

# Elbow Partnership News

Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Newsletter  
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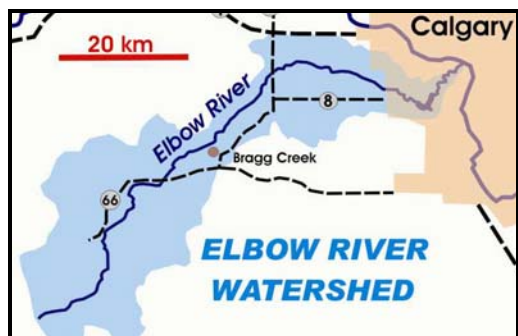
## Planning for the Elbow River Elbow River Water Management Plan (ERWMP)

The ERWMP Draft Terms of Reference document is currently being put together. Gloria Wilkinson, Chair of the Steering Committee writing the document, is moving the process along steadily in an effort to complete it soon for review by stakeholders. Then, stakeholders can move to the important work of preparing a plan for the future management of the Elbow River.

The Steering Committee has made significant progress in educating themselves about **Instream Flow Needs** for the Elbow River, **Groundwater and Surface Water** licensing in Alberta and **First Nations Consultation**. The Committee will continue to work toward its revised timetable of having the Terms of Reference ready for review by stakeholders and the public in Spring 2006.

In-kind contributions are being provided by Alberta Community Development, Alberta Environment and Gloria Wilkinson. Several other organizations are contributing time to the project. Financial assistance has come from The City of Calgary and Alberta Environment.

If you have any comments or questions about the Elbow River Water Management Plan, please contact Gloria Wilkinson at 246-3916 or email [gmwilky@shaw.ca](mailto:gmwilky@shaw.ca).



South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan is currently out for public comment. The objective of the Plan is to find the publicly acceptable balance between consumption of water and environmental protection. You can see that plan on the website below and you have until January 13, 2006 to provide your comments. Gloria Wilkinson continues to work on the Basin Advisory Committee giving input to this Plan.

Website link:

[http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/regions/ssrb/draft\\_plan.html](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/regions/ssrb/draft_plan.html)

## Operational Plan 2006 (on-the-ground projects)

*New ideas for 2006.* It's time to start planning for the stewardship-work season of 2006. The ERWP Coordinating Committee is putting together an updated plan for next year. The original Operational Plan was set out by ERWP Stakeholders at a facilitated meeting with Maureen Bolen in January 2002. That plan has been updated each subsequent year and adopted early in the calendar year. Next year we hope to see an **increase in restoration projects** with the potential for a Conservation Easement demonstration project and riparian vegetation planting. If you have any ideas for areas along the Elbow River or within the watershed that require restoration – we want to hear from you. Please make a point to review the 2005 Operational Plan on our website and consider commenting for 2006.

[www.erwp.org/operationalplan2005.html](http://www.erwp.org/operationalplan2005.html)

## Local Government Committee

The ERWP Board of Directors met with representatives of local governments in the Elbow River watershed on Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to enhance communication between elected officials and on-the-ground stewards in the watershed. Every effort is made to ensure each government within the watershed is represented on this Committee. That includes the Alberta Government, The City of Calgary, Kananaskis Improvement District, Municipal District of Rocky View, Redwood Meadows and Tsuu T'ina Nation.

## Low Impact Development

What is it and what does it mean to you? The Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership is operating in start-up phase with members such as Co-Chairs The City of Calgary and The City of Edmonton, Urban Development Institute of Calgary and Alberta, MD of Rocky View, other municipalities, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Bow River Basin Council and Alberta Lake Management Society. **ALIPD** is set to expand their membership as they finalize their business plan which begins as an education program for stakeholders and the public. Alberta Environment contributed \$10,000 for the development of educational material. In year 1 of operating, these funds will go toward outreach to potential stakeholders. This will help create endorsement for a demonstration project in year 2. The **ALIPD** is seeking a sponsorship agency with charitable tax status to act as a proponent of ALIPD and provide some administrative support. Watch for more on **Integrated Water Management** and how to protect your watershed using low impact development practices.

## Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan

Submitted by Eric Lloyd,  
Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition

The Municipal District (MD) of Rocky View held an open house in Bragg Creek on December 5th, 2005 to present the draft Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan (ASP). Bragg Creek residents have until January 6th, 2006 to provide their feedback to the MD on the draft plan. Copies of the 85 page plan can be obtained by providing a request with your mailing address to Amy Zaluski, Municipal Planner at 230-1401 or [azaluski@gov.mdrockyview.ab.ca](mailto:azaluski@gov.mdrockyview.ab.ca). The plan is available on the MD website, however one would need high speed internet and lots of paper, ink and patience to download and print.

### *In Summary:*

Residents who attended the open house generally seemed satisfied with the long term vision contained in the plan. However concern was expressed by many in attendance due to the weakly worded policies concerning future development. The word "should" was used for most policies and the definition provided for this word at the open house confirmed that their would be no requirement for the MD to actually follow the policies. This means that the draft ASP is simply an optional guideline document and not a real plan. The word "must" needs to be substituted for "should" in many places to make the document a real plan that will provide a framework and certainty to all concerning future development.

The ASP process gave rise to an excellent proposed Riparian Policy document, however the draft plan does not specifically recommend that this proposed Riparian Policy be implemented. There are a few recommendations taken from the proposed Riparian Policy, however there is no reference to this document nor any maps showing the proposed Riparian area with protection buffers.

The draft plan does contain excellent proposed policies for wastewater, however the word "should" needs to be changed to "must" throughout that section to ensure the policies are a requirement and not optional.

The draft ASP needs to be strengthened and upgraded to protect the natural environment, based on the input received from residents. The extent of proposed development in the area also needs to be downscaled to ensure the natural character of the area is retained. Otherwise one can expect negative residential development impacts on the watershed in this area in the future.

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Phone: (403) 685-5580

## Need a last minute Christmas gift?

### Give the Gift of Nature Send a Child to Summer Camp

Is there a special child in your life between 9 to 12 years who loves to be in nature? Then let them spend a week as a Junior Naturalist along the Elbow River this summer. The Junior Naturalist Summer Day Camp out of Bragg Creek offers fishing, hiking and time to gently search for water bugs and get to know the Elbow River watershed.

Register by the end of December  
for the Early Bird Special rate of  
\$125/wk

Contact Friends of Kananaskis for  
more information: (403) 678-5500



## New ERWP Members:

Recently, three new members were added to the Elbow River Watershed Partnership, showing their commitment to our Mission and overall Strategic Plan by signing our online Stakeholder Agreement. We welcome:

- 🇺🇸 Tsuu Tina Nation, represented by Lee Crowchild
- 🇺🇸 Municipal District of Rocky View, represented by Lorie Pesowski
- 🇺🇸 Trout Unlimited, represented by Brian Meagher

The ERWP Strategic Plan is on our website  
[www.erwp.org](http://www.erwp.org)

## From the Forum of the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC)

The BRBC held its quarterly educational Forum on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> with a full house in attendance – 60 to 80 BRBC members and guests attend the forums regularly. This Forum focused on Watershed Stewardship Groups:

- Nose Creek Water Management Plan will begin implementation in January 2006. It calls for greater setbacks for developments along creeks and tributaries and Integrated Stormwater Management practices that help reduce runoff quantity and improve water quality.
- BRBC is working on an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Bow Basin. Your input will be sought and necessary in the year to come.
- Communities of Black Diamond, Okotoks, Turner Valley and Cochrane are having success at reaching their citizens about reducing water use and limiting pesticides. Their key to success is face-to-face communication.

The next BRBC Forum is March 8, 2006 - 9:30 to 3:30  
Contact Mike Murray for details (403) 254-3419