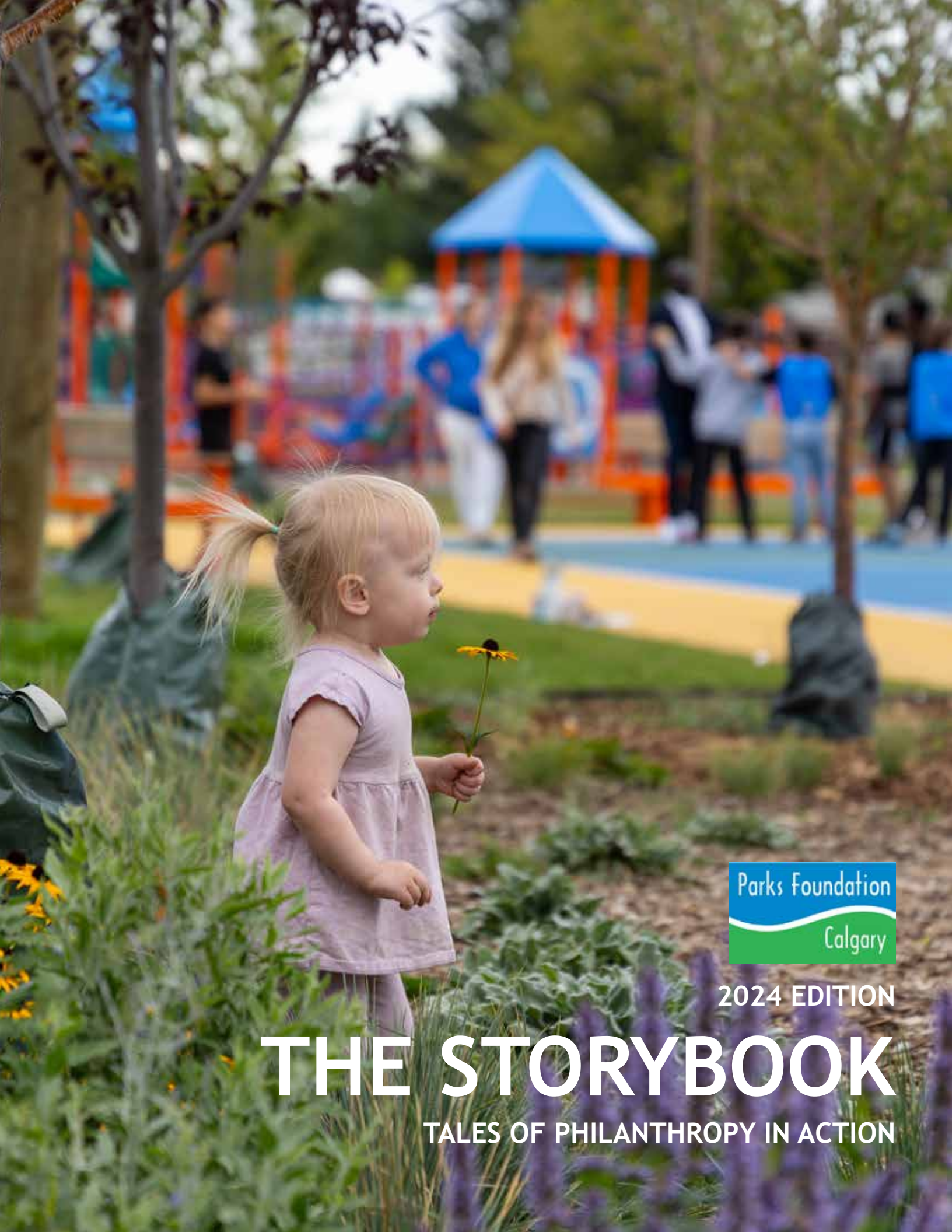


Parks Foundation Calgary

2024 EDITION

# THE STORYBOOK

## TALES OF PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

# 2024 MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

Calgary Foundation

Alberta

Alberta Blue Cross

Calgary Flames Foundation

Calgary Foundation Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund

Calgary Foundation For Community, Forever

Green Line LRT

Allardyce Bower Foundation

Alzheimer Calgary – it's still me in here

bethany care foundation

iA Financial Group

mattamy HOMES

Sofina

**Thank you for your support in creating inclusive parks and community spaces!**

# GENEROSITY
# TRANSFORMING PARKS

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CEO

As we celebrate another year of philanthropy in action, we witness the power of generosity transforming our parks and communities. The support of our donors and volunteers has turned visions into reality, creating vibrant spaces where Calgarians connect and thrive.

Through a total of $15.1 million of donations in 2024, Parks Foundation brought 21 new spaces to life. These donations not only funded projects, but they also sparked transformation. From the renewed rink in Crescent Heights, to the inclusive play space at St. Alphonsus School, to the development of Canada's first ever dementia-inclusive park - Martin Family Legacy Garden, philanthropy has made it possible for parks to transform communities and transform lives.

This year, our supporters mobilized 100+ active projects. Volunteers and organizations have dedicated years of their lives to revitalizing sport and outdoor spaces because donations made their efforts multiply.

Our board has witnessed firsthand how philanthropy builds more than recreational spaces; it builds community. We've watched generosity transform projects from dreams into life-changing places that touch thousands of lives. These investments have strengthened relationships, built systems, and fostered a culture of collaboration that continues to create remarkable outcomes for Calgary's parks and open spaces.

*Sheila Taylor, CEO (left) and Hilary Zaharko, Board Chair (right)*

As we navigate a changing environment, we do so with confidence in our organization's strength and the clarity of our shared purpose. Your commitment to partnership, your support for equity, and your dedication to creating vibrant spaces that every Calgarian can enjoy continues to guide us forward.

To our donors, volunteers, community partners, and The City of Calgary, thank you for believing in the transformative power of parks. Thank you for putting your philanthropy into action. Thank you for proving, again and again, that generosity transforms everything it touches.

**Hilary Zaharko**, Board Chair
**Sheila Taylor**, Chief Executive Officer

MISSION We create inclusive parks and community spaces that drive a healthy and sustainable future.

& VISION A healthy community uplifted by vibrant parks.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We have a respected and active Board of Directors that are instrumental in guiding our organization's strategic direction.

**Hilary Zaharko**
Chair

**Michael Henry**
Vice Chair

**Jeff Booke**

**Collin Campbell**

**Bronwyn Inkster**

**Brian MacInnis**

**Reilly Penner**

**Ruth Ramsden-Wood**

**Cynthia Watson**

**Charron Ungar**

*Not pictured: Dr. Michael Giuffre, Jeff Lawson, Jen Pon, Kyle Ripley*

Parks Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank
The City of Calgary, a key partner in our mission.

Calgary

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

Donors gave **$15.1 MILLION** in 2024

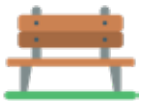
**$1.4 MILLION** granted to **55** groups
HELPING PROJECT DREAMS SUCCEED

**125** active community projects
SHAPING OUR CITY'S LANDSCAPE

**87%** of community volunteers gained new skills
BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

**$10 MILLION** raised for equity deserving projects
CREATING PARKS WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED MOST

**21** new places created
GIVING EVERYONE A PLACE TO PLAY



**1,600+** dedication benches and tables across Calgary
TELLING DONORS' UNIQUE STORIES

# 21 NEW SPACES FOR CALGARIANS TO ENJOY

1. Briar Hill School Playground
2. Hidden Valley Playground
3. Hidden Valley Rink
4. **VIVO Mural Project**
5. Sandstone MacEwan Community Rink
6. Dalhousie Elementary Playground
7. Silver Valley Playground
8. Rockland Park Playground
9. Dr. Roberta Bondar School Playground
10. Crescent Heights Community Playground
11. Sunalta Community Hub Phase 1
12. Elboya-Britannia Natural Revitalization
13. Ken King Courts
14. **George Moss Park Enhancement Phase 1**
15. Haultain Memorial School Playground
16. Oakridge Way Playground
17. **ACE Athletic Centre**
18. **Forest Lawn Park Redevelopment Phase 2**
19. St. Alphonsus School Accessible Playground
20. Tarawood Road Playground
21. Skyview Ranch Shade Structure

“Ken wanted to make this the healthiest city in the world. He wanted to make his community better.”

**- MARILYN KING**
**SPOUSE OF KEN KING**

# A STORY OF LEGACY

## KEN KING COURTS

Ken King Courts, located in Sandy Beach Park, stand as a vibrant tribute to a man whose passion for sport and community helped shape Calgary's landscape.

Ken King was many things to many people: a visionary businessman, a passionate sports enthusiast, a generous mentor, and a trusted friend. But perhaps most importantly, he was someone who was devoted to the city and the well-being of Calgarians. He dedicated his life to creating spaces and opportunities for sports and movement. He left his mark in places across Calgary, where we connect and build communities through recreation.

Ken King Courts feature two pickleball courts designed for players of all ages and skill levels. Pickleball, one of North America's fastest-growing sports, is popular for its inclusivity and social benefits, blending elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong into a game that anyone can learn and enjoy.

The courts have quickly become a gathering place for recreation, competition, and community spirit, echoing Ken King's belief in the power of sport to uplift and unite.

The creation of Ken King Courts is part of a broader vision for Sandy Beach Park, which is undergoing enhancements including a new picnic area, improved parking, and upgraded pathways. These improvements will ensure that the park remains accessible and welcoming, furthering Parks Foundation's mission to enrich Calgary's outdoor spaces for everyone.

Ken King Courts are the result of significant community partnership and philanthropic effort. It is a symbol of what can be achieved when vision, generosity, and community come together. It is a living testament to a man who understood that sport has the power to transform lives.

Thanks to the dedication of donors, partners, and the King family, Calgary has another space where everyone can experience the joy of movement, the benefits of sport, and the strength of community.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

Foundation

CALGARY FOUNDATION
Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund

Calgary

Between Friends
connect • grow • belong

# A STORY OF RENEWAL

## CALGARY FLAMES RINK AWARD - CRESCENT HEIGHTS

For over three decades, the wooden hockey rink in Crescent Heights stood as a landmark of cherished memories for residents. Families and friends gathered in this beloved space, creating experiences across generations whatever the season may be.

“Everybody loves the outdoor skating rink, and it gets people out,” Crescent Heights Community Association Parks Director, Humaira Palibroda shared during an interview.

Over the years, a team of dedicated volunteers maintained the structure for the community to enjoy year-round. It was where neighbours met, kids played, and community spirit thrived. It was more than a play space for winter. It was a place where families gathered and connected every season.

When 2024 arrived, the skating rink, along with the wooden boards that stood around it for more than 30 years, reached the end of its life cycle. A vandalism incident that damaged 20% of the enclosure delivered the final verdict: the beloved amenity needed renewal.

The community association saw an opportunity to strike a committee with a vision of a revitalized amenity that everyone can access. This vision led them to a partnership with Parks Foundation and access to the Flames Rink Award, an initiative funded by the Calgary Flames to nurture and enhance new and updated rink projects throughout Calgary.

As the project unfolded, Parks Foundation continued supporting the development through the Project Support Program. Through the wonderful support of Calgary Flames Foundation, as well as other donors and supporters, the new rink now remains a cornerstone of community life, enriching lives and providing an avenue for people of all ages to access sport outdoors.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

Foundation

Calgary

CRESCENTHEIGHTSYYC.CA

“We were empowered to connect with more people, bring meaningful change, and create lasting collaborations.”

**- HUMAIRA PALIBRODA, PARKS DIRECTOR, CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

“

It was an incredible blank canvas, now we’re starting to colour it in with some of the best facilites for the community.

**- GIAN-CARLO CARRA, COUNCILLOR, CITY OF CALGARY, WARD 9**

”

# A STORY OF COLLECTIVE VISION

## GEORGE MOSS PARK ENHANCEMENT PHASE 1

The revitalization of George Moss Park in Ogden was born from a simple observation: local children playing basketball on a bare concrete slab, wishing for more. Inspired by this need, Youth Centres of Calgary and Parks Foundation rallied support from community members and organizations. After collaborative efforts towards planning and fundraising, we raised more than $800,000 through the generosity of our donors.

Since then, George Moss Park has undergone a remarkable transformation. It has emerged as a vibrant gathering place that reflects the voices of local residents, whose feedback shaped every aspect of the redevelopment.

The park now boasts multiple amenities, including three multi-sport courts with a full-size basketball court, an artistic court mural, tot lot playground, a community plaza with picnic areas and seating, and an outdoor skating surface for winter activities.

This redevelopment marks the first phase of transformation for a park that has long served as a green canvas for Ogden families. Thanks to a generous donation from the Martin family, construction will soon begin on Phase 2, Calgary's first ever combined Pump Track and Skatepark. This innovative addition will offer a welcoming environment for skateboarders, scooter riders, and cyclists of all ages.

The successful redevelopment of George Moss Park was made possible by a powerful partnership among the Government of Alberta, City of Calgary, Green Line project, Calgary Flames Foundation, The Sofina Foundation, Calgary Foundation, Thornhill Child Care Society, Youth Centres of Calgary, and, most importantly, the residents of Ogden. Their collective vision and determination have transformed a once underutilized space into a thriving, inclusive park that will serve generations to come.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

Green Line LRT · Alberta · SOFINA · YCC · Calgary · Calgary Foundation · Flames Foundation · MOCA

# A STORY OF COMING TOGETHER

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES - ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

In 1998, a simple playground took root at St. Alphonsus School in Renfrew. It was a modest collection of equipment where kindergarteners through grade nine students could play. For over two decades, it served its purpose. But as the years passed, something beautiful and challenging began to unfold: the community grew, and so did its dreams of what play could become.

Through years of unwavering dedication of St. Alphonsus School Playground Society, volunteers worked tirelessly to collect the resources needed to create something extraordinary.

In September 2024, their vision became reality. St. Alphonsus School Accessible Playground emerged as a vibrant testament to what happens when a community works together to ensure no child is left behind.

Families embraced the much-anticipated playground with its wide range of climbers, slides, monkey bars, ramps, and more. It was designed with accessibility features and interactive elements that children with varying abilities can enjoy. Every element had been thoughtfully crafted with a principle that every child deserves to play.

Today, More than 450 schoolchildren and neighborhood kids have grown to love this cherished playground. Among them are children with cognitive, physical, and behavioral differences, including students who navigate the world on wheels. Each child came with the same fundamental need to play, to belong, to feel the joy that comes from childhood's simplest moments.

This playground is a living classroom where creativity flourishes. It allows children to both play and grow in their physical literacy, communication, leadership skills, and many more. The playground has cultivated creativity and joy among kids and adults alike.

The St. Alphonsus School Accessible Playground was made possible by the generosity of a major donor, Allardyce Bower Foundation, and the fundraising efforts of the St. Alphonsus School Playground Society.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

Calgary

Allardyce Bower Foundation

“It’s more than just a place for fun - it’s a space for creativity, connection, and lasting memories.”

**- PAUL, PARENT,**
**ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL**

“

We knew it would mean so much for her to have a picnic table for others to enjoy and for her love of the park to live on.

**- KAITLEE**
**DEDICATION PROGRAM DONOR**

”

# A STORY OF LOVE

## THE DEDICATION PROGRAM

In the vast green spaces of North Glenmore Park, there is a special picnic table that tells a story of love, family, and devotion to community. This picnic table is dedicated to Doreen Hill Newby, a woman whose 50 years of residency in the community was woven into the fabric of the neighbourhood.

Doreen's journey began in Edmonton, but it was Calgary that became her true home. With her children in tow, she settled on Lancing Avenue, where she would spend the rest of her life with her family and building a legacy of kindness and warmth. Every day, rain or shine, Doreen could be found in the park, greeting neighbours, watching the seasons change, and finding joy in the simple pleasures of nature.

Her family remembers her as their dear Nanew - a daughter with the heart of a farm girl, a mother devoted to her children's happiness, and a grandmother who cherished every moment. Doreen's love for the park was infectious. She believed it was a place where memories were made and community was built. Five years ago, on Christmas Eve, Doreen passed away peacefully in her home. As her family gathered to remember her, they knew there was no better way to honour her memory than to dedicate a place in the park for others to enjoy for many years to come.

Today, Doreen's picnic table is more than just a place to sit. It is a living tribute to a remarkable woman whose spirit continues to inspire all who visit. Families gather for picnics, friends pause for conversation, laughter, and reflection. These moments are a testament to Doreen's enduring love for this special place.

Through the generosity and vision of her family, Doreen Hill Newby's love for the park lives on, reminding us all of the the beauty of nature and the everlasting bonds of family.

# A STORY OF BELONGING

## FOREST LAWN PARK

Forest Lawn Park has long been a cherished green space for residents. What was once an open field is now a major recreation area used by sports enthusiasts and families from across the city, thanks to the collective vision and determination of Parks Foundation, Forest Lawn Community Association, and The City of Calgary.

Forest Lawn is a strong, vibrant, and incredibly diverse community that has grown rapidly over the past few decades. The revitalization project of Forest Lawn Park reflects the need to provide children and youth a welcoming space to play, enjoy the outdoors, and cherish the community they live in.

Through the support of our funders, donors, and partners, we secured $1.6 million with $970,000 allocated for the gathering space and basketball courts, and $700,000 for the inclusive playground.

Today, Forest Lawn Park is a vibrant place that offers amenities everyone can enjoy, from a sport court, to a seating and community gathering area, as well as accessible pathways.

These features provide opportunities for play, rejuvenation, and physical activity, fostering a sense of belonging for all who visit. It has become a landmark for a dynamic hub in Calgary.

A particularly exciting addition is the new inclusive playground, funded by The City of Calgary's Parks and Playground Amenities Program (PAPA). This playground goes beyond basic accessibility standards, offering an environment where children and citizens of all abilities can interact and participate together. Designed with input from the community, it supports the needs of individuals with mobility limitations, visual impairments, or neurodiverse conditions such as autism, ensuring equitable participation and joyful experiences for everyone.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

Calgary · SOFINA · Alberta · Alberta Blue Cross · Calgary Foundation · Foundation · FLCA

“It gives our kids the opportunity to live here, grow here, and have pride and dignity in the community.”

- GAR GAR, PRESIDENT,
FOREST LAWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*All concept designs subject to change.*

# A STORY OF INNOVATION

## The Martin Family Legacy Garden - Canada's First Dementia Inclusive Park

The Martin Family Legacy Garden represents a pioneering approach to public space design, specifically created to serve the growing population affected by dementia-related conditions. This innovative project addresses a critical gap and demonstrates our commitment to equity and inclusion for all residents.

With increasing rates of dementia diagnoses nationwide, this park will serve as a model for communities across the country seeking to create supportive environments for those living with cognitive challenges. This project is a result of strong community partnerships and the generosity of several donors, including The City of Calgary and Government of Alberta. It emerged from a collaborative design process that brought together leading researchers, healthcare professionals, community advocates, individuals and families impacted by dementia.

Through the incredible generosity of the Martin family, our keystone donor, and the Richardson family, our major donor, we have raised a total investment of over $4 million.

The park is now scheduled for construction this summer with an aim to welcome its first visitors in the fall of 2026, marking a new chapter in inclusive public spaces for all Canadians.

It will not just become a physical location, but a healing sanctuary where individuals living with dementia, their caregivers, and families can escape societal barriers and immerse themselves in the therapeutic benefits of nature. This landmark development demonstrates Parks Foundation's leadership to inclusive community planning and person-centered design.

The sustainability of this transformative space requires ongoing stewardship. To ensure the Martin Family Legacy Garden continues to serve generations to come, Parks Foundation welcomes continued donations to support this visionary initiative.

**Thank you to our major organizational partners who made this possible!**

ALZHEIMER CALGARY
it's still me in here

Calgary

Alberta

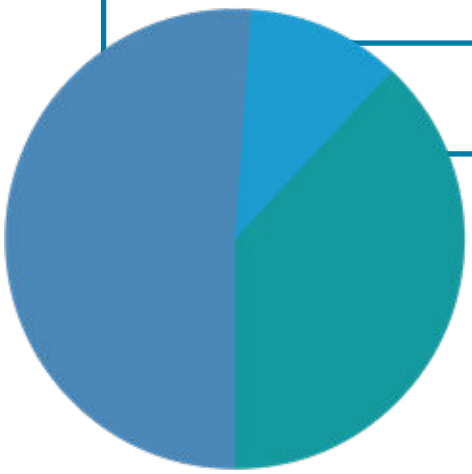
ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

bethany care foundation

iA Financial Group

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
## FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT

**$41.3M** MILLION IN MANAGED FUNDS ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR CALGARIANS.




## 2024 OPERATING FUND

| | |
|---|---|
| **REVENUES** | |
| DONATIONS & INVESTMENTS | $1,685,249 |
| ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT | $1,030,120 |
| | $2,715,369 |
| **EXPENSES** | |
| OPERATIONS COSTS | $(2,069,684) |
| **NET INCOME** | $645,685 |
| NET TRANSFERS TO MANAGED FUNDS | $(500,000) |
| **NET INCOME AFTER TRANSFERS** | $(145,685) |

Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 available at www.parksfdn.com/FinancialStatements or request via email to: info@parksfdn.com

# 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

## OUR COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND PARTNERS

Ace Volleyball Club

Activate YYC

AMP Legacy Foundation of Canada

Applewood Park Association

Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured

Bonavista Downs Community Association

Bow Ridge Little League Baseball Association

Calgary Catholic Education Foundation

Calgary Gymnastics Centre

Calgary Rockies Football Club

Calgary Rowing Club

Calgary Shamrocks Lacrosse Club

Calgary Villains Football Club

Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing - Calgary

Common Ground Foundation

Crescent Heights Community Association

Dalhousie Community Association

Dr. Roberta Bondar School Development Association

Earl Grey Parent Association

Elboya Britannia Community Association

Erlton Community Association

Glendale/Glendale Meadows Community Association

Haultain Memorial School Parents Association

Hawkwood Community Association

Hidden Valley Community Association

Karate Alberta

Killarney-Glengarry Community Association

Lindsay Park Sports Society

Millican Ogden Community Association

Mount Pleasant Community Association

Mount Royal Community Association

North Haven Community Association

Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council

Parkhill Community Association

Ramsay Community Association

Rockland Park Homeowners Association

Rundle Special Project Fundraising Society

Saddle Ridge Community Association

Shaganappi Nordic Operations Club

Sherwood Community Association

Southview Community Association

Springboard Performance

St. Brigid Playground Society

St. Cecilia School Foundation

St. Luke Playground Committee

Stanley Jones Elementary School Fundraising Associations

Temple Community Association

The Confluence

Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association

Triwood Community Association

West Hillhurst Community Association

Willow Ridge Community Association

Windsor Park Community Association

Winston Heights-Mountainview Community Association

YCC - Youth Centres Calgary

# YOUR DONATION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

## WAYS TO GIVE

### DONATE

- One-Time or Recurring Monthly Donation
- Gift of Stocks
- Planned Giving
- Donate to a Project
- Make a Gift Through a Donor-Advised Fund
- Fundraising Events

Parks Foundation is happy to advise you on how to make the most of your charitable contributions.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Parks Foundation is the ideal place to create a lasting legacy.

- Dedication Program – Bench and Picnic Tables
- Endowment Fund Donation Options
- Gifts of Cash | Bequests | Gifts of Shares | Life Insurance Beneficiary

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parks Foundation Calgary is an excellent partner for corporate teams looking to help give back to communities where they live, work and play.

## LET'S CONNECT

WWW.PARKSFDN.COM
Subscribe to our E-Newsletter
info@parksfdn.com

Parks Foundation Calgary