



## Public Presentation Committee

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Subject:	Bragg Creek Wild – Update on work to address wildlife-human conflicts in the area
Date:	July 17, 2023
Presenter:	Andrew Chell, Senior Planner, Planning

### REPORT SUMMARY

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Bragg Creek Wild will provide a presentation on Bragg Creek Wild – Update on work to address wildlife-human conflicts in the area.

### ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

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THAT the Public Presentation Committee receive the Bragg Creek Wild – Update on work to address wildlife-human conflicts in the area presentation as information.

### BACKGROUND

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The Public Presentation Committee provides a forum for members of the public and stakeholder groups to present information and updates to the County to ensure the County understands the needs and concerns of its communities. One of the Committee’s functions is to hear presentations from organizations, groups, or individuals such as Bragg Creek Wild.

### DISCUSSION

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The purpose of the presentation is to discuss the need for a refuse bylaw in the Greater Bragg Creek Area to minimize human/wildlife interactions and conflicts, protect the safety of the public and help wildlife populations thrive in the wild, and to discuss the link between the Greater Bragg Creek Area’s natural assets and the Bragg Creek Community.

### ATTACHMENTS

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- Attachment A: Bragg Creek Wild Request to Present Form
- Attachment B: Bragg Creek Wild Presentation

## ROCKY VIEW COUNTY PUBLIC PRESENTATION COMMITTEE (PPC) REQUEST TO PRESENT FORM

Name of the group/individual:

Representative(s) for the group:

Contact telephone/cell number:

E-mail:

Presentation Topic:

Do you have an active planning application on this matter?  Yes  No

Are you planning on submitting a planning application on this in the next six (6) months?  Yes  No

Please check off the appropriate information about the presentation:

- Information - Public Interest       Community Group Update       Development Proposal

Other, please explain

Overview of the topic and purpose of your presentation:

1. The need for a refuse bylaw in the Greater Bragg Creek Area to minimize human/wildlife interactions and conflicts, protect the safety of the public and help wildlife populations thrive in the wild.
2. Discuss the link between the Greater Bragg Creek Area's natural assets and the Bragg Creek economy.

If a group, tell us about your group (mandate/membership, including a statement on why this matter should go before PPC)

Bragg Creek Wild is a local community response to increased wildlife-human conflicts resulting from human activities -- including visitors to the area engaging in outdoor activities and the day-to-day activities of local residents. We advocate for wildlife protection by preserving habitat connectivity, promoting safe wildlife routes and providing public education to reduce human-wildlife conflict. We are a fast-growing organization with 1,438 individuals following us on social media and 197 individuals on our e-list as members or dedicated volunteers. We support evidence-based approaches to problem-solving. Visit [www.braggcreekwild.ca](http://www.braggcreekwild.ca).

**BRAGG  
CREEK** **WILD**



wildlife and people living in community



85



1588



1338



\$15,700

## VISION

A safe and sustainable environment where  
wildlife and humans co-exist

## MISSION

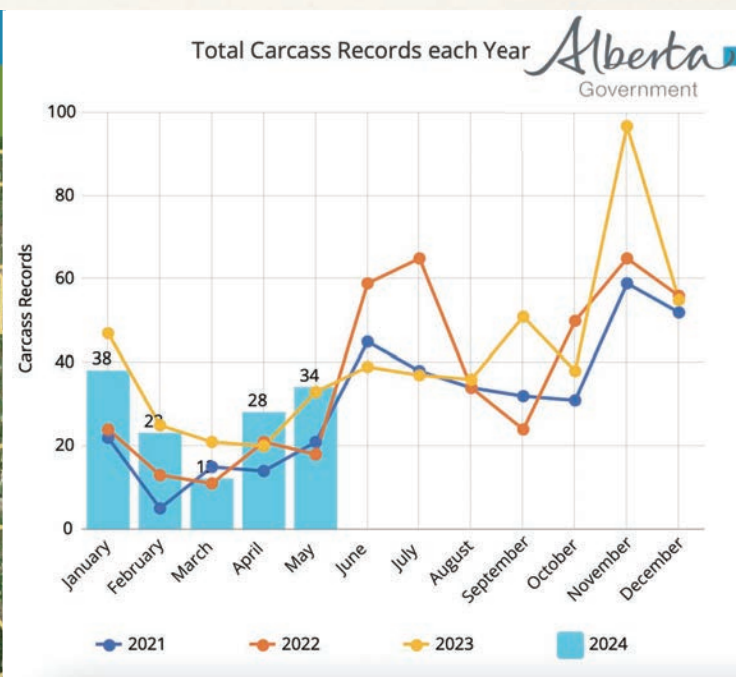
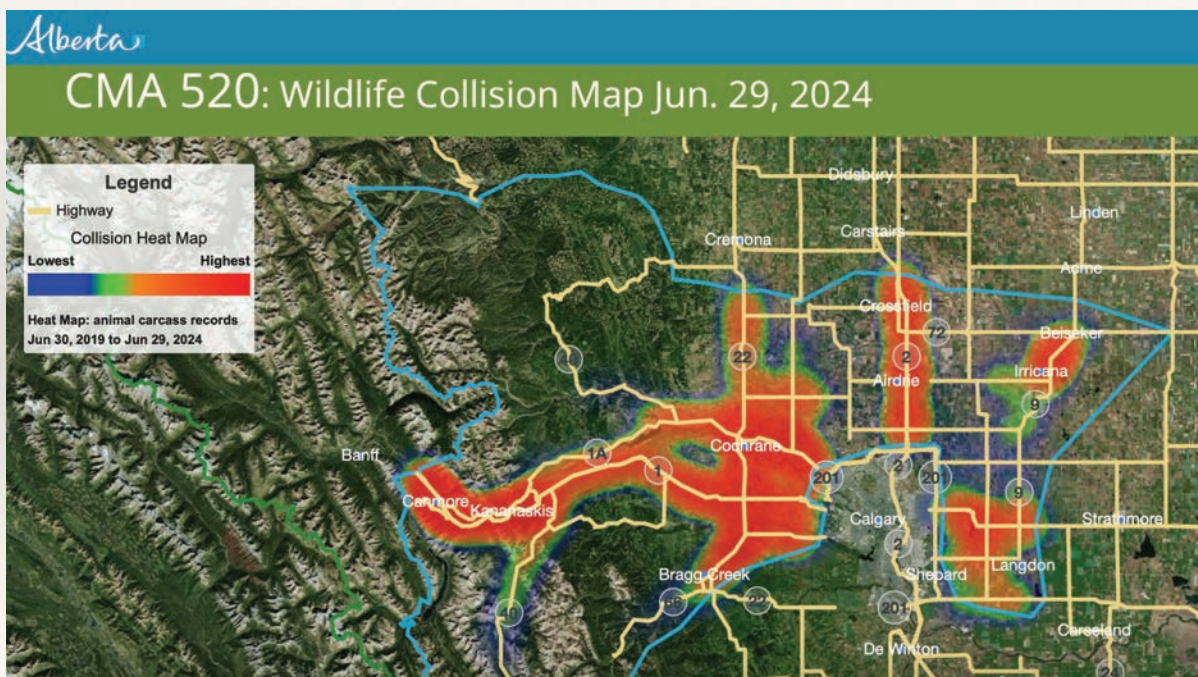
Advocate for the protection of wildlife and their habitats by preserving  
connectivity, promoting safe wildlife routes and providing public education to  
reduce human-wildlife conflict





# Human Wildlife Conflicts - Road Collisions

Increased wildlife vehicle collisions on county and provincial roads, Alberta Wildlife Watch



# Human Wildlife Conflicts - Pets

In 2023 twelve dogs in the Bragg Creek area were killed in suspected Cougar attacks and one dog was attacked twice with the owner present



Bragg Creek 1KM South





# Human Wildlife Conflicts - Property



September 4, 2023: Greater Bragg Creek

Shed pried open, no garbage ever kept in the shed. This bear displayed 'human food waste conditioned' behaviour



# Human Wildlife Conflicts - Garbage

## Bear euthanized in Bragg Creek, cubs orphaned

"Three black bears have died here in the last six weeks, all of them because of human interaction," Klepacki said. "That's on us."



[Howard May](#)

Aug 30, 2022 12:00 PM



*Photo of the four bears a few days before the mother was euthanized | Supplied by Bragg Creek Wild*

August 2022, three bear cubs orphaned after mother was destroyed due to becoming 'human food/waste conditioned' after getting into unsecured garbage of Bragg Creek resident.





*July 17, 2024*

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# Garbage Bylaw Proposal 2024

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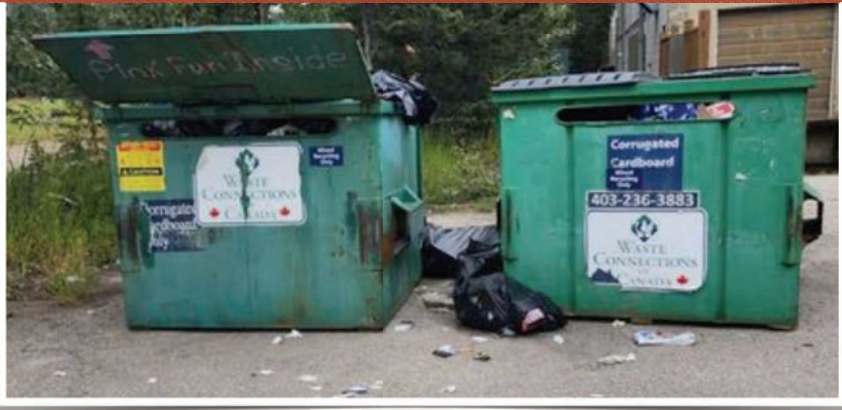
## Bear Easily Accessing Garbage in Bragg Creek Area - October 5, 2023







# BAIT AND WAIT





# Media Coverage

Calgary

**700-lb. grizzly feasts in Bragg Creek, Cougar prowls Redwood Meadows**

'Predators have become aware that our community is a food source'

Sarah Rieger · CBC News ·


Posted: May 01, 2019 3:50 PM MDT | Last Updated: May 2, 2019



Redwood Meadows officials are asking residents to be careful with their garbage and stop feeding wildlife after bears and a cougar were spotted in the area. (Dave Hobson)

CBC News

**Wildlife encounters prompt calls for waste bylaw in Bragg Creek**



Alesia Fieldberg  
CTV News

Bears are often spotted in Bragg Creek but the community has no rules about trash bins and that's a big concern for some residents worried about wild animals becoming habituated to people.

Rocky View County is considering a proposal to add a waste bylaw to enforce trash disposal in areas including Bragg Creek.

"We are the only community in the area that doesn't have a waste bylaw," said Renee Delorme, head of Bragg Creek Wild, the community organization which pitched the bylaw.

Updated Nov. 23, 2023 9:34 p.m.

CTV News

**Bear euthanized in Bragg Creek, cubs orphaned**

"Three black bears have died here in the last six weeks, all of them because of human interaction," Klepacki said. "That's on us."

Howard May  
Aug 30, 2022 12:00 PM




Photo of the four bears a few days before the mother was euthanized | Supplied by Bragg Creek Wild

Cochrane Eagle

**Five bear cubs orphaned in Bragg Creek area, reigniting debate over ban on animal rescues**

Some experts say the province should lift its temporary ban on rehabilitation facilities taking in bear cubs

Bill Kaufmann

Published Sep 07, 2022 · 3 minute read

Join the conversation



File photo of a black bear cub. Photo by Simon Jackson

Calgary Herald



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# 2023

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the death of a black bear



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# 2024

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- ❖ Hello! Mama and three new babies in the area. This trail cam video was taken this week in West Bragg. PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE KEEP YOUR GARBAGE LOCKED UP! Hopefully we can allow these three and mom to thrive!





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# Bear Sightings Near Homes

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❖ <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=333219779823650&set=pcb.7917732618292240>

*“Cummer Place. They were heading down to Centre road”*

***“Let’s not have a repeat of a couple years ago!!! Please be vigilant with keeping garbage locked away”***

❖ <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10160072165037828&set=gm.1491558414794927&id=orvanity=178582029425912>

*“This one has been around continually for the last week or more. Off 762 on 1368 drive”*

❖ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10161124869720211&set=p.10161124869720211&type=3>

*“We have one that comes through weekly off of 242”*



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# Key Benefits of Garbage Bylaws

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## 1. Enhanced Public Safety

- ❖ Reduces dangerous wildlife encounters
- ❖ Decreases risk of wildlife-related injuries

## 2. Wildlife Protection

- ❖ Prevents animals from becoming reliant on human food
- ❖ Promotes natural foraging behavior

## 3. Cleaner Environment

- ❖ Reduces litter and pollution
- ❖ Maintains community cleanliness and aesthetics

## 4. Community Cohesion

- ❖ Encourages responsible waste management practices
- ❖ Fosters a sense of community responsibility and cooperation

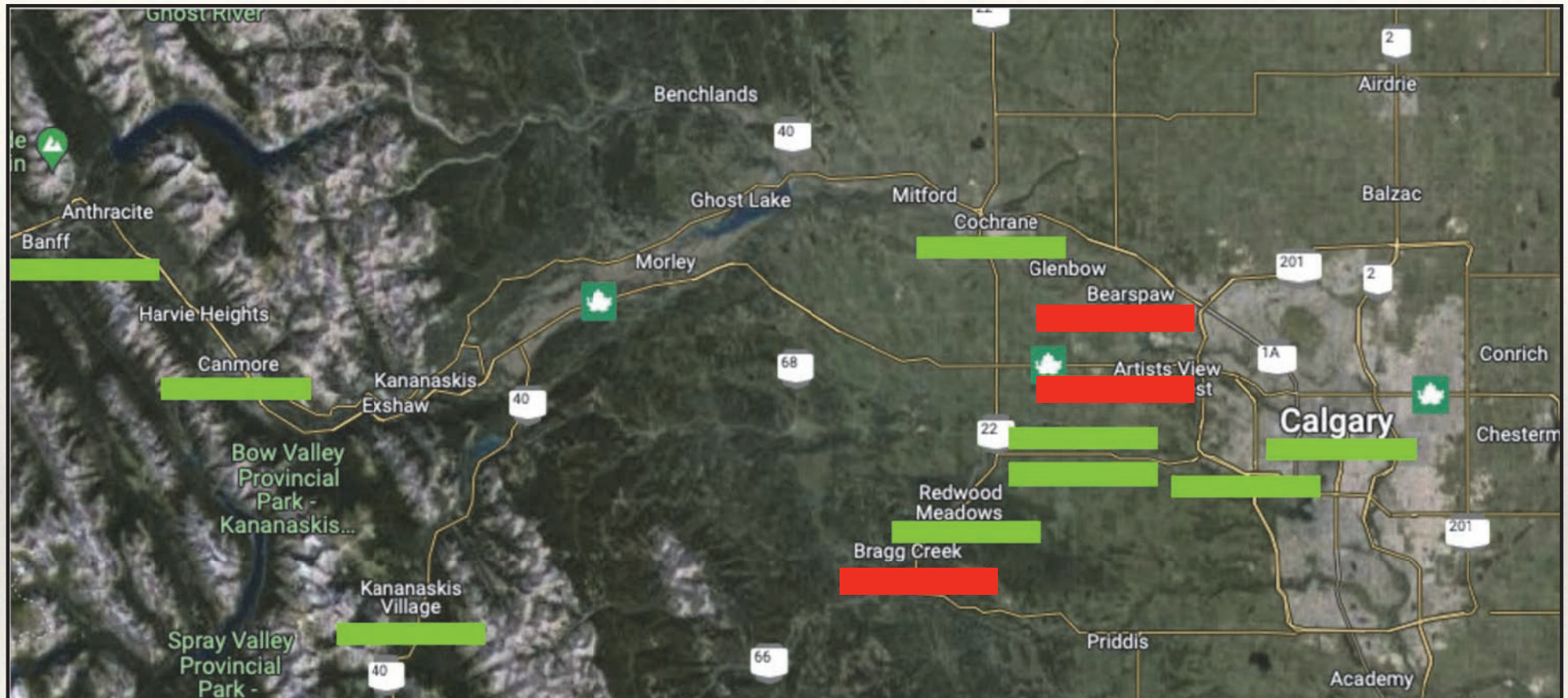
## 5. Economic Benefits

- ❖ Lowers costs associated with wildlife management and damage

## 6. Support for Sustainability

- ❖ Promotes long-term coexistence with local wildlife
- ❖ Contributes to broader conservation efforts





**Green - Community with garbage bylaw including BearSmart practices:** Banff, Canmore, Cochrane, Stonepine, Elbow Valley, Discovery Ridge, Calgary

**Red - Community without garbage bylaws or BearSmart practices:** Bragg Creek, Bearspaw, Springbank



# Solution - Garbage Bylaw



## REFUSE BYLAW PROPOSAL

### WHY A REFUSE BYLAW IS NEEDED – A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR & A THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE

Allowing a bear to access human food or garbage, even once, will cause it to seek out more human food/garbage. This is a threat to human safety – and a threat to the bear itself who may have to be euthanized if it continues to return to the source of human food/garbage. Bears follow their noses and their stomachs, so the key is to not give them a reason to stop.

A refuse bylaw, to store and secure refuse to discourage and prevent wildlife from accessing food sources generated or controlled by human activity, will minimize human/wildlife interactions and conflicts. It will help protect the safety of the public and help wildlife populations to thrive in the wild.

[In August of 2022 a black sow bear had to be euthanized](#) in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek after the sow and her three cubs got into residential garbage that was left unsecured outside for days. The three cubs were orphaned. [In September of 2022, a black sow bear and her three cubs were euthanized](#) in the Calgary Community of Discovery Ridge after they made nighttime visits into residential streets and driveways for weeks, getting into bins and garbage. In each case, the bears were euthanized because they were heavily human food/waste-conditioned and posed a public safety risk.

The City of Calgary responded by amending its waste bylaw. Calgary City Council unanimously approved the amendment on September 12, 2023. The bylaw aims to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, designating certain communities as “wildlife affected areas” and requiring residents to set out their refuse bins on waste collection days during certain times, and otherwise keep refuse bins stored in a secured enclosure.

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- ❖ Bragg Creek Wild submitted a refuse bylaw proposal to Rocky View County staff, October 2023



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# Solution - Four Options

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## A

- ❖ Bragg Creek to become a member of the Alberta BearSmart Program
- ❖ Benefits: Access to resources, training.
- ❖ **Eligibility criteria - the community should first have a garbage bylaw to access the program**

## B

- ❖ Bragg Creek and Rockyview to become a BearSmart Community
- ❖ Benefit: Access to resources, training.
- ❖ **Eligibility criteria - the community should first have a garbage bylaw to access the program**

## C

- ❖ Review existing Bylaws, such as Animal Control or Nuisance and Unsightly Property, from a County-wide perspective of the issue and propose amendments to include garbage-wildlife safety measures.

## D

### **Pilot project:**

- ❖ **Develop and implement a garbage bylaw for Bragg Creek area. Upon assessment of its implementation, consider expansion to the whole or part of the County**



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# BearSmart Communities

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Alberta **BearSmart Program available to communities and Municipalities that provides resources and supports.** (<https://www.alberta.ca/bearsmart-communities>)

When a community becomes a BearSmart community, the designation enhances the community's and county's ability to raise public awareness, collaborate with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and access provincial resources. Participation in the BearSmart program also signals a commitment to reducing human-bear conflicts, making communities more attractive candidates for various funding opportunities.





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# Why should Rocky View say YES!

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- ❖ Option D - pilot project
- ❖ The bylaw is easier to design and implement than options A-C
- ❖ Could benefit communities with similar issues (Bears paw, Springbank)
- ❖ Bylaw would serve as a template to accommodate regional differences
- ❖ Once in place, Rocky View and Bragg Creek could apply to become a BearSmart community. Having a garbage bylaw in place is a crucial step to demonstrating the communities commitment to minimizing human-bear conflicts.



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# Formal Request to Council

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- ❖ Pass notice of motion for Rocky View County staff to draft and implement a garbage bylaw for the Greater Bragg Creek Area (Option D).



# Wildlife-Human Conflict and 'Natural Capital'





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# Wildlife-Human Conflict and Natural Capital

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- ❖ Managing wildlife-human conflict is essential for preserving our **natural capital**.
- ❖ Understanding our natural capital and the service they provide, is crucial for the success of the revised Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan.
- ❖ Effective management of our natural capital is vital, especially with plans for increased development and visitation.





**BRAGG CREEK WILD**  
wildlife and people living in community

A PRESENTATION BY  
**BRAD STELFOX**

RE-IMAGINING BRAGG CREEK  
PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE

**WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?**

Rockyview County is in the beginning stages of developing a new Area Structure Plan (ASP) for Bragg Creek. The review of the ASP will focus on growth and tourism. The information presented by Brad Stelfox will inform us and help begin discussions by chronicling the history of land use in the Bragg Creek region, the intensity of land use footprints, and the loss of ecosystem integrity over time. He will demonstrate "best practices" that can help mitigate these environmental challenges.

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative | NATURE ALBERTA | HCM | CORVUS CENTRE | POINT MUNICIPAL | Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition



# Bragg Creek

Past - Present - Future

May 22nd, 2024

Link to the video:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxj4\\_Tkop6uv-hW7myH17aw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxj4_Tkop6uv-hW7myH17aw)



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## The Greater Bragg Creek ecosystem is an absolutely iconic landscape where wildlife sightings are world class

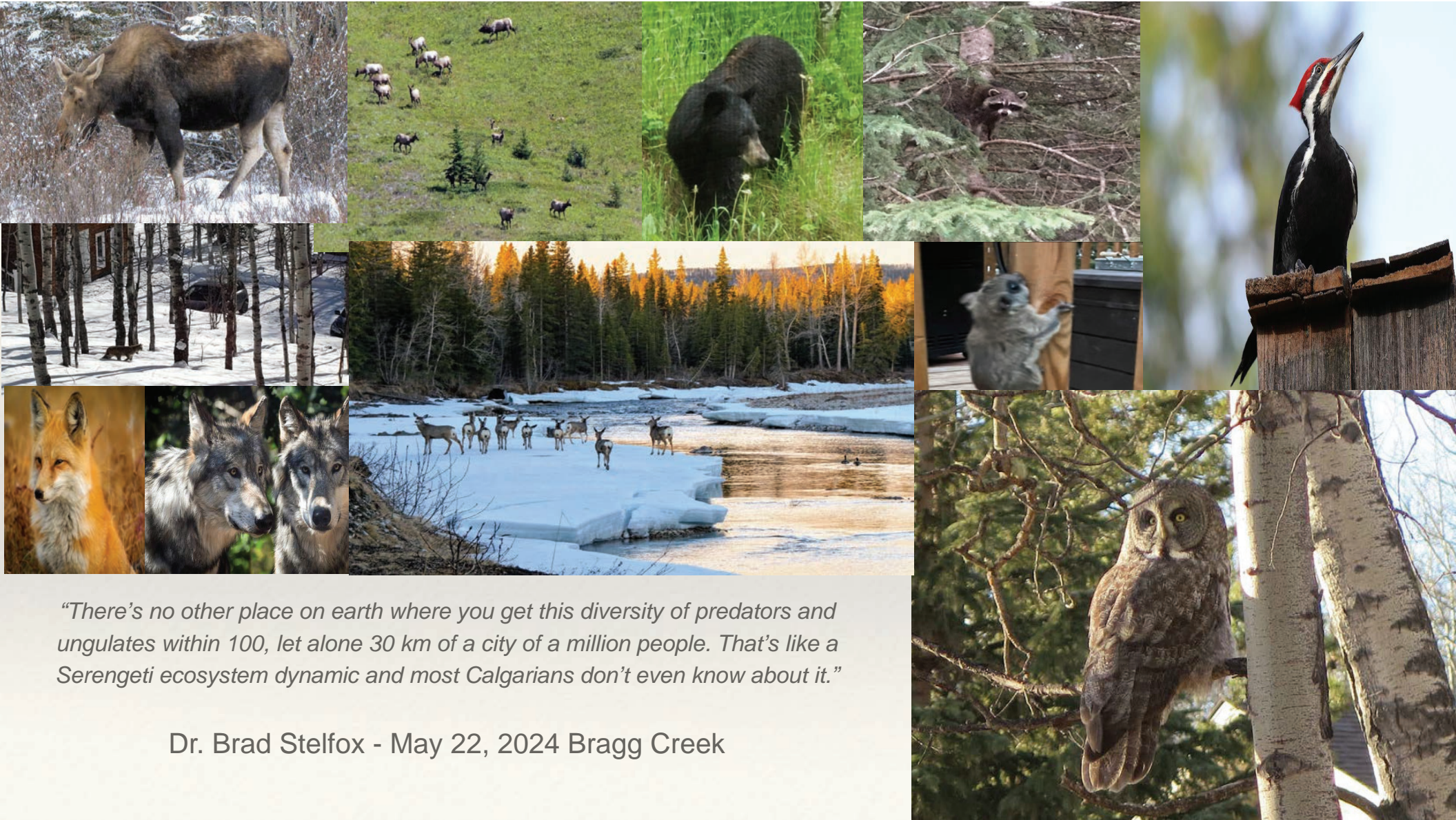
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“It still has some phenomenal natural capital, and it will be lost if this community doesn’t find a way of integrating forestry and energy and agriculture and transportation and recreation and residential into a better argument.”







*“There’s no other place on earth where you get this diversity of predators and ungulates within 100, let alone 30 km of a city of a million people. That’s like a Serengeti ecosystem dynamic and most Calgaryans don’t even know about it.”*

Dr. Brad Stelfox - May 22, 2024 Bragg Creek



# You're Invited!

Guest Speaker **Guy Greenaway**

## Bragg Creek's Natural Features

Unlocking the Mystery: What Are They?  
Discover Their Significance: Why Do They Matter?  
The art of care: How Can We Nurture Them?



October 23, 2024



Guest Speaker: **Brian Keating**

## Discover the Wonders of the Alberta Foothills Wildlife!

Join us for an exciting evening as Brian invites you to celebrate our wild neighbours and their amazing contributions to our beautiful area!



**GOING WILD**  
with Brian Keating



March 14, 2025

## Embark on an adventure of discovery at our Wild Smart event!

Whether you're a seasoned nature enthusiast or just starting your journey, the Wild Smart Event offers valuable opportunities to expand your knowledge and deepen your connection to the natural world.



Spring, 2025



**Thank**  
*You!*



**ROCKY VIEW  
COUNTY**

**Community Enhancement Program**

**\$7,500**







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# References

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- ❖ <https://albertawildlifewatch.ca/poster/cma/60af493c-e5f8-11e9-9d7b-f49a28f76100>
- ❖ <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/wildlife-encounters-prompt-calls-for-waste-bylaw-in-bragg-creek-1.6658603>
- ❖ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/redwood-meadows-bear-cougar-1.5119051>
- ❖ <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/five-bear-cubs-orphaned-in-bragg-creek-area-reigniting-debate-over-ban-on-animal-rescues>
- ❖ <https://www.cochraneagle.ca/local-news/greener-way-prominent-ecologist-speaks-about-land-use-planning-in-bragg-creek-region-8871098>
- ❖ <https://www.alberta.ca/bearsmart-communities>

