

BRAGG CREEK WILD

wildlife and people living in community

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Natural Assets, Yours to Protect

Re-Imagining Bragg Creek, Part II

October 23rd 7-9pm - Bragg Creek Community Centre

Reserve your ticket on [Eventbrite](#)



Presentation by Guy Greenaway
of the Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy
followed by discussion

[Eventbrite](#)

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**BRAGG
CREEK**

WILD



wildlife and people living in community

RE-IMAGINING BRAGG CREEK - PART II

NATURAL ASSETS YOURS TO PROTECT

A PRESENTATION BY

GUY GREENAWAY

Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy

OCTOBER 23, 2024 | 7PM

**BRAGG CREEK
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

TICKETS: EVENTBRITE

WWW.BRAGG CREEKWILD.CA

Bragg Creek's Natural Assets Yours to Protect

"An environment cannot be all things to all people, all of the time"

Brad Stelfox.

Assets like trees, wetlands and ecosystems aren't just beautiful - they perform multiple critical functions. A single tree for instance, can offer shade, prevent soil erosion, absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, support wildlife and enhance mental well-being for people who simply enjoy its presence. These assets don't have a singular value but offer a multitude of benefits that serve the community and environment in different ways.

Understanding this is key as we face a forthcoming revision to the Area Structure Plan (ASP) for Bragg Creek hamlet and expansion area. It is VITAL - now more than ever - for us to come together as a community to understand the natural assets we have, the functions they provide, those functions we prioritize and how we intend to protect them. For example, a grouping of trees on a golf course may be valued for both their challenge as obstacles and offering a pleasing view scape, whereas a stand of trees in a natural area may be deemed an essential resource for preventing soil erosion and protecting the water table. These decisions will guide future policies on preservation.

A healthy, functioning ecosystem is a vital asset—so much so that terms like “natural assets” and “natural infrastructure” have become part of asset management, helping to quantify their worth alongside roads and other manmade infrastructure. Recognize, however, that an inventory of natural assets alone is not a conservation plan. Knowing what we have is only the first step. Prioritizing and implementing policies to protect what we value is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Valuing nature goes beyond assigning a dollar figure. While we can calculate the financial value of stormwater retention versus a man-made solution for a wetland, how do we assess the value of cultural significance, rural character, or breathtaking views? To a tourism operator, a tree might represent more than just money; perhaps its an irreplaceable element central in their successful business.

Its for these reasons that on October 23rd, 2024, BCW is hosting “Bragg Creek's Natural Assets – Yours to Protect”, a community event facilitated by Guy Greenaway of the Corvus Centre. Guy will guide us through these concepts and lead discussions on how to identify and preserve the natural assets we all enjoy and depend on. This event builds on a previous BCW presentation by guest Dr. Brad Stelfox, who spoke to a Bragg Creek audience about land use and sustainability.

Following this event, a report will be produced to prepare our community for Rocky View County's upcoming public engagement process on updating the ASP. This is a crucial moment for Bragg Creek as decisions made in this plan will shape the future of growth, development and tourism in our area.

We, as residents, have a responsibility to advocate for the protection of our natural assets, working to ensure their long-term conservation alongside governing bodies. By doing so, we safeguard not only the beauty of Bragg Creek but the essential services our natural surroundings provide.

Help Shape Bragg Creek's Future: Protecting our natural environment through the new Bragg Creek ASP

BC's ASP Visioning committee member update By Renée Delorme

"Bragg Creek's breathtaking natural beauty is what makes it so special, and both residents and visitors share a deep desire to keep our environment whole and healthy. The question is not just 'How?' but also 'What can each of us do to ensure this place thrives for generations to come?' Together, we have the power to make a lasting difference."

Rockyview County is moving forward with a new Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Bragg Creek hamlet and its expansion area, with a strong focus on growth and tourism. To kickstart this effort, an 8-member Visioning Committee was formed last spring, tasked with creating a shared vision for our community—laying the foundation for a meaningful dialogue between the County and the residents of Bragg Creek.

Throughout the summer, the committee delved into key topics: roads, utilities, the environment, housing and economic growth. One thing is clear—our natural surroundings are irreplaceable—and preserving them is essential. However, pressures from the Calgary Regional Metropolitan Board, the provincial government and Rockyview County position Bragg Creek as a prime location for increased tourism and development. While these pressures are intense, the community's voice must remain central. We have the power—and the responsibility—to influence what happens next.

Bragg Creek Wild's Commitment to Keeping You Informed

Bragg Creek Wild is hosting three key public events to ensure our community understands how the ASP will impact our environment. In May, we learned from Brad Stelfox about the past, present

and future of land use in our area. Our next event on October 23rd will focus on protecting our natural assets—crucial to a healthy environment and quality of life in Bragg Creek

We must act now to protect what we love about Bragg Creek. Over-tourism, land degradation and diminishing quality of life are already experienced by nearby communities. We can still be preemptive and plan differently to protect our area when development happens.

What's Next

Later this fall, the Visioning Committee will present its proposed vision for Bragg Creek's future. This will be the starting point for our community to shape the ASP and determine what Bragg Creek will become in the years ahead.

The October 23rd event featuring Guy Greenaway's presentation is a rare opportunity to explore the tools and strategies that can safeguard our environment. It is free and open to all.

Together, we can shape a future where growth and preservation go hand in hand. Let's ensure Bragg Creek remains the special place we all love, for generations to come.

Re-imagining Bragg Creek



**Did you miss Brad Stelfox's recent presentation?
No Problem!**

You can now view his full presentation [click here](#)

We also created 15 short segments of his presentation, each focusing on a particular themes such as "History of Natural Disturbances", "Amazing Mammal Community" , "Our Natural Capital", " Land Use VS Natural Capital" and more.

visit our website www.braggcreekwild.ca/our-videos



BCW News Update

Rockyview County Takes Steps Towards a Garbage Bylaw for Bragg Creek



BAIT AND WAIT



On September 10th, the Council of Rockyview County passed a motion for staff to explore the potential for a garbage bylaw for the Bragg Creek area. This motion follows Bragg Creek Wild's presentation to the Public Presentation Committee on July 17th, highlighting the urgent need for such a bylaw to mitigate bear-human conflicts in the community.

Bragg Creek, Bearspaw and Springbank are among the few communities between Banff and Calgary without specific regulations addressing garbage disposal or food attractants. This lack of bylaws has contributed to increased wildlife-human

interactions, raising potential safety concerns for both residents and animals.

The Rockyview County staff will now explore various bylaw options, considering whether to focus solely on Bragg Creek, extend to additional communities, or implement regulations county-wide. Bragg Creek Wild, advocating for these changes, looks forward to collaborating with the county to create effective solutions tailored to the area.

This initiative is a positive step towards making Bragg Creek a bear-smart community and reducing unnecessary conflicts with local wildlife.

Motion approved by Rockyview County councillors.

MOVED by Councillor Hanson that the Public Presentation Committee recommends to Council that Administration be directed to explore the potential for a garbage bylaw as discussed during the Bragg Creek Wild Presentation at the July 17, 2024 Public Presentation Committee Meeting. Carried.

Bragg Creek Wild And Alberta BearSmart Promoting Safe Coexistence

At Bragg Creek Wild, our goal is simple: reduce human-wildlife conflicts and foster safe coexistence with the wildlife that make our community special. We are excited to announce a potential partnership with the Alberta BearSmart program which will give us new tools and resources to create a safer, more wildlife-friendly Bragg Creek.

Reducing Human-Bear Conflicts

The BearSmart Community Program, spearheaded by Alberta Environment and Parks, focuses on reducing attractants like garbage, bird feeders and outdoor pet food that often lures bears into residential areas. The program offers guidelines on how to make homes, campsites and businesses less appealing to bears, along with educational tools to raise public awareness.

If Bragg Creek Wild moves forward with this partnership, it would involve working with local authorities, businesses and residents to adopt and implement BearSmart practices. The goal is to create a safer environment for people while conserving local wildlife populations by reducing unnecessary bear euthanizations and relocations.

Why This Matters

Bears are part of our beautiful landscape, but too often human-bear conflicts end with bears being unnecessarily euthanized. By partnering with Alberta BearSmart, we aim to prevent these outcomes. Through education, awareness campaigns and practical advice—like reducing food attractants around homes and knowing what to do if you encounter a bear on the trail—we’re empowering our community to avoid conflicts.

We’re forming the very first BearSmart Committee in our area and need passionate volunteers to help make Bragg Creek safer for everyone—bears included! If you share our commitment to wildlife conservation and want to help spread the word, join us!

Reach out today to learn more and be part of this exciting initiative. Together, we can make Bragg Creek a safer, more wildlife-conscious community.

**Get Involved!
Volunteer for the
BearSmart
Committee**

Email
braggcreekwild@gmail.com



RUTTING SEASONS

When angulate behaviours are most erratic and wildlife-vehicle collisions are most prevalent, particularly on November 3rd - the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.



Safe Driving Tips on Rural Roads

- Observe the speed limit and remain alert with “eyes on the ditches”.
- Pay attention to frequent deer crossing signs.
- Be especially vigilant at dawn and dusk when deer are most active.
- Deer are herd animals. If you see one animal, look for others. Reduce your speed and stop until you observe that they all cross the road.
- In low light, dawn, dusk, and at night - deer may ‘freeze’ when overstimulated by headlights, so flash your lights on and off to help the deer recover and resume their normal behavior.
- NEVER HONK your horn! Horns can seriously confuse animals, causing them to run directly into your vehicle or oncoming vehicles.
- Be prepared for unpredictable behaviour; don’t expect the deer to cross quickly or in a straight line.
- Don’t swerve out of your lane to avoid deer - use your brakes to reduce speed, then stop. You risk a collision with another vehicle if you leave your lane.

Exciting Funding News for Bragg Creek Wild!

We're thrilled to announce that in recent months, Bragg Creek Wild has secured valuable funding that will boost our efforts to protect wildlife and create a safer community for all! These generous contributions will help us continue our vital work:



Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative – A Partner Grant of \$5,000 to support our conservation advocacy and reduce wildlife-human conflict.



Rocky View County – A Community Enhancement Program grant of \$7,500 to cover essential program material costs.



Alberta Ecotrust Foundation – A Capacity Building Program grant of \$9,700 to strengthen our organizational growth and development.

We are deeply grateful to our funders for believing in our mission. This support enables us to take big strides toward a future where wildlife and people can thrive together in harmony.



Wild Smart Tips



STOP BIRDS FROM HITTING WINDOWS

Reference - [Flap Canada](#)

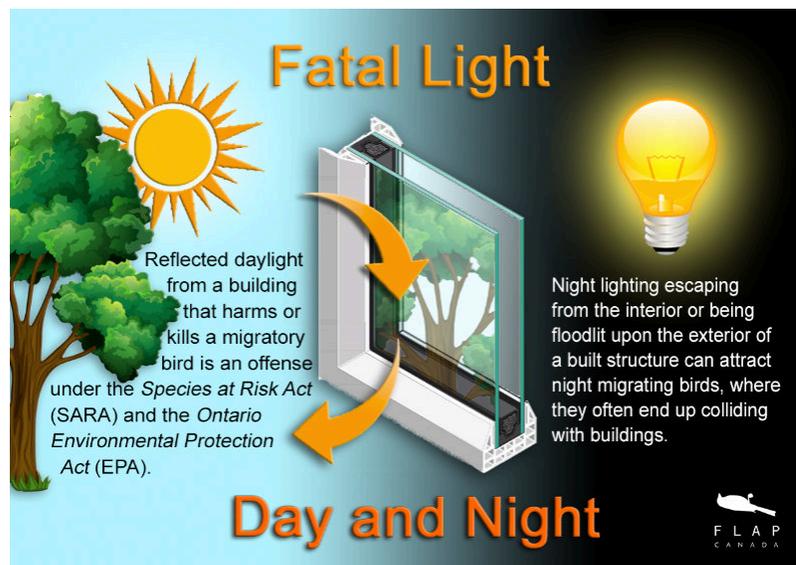
As birds migrate south, they face a hidden danger: windows! Every year, countless birds collide with glass—but we can change that. With fun, simple solutions (many great for kids!), we can protect these beautiful travellers. Let's get

creative and keep our skies and homes safe. Here are some tips from FLAP Canada, dedicated to preventing bird-window collisions.

Birds Are in Trouble

Each year, countless birds die from colliding with glass. Many are killed on impact, while others fall stunned, becoming easy prey or too injured to continue their migratory journey.

Bird populations are declining fast—North America has 3 billion fewer birds than 50 years ago. Window collisions are a significant part of this problem, claiming up to 25 million birds annually in Canada and nearly a billion in the U.S. As cities grow and glass buildings rise, these numbers will only increase unless we take action.



You Can Save Birds By Making Your Windows Bird-Safe

To prevent bird collisions, make your window look like a solid barrier by applying dense patterns on the outside of the glass. Follow these guidelines:

- Use markings no more than 5 cm (2 inches) apart to avoid gaps birds might try to fly through.
- Apply markings to the outside of a window to prevent reflections.
- Ensure markings are high contrast to stand out.
- Each marking should be at least 6 mm (1/4 inch) in diameter.
- Cover the entire window surface with the pattern.

Simple Bird-Safe Window Solutions



Soap: Use a bar of soap to draw patterns on the outside of the glass. Reapply as needed.



Tempera Paint or Paint Pens: Get creative! Paint unique patterns on the outside, ensuring gaps are no larger than 5 cm (2 inches).



Whitewashed Windows: Acts as a barrier, offering privacy and cooling benefits while still letting light through.



Ribbons or String: Hang ribbons or strings no more than 10 cm (4 inches) apart across the window.



Feather Friendly DIY Tape: Leaves white dots on windows to signal a barrier. Available online or in stores.



Tape: Apply strips of tape, ensuring gaps are no more than 5 cm.



Perforated Window Film: Creates a solid-looking surface for birds while letting in light.



Window Grilles: Security or decorative grilles can act as a barrier if gaps are no larger than 5 cm.



Decals: Apply in a dense pattern, with no gaps larger than 5 cm.

“I have so many windows! Which ones should I treat first?”

Certain windows will pose a greater threat to birds than others. To help you identify which windows are most important to treat first, take the [BirdSafe® self-assessment](#) for homeowners or use the [FLAP app](#). Treat the most dangerous windows first.



F L A P
C A N A D A

Suggested Reading

Travels Up the Creek

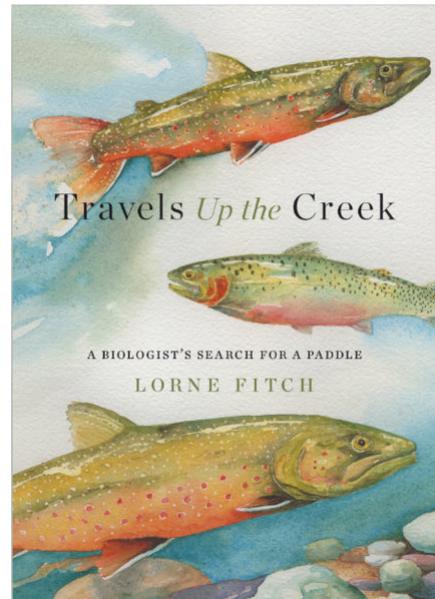
by Lorne Fitch

Lorne Fitch's new book is a collection of essays that will engage readers, inspire change, raise awareness, nurture empathy, and reshape perspectives on environmental stewardship towards a sustainable future.

"A must-read for those yearning for pleasing responsibility and a chance maybe to breathe in a rare fog in a grassland setting and see for a fleeting moment a herd of antelope before the animals are swallowed back up in the mist. So many lovely anecdotes like this. Not to be missed."

—Edward Struzik, award-winning author

Lorne Fitch is a Professional Biologist, a retired Fish and Wildlife Biologist, and a former Adjunct Professor with the University of Calgary. He is a regular contributor to Nature Alberta Magazine. *Travels Up the Creek: A Biologist's Search for a Paddle* is available for pre-order from Rocky Mountain Books or your local bookseller.



[Order your copy here](#)

Be Part Of The Action



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Braggcreekwild@gmail.com
www.braggcreekwild.ca

