

# Spring Newsletter



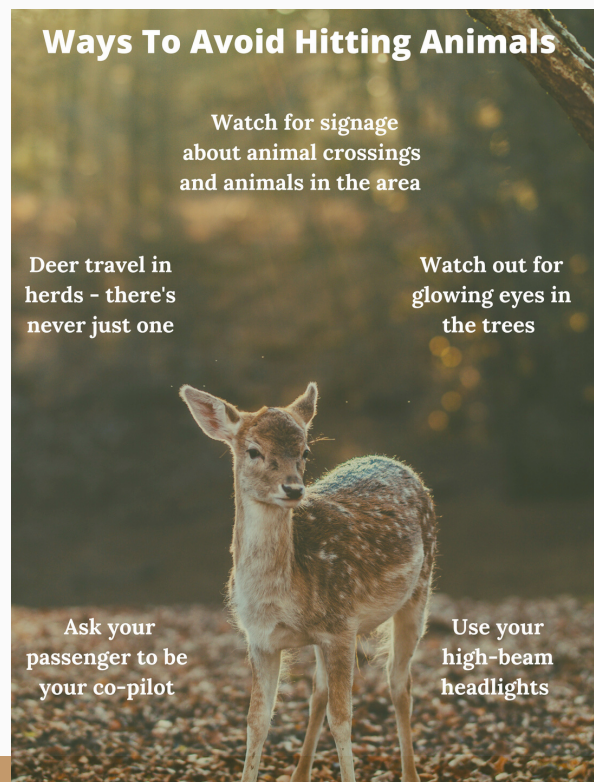
## Interactions and Ecosystems

### BCW COLLABORATES WITH BANDED PEAK SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASS

In Sept 2021, representatives from BCW met at Banded Peak School with Craig Churchill, the Grade 7/8 Science & Math teacher. Could the students help us, in their own voices, to raise awareness about issues facing our growing community by creating social media content?

We asked Craig how this collaboration is relevant to the science curriculum. They could!

“One of my favourite science units to teach is the grade seven unit on Interactions and Ecosystems. Sometimes it is really hard for students to see the point of learning specific science concepts, especially when they don’t see that as part of their future job or career. However, this unit is all about the world around us and how everything fits in it. It’s easy, particularly in Bragg Creek, to get my students to see how they connect with the ecosystems around them.



Student Infographic

"What better way than to get them invested in their own community and see that there are people and organizations working to make change? I think the students connected with this project and were excited that their work might actually have an audience other than me."

If you use Facebook, Instagram or TikTok, you will see the students’ work on those platforms in the coming weeks and months.

We’d like to thank every grade 7/8 student, Craig, and Banded Peak School. We are so impressed with our youth.

## This issue:

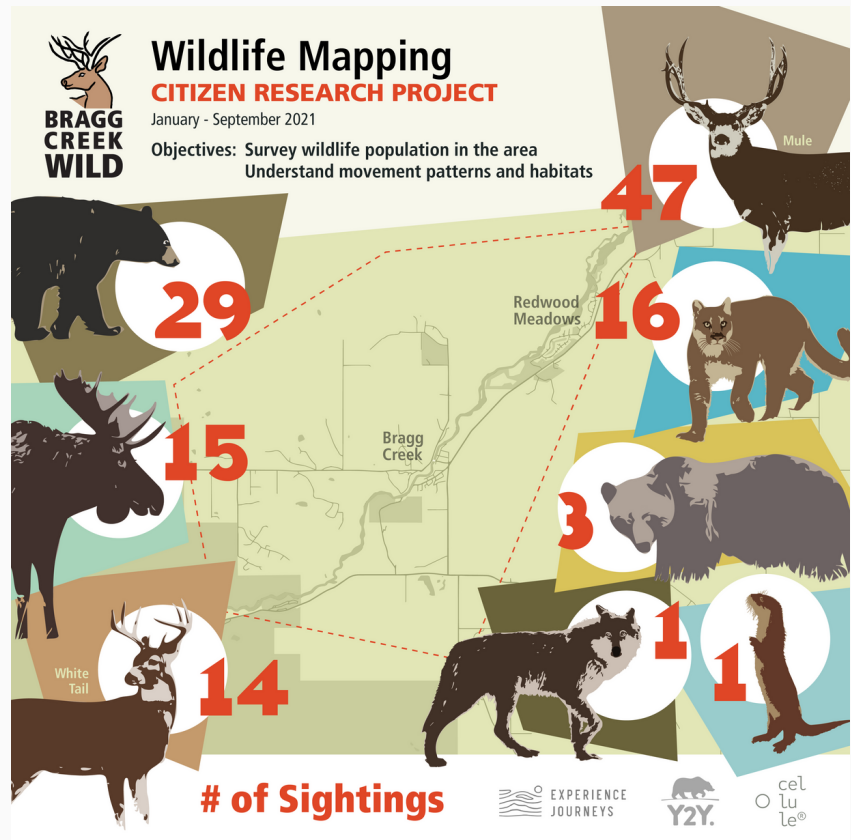
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# Bringing data science to Bragg Creek Wild

## APPLYING DATA ANALYTICS TO LOCAL WILDLIFE MAPPING

In 2021 a wildlife mapping project was initiated by BCW. The project, led by Dave Klepacki, received a grant from Yellowstone to Yukon. Local residents were asked to share wildlife sightings, and the data began to pour in, the community was engaged! As hoped, patterns began to emerge and residents started to recognize the animals who shared their neighbourhoods. With the addition of key details such as colour, size, and location, locals learned about deer herds and movement of bears in their neighbourhoods.

The purpose of the study is to collect raw data specifically regarding animals near the roads and to use these data to prepare maps showing species ranges, road crossing frequency as well as other information related to daily and seasonal movement. The raw data will then be used to create visual analytical tools such as heat maps showing ranges or frequency maps showing the number of road crossings. These analyses may be used as inputs to developing informative signage, targeted speed limit reductions and passing zones. Individual species data will not be released. This addresses a concern that by collecting these data, we are potentially leading more tourists to specific areas to harass or hunt animals.



An easy to use form has been created and can be bookmarked on your phone for quick entries. The form will enable the analysts to collect data consistently and completely. You may contribute the data anonymously, and a number of options for more or less detail are also available. We're so grateful to everyone who has participated up to now. Please keep them coming! If you want to report a sighting you can:

- Fill in the Google form at [braggcreekwild.ca](https://braggcreekwild.ca)
- Email us at [braggcreekwild@gmail.com](mailto:braggcreekwild@gmail.com)
- Use this QR code





## Wildlife Vehicle Collision Mitigation

SAVING LIVES THROUGH ROAD AWARENESS

We have all seen dead or injured wildlife on our roads. According to Alberta Wildlife Watch, 2021 was one of the worst for the Calgary – Canmore – Kananaskis/Bragg Creek area. Over 365 large mammals (wolves, deer, moose, etc.) were collected by road maintenance. Other injured animals would have died in the woods or been left in the ditch to be eaten by other wildlife.

Wildlife-vehicle collision was the leading concern that led to the creation of Bragg Creek Wild. We have since learned that many of these collisions are preventable with simple driving techniques: “eyes in the ditch,” reducing speed and mindfulness. Furthermore, animals are more susceptible to being hit in the Spring and Fall (Fawning and Rutting Seasons) and dusk and dawn.



Thank you to the dedicated volunteers for designing and putting up private signs and for raising awareness on the issue. Thank you to Rockyview County for erecting permanent Wildlife Corridor signs and temporary ones along particularly vulnerable stretches of our roads.



# Weekly Litter Removal at Bragg Creek Provincial Park



JOIN US MONDAYS FOR A FUN AND SOCIAL TIME!

## Harm Reduction

### LITTER CLEANUP

BRAGG CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK  
MONDAYS AT 10 AM

TOGETHER WE'LL KEEP BRAGG CREEK SAFE FOR  
OUR WILD NEIGHBOURS

#### VOLUNTEERS REDUCE HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

Since Spring of 2021, volunteers from BCW have been removing litter from Bragg Creek Provincial Park every Monday morning. Unfortunately, especially after busy weekends, a lot of garbage gets left on the ground and in the fire pits. Although beautification is also a benefit, our objective is to reduce harm to wildlife. Organic waste is a powerful attractant to bears, who will easily become habituated to an area if garbage is present. Birds and small mammals can experience severe intestinal damage or death from ingesting plastics and packaging.

We are always grateful for volunteers, and you are invited and most welcome to join us at the PP on Mondays at 10 am between April & October. On Saturday, May 28th we are joining forces with the Bragg Creek Ladies Auxiliary on their long standing annual litter cleanup. Connect with us any time at [braggcreekwild.ca](http://braggcreekwild.ca) or see you at our table at the Bragg Creek Community Centre on Saturday, May 28.



## 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 [braggcreek.ca](http://braggcreek.ca) or contact [braggcreek.ladiesauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:braggcreek.ladiesauxiliary@gmail.com)

Friends of the 2022 community cleanup



# The Wild Questionnaire

Flora Giesbrecht- Head Nordic Coach XCBC  
Coordinator for the Elbow River Watershed Partnership



1. What's your connection with this area? What's important to you about this place?

I am fortunate to live here. The area is important to me as there are still wild, relatively untouched places. I love looking outside my window and seeing many shades and textures of green. Those plants are a part of a unique network, a green strip of land we can see on Google Earth running NW to SE, a part of the East Slopes. Dropping out of that green strip is the Elbow River, the River is also very important to me for sustenance, for peace, and connection. As soon as our family moved into the area in 2010, it felt like home for all of us. My family (father's side) has lived in the area since the 1880s, so I feel deep connected roots here.

2. Can you give us three words you think describe the Bragg Creek/Redwood Meadows area?

Beautiful, connected, unique

3. Share a treasured memory of being out in nature around here.

So many memories, but one of my first treasured memories was driving to West Bragg day use area when my children were very small. We were planning to x-country ski, but it was spring and the trails were icy. We didn't put our skis on, instead we put rain pants on and the kids slid down one of the trails on their bottoms, they went up and down, like a little luge track and then when they were tired, we drank hot chocolate. I remember focusing on my son's little dimply hands clamped around the hot chocolate cup. I remember rosy cheeks, my daughter's bright eyes, the steam from the hot chocolate and a velvety green backdrop.

4. What's your favourite view / body of water/ high place in the area?

My favourite view is Rainy Summit, looking West, you can see the Elbow River, the mountain range rises ahead and it takes my breathe away every time I see it.

5. If you have free time in the area, what's your favourite thing to do?

In winter - definitely cross-country skiing is my favorite in West Bragg

6. Have you ever had a 'close call' wildlife encounter? Where?

Riding my bike at dusk along Mountain View Park Road and a cougar was flushed out of the trees by a couple of dogs, so he/she ran towards me and my friend, he/she was maybe 8 feet away. Time stood still as he/she was deciding what to do next.

7. If you could come back as a local wild animal, what would you be?

A fox

8. What's your favourite season in Kananaskis?

cliché but I love all of the seasons in Kananaskis. But I think my least favorite is late fall after the first snowfall, where there is some snow coverage but not enough to ski on.

9. Pick one: fat bike/x-country skis/snowshoes/cocoa by the fire.

X-country ski

10. What was a really cool thing you saw around here recently?

Lynx tracks in our yard

11. Can you tell us of any good books or documentaries about nature in Alberta/Canada?

Any book by Kevin Van Tighem is a treasure.

12. Is there one place you'd recommend to visitors to the area? Why?

Alongside Forget- Me- Not pond with a hot drink in the early morning. It's not busy yet, you can hear the Elbow River, and the view is spectacular. It's funny because it's such a beautiful spot, but it's not a 'natural' spot. The ponds are made from old borrow pits to build the road.



## Banded Peak Art Walk

LOCAL ARTISTS AND STUDENTS EXPRESS THEIR LOVE OF NATURE

This is a collaboration with Banded Peak School, led by artist Lucy Curtis, a member of BCW. The artwork was created by grade 7/8 students around the BCW foundational theme of 'Wildlife and people living in community.' It's a celebration of these lands so rich in diversity and wildlife treasures. Over 60 mini masterpieces are now easily accessible via a short meander from the Community Centre to E. Park Place. The work is beautifully presented within the trees. Each piece is painted on local wood canvases cut by community member John Spurrel from trees felled as part of the berm construction in Bragg Creek. Please take some time to treat yourself by visiting and viewing this very special art walk along Highway 22.





# Upcoming Events & Resources

FRIENDS - COLLABORATIONS - INSPIRATIONS



Thursday, May 5 - 7pm Bragg Creek Wild - Online Zoom Presentation  
"SPRING INTO WILDLIFE: STAYING SAFE ACROSS SEASONS IN KANANASKIS"  
BCW hosts Patrick Warring - Park Recreation & Resource Officer for Alberta Environment & Parks



Earth Day Celebration, April 22 | 5-8pm | Redwood House [www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca](http://www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca)  
The Garden Committee will be selling earth-friendly soups as well as tomatoes, herbs and veggies. There will also be seeds, trays and other essentials to start your own seedlings.



Experience Journeys presents: Learn Your Landscape [www.experiencejourneys.ca](http://www.experiencejourneys.ca)  
Finding Coyote -Thursday, April 28, 2022 - 7:00pm (Zoom)  
Shelley Alexander PHD explores coyote behaviour.



The Elbow River Watershed Partnership is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 to promote and support good watershed management. [www.erwp.org](http://www.erwp.org)



What we're reading: Anything by former Banff National Park Superintendent, naturalist and author [Kevin Van Tighem](#).

## Handy Numbers

- Kananaskis Enforcement 403-591-7755 ext. 4 \*littering, illegal fire pits Kananaskis, including Bragg Creek PP
- Fish and Wildlife 403-932-2388 \*report a dead animal (not for random live sightings)
- Emergency 911 \*illegal fires
- Kananaskis Maintenance <http://tinyurl.com/Kananaskis-Contact-Us> \*use the form for all other issues

\*PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUALS OR WILDLIFE YOURSELF\*

## CONNECT

BOX 1033 BRAGG CREEK, ALBERTA, TOLOKO  
403-200-9961  
[braggcreekwild.ca](http://braggcreekwild.ca)  
[info.braggcreekwild@gmail.com](mailto:info.braggcreekwild@gmail.com)

## PARTICIPATE

## VOLUNTEER

