



UPDATE – Nose Hill Park

APRIL 2007

The following is the April update on the Nose Hill Trail & Pathway Plan

ANNUAL COUNCIL UPDATE

On February 7, 2007 Parks provided an annual implementation update on the Nose Hill Trail and Pathway Plan to the Standing Policy Committee (S.P.C.). During the meeting, Parks provided a brief presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the S.P.C. Attached is a copy of the report Parks provided to Committee, the S.P.C.'s recommendation, and the City Clerk's meeting minutes. Official copies of these reports are also available on the City Clerk's website at <http://www.calgary.ca>.

Parks would like to thank all of the stakeholders who took the time to attend the February S.P.C. meeting. Your presence demonstrates your strong and ongoing interest in protecting and enhancing Nose Hill Park!

CONSTRUCTION TENDERS

The City of Calgary recently awarded a bid to complete construction of the cross-park pathways in Nose Hill. Parks will be meeting with the consultant in April to finalize work plans and timelines for completing this work.

The construction tender for the upper plateau trail has been posted and will close near the third week of April. Details on work plans and timelines will be released once the contract has been awarded.

BREEDING BIRD MITIGATION

This year, Parks undertook a park-wide breeding bird survey to assess how breeding birds were making use of the grassland and shrubland that borders the park's routes. We initiated this survey to better understand what the potential impacts the Trail and Pathway Plan projects could have on nesting birds. The results of the survey, which are posted on the Parks website, indicated that the overall impact of trail and pathway construction on bird populations would be minimal since no rare or sensitive species were observed in close proximity to the existing informal trails or pathways.

While this survey demonstrated a low probability that birds will nest close to park routes, especially in heavier used areas, Parks still felt it was important to apply mitigation strategies to address potential impacts on nesting birds. The strategies that we will be implementing include:

1. Prior to May 1, mow grass and clear shrubs immediately along planned construction routes to temporarily remove grasses and shrubs for nesting birds
2. Prior to May 1, commence construction activities in Many Owls Valley to provide sensory disturbance prior to birds establishing nests
3. If above (1) or (2) is not undertaken, conduct nest searches immediately before construction activities (*as also described in the BIA recommendations*)

We are confident that with the already low predicted probability of birds nesting near the trails and pathways and application of these mitigation strategies, we will have considerably reduced the potential negative impacts of trail and pathway development on nesting birds.

CHARLESWOOD DRIVE PARK ENTRANCE

As recommended in the Nose Hill Trail & Pathway Plan, the Charleswood Drive park entrance will be permanently closed on May 1 as a progressive measure in enhancing user safety. In mid-April, signs will be posted to encourage users to access Nose Hill through the newly constructed pedestrian overpass at Brisebois Drive.

For more information on this project, please visit the website at www.calgary.ca/parks