



MINUTES

What: BiodiverCity Advisory Committee
 When: 09 Mar 2016
 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
 Where: Heritage Boardroom, 6th floor
 Calgary Public Building
 205 - 8th Ave SE
 Contact: Alex Kent (Chair)
 416-528-0986
 akentecology@gmail.com
 Steven Snell (Admin rep)
 403-268-3527
 steven.snell@calgary.ca

Ethan, Geoff, Katie, Laura, Alex, Chris, Meaghan, Jason, Robert, Sam
 Regrets: John, Steven, Natasha, Polly

Item	Who	Duration	Action
1 Carry over Agenda items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Feb 10th Minutes Update on Sharepoint Term limit clarifications 	Alex	5 mins	(Information)
2 Overview of Habitat Condition Rating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Q & A 	Chris	45 Mins	(Information)
3 Update from Sub-Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecoliteracy sub-committee Ecological Integration sub-committee Submitted recommendations for first committee report 	John, Meaghan/ Polly	40 mins	(discussion)
4 Review Committee Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition: what we see as committee members and where we are going Comments and suggestion on the draft work plan. 	Laura	25 mins	(discussion)
5 April Agenda Proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present draft report Suggested items 	Alex	5 mins	(Information)

- ACTION:** Alex/Chris to share HCR report



ITEM 1

- No update on sharpoint, carry forward or by email.
- Term limit: at inception of committee, 5 people were given only 1 year terms to ensure that the full committee doesn't turn over at two year mark. Chris is seeking input, this may require direction from Council once Chris determines what the likely path forward is. More to come.

ITEM 2

Chris presentation: Habitat Condition Rating Tool (HCR)

- **ACTION:** Alex/Chris to share HCR report
- Based on internal training
- Able to get whole city in coarse habitat classification: % built enviro vs. grassland vs forested for entire city...this is a great asset
- This tool was created as central tool of management of natural areas because...
- Need to learn how effective the tool will be
- 20% naturalize goal for Parks would target the manicured values; CoC corporately, it would probably include grasslands and road ways as well.
- Reviewed Living Planet Index and contrast between increase in protected areas globally and decreasing biodiversity, terrestrially and in the marine environment
- Challenges: park carrying capacity, use, climate change, invasive species, heat island effects.... Need to understand and manage people and environmental change, have good data and be able to communicate effectively about the issues
- HCR objectives: develop effective metrics for ecological health at patch and park scale to differentiate parks and inform managing action
 - Informed by Illinois natural history survey
- Framework: remotely sense disturbance around a park using habitat disturbance index (HDI)
- Looking for correlation between HCR (habitat condition rating) and HDI (habitat disturbance index)
 - Can take management action when parks are lower or higher in condition rating than predicted based on HDI and depending on desired outcome for a given park
 - Smaller parks are not predicted as well (as expected)
 - CoC had a preliminary grid of actual HCR vs desired outcome with likely NEP type and associated management action
- Plan is to use HCR to ID habitat management priorities, plan annual work, sequence and prioritize data collection and inventory work, monitor and performance evaluation, plan capital improvements and assess policy/management outcomes.
- Goal is to be able to have public documents that outline 5, 10, 15 year plan to provide the context to work to be done with parks so that citizens engaged and concerned about changes to their park can understand rationale.
- Habitat connectivity: circuitscape theory: multispecies connectivity model to get to resistance or permeability of the landscape (to terrestrial vertebrates...and insects)
 - Reviewed Calgary habitat connectivity model (multispecies connectivity analysis) that was finalized last month
 - Shows things like edge effects (e.g. reduced connectivity in Nose Hill area compared to park boundary)
 - CoC is currently reviewing how to use this tool on how to use it to improve connectivity



- Comparing against other datasets e.g. roadkill
- Recent park purchases: Haskayne, Ralph Klein
 - **Discussion:** Potential for parks in the NE?
 - Need to work on what a framework for acquisition in that area would be and a strategy for what priorities would be (*opportunity for committee input) How do these areas quantitatively support the goals?
 - Need to think regionally – use of the western sky land trust
 - Calgary Metropolitan Plan (component of South Saskatchewan Regional Plan)

ITEM 3

Subcommittee updates: EcoIntegration – **next meeting (?)** contact Geoff Chow (tentative: March 31, 7pm)

- **See Attachment 1**
- Reviewing procedures to identify short to mid term BAC action opportunities
- Chris was able to attend last subcommittee to help team understand what areas the city is already working in and what gaps the BAC can assist with
- Identifying a need for the committee to have a workshop – meeting 2hr/month makes it difficult to get substantive work done
 - Potential to have one or more Saturday sessions to be able to develop a work plan or other product that can contribute to Urban Conservation
- Potential to work in non-park systems (private holdings)
- Chris will have a new position in his group to help run BAC and be able to pull research together to inform the BAC
- Plan to provide input on IPM, Natural Management Plan

EcoLiteracy – **next meeting** Thursday March 31 at TFDL 3-5pm

- A great opportunity to involve people...
- Presented slide of public initiatives and CoC oriented business unit engagement
- Get to know city environment by eating it? (current parks bylaw prevents consumption)
- City is developing an Indigenous Policy Framework in May (CoC response to truth and reconciliation committee)
- **ACTION:** Chris can bring Julie Guimond environmental lead to next subcommittee meeting
- Contact Michael Grey for Mayors Environment Expo contact (school group audience...could be good for next year when we have plain language messages and products)

ITEM 4: ran out of time for working session on work plan or report – materials distributed for BAC consideration

Round Table

1. BAC thus far: good to learn about the CoC cogs
2. Interest in bringing an action to Council similar to what Ann and Brian spoke to us about to be visible and bringing ideas forward
3. What are the timelines, what are the priorities
 - Ecointegration can use ecoliteracy template
4. Still a large knowledge gap between non-city and city BAC members



5. Presenting to council, appreciate plain language and simple presentation
 - Be clear about what diverse representation the BAC has
 - Where can the BAC add value to the city
 - What Bylaws can be amended, to add value and affect the biodiversity strategy
6. The city charter is as upcoming possible change, summer 2016 is the first consultation
7. How would the BAC strategize around the 2018 budget?
8. Report as an opportunity to remind council
 - What is biodiversity
 - What are priorities
9. Are they charismatic quick wins?
10. Skilled public volunteers is a special group for the city
11. Flexibility in report is possible, simple cover sheet and include attachments the BAC has created
12. CoC internal website as tool to reach city staff
13. Community standards bylaw review upcoming?
 - Bylaw changes probably not the best strategy
 - We the BAC are available to council that are a knowledge body that can be consulted
 - Connect audience to their own childhood memories to connect with the concept of biodiversity
14. Every councilor has a memory of biodiversity, remind them that their children need opportunities for those memories
15. Making specific timing restrictions on mowing, important but too detailed for report
16. What's missing is the benefit of biodiversity to Calgarians, ecological services for people who live and grow up here.
 - Get council to think about what a good open space means
17. Advisory committee versus working committee, how do we make the advice concrete?
 - Asking questions vs. producing work
18. BAC providing advice on strategy, individual expertise to contribute to filling in identified gaps.
 - Identifying the gaps is difficult
 - BAC recommendations should be aimed at satisfying 10 year strat plan targets
 - Concerned that we are trying to do too much for the first report, win could just be a solid idea from useful people.
19. Measurement of change in people's interaction with their world.
 - For example have their backyards changed?
20. Give BAC the time to figure out direction
 - Workplan discussion can be where we fit
 - Concrete steps, like the integrated pest mgmt. plan
 - Could give them an engagement plan for IPM
 - Responds to asks from the city
 - Expert stakeholders on issues as they arise
 - BAC as city sounding board
 - Provide an outside perspective.
 - Need to talk about biodiversity as a benefit to Calgary as a whole
21. Healthy and green city as a category under the current budget cycle, the BAC advises under that category as a way to show biodiversity as being beyond parks.
22. **Future Agenda item:** what is a healthy and green city?



ATTACHMENT 1
BiodiverCity strategic plan
Procedures and initiatives

The following table lists the procedure areas and associated initiatives from *Our BiodiverCity, Calgary's 10-year biodiversity strategic plan*. The initiatives are identified as:

	Parks BU-specific
	Under development
	Completed
	Not/partial initiation
	New Integrative Initiatives

Procedure Area	Initiative
1. Foster ecological literacy	a) Deliver a city-wide ecological literacy program.
Increase public understanding of biodiversity and ecological processes to encourage positive actions that support environmental conservation.	b) Work with key partners to promote community engagement with broader ecological stewardship initiatives, such as building pollinator-friendly and biologically diverse community gardens, developing wildlife habitat conservation initiatives and establishing neighbourhood greening programs.
	c) Develop and implement a framework to integrate knowledge of Calgary's natural heritage into conservation and education opportunities.
	d) Develop and implement a strategy to inspire citizens to take positive stewardship actions through volunteer, school, corporate and community environmental education programs and initiatives.
	e) Provide a range of programs and tools that encourage Calgarians to engage with biodiversity in the city's built and natural environments.
	f) Continue the biodiversity oral history project to showcase Calgarians' personal connections to biodiversity.

PUBLIC INITIATIVES: Economic, Environmental, Social

NATIVE SPECIES PLANT GUIDE

<p>Municipal Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guelph: Pollination Park: http://www.pollinationguelph.ca/#!gardens/c21kz Toronto Metro News: http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/02/25/toronto-to-become-1st-canadian-bee-city.html <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens Resource Network: http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx Whispering Signs University of Calgary 	<p>SPACES</p> <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Invasive Species Council: "Grow Me Instead" Calgary Parks Interpreters Campus Calgary Open Minds Nature Walks Whispering Signs Jane's Walks Doors Open Lost Space Design: https://impactdesignhub.org/2015/03/17/the-lost-spaces-2015-ideas-competition/ Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute <p>Potential Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Native Species Plant Guide City-supported Garden Centre Promotion of Seed Mixes City-supported Golf Course Information All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity" 	<p>URBAN FORAGING</p> <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restaurants: (e.g., River Cafe) City of Calgary EATS! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Community Gardens Resource Network: http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx Calgary Horticultural Society Janina Kowalski; Julie Walker; Gus Yaki; Eric Moschopedis and Mia Rushton <p>Potential Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Native Species Plant Guide City Bylaws Connect with City employees working on the Land Use Bylaw Amendments: e.g., food growing, processing and distribution: http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Calgary-Land-Use-bylaw-1P2007/Land-Use-Bylaw-Amendments-food.aspx?redirect=/foodamendment
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ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

- Municipal Examples:**
- WATERSHED+
 - Celebration of the Bow: River of Light
 - Skateboard Park Community Engage (Artists Eric & Mia)
- Potential Partners:**
- Continue work of the Oral History Project
 - Beakerhead
 - High Performance Rodeo
 - Theatre Calgary +
 - Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
 - Esker Foundation

Sample Themes:
 "Edibles in the City"
 "Animal Ethnographies"
 "Indigenous Knowledge"
 "Stormwater Pond Life"
 "A Fleet of Drones"

ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

- Researchers:**
- Support for established and emerging academics
 - Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity and Landscape Modelling: Fangliang He, UofA
- Potential Partners:**
- All post-secondary institutions
 - Oral History Project
 - CEL: Community-Engaged Learning, UofC
- Research themes:**
- Continue the work of Victoria Campbell-Arvai
 - Continue work of the Oral History Project
 - Sample themes to be proposed.

IDEAS DISCUSSED AND DISCARDED

- Toronto: Green Roof Bylaw (Onerous)
- Wolfville: Town as Arboretum (Challenging for Calgary)

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

- Thorough and accurate data collection

CITY OF CALGARY BUSINESS UNIT ENGAGEMENT

<p>FOR EMPLOYEES: SURVEY</p> <p>What can your unit do to increase biodiversity?</p> <p>Action: Survey created by the city for city employees.</p>	<p>FOR EMPLOYEES: BIODIVERSITY TALKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training courses: Biodiversity for the City of Calgary 	<p>BY EMPLOYEES: CITY OF CALGARY WEBSITE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest Fact Sheets, e.g., "white moths" Human-Wildlife Interaction information Cats and Birds: "http://catsandbirds.ca" (and dogs; other domesticated animals) Interactive map of wildlife sightings, with photos; photo contests; calendars <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g., Utah Pests Fact Sheet 	<p>BY EMPLOYEES: PAID INTERPRETERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Presence in Support of Biodiversity Initiatives <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Trailer Edmonton's Master Naturalists programme <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calgary Seedy Saturday: http://seedysaturdaycalgary.shawwebpace.ca
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g) Establish an artist-in-residence program to advance biodiversity literacy.

BiodiverCity strategic plan

Procedures and initiatives

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	d) Develop and implement a framework to integrate knowledge of Calgary's natural heritage into conservation and education opportunities.
	e) Develop and implement a strategy to inspire citizens to take positive stewardship actions through volunteer, school, corporate and community environmental education programs and initiatives.
	f) Provide a range of programs and tools that encourage Calgarians to engage with biodiversity in the city's built and natural environments.
	h) Continue the biodiversity oral history project to showcase Calgarians' personal connections to biodiversity.

PUBLIC INITIATIVES: Economic, Environmental, Social

POLLINATION	PUBLIC & PRIVATE GARDENS & SPACES	EDIBLES, RESTAURANTS & URBAN FORAGING	ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE	ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT
<p>Municipal Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guelph: Pollination Park: http://www.pollinationguelph.ca/#!gardens/c21kz Toronto Metro News: http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/02/25/toronto-to-become-1st-canadian-bee-city.html <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens Resource Network: http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx Whispering Signs University of Calgary 	<p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Invasive Species Council: "Grow Me Instead" Calgary Parks Interpreters Campus Calgary Open Minds Nature Walks Whispering Signs Jane's Walks Doors Open Lost Space Design: https://impactdesignhub.org/2015/03/17/the-lost-spaces-2015-ideas-competition/ Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute <p>Potential Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Native Species Plant Guide City-supported Garden Centre Promotion of Seed Mixes City-supported Golf Course Information All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity" 	<p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restaurants: (e.g., River Cafe) City of Calgary EATS! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Community Gardens Resource Network: http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx Calgary Horticultural Society Janina Kowalski; Julie Walker; Gus Yaki; Eric Moschopedis and Mia Rushton <p>Potential Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Native Species Plant Guide City Bylaws Connect with City employees working on the Land Use Bylaw Amendments: e.g., food growing, processing and distribution: http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Calgary-Land-Use-bylaw-1P2007/Land-Use-Bylaw-Amendments-food.aspx?redirect=/foodamendment 	<p>Sample Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Edibles in the City" "Animal Ethnographies" "Indigenous Knowledge" "Stormwater Pond Life" "A Fleet of Drones" <p>Municipal Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATERSHED+ Celebration of the Bow: River of Light Skateboard Park Community Engage (Artists Eric & Mia) <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work of the Oral History Project Beakerhead High Performance Rodeo Theatre Calgary + Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra <p>EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity" Artist-developed engagement initiatives 	<p>Researchers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for established and emerging academics Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity and Landscape Modelling: Fangliang He, UofA <p>Research themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the work of Victoria Campbell-Arva Continue work of the Oral History Project Current academic thought on issues of biodiversity <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All post-secondary institutions Oral History Project CEL: Community-Engaged Learning, UofC <p>CITIZEN SCIENTISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thorough and accurate data collection
<p>FOR EMPLOYEES: SURVEY</p> <p>What can your unit do to increase biodiversity?</p> <p>Action: Survey created by the city for city employees.</p>	<p>FOR EMPLOYEES: BIODIVERSITY TALKS</p> <p>CITY of CALGARY: BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training courses: Biodiversity for the City of Calgary 	<p>BY EMPLOYEES: CITY OF CALGARY WEBSITE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest Fact Sheets, e.g., "white moths" Human-Wildlife Interaction information Cats and Birds: "http://catsandbirds.ca" (and dogs; other domesticated animals) Interactive Map of wildlife sightings, with photos; photo contests; calendars <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g., Utah Pests Fact Sheet 	<p>BY EMPLOYEES: PAID INTERPRETERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Presence in Support of Biodiversity Initiatives <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Trailer Edmonton's Master Naturalists programme <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calgary Seedy Saturday: http://seedysaturdaycalgary.shawwebpage.ca 	



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BiodiverCity strategic plan

Procedures and initiatives

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Procedure Area	Initiative
3. Instill biodiversity values across The City of Calgary	a) Encourage champions within The City of Calgary to help ensure biodiversity principles are adhered to throughout City planning, managing and initiatives.
Collaborate to establish conservation values and practices into planning,	b) Develop and implement a biodiversity communications strategy.
managing and operating The City of Calgary and living in Calgary neighbourhoods.	c) Initiate a biodiversity steering committee with representatives from The City, Council, local businesses, environmental non-governmental organizations, academia and citizens at large to advance the commitments of <i>Our BiodiverCity</i> .
	d) Continue to identify and align with other City plans, strategies and programs that have biodiversity-related components.
	e) Develop and implement a biodiversity project recognition program for community, private business and City projects.
	f) Ensure biodiversity goals are captured in appropriate city planning frameworks, for example the <i>Corporate Project Management Framework</i> .
	g) Develop policies and guidelines to ensure people are allowed equitable access to areas of biodiversity.
	f) Work collaboratively with neighbouring and regional municipalities to identify opportunities to increase biodiversity across the region.
	g) Develop and implement an incentive program to promote the use of ecological easements.

POLLINATION

- Municipal Examples:**
- Guelph: Pollination Park: <http://www.pollinationguelph.ca/#!gardens/c21kz>
 - Toronto Metro News: <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/02/25/toronto-to-become-1st-canadian-bee-city.html>
- Potential Partners:**
- Community Gardens Resource Network: <http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx>
 - Whispering Signs
 - University of Calgary

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

- Develop Native Species Plant Guide
- Municipal presence on sites in the community
- City Nature Walks include information about pollination
- City-created documents
- All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity"

PUBLIC & PRIVATE GARDENS & SPACES

- Potential Partners:**
- Alberta Invasive Species Council: "Grow Me Instead"
 - Calgary Parks Interpreters
 - Campus Calgary Open Minds
 - Nature Walks
 - Whispering Signs
 - Jane's Walks
 - Doors Open
 - Lost Space Design: <https://impactdesignhub.org/2015/03/17/the-lost-spaces-2015-ideas-competition/>
 - Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute

- Potential Actions:**
- Develop Native Species Plant Guide
 - City-supported Garden Centre Promotion of Seed Mixes
 - City-supported Golf Course Information
 - All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity"

EDIBLES, RESTAURANTS & URBAN FORAGING

- Potential Partners:**
- Restaurants: (e.g., River Cafe)
 - City of Calgary EATS! Food System Assessment and Action Plan
 - Community Gardens Resource Network: <http://www.calhort.org/community-gardens.aspx>
 - Calgary Horticultural Society
 - Janina Kowalski; Julie Walker; Gus Yaki; Eric Moschopedis and Mia Rushton

- Potential Actions:**
- Develop Native Species Plant Guide
 - City Bylaws
 - Connect with City employees working on the Land Use Bylaw Amendments: e.g., food growing, processing and distribution: <http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Calgary-Land-Use-Bylaw-1P2007/Land-Use-Bylaw-Amendments-food.aspx?redirect=/foodamendment>

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

- Sample Themes:**
- "Edibles in the City"
 - "Animal Ethnographies"
 - "Indigenous Knowledge"
 - "Stormwater Pond Life"
 - "A Fleet of Drones"
- Municipal Examples:**
- WATERSHED+
 - Celebration of the Bow: River of Light
 - Skateboard Park Community Engage (Artists Eric & Mia)

- Potential Partners:**
- Continue work of the Oral History Project
 - Beakerhead
 - High Performance Rodeo
 - Theatre Calgary +
 - Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

- All promotional material regarding this initiative start with a definition of "biodiversity"
- Artist-developed engagement initiatives

ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

- Researchers:**
- Support for established and emerging academics
 - Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity and Landscape Modelling: Fangliang He, UofA

- Research themes:**
- Continue the work of Victoria Campbell-Arva
 - Continue work of the Oral History Project
 - Sample themes: "Stormwater Pond Life"; "Effects of humans and domesticated animals and urban biodiversity"

- Potential Partners:**
- All post-secondary institutions
 - Oral History Project
 - CEL: Community-Engaged Learning, UofC

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

- Thorough and accurate data collection

FOR EMPLOYEES: SURVEY

- What can your unit do to increase biodiversity?
- Action: Survey created by the city for city employees.

FOR EMPLOYEES: BIODIVERSITY TALKS

- Training courses: Biodiversity for the City of Calgary

BY EMPLOYEES: CITY OF CALGARY WEBSITE

- Pest Fact Sheets, e.g., "white moths"
 - Human-Wildlife Interaction information
 - Cats and Birds: "<http://catsandbirds.ca>" (and dogs; other domesticated animals)
 - Interactive Map of wildlife sightings, with photos; photo contests; calendars
- Examples:**
- e.g., Utah Pests Fact Sheet

BY EMPLOYEES: PAID INTERPRETERS

- City Presence in Support of Biodiversity Initiatives
- Suggestions:**
- Biodiversity Trailer
 - Edmonton's Master Naturalists programme
- Partners:**
- Calgary Seedy Saturday: <http://seedysaturdaycalgary.shawwebpace.ca>