

Calgary River Valleys Continues Riverbank Makeover Project



Calgary River Valleys (CRV) is a not-for-profit organization led by volunteers dedicated to building a strong and effective voice for river valley protection and water quality in Calgary. The group is working hard on Phase 2 of its Riverbank Makeover Project. This project, funded by the City of Calgary Water Resources and S2G+ (Stanley Park to Glenmore and Beyond), involved planting native vegetation on a section of the riverbank on the Elbow River in southwest Calgary. Planting was completed in September 2019. The project also includes a research and educational component to measure the change in knowledge of riparian zones and their functions.

In Phase 1 of the project, which was completed in 2018, CRV restored another riparian area along the Elbow River in southwest Calgary. Both phases of this project have involved door-to-door surveys of river-adjacent homeowners and a broader distribution of surveys to the general public.



Volunteers plant native vegetation as part of CRV's Riverbank Makeover Project. *Photo courtesy of Calgary River Valleys*

We are trying to determine the baseline level of knowledge about riparian areas and then provide information on how and why to protect these ecologically important areas. Follow-up surveys will determine if the knowledge base has changed over the course of the project.

Phase 2 has also involved assessing and monitoring the success of the 2018 plantings in the first site, and we intend to monitor both sites for at least three years, provided funding is available to do so.

Please help us with the research component of our Phase 2 project. By completing our short survey, you will be entered into a draw to win a

\$150 prepaid Visa or MasterCard gift card. The secure survey link is here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VPHW78>.

Riverbank Makeover Reveal Day on October 8

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, Oct. 8 for the “reveal” of the Phase 2 Riverbank Makeover, the newly replanted riparian site from Phase 2, and see the transformation of this site to a more fully functioning and healthy riparian zone. Drop in anytime between 5:30 and 7:00 pm to see what we have planted in this river-adjacent area and learn more about the project.

Because the location is a private home, we are not publishing the address, but you can either look for the Calgary River Valleys sign in front of the house in the 800 block of Rideau Rd. SW, contact us by phone at 403-268-4632, or email us at

CalgaryRiverValleys2@outlook.com for more details.



Tall rooted stakes of Shining Willow await planting. *Photo courtesy of Calgary River Valleys*

Interested in learning how to do your own riparian restoration project?

CRV is currently developing a brief document outlining the basic steps needed for community groups and landowners to do their own riparian restoration project that will help protect our rivers. This informative, user-friendly guide will direct you through what is required to implement your own riparian restoration project. We expect the guide to be completed by December 2019. Contact us for more details if you are interested in it, and be sure to look for more information about this and other projects on our website at CalgaryRiverValleys.org.