested non paved paths; ensure access for pedestrians and bikes maintained safely*

*10 years - ensuring critical park spaces, green areas and oaths and trails are maintained for future generations*

*20 years - not sure"*

*River eco system*

*As the population increases, more people will use edworthy to stage for the regional pathways and meeting people for gatherings*

*Pathways that allow transport options beyond cars*

*That it is a maintained or growing green space where people can gather for recreational activities.*

*Enforcement of laws and bylaws in the park to protect it*

*Trail maintenance needs to be improved while maintaining the sense of freedom that they provide. Educate instead of over regulate.*

*Well there will be too many people. The park is overcrowded on the weekends. I never go there on the weekend. Humans seem to destroy natural areas.*

*I hope that 5, 10 or 20 years that Edworthy park will continue to be a oasis of natural landscape and wildlife within the confines of a city. It is a unique opportunity to have in a city and should be protected.*

*Letting nature take its own direction.*

*Douglas Fir Trail*

*I would like to be able to use the area at the top without being chased by dogs. The dog park should be moved or fenced in.*

*The Douglas fir trees! The Indigenous history- would love to see some signage in the park educating visitors on this*

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*Integrating natural areas into our city is important, and it is also important to ensure that people can enjoy those natural areas. It is also critically important to maintain the areas that people have to enjoy the outdoors.*

*Trying to preserve the natural environment. Too much human activity is already happening.*

*"I grew up here and I've been using this park my entire life. It's been amazing for at least 40 years. I don't see much need to change it. I love that although the city has changed a lot over the years families and Calgarians still use this space for recreation in nature much the same.*

*Christmas Tree trail could benefit from a come back in some form.*

*I love what's been done with Quarry Road Trail to the east, something like that in the west may reduce goat trailing."*

*Leave most of it natural*

*The Douglas Fir Trail.*

*Keep it open for all to use, dog friendly ( on leash), use of beach, able to use bike lanes and able to use the soft pathways as well. Not any different 5, 10 or 20 years from now. It is a great park which appears to work well for parties as well*

*Given population and use is guaranteed to increase, the more controls put in place to ensure a low footprint while still making it a usable space will be important. I think it would be helpful to consider the reduction of large events in the space and keep it focused on small, private gatherings or visits. If dog access is to be restricted, also opening a loose leash area could be helpful.*

*Making the path accessible railway side which for most months of the year isn't accessible with pure ice. This could be fixed and would have lives.*

*Growing a respectful culture about park use. Dogs on leash Don't use trails when wet, especially bikes.*

*More trees*

*Restoration of natural habitat for all time periods.*

*The greatest value will always be a natural, wild space near the heart of a bustling city.*

*Preserving the space but having access to enjoy it and utilizing the green space. Having families safely enjoy trails.*

*The flora and fauna and the respectful use of the area. It is a jewel that needs our*

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*Hmm. I think keeping it the way it's been for years and year is the most important, that is, a natural, relatively unaffected area.*

*"NATURALIZED areas that have not been tampered with. No more spraying of chemicals, nature is the best gardener and should be respected as such. Walking on the earth NOT on pavement or graveled pathways is much healthier for the body, mind and the soul.*

*If native species are planted in structured areas (as they should be on all of our city blvds) then we would have gorgeous wildflowers like wild roses and blue flax and very healthy bees! and butterflies. Stop spraying and stop mowing."*

*In 5 years I would like to see the park making a slow move towards less mowed grass and more native plants in the mowed areas. I would like to see the informal web of trails recognized as a valuable recreational resource and protected. I would like to see a trail connecting the park to Bowdale Crescent and therefore a connection to the Paskapoo slopes. Over the next 10-20 years I would like to see what we have now maintained but with less mowed grass.*

*I would like to see less vehicle traffic through the park with more emphasis on bike use and pedestrian traffic.*

*Making sure it is a great natural, wild place for families and people to go and connect with nature.*

*Leave it alone how about that. You wanna fix add more trees*

*Let nature take over, imagine how beautiful it will be in 20 years from now.*

*Safe place for families to enjoy the outdoors*

*"I am not aware of the wildlife population and its needs. Are the needs great enough to fence areas to protect animals from people or people from animals? I own a dog and feel there is plenty of off leash areas. Not sure what a no dog zone would do.*

*Many people come to edworth Park with the Intension of doing way to much. Lastly it's the one path over the bridge with walking traffic and bike traffic that can be dangerous."*

*Habitat and wildlife preservation. Increased patrol of the area for bad actors. Management of tent encampments.*

*Fix the road down to edworthy from wildwood*

*The fantastic pathway connections that make walking and cycling the most popular ways of accessing the park*

*10-20 years from now, I think the most valuable aspect of these parks will be the habitat and green space.*

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*"Nature. Peaceful. Safe*

*Not crowded. Population increases, please plan well.*

*Wildlife*

*River access*

*Accommodation for sporty, dog friendly and other people not sporty, perhaps not dog friendly, young, old, so that they can all enjoy in harmony."*

*A couple of mountain bike trails connecting with Paskapoo slopes would be great. Also safe access across Sarcee Trail by a pathway over (or under)pass and a new bridge across the Bow at 29 Street NW, making the area easier to enjoy by Calgarians, with design and operational changes to make the trail network and activities work together and with natural goals.*

*"Natural are protected to its natural condition.*

*Designated trails for hikers/ walkers*

*Safe from drugs, safe to roam."*

*That it remain a wild space.*

*Pristine nature areas. Picnic areas in the main parts are good, but there are more picnic sites in the city than wilderness areas. Also, control the amount of "camping" / sheltering in the park. It is not desirable or safe to have people living in the bushes.*

*"Ecological integrity with community buy-in to the management plan; enforcement presence (perhaps initially through bylaw, but a park "steward" program may get better community response long-term); community programs for kids to spend time in nature, understand biology/ecology/nature...etc. (Similar to Weaselhead); signage on trails and closure of some of the very lightly used branches of more heavily traveled trails to prevent further braiding.*

*A vibrant place used and respected by community :)"*

*I'd like to see the douglass fir trail re opened. I'd also like to see edworthy linked to paskapoo slopes. You can get most of the way there but then have to trespass on CN property to link them up. One of Calgary's best features is all our parks, I value the ability to link up multiple natural areas on foot.*

*Maintaining connection to the river and the biodiversity found next to it. Allowing for access that doesn't require driving. Multiple users have a well defined pathway and space plan implemented with expectations of user clearly identified and areas of conflict resolved.*

*I think making access to the park using modes of transport that aren't cars will be critical. As right now it is great once you are in the park on your bike or by running/walking, but getting to it by those modes of transport can be treacherous, especially in winter. I am mainly talking about the main access road down the*

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*hill. As that is really the only route to Edworthy a lot of the time and it really encourages you to use your car because any other way is dangerous and unpleasant.*

*safer road to park*

*Preserve the area using provincial park designation.*

*Fix the Doug Fir trail, fix drainage issues on south side bow river pathway*

*A paved biking/walking path down to edworthy via Wildwood. As it is it is dangerous to walk/bike down during all seasons. I have a baby and would love to be able to safely push a stroller down to edworthy -as it is I feel I need to drive.*

*Most valuable is to mainly keep it as is except work on maintaining Douglas Fur Trail.*

*I want it to feel more natural and less like you're walking through a campground in waiparous waiting for a ATV to come out of no where on the path.*

*Natural habitat (and access to it) close to centre of city. Ideally without further encroachment by CPR or road construction. Would like to see a bit more naturalization of riparian particularly closer to Crowchild (upstream on north side, downstream on both sides to 14th).*

*I think it's important to create a balance between humans and wildlife in Edworthy Park*

*Would love a bathroom. I've always had to use the trees which isn't ideal.*

*preservation of and natural expansion of vegetation*

*Preservation of natural and historical features (sandstone outcrops/quarries, indigenous points of interest, flora and fauna, creeks, etc.) from erosion and overuse now and long into the future.*

*Expanded population of all sorts of wildlife*

*The same as now with selective closures to allow wildlife and riverbank stabilization.*

*Interventions at the water's edge since climate is changing and we can expect altered water conditions. Specific access points and cordoned off wild life areas will be critical*

*Edworthy is a popular picnic spot for area residents, so it will be difficult to restore habitats by restricting access, but that's probably what's required to re-wild the area.*

*Maintaining functional habitat for wildlife as a significant refuge within an urban network. Continued recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.*

*In realty, this is a city park. Meaning, that any and all actions towards its maintenance or development is funded by tax payers. Natural areas for wild life exist outside of cities. Even suggesting a dog free zone is*

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*an insult to those who pay for this area. Dogs should never be confined to their 'yards'. Many rescue rehabilitation animals rely on city parks. Not enough attention is being given to these animals who rightfully need a space as much as wildlife.*

## *Preservation*

*I have walked dogs in the upper part of the park for more than 40 years. It is a phenomenal natural area for the citizens of Calgary but it needs work. Many areas are worn down and need rehabilitation. Whatever you do, 5 or more years into the future it needs to stay a central place for people and dogs to meet.*

*A large park with river access away from cars. Being able to feel in nature within minutes while in the city. Please don't allow housing development within the park!*

*The park's natural areas should be protected from over use and off leash dogs.*

*I would love to see a park that is valued for its native plant biodiversity and reclamation. A park that has a network of dedicated volunteers that take care of the park and care about its biodiversity (similar to Friends of Fish Creek or Friends of Nose Hill Park).*

*Ultimately that it remains more or less the way it is with the improvements I suggested above*

*Accessible, protected natural habitat*

*"Dirt trail to connect to Paskapoo*

*Rebuild the Douglas Fir trail*

*Safer railway crossings*

*Build a more sustainable paved path along the river (can be dangerous on a bike)"*

*I will always value the wilderness feel, the river access and the off-leash dog areas. I like that there are not many users on the paths on the south side of the river.*

*Tidy picnic spots, clean bathrooms, few vagrants and squatters tent sites, maintained picnic shelters & tidy waste disposal receptacles, recycling when possible. Crushed gravel walking paths, areas of native grasses that attract bees & butterflies.*

*Keeping it natural and not over managing it, like the city tends to do, wrecking everything. The one thing they could manage, between Edworthy and the Douglas fir trails, is to keep the needles and homeless encampments out of these areas. It is awful and they never seem to go away! As well, people who don't pick up their dog excrement are particularly annoying.*

*Good hiking trails that are accessible to all levels of recreation and ability, safe trails with signage. No issues with encounters with wildlife (there are many coyotes in the area).*

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*Diversity and community awareness of the importance of diverse habitats.*

*Nature*

*Please keep the Douglas Fir accessible for hiking. It is a jewel in the city.*

*The ability to access the park and its amenities for all calgarians and visitors as an underlying value*

*"SHOUT OUT TO EVERYONE ON THIS TEAM!!! Would 100% support all the above plans!*

*I would love to see more naturalization occur especially on the north side of the river.*

*Just last week I wondered if the road to the south edworthy park parking lot could eventually be closed to cars (except for the people living in the houses at the bottom. That is big dream I would want to see! (In all reality, get rid of all 5 houses on the hillside between edworthy and paskapoos slope beside bowdale crescent."*

*Urban walk thru a natural forest.*

*It is crucial that the Douglas Fir trail be restored and maintained for year-round use between 7 am and 10 pm. Similarly, it's critical that the Bow River Pathway on the south side of the river be reengineered so it can be used year-round. This would require some thoughtful route planning and engineering around streams and ice flows, but it will massively improve access to cycling and green space in a part of the city that's lacking it, while better connecting our beautiful city's trail network.*

*I would like to see the park thrive for wildlife for both year round inhabitants and the migratory birds.*

*People support what they love but in order to love it they have to be able to access it. Make sure that things are accessible.*

*A continuation of the Douglas Fir Trail.*

*The natural habitat for wild animals that live in the city, always.*

*As a sanctuary. However, trails need to be maintained and maybe realigned, after consultation with the Edworthy Park Heritage Society, who have cared for this land for 30+ years. (No, I'm not a member)*

*NOT urbanized. KEEP things natural. I'm not interested in park benches and fire pits. Better parking. Perhaps a single washroom at the dog park entrance. Reduce trail braiding. Some disease control of natural vegetation but keep the forest the forest. Leave nature alone unless it's diseased. Some gravel on pathways would be nice. The root systems can be dangerous.*

*I think it would be wonderful if they continue to be maintained as a natural recreational and educational resource long term, offering access for different ages and levels of mobility. I see a man on the Bow River Pathway through Lawrey Gardens almost daily who uses a hand powered wheelchair. There is a possibility*

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*to add more information about wildlife (deer, moose, porcupine, bobcats, etc) and the varieties of trees and plant life. Also the history of the area.*

*Trail network planning, protection of habitat and wildlife, bylaw enforcement, education for cyclists as to where they can be on the network*

*A well maintained park and trail that enables continued and ongoing use without closures.*

*It is important that residents of the surrounding communities have access to natural space for physical and mental health. As Calgary becomes more densely populated, this will become more needed. The non-human creatures will adapt or find other spaces to call home*

*Having a natural area with access trails maintained. Using volunteers to monitor park area.*

*Access with no restrictions. More bathrooms please . Upgrade inside parks. Cut the 3-4 to maybe 2.*

*Nature and safe access. As little change as possible.*

*Maintaining natural (think Parks Canada approach) spaces*

*That there is still a natural urban park. Improved road from the south with access from bow trail only limiting the traffic through wildwood. Keeping it safe. I don't go as often as I would like because I don't feel safe walking in the area alone in the daytime. Increased visible patrols would be nice.*

*That there is green space close to communities to use. Offer a place for people to connect that is in nature.*

*Biodiversity and natural features*

*Pathway system that is actually open in the winter. Tree cover, river access*

*5 years In the short term, get the off leash dog walkers under control and limited to about ten acres or less on the upper plateau of the park. Start restoration of the upper plateau into its native fescue meadow. 10 years achieve a restored fescue meadow which becomes an interpretive walk, and like other areas of the park, a living natural history outdoor museum. Recognition of inappropriateness of upzoning along the ridge side of Wildwood Drive, part of important bird migratory corridor.*

*More and more people will live near the park and value it.*

## **Q8. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about the Edworthy Park natural area?**

*As a professional forester with extensive experience in both planning and using prescribed fire and responding to wildfires, a critical aspect of the Management Plan (even though the park is city bound), is ensure wildfire pre-planning is absolutely not overlooked. In this regard, I was the Ecosystem Restoration manager for BC for many years & have experience in all aspects of fire, invasives, riparian & grasslands. I can be contacted at: [personal info removed] or [personal info removed]*

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*Band-aid solutions like putting up fencing doesn't solve anything. We only need to look at the fence around the Shaganappi Golf Course that has been cut for months (or years?) with no repair and people are destroying the land all over the slope below the golf course. You can put up a fence, but I have no faith that it will improve the ecological habitat (nor will it be enforced). What can you do to stop bikes from ripping around this area? And to penalize people for leaving poop bags?*

*Is there any way we can plant more trees or make better use of the area where the trains pass by? It feels so wasteful to have all that area not being used for nature most of the time. Thanks for this survey and for asking for feedback!*

*Keep it the way it is.*

*it would be great to have more garbage bins in the dog park*

*Best off leash dog park in the city. Please do not change.*

*Preserve off leash dog walking*

*It's a marvelous place for all! Thx for maintaining it. Lovely place!*

*Edworthy is beautiful in it's simplicity. No demands are made of you or the space when you're there. It's clean and most people respect the space.*

*More limits should be places on vehicles. Slow down the access road. There should be a bus that stops directly at both sides of the park, not just on nearby roads. Access to green space is a major poverty issue and having transit that provides direct transportation would be an equitable step in changing that.*

*Having designated areas for river access may increase safety and reduce human impacts on erosion of the river banks*

*There are too many cars*

*They are perfect. Leave them alone.*

*It's a wonderful space that just needs planning. It's possible to provide clear, structured use and carve out space for nature. I would be very upset if we lose access for pets and people, the tighter should be possible with decent planning.*

*The pathway along the river/train tracks has for years been subject to spring ice build up. The flow of water requires significant improvement to stop the erosion that occurs each year. A pathway built further up the hill with short walking bridges over the waterways would perhaps address these issues and allow a more beautiful walk along the south side of the river.*

*We have ourselves taken dogs to the off-leash area but the space allocated to it should have been more limited over the past years. It has expanded to the point that other types of users are driven away, and*

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*needs to be reined-in, perhaps with a fenced off-leash "corral" as is present in some other parks. This would allow the enhancement and restoration of some of the natural areas presently denuded by overuse.*

*It is beautiful as is. Just do regular maintenance so we can have family picnics and children birthday parties. Do not waste tax payers \$\$ on a expensive consultants to rebrand rename add art installations that are not necessary to enjoy parkland as it is!*

*Please keep it natural and only put hard surfaces for the main pathways.*

*Prevent unauthorized trail development*

*Make it safe for people to use. Don't fence off and allow areas to become overgrown. It's already sketchy enough down there some days, just keep it manicured with open sight lines to the busier areas.*

*It's my favourite park in the city.*

*That the bus stops on the side of Angels Cafe and the other side of the park are well lit, have an enclosed area for riders to wait in so that people can use it all year round instead of driving. Ensure both sides have a safe, warm, well lit area and sign for Calgary Transit Access to pick up and drop off their passengers at so they don't have to drive around and wreck the natural area.*

*The top dog park area needs proper pathways and more places to throw your dog waste, more effort to get people to pick up, and more parking. Maybe even a fence to keep dogs from going up to Sarcee*

*Sustainable and smarter planning of structures such as firepits and bbqs, and those with mobility and disability issues.*

*Off leash area contains a lot of biodiversity and native plants, please dont ruin it. There are parks closer to my house that are filled with invasive species. I hate seeing the destruction caused by them. At edworthy there are many wildflowers and I love looking up a new plant I find. I worry our intervention will do more harm than good.*

*Keep any commercial ventures out of the park.*

*Keep a little wildness. Not too much management to the point humans can't be in the wild.*

*I'd support more trail development to allow people some urban hiking. More river access too!*

*Please refrain from throwing words like "equity" into these projects please.*

*Please provide more water fountains and cleaner washrooms*

*Instead of considering "dog-free" zones in the park, how about ""people-free" zones.*

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*I fear that in the attempt to protect critical habitat, an area will be fenced off only to be side-stepped, encroached upon and ultimately neglected until the next HMP. Will this study suggest habitats are monitored regularly? As someone who cleans up areas of EP, I wonder who will restore areas that have been degraded. A HMP task force? We need spaces that engage citizens, inspire them to take pride in the space. Serious about engagement? Don't limit the feedback to 500 characters. Dspntng!*

*Some management to make the park better would be welcome but I would t change it too much! It is an amazing space and I would t support any type of access reduction.*

*Some restoration of the Douglas fir trail would be nice to make it safer for people walking and hiking.*

*This is now a central city park. People from city can bike to it, easily bus to it. Because of this need to increase picnic spaces. Access from south side needs to be improved and park access would increase*

*Keep the off leash area as is*

*Please do NOT build an interchange at Bow Trail and Sarcee Trail - it will impede access to the park, introduce noise, pollution and environmental risks to the park and its natural areas, and conflict with the needs of the wildlife and users of the park (and won't contribute much to commuters either).*

*Notes on Edworthy area and habitat that I believe are important: 1. Bank Swallow (SARA listed) colony along river right D/S of pedestrian bridge. The top of this bank should be protected from human disturbance and should not be stabilized. 2. Grazing is not an appropriate utilization of funds in the park; some weedy vegetation is found in the park, though I do not believe it is reducing biodiversity or ecosystem G&S. 3. Dogs, development, camping are largest env. impacts- should be focus of plan*

*How might we rethink the places that people gather in the Edworthy spaces?*

*Please resign*

*Edworthy park and the Douglas fir trail have historical and social significance. It is a resource that citizens should be provided access to. Closing the Douglas fir trail (as has been done currently) encourages mis-use of the space. Volunteers could be utilized to help improve the area and provide amenities that allow positive interactions with the natural spaces.*

*Nothing specific*

*I'd like to keep our parks natural and less manicured. Edworthy park in important for flood reduction as it acts like a sponge during high river events.*

*We access from the south, and it is very difficult on bike because of gravel and traffic - a plan to improve this access would be much appreciated - we shouldn't have to drive there from westgate.*

*More bathrooms and water stations*

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*Their have been numerous times we have almost got hit by bikers. They speed on the pathways going going 50 - 60km/h and it's extremely dangerous for young kids and it makes the experience uncomfortable. There should be a bike path and a walking path.*

*The pathway onto the bridge on the south side of the river can be very congested and dangerous. A more gentle curve could be considered to prevent accidents*

*Leave the park to be natural. Put the monetary else where*

*I love the area and all the great places to walk. Please don't change much.*

*No rehabilitation possible without restricting dogs to specific areas with less range.*

*I worry a lot about parties in the park- broken glass, balloon fragments and confetti, garbage. It is not patrolled nearly enough. I also worry a LOT about homeless encampments- there are propane tanks and tents lining the Douglas fir trail. It is a serious situation that needs to be dealt with. The parking lot on the north side is also a hot mess. There needs to be some sort of order/guidance of how to park!!!*

*Encourage people to use the north side of the Bow River more!*

*If you start closing the park for wildlife the only increase that will occur is more hobo camps or vagrant use. Strongly oppose closing the park for 'wildlife'.*

*Please continue to give us access with our dogs. I'm very concerned to see questions about limiting dogs in the park. They are part of my family.*

*Loved the article in Alberta Views about this. Hope it comes up in the city planning discussion.*

*Enroll the ones that choose to camp within the park as local stewards*

*Making more of the open green grass areas for use for gatherings would be nice for general seating. I see a lot of seniors with no place to sit. More benches and areas for people to go railway side to look at the river would be nice. It's quieter over there. All attention was set to the 16th side*

*Aggressive dogs are becoming a greater problem in the upper region of Edworthy.*

*It's such a special part of our lives and we enjoy every aspect right now as a family.*

*It is a jewel that will continually reward Calgarians as long as its natural features are retained.*

*Like I said, it's my favourite part of the city. I have every intention of having my ashes scattered there. I'm so grateful for the area. Two things come to mind in terms of improvements: finding a way to mitigate the ice damming on the south side to allow for better year-long riding and access, and doing away with the annoying high lights that flood much of Edworthy Park at night. Otherwise, do keep up the good work there!*

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*I love this Park & visit several times/week. Homeless sheltering is a great negative concern. No Sheltering Posted signs signs might help. But it must be enforced. I do not go walking in nature to experience unsightly, smelly numerous garbage encampments. Our tax dollars pay for the parks. These are not places to live for free. This stresses plants/native species. I have seen where fires have been lit, This is dangerous & needs attention. Our parks are at risk. Please focus on solving this.*

*Perspective must be maintained. The park is relatively wild as compared to something like Bowness park but it isn't a wild land park and it never will be.*

*Leave it alone*

*Last Saturday I biked through there and not only it was overcrowded, it was very noisy, dirty, and smelly.*

*It's a beautiful well used area!! But it really needs a dedicated bike path to get down the hill.*

*I know it's a "natural area" but the absence of paved paths are contributing to people wandering in increasing wide swaths (often trying to avoid mud, by walking on the grass). Paved paths would generally keep people on paved areas, while allowing dogs to run and enjoy the non paved areas. Obviously some people would wander off path as well, but the impact related damage will be largely mitigated.*

*We are fortunate to have that area, please conserve it well.*

*More bylaw support at the edworthy dog park*

*Thanks for even asking.*

*Bylaw enforcement is needed. In all the times I've been at Edworthy (countless times for over 15 years), I have NEVER encountered a bylaw officer. I've encountered many off-leash uncontrolled dogs, plenty of dog poop everywhere, litter along the pathway, but never once a bylaw officer. If you want to manage wildlife, first start by managing the dogs and their owners. Off-leash dogs chase wildlife, they are the ones going off the paths in the Douglas Fir areas, they cause the havoc. Please!*

*At present there is a strong disconnect between the off-leash users & recreational users. I use the space for both, but when recreating I am routinely chased and have been bitten by dogs. Owners of these dogs feel that the space is a dog-friendly space first and foremost, & often suggest that these encounters are the fault of those recreating in the space, as opposed to taking accountability & control of their dogs. There is no reason we cannot all coexist, but more bylaw enforcement is needed.*

*The park is part of a network of these special places and need to be looked after to keep this natural resource available. Connecting these natural areas is essential to supporting safe travel and refuge for both citizens and the wildlife that use them.*

*The Pathways and natural areas are fantastic and while I support creating wildlife sanctuaries and corridors within them there needs to also be some access because taking away all safe and approved access will just*

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*make a mess of unofficial and more harmful access by people who won't care about the parks rules. Making some paved paths that can accommodate everyone and give more priority to active transport and maintaining at least one unpaved hiking path through the Douglas Fir trail.*

*pave the gravel road so people can walk down to the park*

*I do not see the need to spend money on a part of Calgary that is lovely as is (except maintaining Douglas Fur Trail and preventing erosion on the south side of the Bow River)*

*More natural and less like a construction zone. It feels like the city has forgotten about it when walking through.*

*The tent camps and trash are becoming problematic. We need social housing, and some enforcement.*

*Parking is terrible and would use the park more if there was better parking and a bathroom somewhere.*

*Programs for young children (2 - 10 years ) that especially target and are focused on awareness of and respect for nature are appreciated and should be more supported and encouraged.*

*I'm hoping that more natural areas like this can be opened to ensure that all calgarians have similar places to visit.*

*No, I think your questions covered everything*

*Changes should be minimal and well thought out to achieve a result. Ice dams the last few years have wiped out some of the planting and temporary fencing the area.*

*There is insufficient parking and poor/limited transit access. Please increase bus access or increase parking*

*It's a beautiful area, and certainly hope it remains so.*

*It's a beautiful space that is susceptible to the common management issues of urban parks. Education and enforcement, among other strategies, will be needed to ensure this park retains/improves existing natural features and provides functional habitat for wildlife.*

*I understand that it is publicly funded individuals who will read this. That variables and studies will have been submitted to support their interests. That engagement such as this may carry little weight to an already preconceived objective. But Calgarians are already stretched thin. Tax dollars are better spent elsewhere. There is an abundance of natural areas elsewhere. Please stop using morally suasive arguments to bleed more from people.*

*Fantastic inner city green space.*

*It would be great if City of Calgary could start a native plant nursery/greenhouse. It is difficult sourcing native plants and seeds for restoration work. Also empowering the people in this city to remove their lawns and plant native plants would be beneficial for Calgarians, our wateruse, pollenators, and wildlife.*

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*Edworthy park is an essential amenity for Calgary and needs to be protected for multi use purposes with a strong emphasis on protecting natural areas.*

*The City does NOT need to hire someone to review this. The City has enough staff that can take on this role. Taxpayers pay far too much for City services as it is. The additional role, is redundant.*

*There is a lot of unused space on the hill with the private houses - dirt trails for hiking and biking could be built in here to create more recreation space*

*I'd like more vigilance and action related to removing homeless encampments.*

*I think we have to be realistic about how much human use should be curbed in the name of "supporting critical wildlife habitat". This is an inner city urban park, we're not wanting apex predators there. Remember that restricting humanity in one place just pushes that wave to somewhere else...and that somewhere else may be more ecologically fragile than an urban inner city park.*

*As usual, I just worry about the horrible plans that our city tends to have to destroy everything, pave it, cut down all the trees, build roads through it and put condo towers in (the Slopes!!). So sad. Between Nenshi and Gondek, it has been abhorrent for parks in our city. All the green spaces are wrecked and I just pray you don't do that to Edworthy, too. Not that this whole 'blanket rezoning' and population increase won't do it anyway. Stupid city! Born here and I hate it now :(.*

*This is such a great area. It needs to be updated and kept healthy as well as accessible to all.*

*I do think that cycling traffic is important through this park, the ability to bike from the SW hill area to downtown is highly valued by our neighbours. Improved safety and access for cyclists is also an important element of this park.*

*Nature first*

*It's a great place for people to meet and enjoy I'm here on a random Sunday in the summer and there are a lot of people might be good to expand some parking as well just for car users*

*To add on to my above comment. The amount of grass that is mowed on the point McKay side is a lot. I would appreciate a grassland and aspen parkland take over this space. It is also important to me that the area on the south side of the river west of Edworthy park be kept natural without a regional pathway. Thank you for taking on this project!!*

*Bike control*

*If the city would like to increase naturalized space, it should look to the Shaganappi Point Golf Course and the Pumphouse Road areas, which could be redesigned to allow for more natural corridors for wildlife that would also enable more of the public to enjoy these places. The larger public should not lose access to one of the city's only forests so that a small group of golfers can maintain a government-subsidized course on prime habitat.*

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*Interesting artifacts to be seen on the west side of the park near the former brick plant.*

*The natural areas in Edworthy, especially the Douglas Fir Trail, are a valuable resource to the community, and to the City at large. We need to keep as much of it as possible as natural as possible. Too much of the City is being paved over and/or developed (I think of the fabulous Paskapoo Slopes that the City allowed to be turned in a horrid, horrid shopping space). Let's focus on keeping Edworthy as wild as possible, a space for all to enjoy something other than pavement and shops.*

*I wish people would stop building teepees with deadfall. The offleash park and surrounding trails to the river and quarry road/douglas fir trail are one of the things I love most about my apartment. Keep Edworthy awesome!*

*NO off-leash on the Douglas Fir Trail and Lowrey Gardens. Limit the offleash on the uplands.*

*It's a beautiful natural area for a walk. Don't ruin that. Too much infrastructure means hoards of people. No thanks. It's nice to be able to walk my dog off leash in peace and watch the birds and look at the flowers. We use this daily sometimes twice.*

*As a Douglas Fir Trail user I am concerned about the closure and the potential to make the washout safer. Many of us have time, and some the experience, to work with the City to make that happen. I've used the trail for 30 years, since my children were small and there were seven bridges. I'm aware of the risks, but this area will be used anyhow, including by the unhoused, and together we can keep each other safe and help preserve the environment. It's such a treasure.*

*The Edworthy dog park area needs to be fenced for safety reasons (proximity to Sarcee Trail, Edworthy Road and parking lots) and because of the very high usage of it. This would help protect wildlife in the area and help restore the natural habitat in the area.*

*Please reopen the trail and allow citizens to assist where the city may lack resources. There are many that arwilling to step up to ensure continued ability to enjoy our outdoor spaces and trails.*

*Fav go to park.*

*No new house construction allowed. Control of homeless housing in the area.*

*This is a valuable resource to the City, please do not reduce its area*

*Limit the dog access and bike access to public areas only. The damage is sadly ongoing especially at the top of the park. The 'gatherings'. Where people haul their bbqs should be limited. No alcohol ban should also be put in place. Communicate this survey via the communities directly.*

*Douglas Fir trail is an important part of Edworthy area - this should be a priority for people's use - when is it opening again?*

*Design a loop trail for West Edworthy that allows a return back to the south parking lot. This option was removed by the CPR not allowing the crossing of the railway at the upstream end of the park.*

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*Open the pathway over the winter and do SNIC. Address the glacier. Fix the bloody pathways already.*

*The increased population uses of the park means that the wildlife has been increasingly pushed into the residential area thus increasing chances for conflict. Although the natural area park has many species within it, there often are only a few plants of any species. For example, in the native fescue meadow of the upper plateau, there is penstemon nitidus found but only two or three plants. There and elsewhere, destroying one plant could mean extirpating, eliminating, a species.*

*Increased use is deteriorating the natural areas. People are cutting more and more trails and there is an increased amount of overnight camping and litter.*

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Out of Scope Themes

**Accessibility, Connectivity and Infrastructure:** Improving parking, transit access, and bathroom facilities is important. Ensuring safe and approved access to pathways and natural areas is a priority. Improving pathways, bridges, and access points, especially on the south side of the river. Ensuring safe and accessible routes for all users, including bikers and pedestrians.

**Cleanliness and Maintenance:** Ensuring tidy picnic spots, clean bathrooms, and proper waste disposal. Addressing issues like needles and homeless encampments to keep the park safe and clean.

**Community and Social Interaction:** The park serves as a social hub where people can meet, engage in recreational activities, and enjoy nature. Better parking management and facilities can help accommodate the growing number of visitors.

**Infrastructure and Safety:** Improving infrastructure such as safer railway crossings, sustainable paved paths, and better road conditions. Ensuring the park is safe for all users, including families and cyclists. Addressing urban camping and encampments is necessary both for safety and to maintain the park's natural beauty and biodiversity.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** Suggestions include better drainage, designated bike lanes, and improved pathways to enhance accessibility and reduce environmental impact.

**Historical and Cultural Preservation:** The park's historical and cultural significance should be highlighted through educational tours and signage.

**Management and Enforcement:** Common management issues include the need for more bylaw enforcement, addressing homeless encampments, and managing off-leash dogs. Education and enforcement strategies are crucial to maintaining the park's safety and cleanliness.

**Recreational Activities:** The park offers good hiking for all levels, safe trails with proper signage, and various recreational activities. It is a place for walking, biking, and enjoying nature. Improved and modernized facilities, such as trails and amenities, are essential for future use.

**Recreational Activities:** Supporting a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, biking, dog walking, and picnicking. Ensuring that the park remains a space for both active and passive recreation.

**Safety and Maintenance:** Ensuring regular maintenance of pathways and facilities, including clean bathrooms, picnic spots, and waste disposal. Managing the impact of high-speed bikers and ensuring safe interactions between different park users.

**Urban Integration:** Integrating the park into the urban environment while preserving its natural character. Addressing issues like noise, pollution, and the impact of nearby developments.

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## Accessibility, Connectivity, and Infrastructure

- Improve parking, transit access, and bathroom facilities.
- Ensure safe and approved access to pathways and natural areas.
- Enhance pathways, bridges, and access points, especially on the south side of the river.
- Provide safe and accessible routes for all users, including bikers and pedestrians.

## Cleanliness and Maintenance

- Maintain tidy picnic spots, clean bathrooms, and proper waste disposal.
- Address issues like needles and homeless encampments to keep the park safe and clean.

## Community and Social Interaction

- Serve as a social hub for recreational activities and nature enjoyment.
- Improve parking management and facilities to accommodate more visitors.

## Infrastructure and Safety

- Improve infrastructure such as railway crossings, paved paths, and road conditions.
- Ensure the park is safe for all users, including families and cyclists.
- Address urban camping and encampments to maintain safety and natural beauty.

## Historical and Cultural Preservation

- Highlight the park's historical and cultural significance through educational tours and signage.

## Management and Enforcement

- Increase bylaw enforcement, address homeless encampments, and manage off-leash dogs.
- Implement education and enforcement strategies to maintain safety and cleanliness.

## Recreational Activities

- Support a variety of activities, including hiking, biking, dog walking, and picnicking.
- Ensure the park remains a space for both active and passive recreation.
- Improve and modernize facilities, such as trails and amenities.

## Urban Integration

- Integrate the park into the urban environment while preserving its natural character.
- Address issues like noise, pollution, and the impact of nearby developments.

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## Appendix B: Douglasdale Habitat Management Plan

The Douglasdale Park Habitat Management Plan report summarizes feedback from public engagement conducted between April 2 and May 6, 2024, to inform a 10-year habitat management plan for Douglasdale Park, located in Calgary. The engagement aimed to gather input on park usage, environmental concerns, and management preferences from various stakeholders, including the public, community associations, and special interest groups like Calgary River Valleys.

### Key Themes

**Park Usage and Values:** Most visitors access the park by walking, biking, or driving. Key activities include walking, dog walking, cycling, wildlife watching, and river access. Participants valued walking paths, proximity to nature, wildlife, and river access, emphasizing the park's importance for physical and mental health.

**Environmental Concerns:** Participants expressed concern about environmental degradation due to increased usage, erosion, off-leash dogs, and riverbank damage. Common issues raised included the need for better trail maintenance, control of invasive species, and protection of sensitive habitats.

**Management Practices:** There was strong support for management actions like creating dog-free zones, restricting river access to protect riparian habitats, improving signage, and seasonal park closures to protect wildlife. Volunteers were keen to help with stewardship events and habitat restoration.

**Future Vision:** Participants desired the preservation of the park's natural beauty while improving accessibility and enforcement of by-laws. Concerns included potential overuse, environmental damage, and the impact of dogs and cyclists on wildlife.

The report emphasizes the importance of balancing park accessibility with environmental protection, engaging the community in stewardship, and enforcing rules to maintain the park's integrity for future generations.

## Appendix C: Weaselhead/Glenmore Area Habitat Management Plan

The Weaselhead/Glenmore Area Habitat Management Plan (2023) report provides a comprehensive summary of public feedback to inform a 10-year habitat management strategy for the Weaselhead and Glenmore parks in Calgary. This engagement ran from March 1 to March 31, 2023, with input from the general public, community groups, and special interest groups like the Weaselhead Preservation Society.

### Key Themes

**Human Impacts:** Participants highlighted concerns regarding overuse by dogs and cyclists, and the negative effects on park habitats. They suggested enforcement of rules like leash laws, monitoring off-trail biking, and protecting sensitive areas from overuse.

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**Environmental Concerns:** The preservation of biodiversity, both flora and fauna, was a major priority. Respondents advocated for leaving the park in its natural state without further development and emphasized the park's role in supporting species diversity.

**Education and Enforcement:** Many respondents called for increased education on the park's ecological importance and more effective enforcement of rules, particularly around pet management, trail use, and protection of sensitive areas.

**Management Practices:** Participants supported efforts like volunteer planting, naturalization of park space, and using wildlife-friendly fencing to protect sensitive habitats. They also endorsed regular monitoring and adaptive management to respond to ecological changes.

**Park Restrictions:** There was strong support for creating dog-free zones and seasonal park or trail closures to protect wildlife. Participants also discussed balancing accessibility with conservation to minimize human impact on the park's ecosystem.

**External Impacts:** Concerns were raised about the encroachment of external developments, such as the construction of the Stoney Trail, which has affected the park's environment through noise, pollution, and habitat fragmentation.

**Future Vision:** Participants envisioned the park maintaining its natural beauty, with enhanced biodiversity and conservation efforts. They wanted to see improvements in accessibility and continued protection of the park's natural resources over the next 5, 10, and 20 years.

## Summary

Overall, the report reflects a strong public interest in conserving the park's natural ecosystems, ensuring minimal human disruption, and balancing park accessibility with ecological sustainability. Key concerns include the impact of external developments, the need for better enforcement of park regulations, and the importance of maintaining biodiversity within the park.

## Appendix D: What We Heard Report – Service Plans and Budgets 2023 – 2026

### *Parks and Open Spaces*

Descriptions of the values you were asked to rank for this service are below:

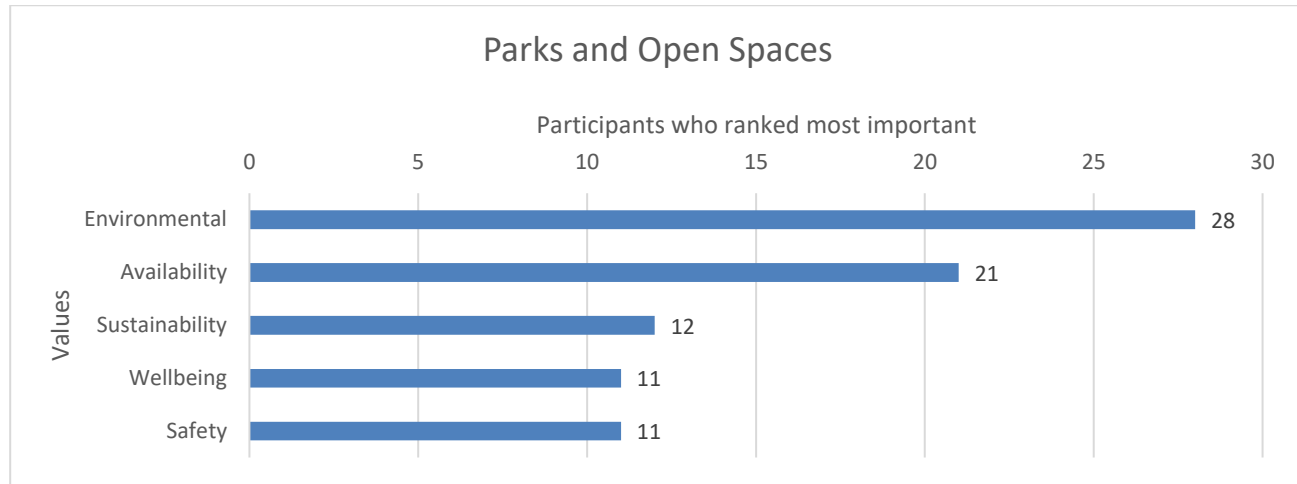
- Wellbeing: Year-round opportunities for social interaction, community vitality, nature appreciation and leisure activities.
- Availability: Neighbourhood parks are readily accessible to all communities.
- Safety: Parks and open spaces are safe.
- Sustainability: Our natural environment is conserved through stewardship, planning and management contributing to urban resilience.
- Environmental: We recognize that healthy ecosystems are essential to our personal, community, and economic well-being.

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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The graphic below indicates the number of participants who ranked the values of Parks and Open Spaces as most important.



The graphic above is one way to show you the result of what is valued most from engagement. The table below is the ranking based off the average rank (1 to 5: one being the highest rank and five being the lowest rank) from all participants. Sharing the results in a different format helps us improve inclusiveness and understanding.

Ranking	Value	Average Ranking
1.	Environmental	2.46
2.	Availability	2.60
3.	Sustainability	2.77
4.	Safety	3.23
5.	Wellbeing	3.25

The following are the most frequent themes identified regarding why Parks and Open Spaces and its values matter.

- Stakeholders want more access to parks and green spaces. They want more neighbourhood parks and less selling of existing green spaces (e.g., ball diamonds).
- A healthy city results in healthy lives. Stakeholders state that our green spaces improve our communities, our families, and mental and physiological health.
- Maintenance of green spaces is also seen to be essential to our communities. This includes but is not limited to the mowing of grass, the proliferation of weeds and invasive plants, and dying trees and bushes.

## What We Heard – Service Plans and Budgets 2019-2022 (phase 3)

## Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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Service	Current Service Level Recommendation	Sentiment we heard through engagement	Detailed explanation
Parks & Open Spaces	↔	↑	Generally we heard a preference for this service level to increase because it would help ensure good maintenance and provides good opportunity for social and recreational activities. Some comments indicate a desire for playgrounds for a wider age range and increased focus on safety.
Urban Forestry	↓	↑	Those who found this important indicated that trees improved quality of life, environmental value, and beautification. People supported the maintenance of old trees and supported watering of young trees so they take better. People did not support the reduction in planting new trees. They wanted to see more trees planted especially since they felt the tree canopy has not yet recovered from past weather events.

### Appendix E: What We Heard – Service Plans and Budgets 2019-2022 (phase 2)

Line of Service	Verbatim Comment
Parks and Open Spaces	allows us to gather as families/communities
Parks and Open Spaces	Makes the world/life better!
Parks and Open Spaces	Makes life better & socializing @ dog park
Parks and Open Spaces	We need green spaces
Recreation Opportunities	Healthy living. Place for building community
Recreation Opportunities	Recreation is important to channalise youth energy
Parks and Open Spaces	Open places crate a hub & opprotunity for people to meet & connect. Dog parks are needed ehre it is not simply a close small fenced area but bigger populations.
Urban Forestry	One of the best things about the city is the countless possibilities to experience outdoor activities in real, big parks as well as having a large presence of trees within city limits.
Parks and Open Spaces	The city needs more trees. The trees (that are planted) need to be <u>watered</u> .
Urban Forestry	keeps our neighbourhood green and healthy
Urban Forestry	Partner with local agencies & non profits to support learning in different communities
Parks and Open Spaces	Leisure space to 'hang out' with family, friends, visitors, fellow immigrants.

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Parks and Open Spaces	I like the parks because they are a place to play.
Parks and Open Spaces	The city gives us Parks and they will give us Parks for exersis [included drawing of a playground on a sunny day]
Urban Forestry	Calgary has forestry so kids can learn safety
Parks and Open Spaces	To play and have fun. Relax in nature
Parks and Open Spaces	Protecting the wild life
Parks and Open Spaces	Park and open spaces for bikers, skater and more
Parks and Open Spaces	I like helping nature, plants and other living things.
Parks and Open Spaces	I think parks and open spaces are good because people love to have fun!
Parks and Open Spaces	Parks and open spaces are important to me because I love to play on parks. And they are important because they let us play outside more often.
Parks and Open Spaces	I like parks it is good because you can go for a run or walk and can enjoy! :)
Parks and Open Spaces	I think if you biuld a parc or take down a parc and put up a new one, always ask for opinions from the community. [included drawing of a heart]
Urban Forestry	Calgary has urban forests for children to get new learning expeiriences.
Parks and Open Spaces	Definetly we need more trees and green areas
Parks and Open Spaces	Increasing budget to Parks for community enhancement as current funding is way to low & HOAs unable to water & cut green spaces properly
Urban Forestry	More trees needed
Urban Forestry	More trees the better. I see areas on my street (saddlebrook Dr.) where more trees could be planted. City owned trees grow very slow. Are they planted in ideal soil conditions?
Urban Forestry	Please + trees
Environmental Management	Avoid taking too much recreational areas (parks) in order to build buildings and stores, since that can affect wildlife and vegetation.
Environmental Management	Clean air, water are human rights issue. Future generations need to build up rather than out & it will help save money on the city of Calgary

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<sup>i</sup> Because of its open and accessible nature, engagement is virtually never positioned as the sole source of input into whether The City should do something but helps to ensure City decision-makers have access to a

# Edworthy Park Habitat Management Plan

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range of ideas and feedback. This feedback is not statistically representative of all Calgarians, and therefore participants will be referred to as respondents and not Calgarians. All the input collected for this project should be considered through the lens of what will work best in the Calgary context.