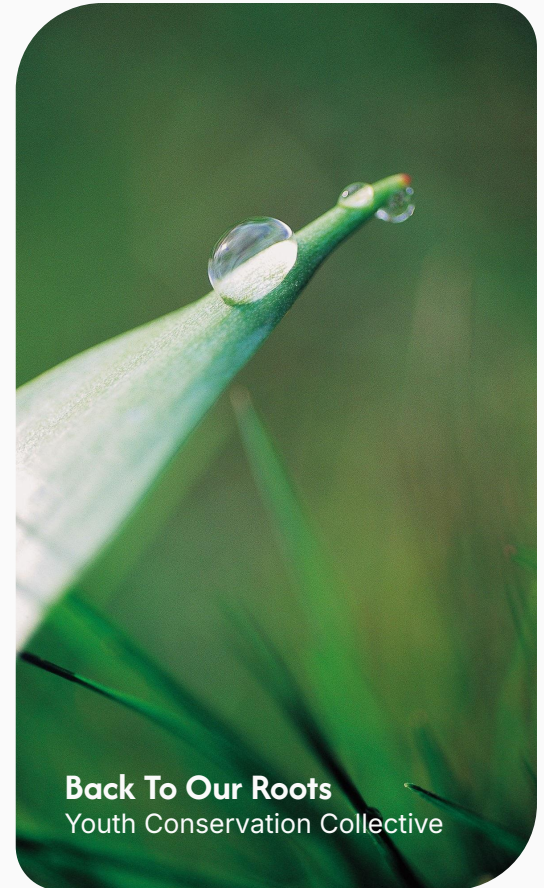


Back To Our Roots project in review



What is our project about?

- ★ Through the mentorship and training program Youth Conservation Collective, we were given the tools to lead a conservation project
- ★ We chose to focus on non-native grass lawns and their impact on a city/natural environment
- ★ We researched using multiple lenses including a social justice perspective, a landscaping perspective, and CPAWS campaign relations
- ★ We are spreading the word: native plants are the way to go!!



Back To Our Roots
Youth Conservation Collective

Meet the Aquaducks!



Colleen

Lead Mentor

The enthusiast!
Colleen joined YCC in hopes to use her skills as an educator and communicator to help and inspire young people who care deeply about the planet .



Qaila

Mentor

The real pro here! Qaila is super at helping manage our group, and she's excited to see the work that we continue with in the future.



Citrus

Mentee

Citrus joined the Youth Conservation Collective through a recommendation too! Citrus enjoyed their time as well and is in grade 11.



Day

Mentee

The grade 10 baby of the group :) Day joined Youth Conservation Collective on a recommendation and loves public speaking and politics.

Project **review**

Things we did for the project!




1.
Social media
campaign



2.
Climate Action
Figures podcast



3.
Native lawn
workshop!



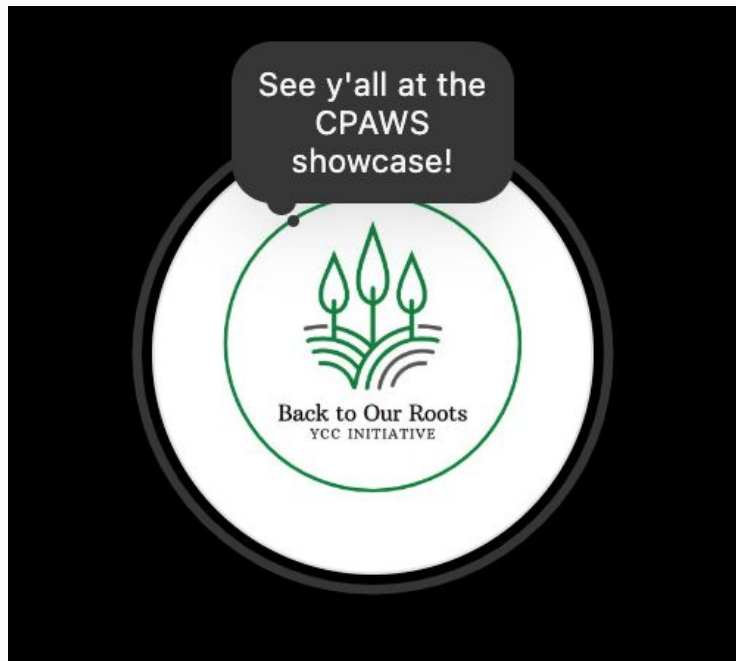
4.
Future project
continuation?



1. Social media campaign

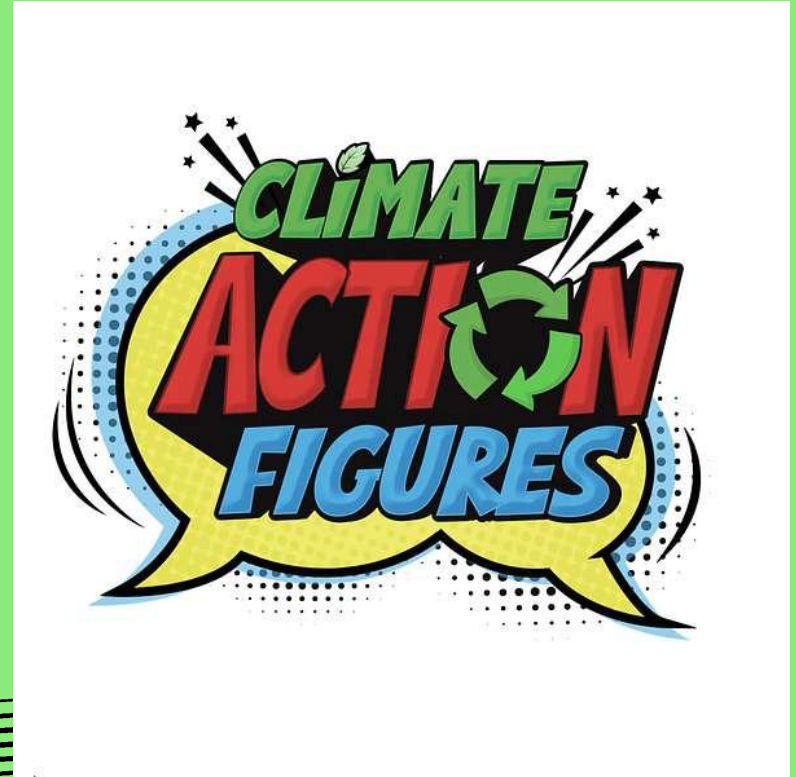
We created this about two months before the project, and it has gotten lots of traction online!

[backtoour.roots](https://www.backtoour.roots)



2. Podcast appearance

Colleen and Day, armed with the Aquaducks' research, spoke on Climate Action Figures, the brain child of a fellow YCC mentor, John Whidden!





3. Workshop

We organized an event at Giuffre Family Library and we had a guest speaker, Kaleigh Schmidt, owner of Seed to Sage Landscaping, talk about increasing inner city biodiversity and landscaping with native plants!



4. Future ideas

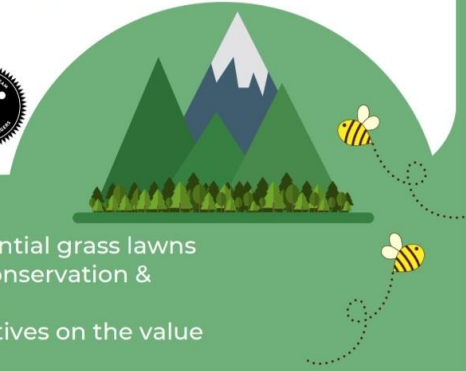
We hope to continue this project in the future! We could host another event, or just keep posting conservation tips... the possibilities are endless.



Back to Our Roots

November 16, 2025 from 3:00-4:30pm
Giuffre Family Library, Calgary

Join the CPAWS Youth Conservation Collective and guest speaker Kaleigh Schmidt, from Seed to Sage, for a workshop on native planting, conservation, and climate action in Calgary.



Discover

- The history of residential grass lawns
- How gardening is conservation & climate action
- Indigenous perspectives on the value of native plant

Design a postcard for your city councillor to take action on this important issue in Calgary.

RSVP on eventbrite
or email us at
backtoourrootsycc
@gmail.com

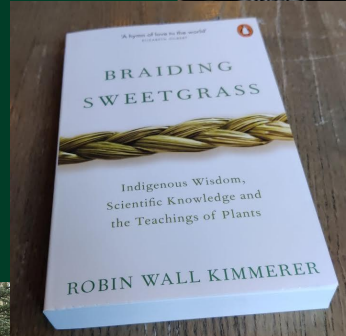
Snacks & refreshments provided,
including Village Ice Cream!





Behind the scenes

There's so much work that all of us did that helped organize the workshop and everything! Emailing sponsors and invitees, designing a project plan, researching conservation...



Shoutout!!

Thanks so much to **CPAWS SAB** for organizing our field trips; funding; providing lunches, snacks, and coffee; and creating a space for community and friendship and hope, etc.



This is my prairie, this is my home

Big numbers!! Here's our data:

People that came to the workshop

12

10

Base target

Letters sent

59



Data!

33

Social media followers

13

Posts created so far

TBD

Research and development

Education,
understanding,
policy and attitude
changes

Challenges we faced

Challenge 1

Quickly approaching deadlines and lack of time!!

Solutions we used:

- We managed to collaborate through email and Zoom meetings and somehow, we got it done!

Challenge 2

Technology issues

Solutions we used:

- We made a consistent Zoom link and made it accessible on our Google Doc
- Chris and Lisa were helpful with this!

Challenge 3

Networking to get people interested

Solutions we used:

- Every one of us has a slightly different reach in terms of network, so we split up the work to reflect that
-

Let's discuss

Tips for getting more involved in conservation

Reach out to local organizations for information, ideas, volunteering, donations, and how to get involved!

These are some you could check out!

- CPAWS
- Green Calgary
- The Climate Hub
- Grow Calgary
- Nature Calgary
- The Calgary Bird Banding Society
- Calgary Wildlife

Start an eco club at school to find a community and your people and create change!

Join a community garden - growing your own food and building community is becoming even more important, as is food security

Types of native plants you might know about in the Calgary area?

Prairie Clover



Smooth Aster



Showy Milkweed



Blanket Flower



Yarrow



Prairie Crocus



Climate solutions?

- Taking public transit, walking, biking, or carpooling whenever you can
- Eating less meat - having a more plant based diet is really a great way to minimize your carbon footprint - even just reducing your meat intake helps!
- Buying new less and supporting second hand, thrift or consignment stores, or clothes/art/goods swaps with your friends and community
- Planting native plants in your garden to support pollinators, reduce your water consumption, and provide homes for beneficial insects and native animals/birds

Thank you!

Questions?



If you have any extra questions,
contact:

backtoourroots@gmail.com

or follow our Instagram at

[backtoour.roots](https://www.instagram.com/backtoour.roots)