

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Calgary acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, Amskaapipiikani and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).

We acknowledge that this rich, culturally significant landscape holds meaning for many different groups and is known by various names, including Aiss ka pooma, Pagaspu, Piskapo, and others that we are learning through this process.



Medicine Hill/ Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park

The Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park master plan project will provide an opportunity to protect land with cultural, archaeological, and ecological significance, while creating a regional park that shapes a landscape of connection and education for all who visit. The master plan will be the blueprint for how the park will be realized over the next decade and beyond.

About the Master Plan

Few places in Calgary are as significant as this truly unique location.



Nature

The site has a mix of foothill ecologies and habitats that showcase Calgary's unique regional character.



Culture

The site has a significant relationship with ongoing cultural understandings and practices.



Education

The site can become a landscape of learning to deepen our understanding of the significance of this place.



Together

Together, we can shape a regional park that reflects shared values and collective stewardship.

Purpose

Calgary is growing and the communities near the park are growing too. The City has identified a need to protect these resources and sees an opportunity to design a unique regional park that shapes a landscape of connection and education for all who visit.

Due to the informal nature of the space, the sensitive archaeology and ecology is at risk of degradation as park use increases. It is important for The City to protect the park's ecology and abundance of significant archaeological material while also making park improvements for a growing population to enjoy the park.

Over the next decade approximately

13,000 new residents

are anticipated to be living within in the neighbourhoods around the park.

Project Timeline



2024

Project initiation



Summer 2025

Engagement



Fall - Winter 2025

Concept design and further engagement



Spring - Summer 2026

Project finalization

Our Pillars



Nature

The site has a mix of foothill ecologies and habitats that showcase Calgary's unique regional character.

Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes is known for its steep hills and rolling landscape, connecting natural areas in the west to Calgary's city center. The area is home to many different plants and animals, supported in part by underground and surface springs that flow into the Bow River. These natural features, along with important cultural and geological sites, help tell the story of this special place.



Culture

This site has a significant relationship with ongoing cultural understandings and practices. It also contains one of the richest concentrations of archaeological sites in Calgary, with cultural materials dating back thousands of years.

We understand that Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes is a place of deep cultural, spiritual, and historical importance for Indigenous Nations with long-standing ties to the land. The Buddhist Stupa in the southwest part of the park is also a meaningful place for Calgary's Buddhist community.

As we plan for the future of the park, we're working closely with Treaty 7 Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, and members of the Buddhist community to better understand the cultural importance of the site, how it's used today, and their vision for its future.



Education

On-site education offers the opportunity to engage a broader audience and deepen public understanding of Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes' significance.

Learning is an important part of making Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes a place where people feel connected to each other and to the land. Education helps visitors understand the area's natural beauty, its plants and animals, and the deep history and cultural importance it holds.

Through thoughtfully designed spaces, informational signs, and engaging programs, people of all ages can learn how this landscape has been shaped over thousands of years. This knowledge helps everyone care for the park in a respectful and responsible way, so it stays cherished for future generations.



Together

The Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes area exemplifies the profound interconnectedness between nature and culture.

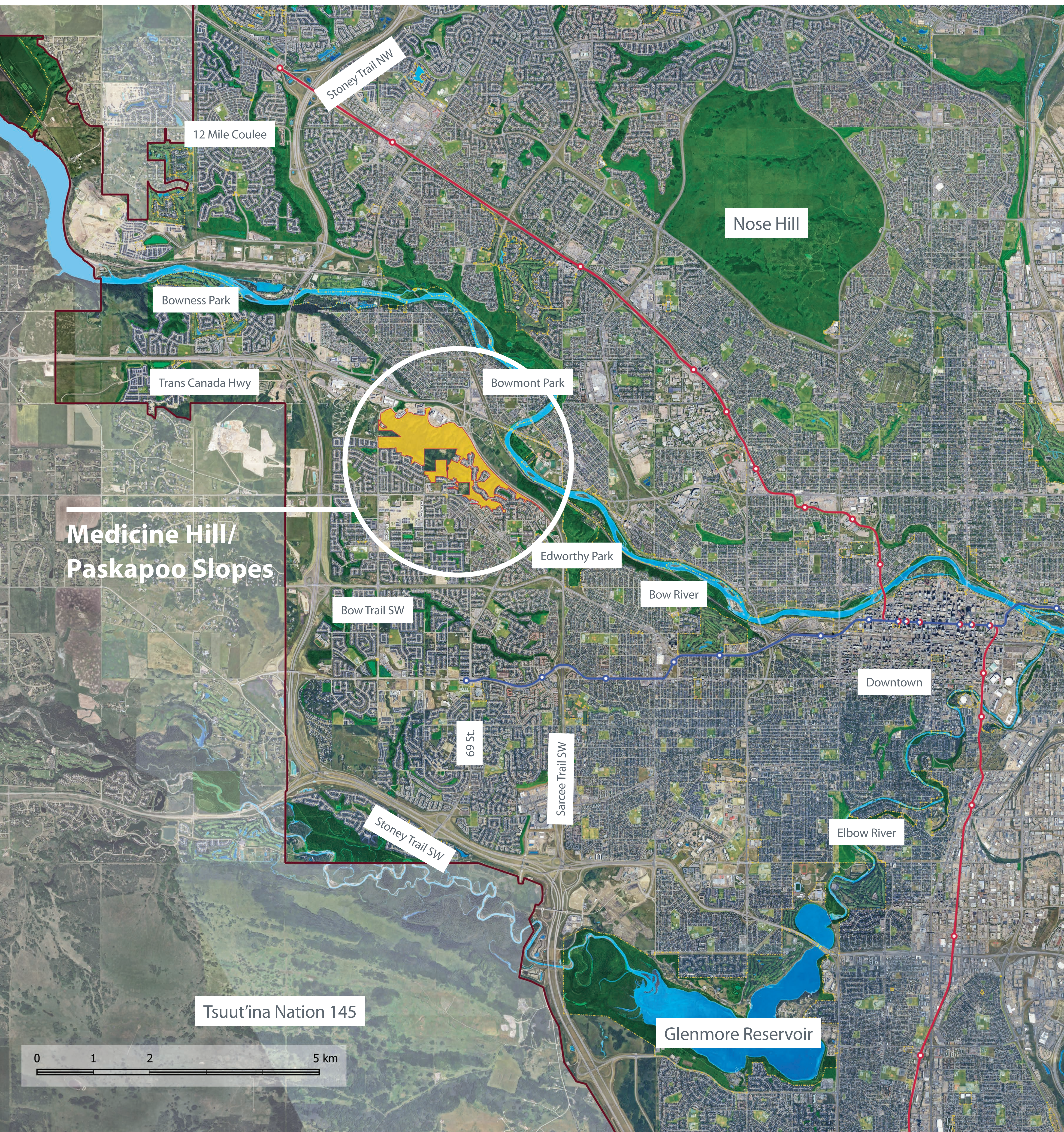
Together, we can shape a regional park that reflects shared values and collective stewardship. By working in respect, relationship, spirit, action, and collectiveness, we create a welcoming space where people can connect with nature, culture, and each other. Public enjoyment and visitor experience are central to this vision, supporting low-impact recreation activities such as walking, cycling, nature observation, and quiet reflection.

These activities foster a deeper connection to the land while preserving its ecological and cultural integrity. Through collaboration with Indigenous communities, local residents, and park users, the park will become an inclusive and valued place for all, now and into the future.

Site Location

The Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park study area is roughly 350 acres of land, located on the western side of the city, south of the Bow River and the Trans Canada Highway.

Medicine Hill Regional Park will be an important part of a network of large parks in the western portion of Calgary.



Nature

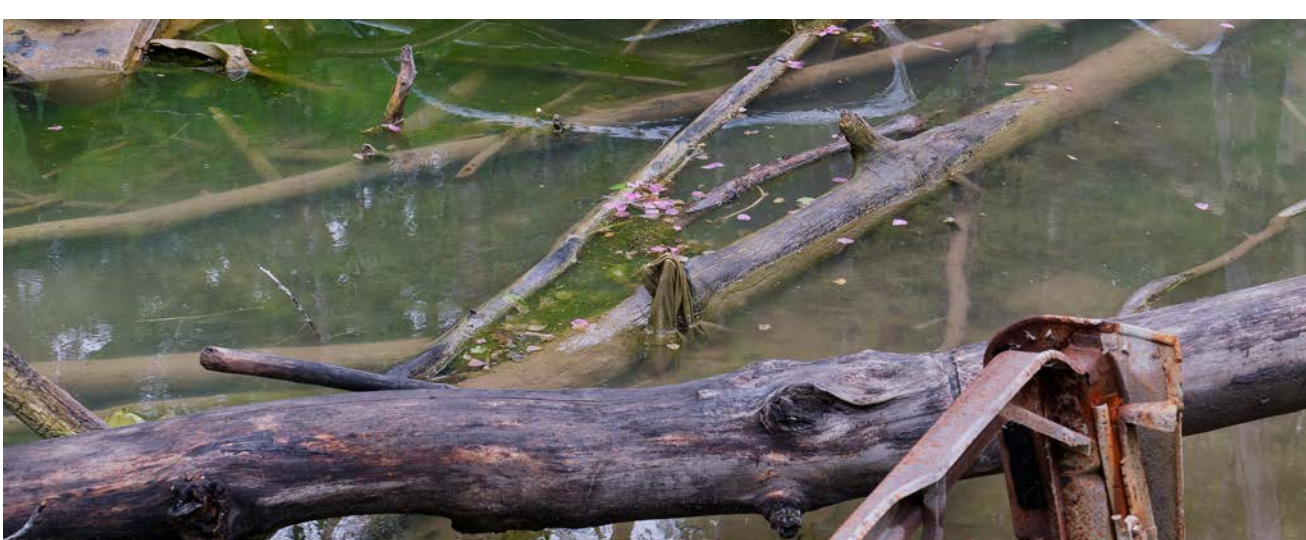


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Water

Water was a vital component to the site's traditional use as a bison hunting ground, enabling a process of cleaning the animal for food and other uses. The abundance of natural springs also creates the conditions for a lot of the vegetation and habitat found on site.



Vegetation

The occurrence of groundwater-fed balsam poplar forest in ravines is unique, rare and distinctive in Calgary, occurring only in isolated seepage sites along the Bow River. The park also contains several native grassland areas that support pockets of sand grass & needle and thread communities.

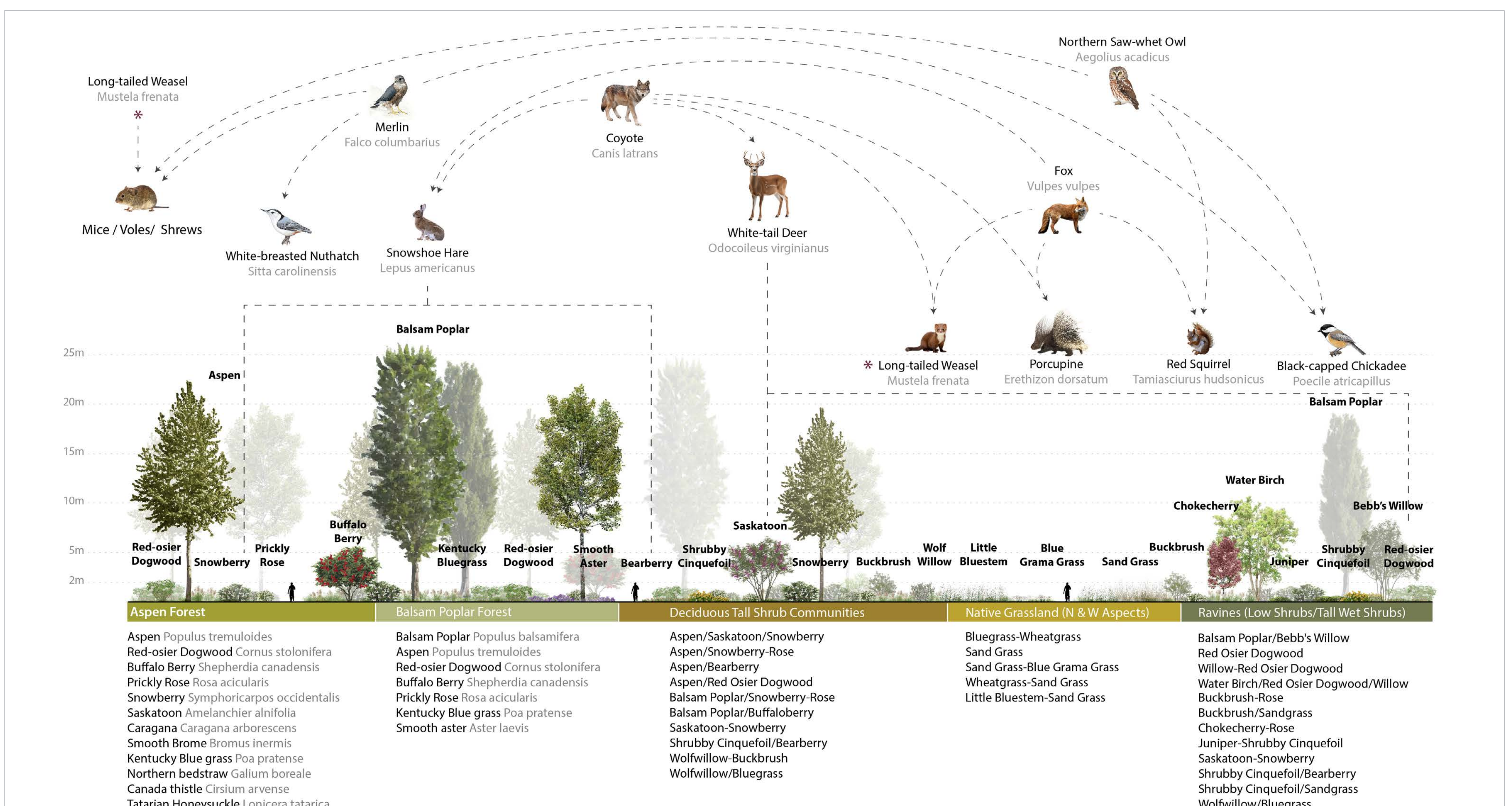


Wildlife & Habitat

The park is defined as a high value area for wildlife movement and core habitat. Notable species include bald eagles, prairie falcons, and it is within the range of sharp tailed grouse. Vegetation such as native wildflowers also support a diversity of insects.



Cross-section representation of Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slope vegetation communities and the habitat.



Culture



This site has a significant relationship with ongoing cultural understandings and practices. This land holds the densest concentration of archaeological resources within Calgary, reflecting thousands of years of human activity.

Archaeology

Due to the informal nature of the space, sensitive archaeological resources are continually under threat.

Archaeological resources are protected under the Historical Resources Act. More than 50 sites have been recorded at Medicine Hill. Most sites reflect large bison killsites that included the intentional construction of corrals (pounds). Other sites represent the associated butchering and processing camp activities. An Archaeological Management Plan is in development that, once approved, will inform the master plan.

Cultural Significance

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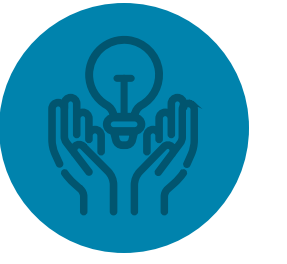
Recent History

During the early 20th century, homesteading activity occurred at Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes, along with the development of a road traveling diagonally up the hill. The Brickburn quarry also added more intensive activity to the area in what is now Edworthy Park.

Much has changed around the park within the last 50 years. This includes the Trans-Canada Highway, new residential neighbourhoods, the WinSport facilities (formerly Canada Olympic Park), and the Buddhist Stupa.



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Signs

Education on the site is currently delivered primarily through interpretive signage. Recently transferred to The City's management, they provide valuable context about the site's geological features and cultural significance, with additional archaeological interpretation planned.

Placekeeping

The site presents a unique opportunity to embrace placekeeping - an approach that goes beyond traditional placemaking to actively care for and maintain both the physical landscape and its deep cultural significance. Education can become a vital tool to preserve and share ecological, archaeological, and cultural significance for future generations.

Programming

While some community and nature schools have conducted tours in recent years, the site largely has not had any public programming.

New programming opportunities could take a range of forms such as stewardship initiatives, classes, events, tours, and participation in cultural-based practices.



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Get Involved

The master plan process includes guidance from Indigenous Nations and feedback from public engagement to support a well-rounded project vision with attainable goals.

Share your thoughts

Join us in summer 2025 for the first phase of public engagement. Visit engage.calgary.ca/medicine-hill for more information to get involved.



Take the online survey

Share your vision and values until July 21, 2025.



Visit use at an open house

Learn more about the site and discuss your ideas with the project team.



Chat with us at a pop-up

Spot us at community events this summer.

Decision Process Inputs

Feedback collected through public engagement is one component of the master plan process and is balanced with many components including budget, policies, bylaws and design constraints.

