



Wish List for Outdoor Projects in Brentwood Heights

By Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

Captain John's Naturalization Project Seeks Landscape Designer

CJP is about to join the ranks of schools all over North America that have replaced barren tarmac and patchy turf with an inspired natural schoolyard environment. During the last academic year, the project focused on gathering information from stakeholders (parents, students, staff, and nearby community residents) on location and the elements they would like to see incorporated into the naturalized area. Surveys were conducted, and students were asked to create possible designs for the naturalized area. Committee members have also viewed successful naturalized areas at other schools.

Based on the input obtained by the surveys, the project will focus on redeveloping the green area at the east

end of the school adjacent to Northmount Drive NW.

The information gathering activities have provided good guidelines about what elements are most favoured for inclusion in the area by the school community, as well as some preliminary design ideas. However, there is still an urgent need for a specific landscape design, and the Committee is currently seeking an experienced landscape designer. With funding approved by the CJP Parents Association, the parents hope to break ground as early as next spring. If you are able to help the school create a design for their naturalization project, or for more information about the project please contact Lynda Pianosi at pinoch@shaw.ca.



CJP's Naturalization Project will redevelop the existing green space at the east end of the school. CJP's Naturalization Project will redevelop the existing green space at the east end of the school.

Call for Input on Grants and Website!

The Friends of Dr. E.W. Coffin Society will soon be submitting a grant application via Dr. Coffin School's Environment Committee for further enhancements of the Centennial Natureground, Millennium Playground, and adjacent areas in Brentwood Heights. These areas are all publicly accessible and on joint use City and School Board properties.

In that these projects have succeeded in part because of such strong community input and collaboration, we would like to ask you again for any ideas, comments, or concerns you have regarding the area.

As well, we will be updating the website which supports these and other school and community based projects. Do you have any ideas for what you would like to see on www.natureground.org?

We want your voice included:

- Are there ideas or concerns you have that could be incorporated into the grant request?
- Would you like to participate in developing the application and/or join the committee?
- What would you like to see on our Natureground.org website as it is updated?

Please visit www.natureground.org for more information about Whispering Signs and other outdoor environmental education projects in Brentwood. We hope you will also visit the signs and sites in person, too!

We look forward to your input, and to incorporating your voice in these neighbourhood projects!



Overview of Bylaw Services

Courtesy City of Calgary
Animal and Bylaw Services

The work of the City of Calgary Animal and Bylaw Services touches many aspects of a citizen's daily life. This is because we are involved in developing bylaws that relate to issues such as pets in our city, the condition of a person's property, snow and ice, behaviour on pathways and smoking, to name a few.

In developing the bylaws, citizens are consulted so that the bylaws reflect the values of the community. Animal and Bylaw Services then partners with various organizations, community associations and citizens to inform and educate the public.

Bylaws in Calgary serve to protect our health and safety, the environment and the orderly appearance of public and private property. They are created because they help us live together as neighbours based on agreed upon rules. Municipal bylaws set a minimum standard of acceptable behaviour.

Role of Animal Services

- Enforcing The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw
- Licensing of cats and dogs
- Sheltering and caring for impounded animals
- Operating an adoption program

Role of Bylaw Services

Enforcement of 23 bylaws including:

- Community Standards
- Street
- Parks and Pathways
- Smoking
- Temporary Signs
- Public Behaviour

Through public engagement, bylaws are developed to protect citizens, public and private property, the environment and to enhance the liveability of our city. To learn more about City of Calgary bylaws, visit www.calgary.ca/animalservices.

Invitation to Participate in Local Research Project

Have you been involved in any of the outdoor public environmental projects in the community of Brentwood?

For example: Whispering Signs, Prairie Amphitheatre and Centennial Natureground, Whispering Woods, Whispering Grasses Walkway or Brentwood Community Murals.

If so, you are invited to volunteer as a participant in a research study entitled, "Understanding Sense of Place through Ecological Autobiographies."

As well, if you are a parent of a child who has been involved in these Brentwood-based environmental projects, you and/or your child are invited to volunteer as a participants.

Each participant will be interviewed about their role in the projects and what their involvement has meant to them.

A small number of initial participants will be invited at a later time to take part in extended conversations about their personal history of environmental or community engagement.

Sledding Safety

Courtesy Calgary Emergency Medical Services

Sledding is a fun and exciting activity that thousands of Calgarians enjoy every winter. It is one of several great outdoor pastimes that make this snowy time of year more enjoyable. While sledding is a lot of fun, it is not without its risks. Injuries can occur from colliding with stationary objects, such as trees and rocks, or with other people on the hill. Unprotected falls can result in injury if you lose control at high speeds. Everyone is at risk – especially children. Educate your family how to stay safe and follow these simple safety tips for a fun day on the toboggan hill.

- Make sure your sled is in good condition. Don't use sleds with broken parts, sharp edges, or splits in the material.
- If your sled won't stop, or if you are out of control, roll off your sled onto the snow.
- Children should wear a properly fitted helmet designed for high impact collisions, such as hockey, cycling, or

The purpose of the research is to understand the nature and development of a sense of place.

Results from this study will inform practice and research in the fields of environmental education, community development, and parks management and interpretation.

By engaging in reflective conversation in the context of these projects, all participants will ideally benefit by adding to their self-knowledge and personal understanding.

Participation is entirely voluntary.

If you are interested, please contact Ms. Polly L. Knowlton Cockett, Graduate Division of Educational Research, Faculty of Education, (403) 282-2014, plknowlt@ucalgary.ca

This project partially fulfills the requirements of the researcher's doctorate in Environmental Education. The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

climbing helmets.

- Dress warmly in layers and anticipate weather changes. Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange for damp ones.
- Be aware of clothing that contains drawstrings, or other loose clothing, including scarves, which may present a choking hazard if they become caught or snagged.
- Avoid hills that are too steep, or too icy—you may lose control of your sled very quickly.
- Choose hills free of obstacles (such as trees, rocks, utility poles, or fences).
- Don't use hills that end with a road, busy parking lot, or creek at the bottom.
- Never go down a hill head first or backward.
- Avoid sledding at night if the hill is not well lit.
- Use sleds that you can easily control. Inner tubes, crazy carpets, and flying saucers cannot be steered!

For more information, check out www.calgary.ca/ems, www.safekids.com or www.plan-itsafe.com.