

Fall Forum & AGM Agenda

Saturday September 29 2018 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
The Water Centre, Calgary Alberta
625 25 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4K8

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and Light Breakfast
9:30 AM	Welcome and Introduction
9:45 AM	Bowmont Park Grassland Rehabilitation: Trialing weed suppressant fibre and using the Habitat Restoration mobile app to track restoration projects Jason Weiler, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks
10:15 AM	The City of Calgary’s Fish Habitat Compensation Program Jonathan Slaney, Planning Engineer, Water Resources
10:45 – 11:00	Health Break
11:00 AM	Innovative tech and modeling approaches to prioritizing restoration activities Leah Blair, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks
11:30 AM	Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Society for Ecological Restoration - Western Canada Chapter
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch (provided)
1:30 PM	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Habitat Restoration – beavers, balsams and brome Sarah Kellett, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks
2:00 PM	Soil Invertebrate Indicators of Land Reclamation Success Stephanie Ibsen, Dr. M Anne Naeth, University of Alberta
2:30 PM	Site-specific soil food web amendments Mike Dorian, Living Soil Solutions
3:00 – 3:15	Health Break
3:15 PM	Establishing woody species in a semi-arid climate Tracey Etwell, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks
3:45 PM	City of Calgary Riparian Monitoring Program Mike Gallant, Water Resources Engineer, Kerr Wood Leidal
4:15 PM	City of Calgary Native Bee Project (Pollinator Corridor) David Misfeldt, Boulevard Maintenance Tech. Calgary Roads; Lincoln Best, University of Calgary
4:45	Goodbye!

And a very special thank you to the City of Calgary for hosting!



Presentation Descriptions
SER WC Fall Forum and AGM
September 29, 2018
The Water Centre, Calgary Alberta

Bowmont Park Grassland Rehabilitation: Trialing weed suppressant fibre and using the Habitat Restoration mobile app to track restoration projects

Jason Weiler, P.Biol, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks

As part of implementation of the City Biodiversity Strategic Plan, Calgary Parks is completing a grassland rehabilitation project in Bowmont Park in a former road right-of-way that was re-zoned as park space. The project is trialing the use of a new, locally-sourced biodegradable hemp fibre as a weed suppressant for controlling smooth brome and other invasive species. Native plantings were done over top of the fibre to create "planted islands" for additional seed dispersal. This presentation will also give an overview of the internally developed Habitat Restoration mobile app and how this technology is being used for implementing habitat restoration plans and tracking city-wide restoration activities toward our biodiversity targets.

The City of Calgary's Fish Habitat Compensation Program

Jonathan Slaney, P.Eng. Planning Engineer, Water Resources

The City of Calgary is building four large fish habitat compensation projects from 2017-2020 to compensate for harm to the fishery caused after the 2013 flood. An overview of how the harm was caused and details on the projects will be provided as part of the presentation. How these projects fit into the overall morphology of the river will also be discussed.

Innovative tech and modeling approaches to prioritizing restoration activities

Leah Blair, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks

As directed by Calgary's Municipal Development Plan, Calgary Parks has developed an integrated suite of tools to identify city wide ecological protection and restoration priorities, conduct rapid health assessments on City parks and track and evaluate restoration success. This talk will share more details on the analytical models, custom apps and an urban restoration decision framework The City of Calgary uses to guide naturalization and restoration action.

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Habitat Restoration – beavers, balsams and brome

Sarah Kellett, P.Biol, CERP, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks

The riparian habitat at the sanctuary has become degraded over time due to a number of environmental stressors such as; low recruitment of native species, competition from non-native species, unbalanced beaver population and alterations to flow in the Bow River. Calgary Parks has implemented a habitat restoration plan for the park following the City's Habitat Restoration Project Framework, which closely aligns with SER standards and principles of ecological restoration. The project is trialing experimental restoration techniques for tree planting and brome control such as deep pole planting, and use of weed suppression materials

Soil Invertebrate Indicators of Land Reclamation Success

Stephanie Ibsen, Dr. M Anne Naeth

This research project is part of a program to identify the most effective biophysical indicators of ecosystem biodiversity, resiliency, and ultimately reclamation success. This research will enhance the understanding of relationships between soil physical and chemical properties, vegetation and soil invertebrates and the temporal and spatial dynamics of soil invertebrates in reclaimed ecosystems. This knowledge will help determine whether soil invertebrates should be considered a reclamation success indicator and could potentially lead to more effective reclamation methods, healthier ecosystems, and dollars saved for industry

Site-specific soil food web amendments

Mike Dorian, Living Soil Solutions

It is known that the microbial community in soils is just as important for the restoration of habitat as the plant species. Living Soil Solutions uses the soil food web concept to develop a site-specific prescription of compost tea to enhance the microbial diversity at planting sites. Living Soil Solutions discuss the approach taken and share preliminary monitoring information showing how sites are responding.

Establishing woody species in a semi-arid climate

Tracey Etwell, P.Biol, CERP, Parks Ecologist, Calgary Parks

In the local area of Calgary, precipitation is often the limiting factor in establishing woody vegetation in plantings. The use of an alternative watering device (waterboxx) enhances establishment, reduces water costs, and is a sustainable product. The addition of the growsafe further reduces herbivore grazing and enhances growth.

City of Calgary Riparian Monitoring Program

Mike Gallant, Water Resources Engineer, Kerr Wood Leidal

Calgary's Municipal Development Plan includes a guiding mandate to conserve and restore the natural environment, including riparian green infrastructure. The 2013 Riparian Strategy outlined a high-level framework with a vision, principles, and strategies. This has been followed up with a more detailed 10-year program implementation plan, called the Riparian Action Program. This presentation will discuss Post-flood monitoring of riparian health conditions and future monitoring of indicators over time.

City of Calgary Native Bee Project (Pollinator Corridor)

David Misfeldt, Boulevard Maintenance Technician, Calgary Roads; Lincoln Best, University of Calgary

This project attempts to achieve cost savings regarding boulevard landscape design and maintenance while beautifying the area with salt and drought tolerant wildflowers, native grasses and agronomic species. In addition, the project provides habitat for pollinators due to the non-standardized approach of using a wildflower meadow plant palette in place of standardized turf grass mixes. Invaluable data on native pollinators in the Calgary area will be collected through academia partnerships. Lastly, this project showcases how recycled projects, neighborhood schools, multiple business units and non-profit organizations can come together to support native pollinators in a cost effective manner.