

Join our Citizen Science Redd Count Opportunity

Calgary River Valleys, (CRV), is a not-for-profit organization led by volunteers dedicated to building a strong and effective voice for river valleys protection and water quality in Calgary. We have a few openings for volunteers to join us for our annual citizen science research project to count the “redds” (spawning nests) of Brown Trout in the Elbow River. We will again do two Redd Counts this year. The first will take place on Friday, November 8 for the Lower Elbow and the second will be on Saturday, November 9 for the Upper Elbow. If you see people walking in the river at that time, that’s what they’re doing. This redd data tells us about the health of the river ecosystem over time. The location of redds can also be used to ensure land use decisions do not negatively impact Calgary’s blue-ribbon trout fishery.

Volunteer biologists will lead the counts, which will involve walking and rafting in the river, identifying, geo-locating, and counting the redds. Everything will be provided for volunteers, including chest waders, PFDs (lifejackets), and a hot lunch on shore. If you are interested, contact us by phone or email through the Contact Us page on our website at CalgaryRiverValleys.org. This project is funded by the City of Calgary Water Resources and by the [Land Stewardship Centre](#).

Going back to where we used to go (before 2013)

This year, we will once again be able to count redds in a part of the Elbow that was closed from sedimentation due to the 2013 flood around Elbow Island at the Mission Bridge. The City of Calgary has completed a major portion of their project to reclaim fish spawning grounds in our rivers, using pre & post-flood data provided by Calgary River Valleys’ annual redd counts in the lower Elbow River. With support from both [Alberta Environment and Parks](#) and [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#), The City developed a plan to compensate for the damage from the flood and conserve this important habitat. The City’s plan has three main goals: mapping the existing fish habitat, determining habitat preferences, and creating and implementing a prioritized list of compensation projects.

Existing habitat was mapped to provide an updated record of what exists within the city limits. The Bow, Elbow, Nose Creek, West Nose Creek and Fish Creek were all included in the study. Fish habitat mapping breaks the river down into several habitat types, including runs, riffles, pools, snyes, backwaters, cascades and rapids. You can find out more about the City’s [fish compensation program](#) on the Calgary.ca website.

Other River Stewardship Volunteer Opportunities

CRV is working hard on Phase 2 of our Riverbank Makeover Project. 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>

Interested in Learning How to Do Your Own Riparian Restoration Project?

CRV is currently developing a summary document for community groups and landowners interested in doing their own riparian restoration project to help protect our rivers. This informative, user-friendly guide will direct you through the steps required to implement your own riparian restoration project. Keep reading this local newsletter to learn about our recommendations, or keep an eye on our website.

