

# RIPPLE EFFECTS

Western Sky Land Trust Newsletter



## WELCOME MESSAGE

MAX FRITZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring, hope you are well!

To our Friends of Western Sky, we share these thoughts as we head towards our busy summer months.

In the Spring, we all watch for the arrival of bluebirds and finches, admire the crocuses in bloom, question the snowpack and will it be enough for the summer, gauge the energy and rhythm of the creek during runoff. Whether we live on the land, come from a farming-ranching background, or live in the hustle and bustle of the city, we are an important set of eyes that appreciate and help safeguard our precious landscapes here in Alberta. Collectively, we draw upon our own unique understanding of the land and ask ourselves how the land, water and habitat is responding, is it adapting well to the seasonal changes that we have witnessed in years before, what footprints are being left, how often and when. It is a complex quilt of natural and man-made habitats, cultivated lands, wild coulees, slow moving backwaters, and trout rich streams. Your connection helps in continuing the appreciation and advocacy for our natural and agriculture landscapes. These special places have formed our culture and character for many years.

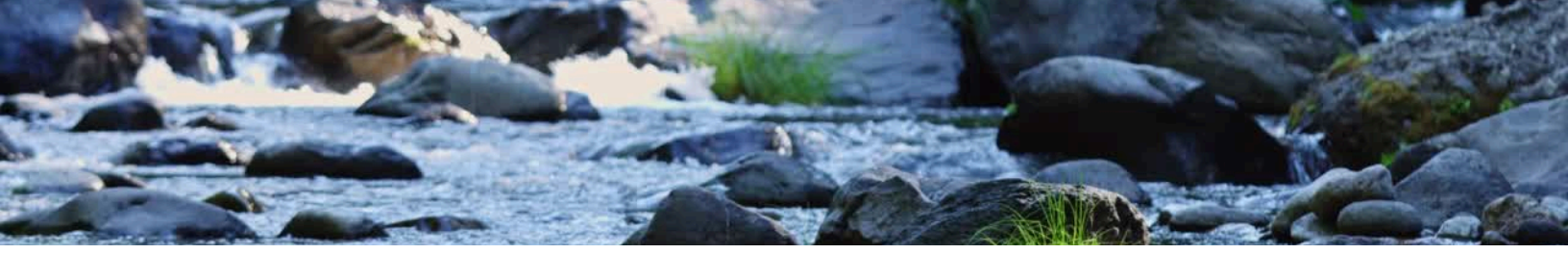
Together, a team of wonderful people have been “leaning into the harness” all fall and winter; please enjoy a few updates from us and best wishes to you over the summer.

We are excited to share the Western Sky newsletter!

We will be sharing two newsletters per year a Spring/Summer edition and a Fall/Winter edition.

If you do not want to receive the newsletter please email [Unsubscribe to info@westernskylandtrust.ca](mailto:Unsubscribe@westernskylandtrust.ca)





# Celebrating Stewardship Champions

Recognizing individuals and organizations making significant contributions to watershed stewardship

Below is a list of 2024 Stewardship Projects that Western Sky Land Trust is working on in collaboration with our landowner partners.

- Rosebud River: Bat Monitoring (see article below), Biological Inventory
- Three Point Creek: Invasive Species Management Plan
- Ghost River: Offsite Water Systems, Ranch Road Management Plan
- Bow River: Rangeland Management Plan
- Red Deer River: Rangeland Health Assessment



## Upcoming Events:

DISCOVERY DAYS

JUNE 1, 2024

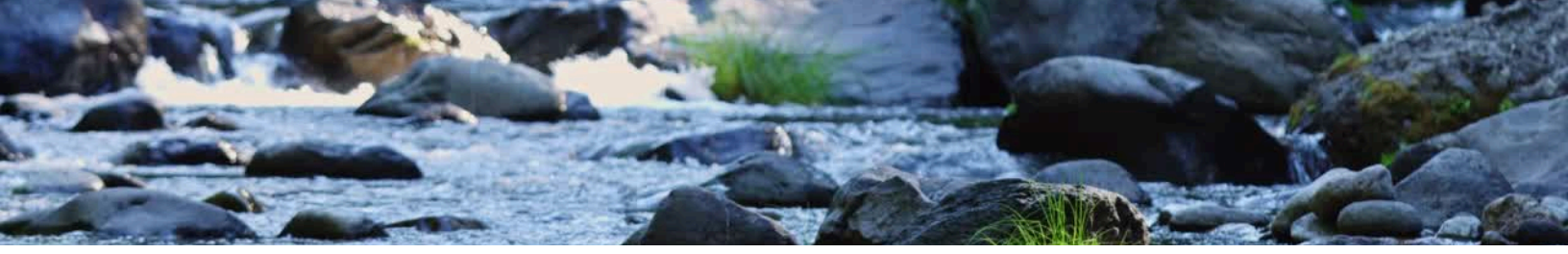
DIAMOND VALLEY, AB  
WESTERN SKY WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT DISCOVERY DAYS. COME VISIT US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GRAY PARK.

WESTERN SKY AGM

JUNE 24, 2024

CALGARY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
THE MEETING INVITATION FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE SENT OUT MID MAY WITH COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS





# Community Engagement & Partnerships

## ROSEBUD RIVER VALLEY BAT MONITORING PROJECT WRITTEN BY TARA SHACKELTON

Situated southwest of Drumheller, Alberta, made famous by the rich diversity and pristine views of the Red Deer River, the Rosebud River Valley is no less awe-inspiring. Stunning scenery abounds amongst badland cliffs and steep native grassland slopes that confine the Rosebud River within its embanked walls. The valley floor is blanketed by rich riparian zones, all of which provide critical habitat to many species that either reside year-round or return on their annual migration to rear new young. Above these abrupt structural features, fingers of cultivated lands spill outwards onto the plains. These cultivated fields are separated from one another by smaller but in some cases no less steep, networks of coulees that branch off of the main river channel.

[Click Here  
to read more](#)

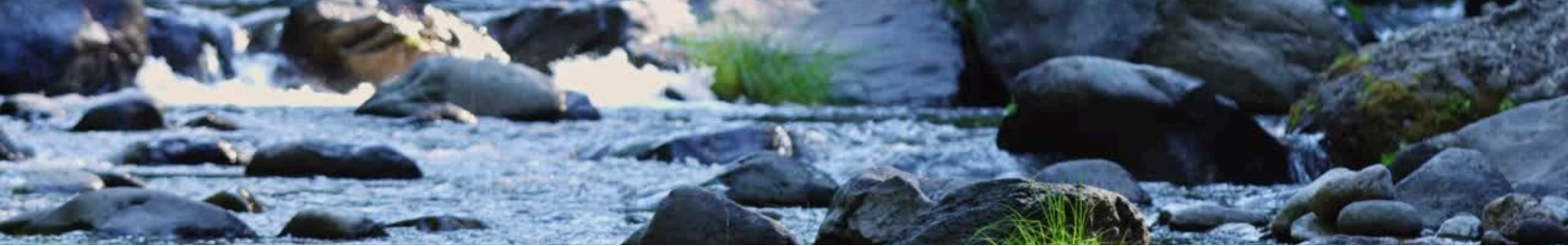
### Interesting Facts:

- May 22, 2024  
International Day for Biological Diversity
- May 29, 2024  
Black Birders Week
- June 5, 2024  
World Environment Day
- June 7, 2024  
World Food Safety Day
- June 8, 2024  
World Oceans Day
- June 11, 2024  
International Lynx Day
- June 12, 2024  
National Cougar Day
- June 15, 2024  
National Nature Photography Day



Photo Credit: Jason Headley





## Gray Park Natural Area Diamond Valley, AB

The Gray Park Project is a new natural area park that is being designed and built by the Western Sky Land Trust in the community of Diamond Valley. This project is funded by the estate of Mr. Gordon Gray, for the creation of a publicly accessible natural area park. He particularly loved hiking and skiing in Alberta and wanted his legacy to be a natural area parkland for future generations to enjoy.

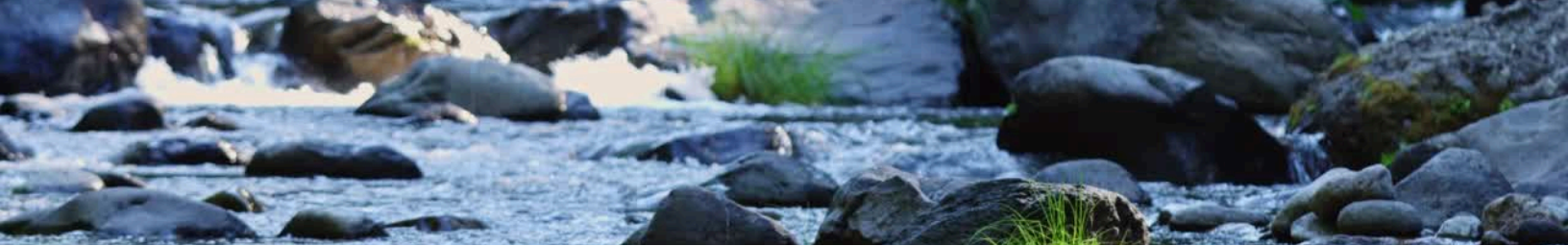
This is a unique partnership between the Trust and the Town that will combine the two sites into a larger protected area that provides a natural amenity to the Town. The park is 30 acres of cottonwood forest and wetlands situated on the floodplain of the Sheep River and is centred on an old back channel of the river. Beaver activity in this channel has led to the development of a series of ponds and wetlands that have significant ecological, educational and amenity value to the community.

[Click Here  
to read more](#)

## MISSION:

CONSERVATION OF  
OPEN AND NATURAL  
LANDSCAPES THAT  
HAVE IMPORTANT  
NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL,  
SCENIC, RECREATIONAL  
AND HERITAGE VALUES.





## Involvement & Support

MAY IS LEAVE A LEGACY MONTH:

Have you ever considered leaving a conservation legacy gift? A legacy gift is an effective and impactful way to leave a meaningful and long-lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy the beauty of our natural areas. A legacy gift can be done in many ways, including bequests, trust funds, life insurance, and endowment funds. Your gift allows you to make a difference for generations to come.

For further information please email [info@westernskylandtrust.ca](mailto:info@westernskylandtrust.ca) or visit the Western Sky [Canada Helps](#) page.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

WE HAVE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY-MINDED VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BACKGROUNDS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: FUND DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION, LAND APPRAISAL, RANCHING, ACCOUNTING, BIOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS, LEGAL, AND GOVERNANCE. THEY PROVIDE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS WESTERN SKY CONTINUES TO GROW AS AN ORGANIZATION

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ADDED TO THE WESTERN SKY VOLUNTEER LIST PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@WESTERNSKYLANDTRUST.CA](mailto:INFO@WESTERNSKYLANDTRUST.CA)

## VISION:

TO ACHIEVE A  
SIGNIFICANT AND  
MEASURABLE  
CONSERVATION IMPACT  
IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA



[Western Sky  
Land Trust  
Website](#)



DONATE TODAY

