



PLANNING

TO:	Public Presentation Committee	
DATE:	June 29, 2022	DIVISION: 1
TIME:	Morning Appointment	
FILE:	N/A	APPLICATION: N/A
SUBJECT:	Wildlife Projects and Initiatives – Bragg Creek Wild	

POLICY DIRECTION:

The purpose of the Public Presentation Committee (PPC) is to ensure that Rocky View County 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 to hear presentations from organizations such as Bragg Creek Wild.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Representatives from Bragg Creek Wild will present to the Public Presentation Committee regarding wildlife projects and initiatives in Bragg Creek, and will be available for questions and discussion following the presentation.

DISCUSSION:

The presentation will highlight the organization's work, the key issues affecting wildlife in the Bragg Creek community, and some of the successes of previous initiatives.

The group considers that with careful planning and foresight, Bragg Creek can become an exemplary mountain community where the environment, wildlife and people are integrated in sustainable and healthy ways. The group considers that potential beneficial policy implications for the whole of the County may also arise from this work. Particular areas of concern include road safety (wildlife-vehicle collision), land use planning and community awareness and education.

Administration has included a copy of the request form as Attachment 'A' and the presentation as Attachment 'B'.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budget implications at this time.

OPTIONS:

- Option #1: THAT the presentation by Bragg Creek Wild on community wildlife projects and initiatives be received as information.
- Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Administration Resources

Dominic Kazmierczak, Planning



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Respectfully submitted,

“Brock Beach”

Acting Executive Director
Community Development Services

DK/rp

Concurrence,

“Dorian Wandzura”

Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT ‘A’ – Request to Present Form

ATTACHMENT ‘B’ – Presentation from Alberta Environment and Parks

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

Name of the group/individual:	Bragg Creek Wild
Representative(s) for the group:	Presenters: Renée Delorme + one more person TBC. Others in attendance
Contact telephone/cell number:	403-200-9961
E-mail:	braggcreekwild@gmail.com
Presentation Topic:	Creating the conditions for positive wildlife-humans co-existence

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

Potential pilot project(s) with policy innovation/implication

Overview of the topic and purpose of your presentation:

BCW will introduce itself, key issues affecting wildlife and the community and accomplishment to dates. In particular, we believe that with careful planning and foresight, BC area can become an exemplary mountain community where environment, wildlife and people are integrated in sustainable and healthy ways. Potential beneficial policy implications for the whole of the County may also arise from this work. Areas of concern are: road safety (wildlife-vehicle collision), land use planning and community awareness and education.

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

Bragg Creek Wild's vision is for the community to be a safe and sustainable environment where wildlife and humans co-exist. BCW is a grassroots organization advocating for the protection of wildlife by preserving habitat connectivity, promoting safe wildlife routes and providing public education to reduce human-wildlife conflict. We are over 1 year old, are growing rapidly with 420 people on Facebook, e-list and dedicated volunteers. We support evidence base approaches to problem solving. Find out what "People and Wildlife Living in Community" means. Visit www.braggcreekwild.ca, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/braggcreekwild>

The members of the Public Presentation Committee are County Councillors, but the meetings are not Council meetings, and Council decisions are not made.

Meetings are held to receive information and share your vision with the Committee and not to ask for advice on what should be done on a specific property.

If you would like to bring a matter to the Committee's attention, that does not require a decision of Council, you can apply to make a presentation to the Committee.

Examples of presentations that the Public can present to the Committee include:

- Developers and/or landowners can submit their vision for a future project that will not require a Council decision;
- not-for-profit organizations about their work in the community, or about recognition for special volunteers;
- post-secondary institutions or research groups about studies or surveys that might interest the County;
- resident or community groups about future plans or current activities that the groups are involved in; or
- businesses or organizations that wish to apprise Committee members of projects or initiatives that will not require a Council decision.

Examples of presentations that Public cannot be accepted by the Committee include:

- the subject matter of the presentation is related to an active application from the presenter or the presenter intends to submit an application within six months of the presentation date;
- the subject matter of the presentation is outside of the authority or jurisdiction of Rocky View County;
- the subject matter of the presentation is more appropriate for a different committee, board, commission, or other body; or
- individuals or groups wishing to provide technical, legal, or similar information when they possess no relevant qualifications or expertise.

Presentations are strictly limited to 20 minutes, but Committee members may ask questions afterwards.

How to Submit a Presentation Request

Forms can be submitted via email to legislativeservices@rockyview.ca, or print it and send or drop off a paper copy to:

Rocky View County
Attention: Legislative and Intergovernmental Services
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County, AB
T4A 0X2

Please make your requests as early as possible. Requests are to be submitted to four weeks prior to the scheduled PPC meeting order for the presentation to be included on the agenda.

Once you have submitted your request, a member from the Legislative & Intergovernmental Services department will be in contact with you to discuss next steps.

If you are placed on the meeting agenda, you must provide Legislative and Intergovernmental Services with a final copy of any print or visual materials (including PowerPoint or similar slides at least 15 days before the presentation. Once submitted, changes to this material are not permitted. If changes are needed, your presentation will be rescheduled.

Questions

If you have questions about presenting to the Public Presentation Committee, contact Rocky View County Legislative and Intergovernmental Services at 403.230.1401 or legislativeservices@rockyview.ca.



Where People and Wildlife Live in Community

"Nature once determined how we survive. Now we determine how nature survives."
For that reason
"We need to learn how to work with nature rather than against it."



David Attenborough

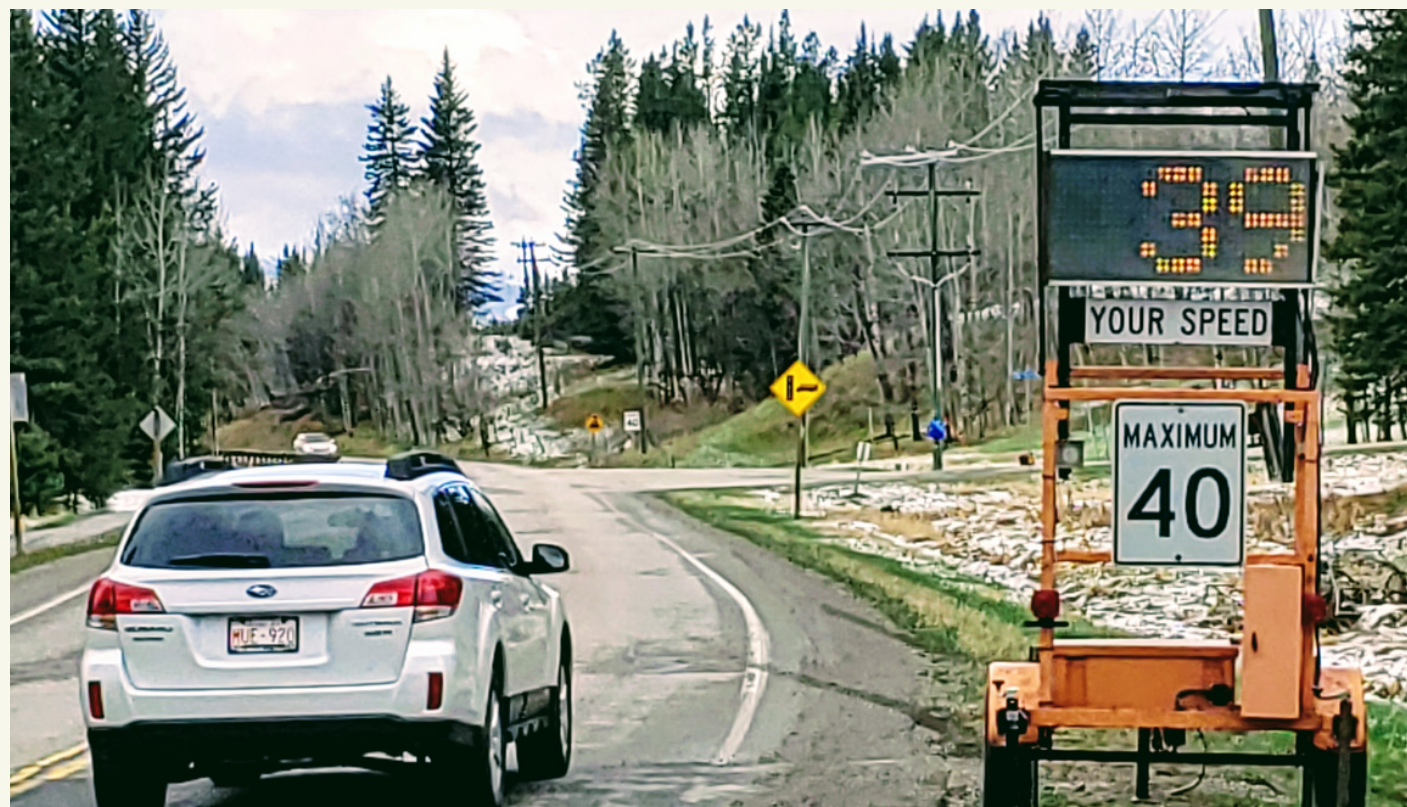


We have an opportunity to work together
To lead by example
To make fundamental positive differences
that benefit the whole community, County and others

In fact, we have already started



Thank you!



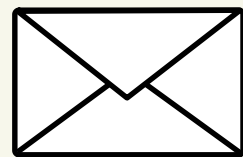
Promote conditions for wildlife and humans to co-exist and thrive.

- Awareness
- Education
- Advocacy

We are an evidence-based organization



350



80



30



1.6 yrs
old



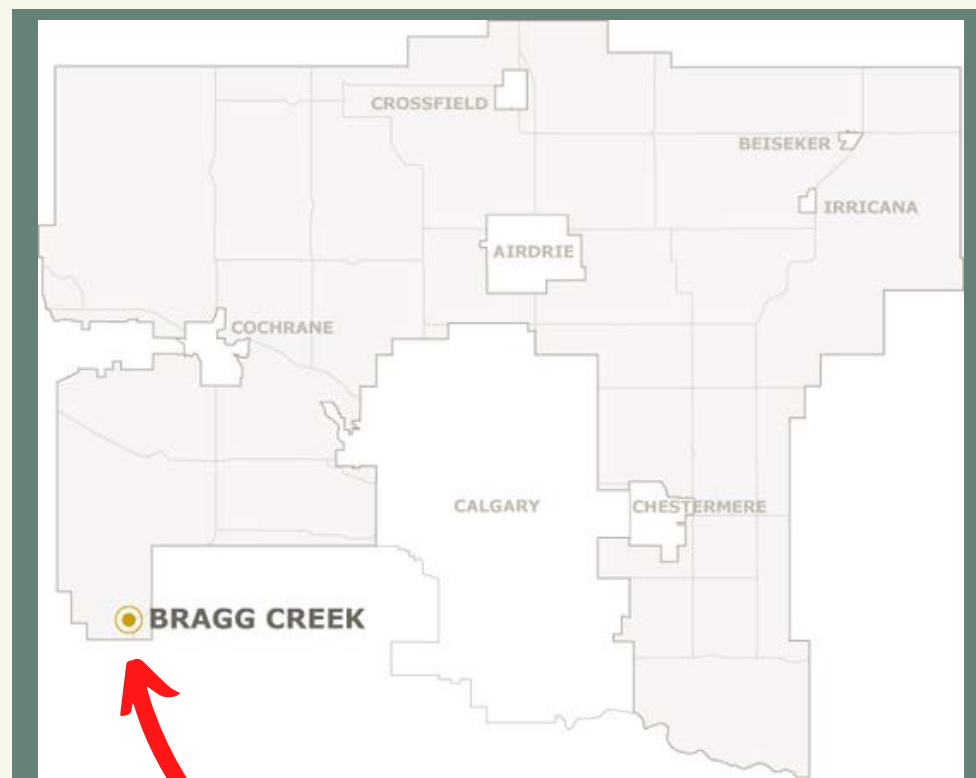
BRAGG CREEK WILD

braggcreekwild.ca

Bragg Creek

A high value
wildlife habitat

A high value
human habitat



We can do more
Easily

At little or no expense

While learning and enriching our County policies and approaches

For example.....

By building connections between habitats



we give people and
wildlife safe access
to the river

By sanctioning the Orchid Reserve

we are preserving a unique
riparian ecosystem and
connecting a large mammal
movement corridor





By calming traffic with simple design

we increase safety.



By
Working together
with our Province
to mitigate Wildlife
Vehicle Collisions

we save lives and
money.

Highway 22 near
Redwood Meadows



By mitigating traffic volume we reduce habitat degradation.





By aligning the ASP Amendment with the Greater BC Area Structure Plan

we provide a clear course of action for all stakeholders.

“The year is 2030. The Greater Bragg Creek area continues to be a special place within Rocky View County where residents have a strong sense of place that emanates from both the quiet country residences that harmonize with undisturbed landscapes and the small town character of the hamlet. (...) The community has benefited from implementation of policies in the Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan

achieving a balance between the natural environment and the impacts of human settlement.”

GBC ASP Vision February 27, 2007

Summary of proposed mitigation strategies

Berm

- Build in "ramps" to give people and wildlife access to river

Orchid reserve and Wildlife corridor

- Sanction the creation of the reserve

Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and traffic calming

- Create an intergovernmental, community working group to explore mitigation strategies on provincial and County roads
- Traffic calming through road designs
- Awareness and Education

Land use planning

- Engage the community in the development of a planning process that consider wildlife habitat first
- Align the ASP Amendment with the Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan (GBCASP)
- Build on the strengths of the GBCASP

In Summary

In Bragg Creek

- we have a high value wildlife and human habitat
 - that is under tremendous environmental pressures
- Our local economy depends on its wild lands and the images they evoke
- We need adapted responses
 - to preserve / restore wild habitats and
 - bring a balanced co-existence with wildlife

Preserving our precious assets will benefit

- Wildlife
- People
- Rockyview
- Generations to come

Call to Action

Rockyview and the community have an opportunity to lead by

- being evidence based
- using approaches that often cost little to nothing
- refining wildlife, environment and public safety policies
- being known for its environmental stewardship

Resulting in

- improved wildlife habitats
- increased safety for residents and visitors
- savings for County and community
- a highly desirable place to live and work
- preservation of precious wild land for generations to come



“The fact remains that man has unprecedented control over the world and everything in it. And so, whether he likes it or not, what happens next is very largely up to him.”

“It’s surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth.” David Attenborough





Thank you for including us
Let's talk

Appendix 1

Bragg Creek Wild

Acommplishments to date



RUTTING SEASON

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



braggcreekwild.ca



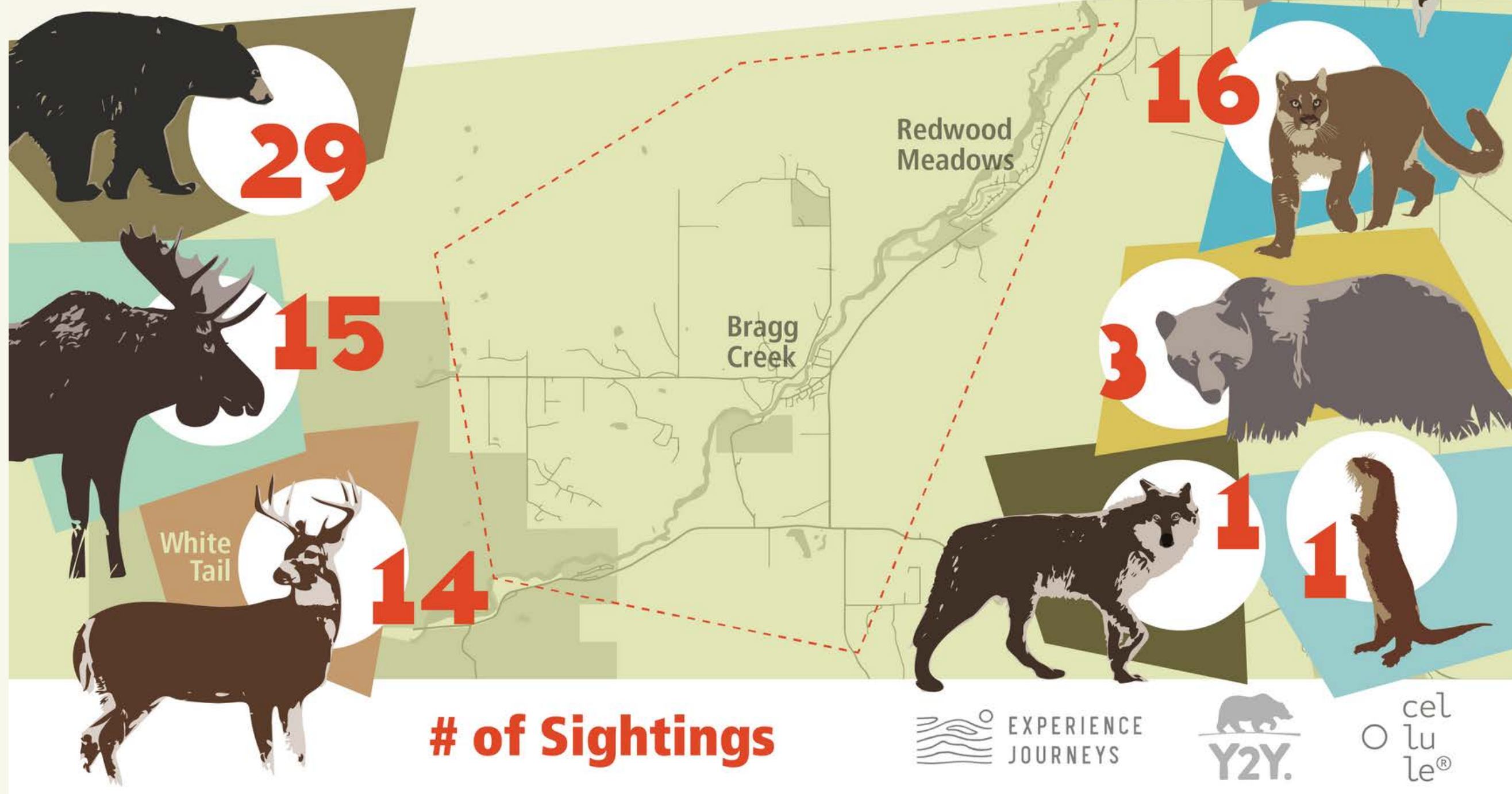


Wildlife Mapping

CITIZEN RESEARCH PROJECT

January - September 2021

Objectives: Survey wildlife population in the area
Understand movement patterns and habitats



Please join us on
Saturday May 14th
Day of Learning!
12– 4pm



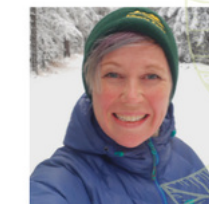
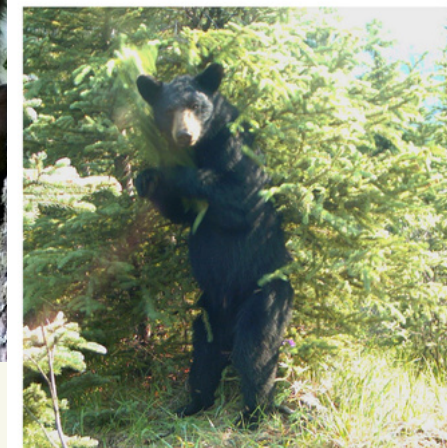
Logos: REDWOOD MEADOWS, Townsite of Redwood Meadows, Bragg Creek Wild, Alberta BIOSPHERE INSTITUTE OF THE BOW VALLEY WILDLIFE · CLIMATE · COMMUNITY, and a photo of a deer.

****Information for Homeowner assessment your risk of wildfire**
****Tips for spring cleanup to reduce wildfire on your property**
****Fire Prevention at home and when recreating games for kids and adults**
**** Displays of fire suppression equipment**

**DISPOSE
OF
GARBAGE
SAFELY**

**KEEP
WILDLIFE**
alive

Place in bins
Take it home



Bragg Creek comes up roses on May 28th

Saturday 9am - 11am
 Meet at the Community Centre before 9am to pick up maps, bags, etc.

Grab your gloves, bring your travel mug and join your friends and neighbours to help at our community street litter cleanup.

For more information visit braggcreekca.com or contact braggcreek.ladiesauxiliary@gmail.com

Friends of the 2022 community cleanup

Logos: ADMARK, Bragg Creek Centre, HIGH COUNTRY/VIEWS, Bragg Creek Wild, and ROCKY VIEW COUNTY Cultivating Communities.



Bragg Creek Wild Presents

“Spring Into Wildlife: Staying Safe Across Seasons in Kananaskis”

With Special Guest Patrick Waring

Park Recreation & Resource Officer
 Kananaskis Region | Alberta Environment & Parks

Thursday, May 5 at 7pm Zoom Online

how to protect wildlife through best pet practices
 birthing season in the foothills
 spring pollinators



Our partners and collaborators:

Rockyview County -- Redwood Meadows -- Banded Peak School -- Bragg Creek Ladies' Auxiliary -- High Country News -- Alberta Parks and Environment -- Experience Journeys-- Bragg Creek Chamber of Commerce -- Biosphere -- Y2Y -- local media -- private sponsorship



Habitat Fragmentation

This was their home first let's not destroy it

Be part of the solution, not the problem



Habitat Fragmentation

This is when parts of a habitat are destroyed leaving it in unconnected patches.

This can lead to

- Endangerment and extinction
- More vulnerability to diseases
- Inbreeding
- Long-term health problems for our animals

Solutions

Things you can do to.

- Not cutting as many trees down
- Not taking things from their habitat like; flowers, branches, rocks, etc.
- Be mindful of wildlife when driving, it is their home.

Ways To Avoid Hitting Animals

Watch for signage about animal crossings and animals in the area

Deer travel in herds - there's never just one

Watch out for glowing eyes in the trees

Ask your passenger to be your co-pilot

Use your high-beam headlights

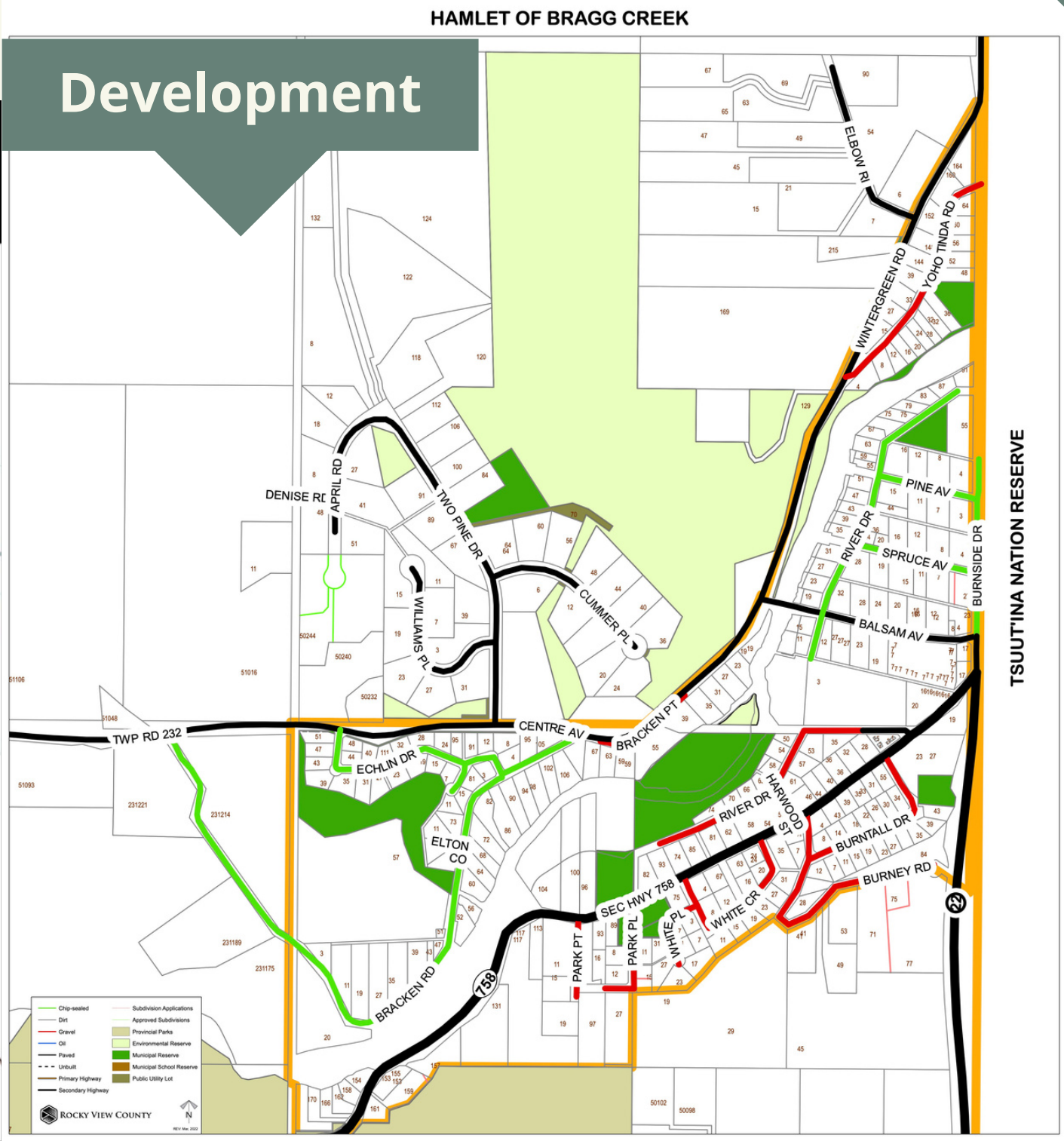
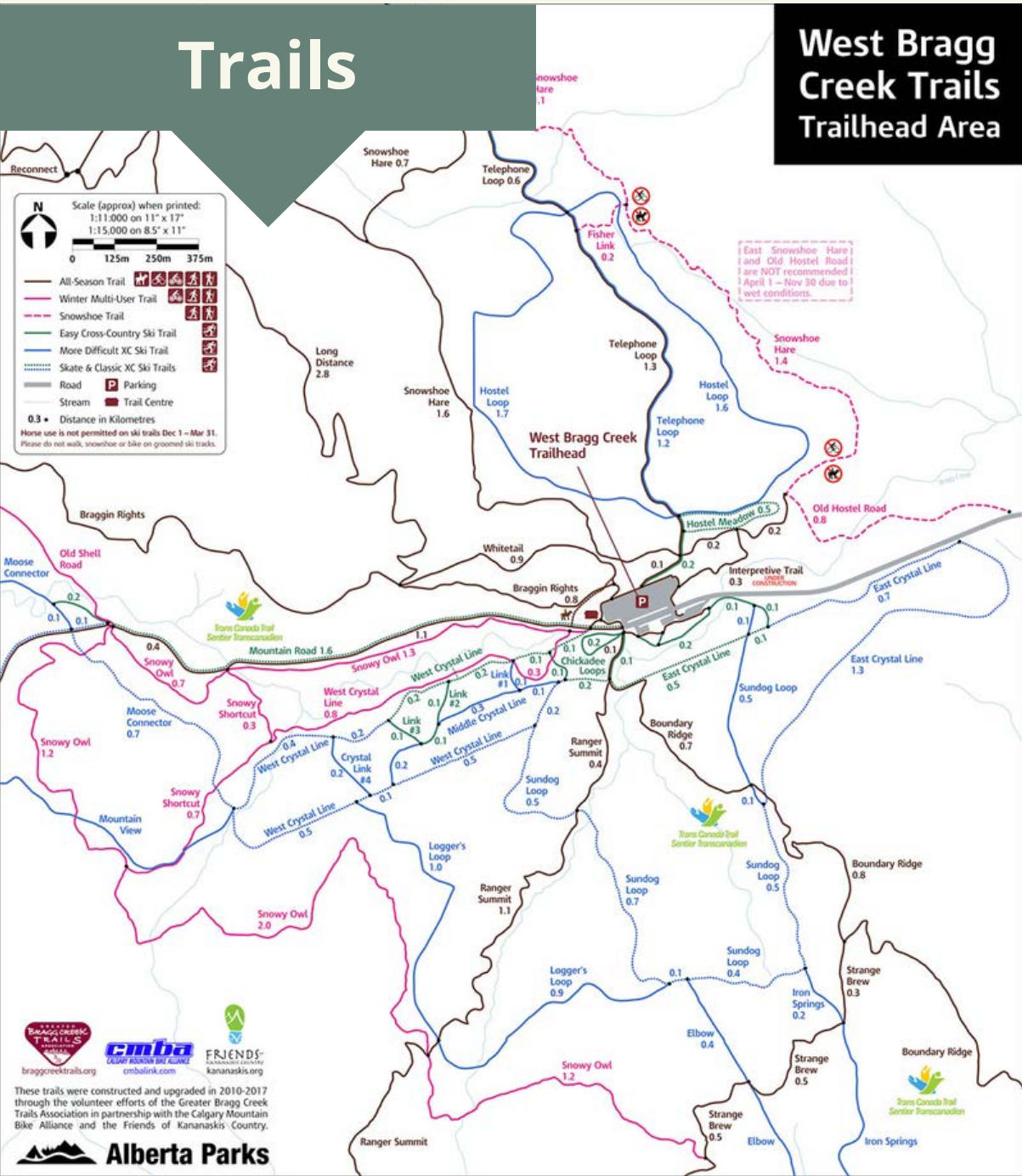


Art and Science School Initiatives

Appendix 2

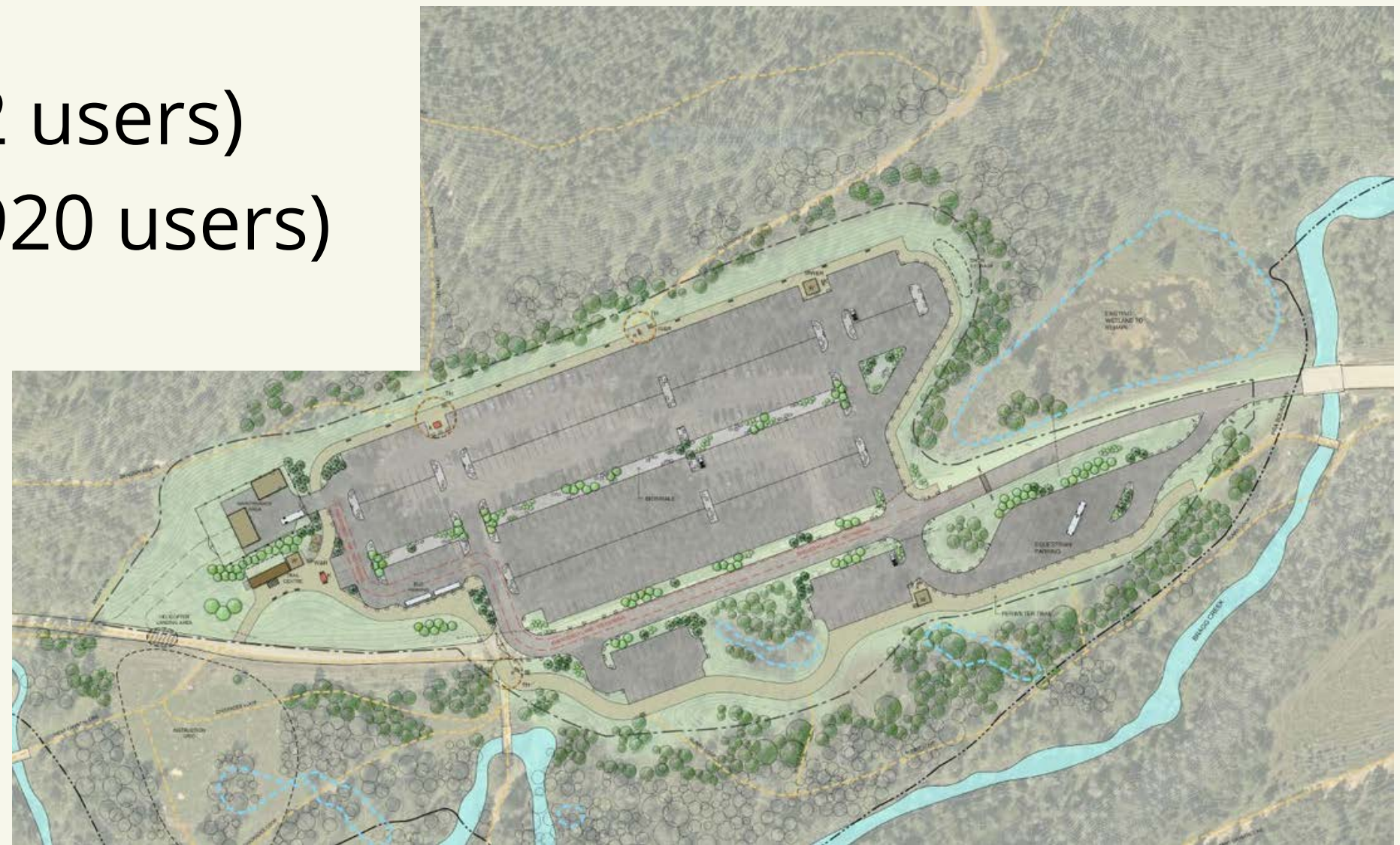
Wildlife Habitat Concerns

Examples of local Wild Habitat fragmentation & obstruction of solid and semi-permeable barriers



Over use leads to habitat degradation

- New 600+ vehicle parking lot in a residential cul de sac
- Recreational visitations
 - 2013 = 42,460 (93,412 users)
 - 2021 = 121,782 (267,920 users)
- 2019 = 2.01 million visitors*



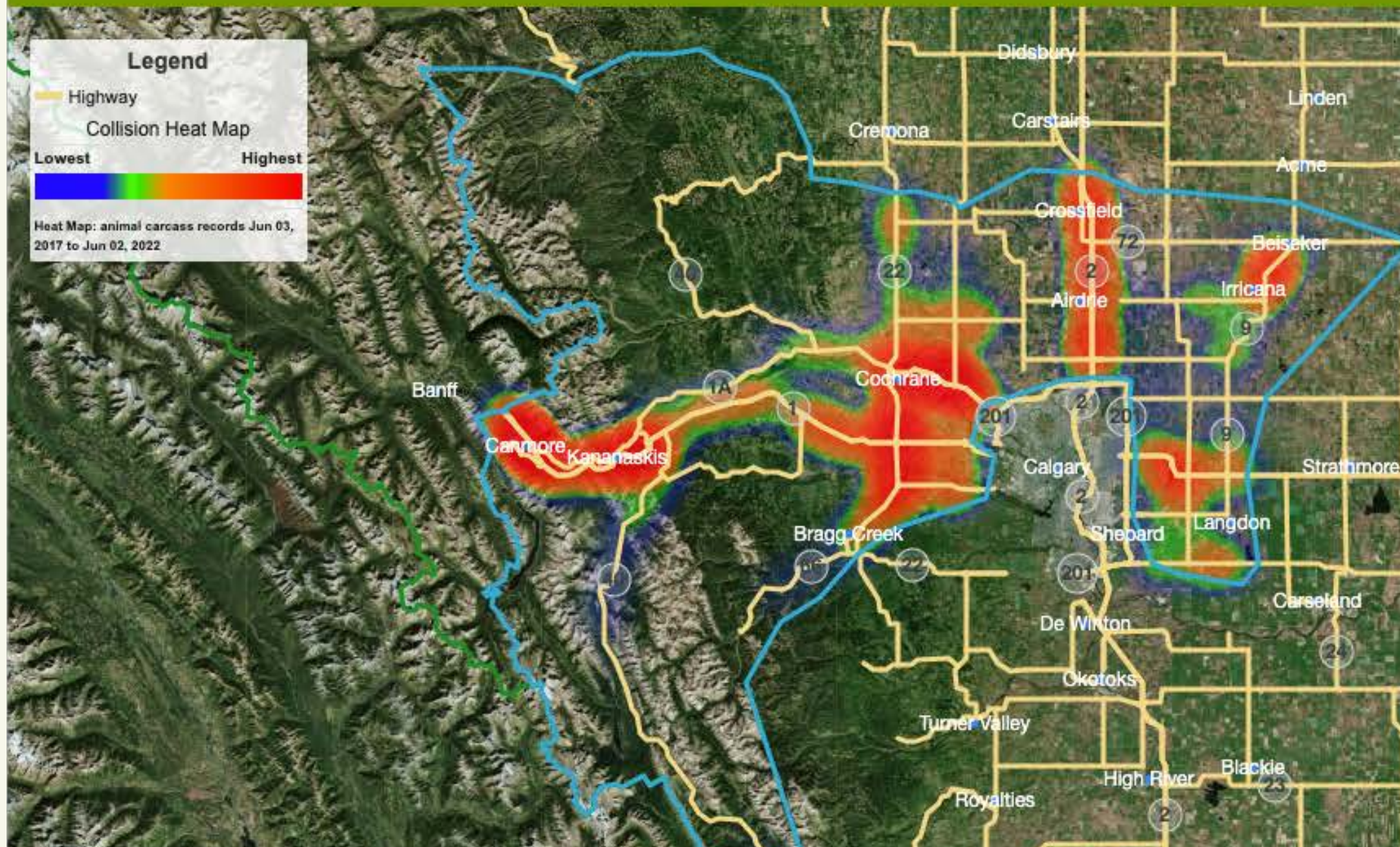
Also a Fire and Safety Issues

*AEP counters at 752, Elbow Falls and West Bragg Creek

Wildlife-vehicle collisions on provincial roads

Alberta

CMA 520: Wildlife Collision Map Jun. 02, 2022



2021

362 wildlife-vehicle collisions
or

1,013 with correction factor of
2.8 (Miistakis Institute)

- Safety issue
- Highest car insurance cost after hail damages (Avg \$8,000/vehicle)

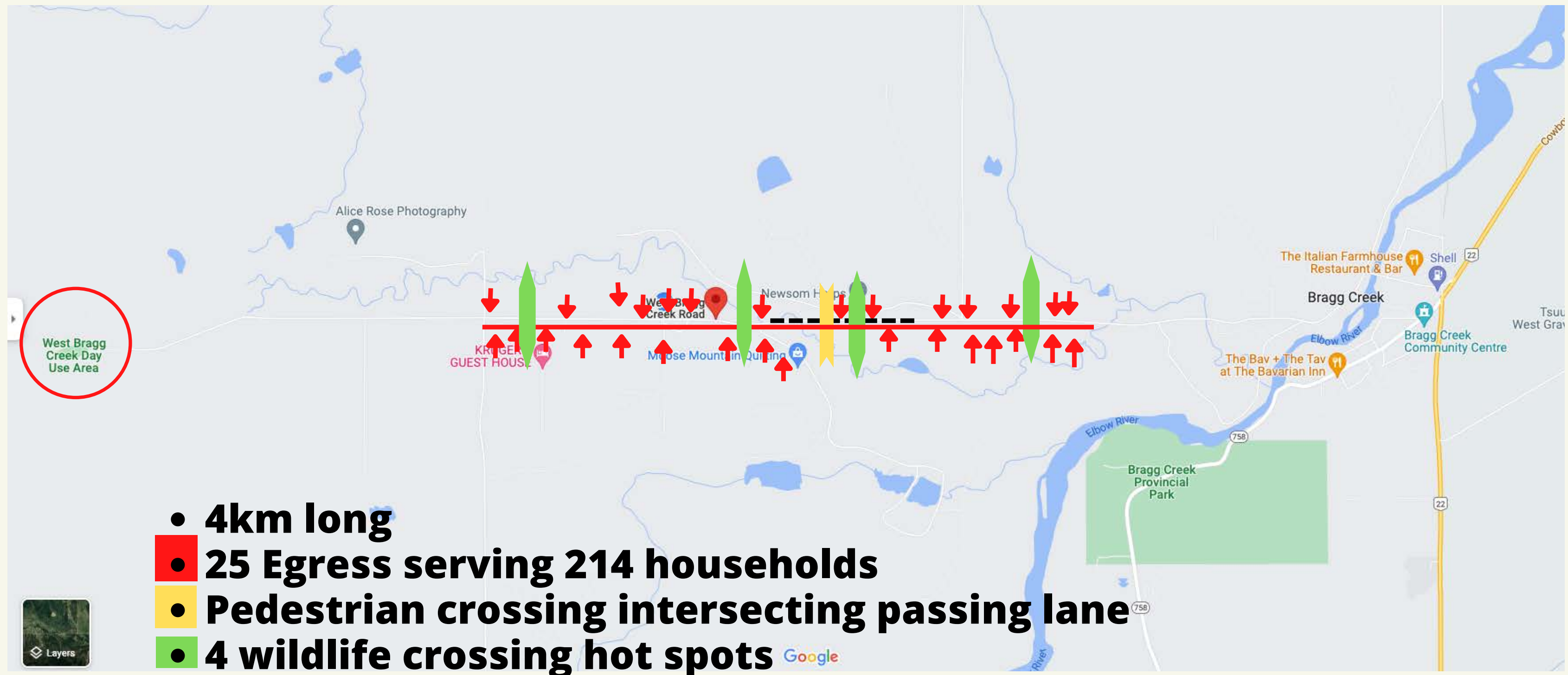


Traffic safety concerns especially along West Bragg Creek Road



Traffic safety concerns

West Bragg Creek Road The 70km/hr Zone



2021 ASP Amendment -- *currently on pause*

- Several aspects of the proposed ASP amendment are not aligned with community input and the GBCASP's Vision
- Wildlife and environment are minimally considered
- Community is dissatisfied with the planning process
- Past council's favoured planning option incongruent with the community feedback and vision.

Request

- Reset the ASP planning process - start over
- Create a working group including County and community members to come up with planning process
- Build on the strenghts of the Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan

Why addressing wildlife matters

Bragg Creek

- located in Y2Y corridor - biggest wildlife corridor in the world
- located along one of the two watersheds serving Calgary (Elbow)
- is in early stages of over-tourism, habitat and wildlife degradation
- is ready to explore alternative approach to land use planning
- local economy = highly dependent on its wild lands and the images they evoke.

Rocky View County benefits:

- has the potential to showcase a model that may work for other communities (e.g. Springbank, Bearspaw, Elbow Valley or even Foothills communities)
- will increase diversity of lifestyles in County
- position the County as a leader protecting irreplaceable assets (water, wildlife, natural environment)
- showcase the county as good land steward

Appendix 3

Mitigation strategies to explore / implement

We have a choice

Current trajectory

Proposed trajectory

Without improved community design
there is an increased likelihood of:

- Property damage (vehicles)
- Human injury or death (vehicle collisions)
- Animal injury and death / extirpation
- Diminished perception of natural values by non-resident visitors

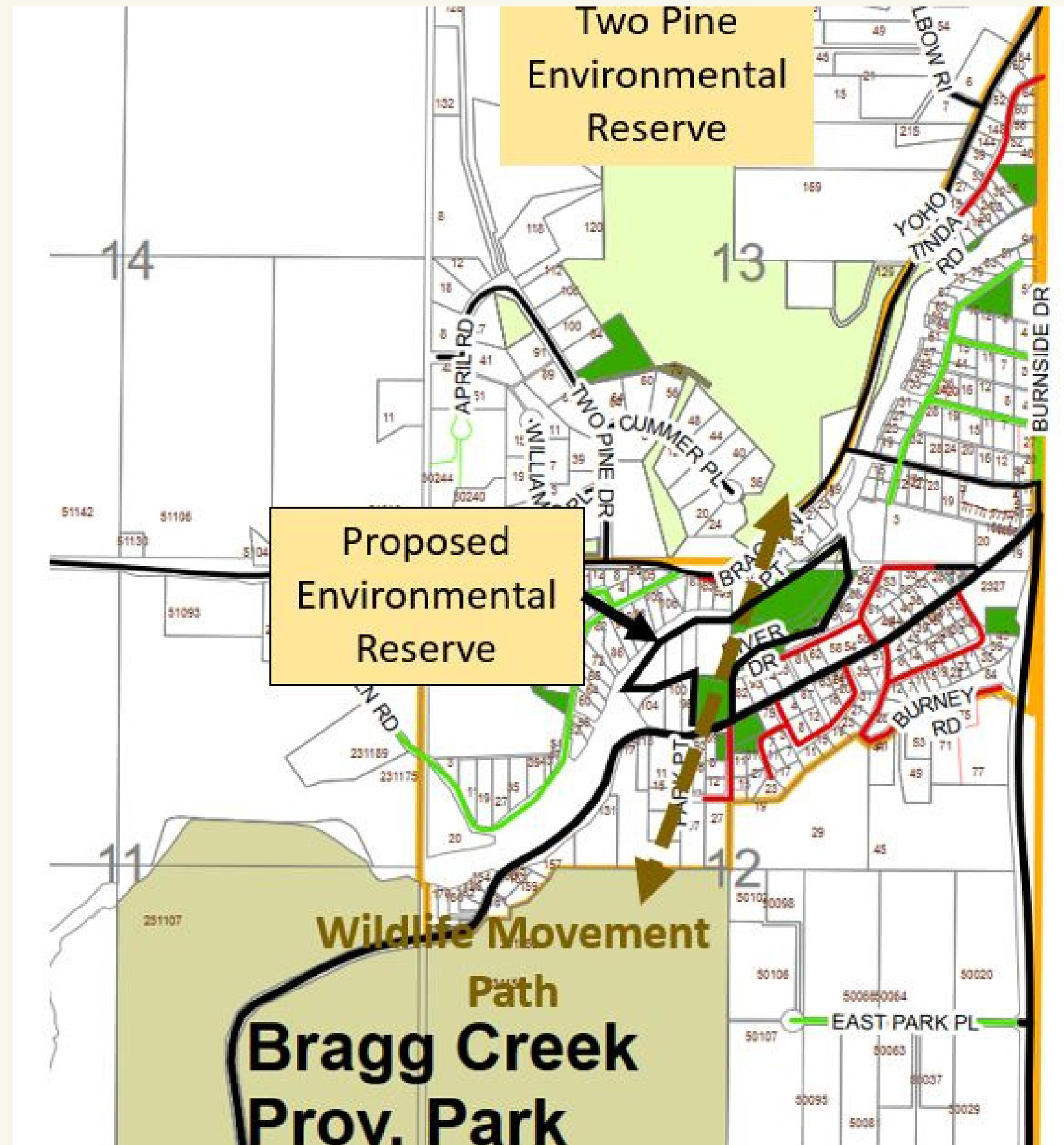
With improved ecosystem-based, updated rural community design
we can lead:

- Responsible use
- Decreased injury and mortality
- Maintain Bragg Creek as a desired / preferred community

Sanctioning the
Orchid
Reserve will

formalize the
preservation of a
unique riparian
ecosystem

while connecting a
large mammal
movement corridor.



Wildlife-vehicle collisions on Provincial Roads

Create an inter-governmental and community working group

Composition: County, Province, BCW and Experts

Purpose: Explore mitigation strategies on provincial and County roads and implement best practices including:

- designating Hwy 22/66 as a wildlife corridor
- reviewing roads speed limits
- implementing traffic calming strategies
- building structure to accommodate seasonal signage on hwy 22, 22X, (i.e. Fawning, Rutting season)
- engaging the community in awareness / education



Animal crossing hwy 22, 22x and 66: Bears, moose, elk, deer, foxes, coyotes, horses, cows, several small animals

Potential Mitigation Strategies

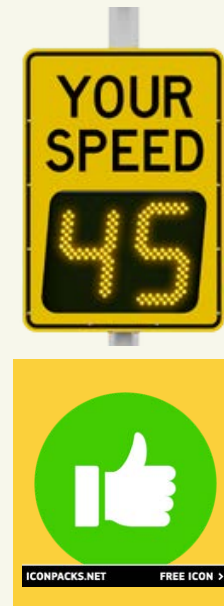
Infrared crossing



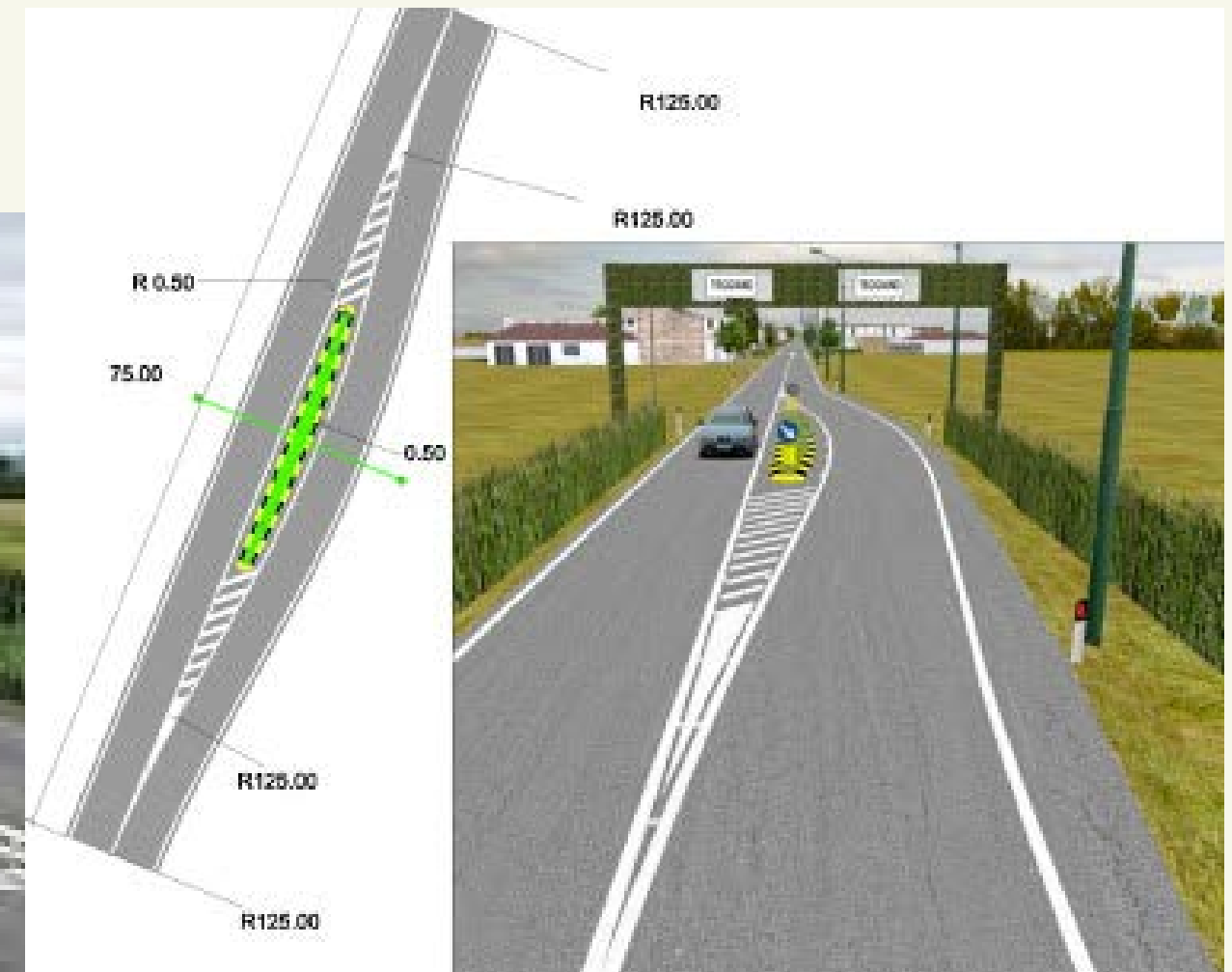
Traffic calming strategies



Temporary
Traffic circle



Wide shoulder with
unexpected markings



A New Way to Consider Land Use Planning

Alberta example

- Humans first - Wildlife accommodated
- Focus mostly on animal at risk
- Not sustainable
- e.g. caribou habitat & Canmore



Wildlife coexistence and land use planning

Alberta land use planning to protect habitat and promote healthy interactions between humans and wildlife

Land Use Planning Hub / Aug 24, 2020

Vermont example

- Wildlife / habitat first - Humans accommodated
- Sustainable

Recognizes

- Habitat connectivity is key
- Healthy wild land leads to healthy communities and healthy economies.



Using BioFinder 3.0 for Land Use Planning, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cHjG1Dt7PM>

Planning Bragg Creek from the inside out

Towards a healthy mountain community

Baseline understanding of

- local geography
- wildlife and their habitats
- the cumulative impact



Identify

- stressors,
- knowledge gap

Develop

- common set of values
- collaborative planning approach
- mitigation strategies

Benefits:

- **strengthen GBCASP**
- model that may be used by other communities
- County has clear development guidelines

Summary of proposed mitigation strategies

Berm

- Build in "ramps" to give people and wildlife access to river

Orchid reserve and Wildlife corridor

- Continue discussion early July 2022

Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and traffic calming

- Intergovernmental, community working group to explore mitigation strategies on provincial and County roads
- Traffic calming through road designs
- Awareness and education

Land use planning

- Aligning the ASP Amendment with the Greater BC Area Structure Plan
- Engage the community in the development of a planning process that consider wildlife habitat first.

Sources and References

- Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan
- Using BioFinder 3.0 for Land Use Planning, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cHjG1Dt7PM>
- Alberta Land Use Planning Hub, Government of Alberta
- Alberta Environment and Parks visitation statistics for Hwy 66 and West Bragg Creek Trails
- Alberta Wildlife Watch App <https://albertawildlifewatch.ca/>
- Alberta wildlife and road safety <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-and-road-safety.aspx>
- Alberta Motorist Association <https://ama.ab.ca/articles/wildlife-road-safety-tips>
- Bragg Creek Trails
- County of Rockyview
- Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy
- The Miistakis Institute

