



Recreation for Life

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

ARPA Recognizes Chevron Texaco Learning Pathway in the City of Calgary for Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing the Chevron Texaco Learning Pathway in the City of Calgary with the 2004 Parks Excellence Award! This outstanding project has made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

ARPA's Parks Excellence Award was initiated by the Parks and Open Space Network to recognize achievements or innovative ideas for parks and open space operations and increase the profile of the parks and open space professionals in Alberta.

The ChevronTexaco Learning Pathway, launched in 2003, is the result of a unique partnership of three founding partners: Chevron Texaco, the Parks Foundation and the City of Calgary Parks.

When the Prince's Island Redevelopment Master Plan recommended the east end of the island be developed as a constructed wetland to manage storm water the added value of using the park system for a learning pathway became a natural integration. The reconstructed wetland role was to be instrumental in settling out solids, removal of nutrients and filtering and absorbing toxins. This important improvement to water quality lead to an excellent opportunity to "tell a story". This grew into an interpretive facility that provides citizens and youth (kindergarten through grade twelve) with an environment for studying hydrologic cycle, storm water origins and impacts, urban infrastructure dealing with storm water and constructed wetland development.

In a support letter for this project from Derald D. Fretts, Coordinator of Corporate Relations, Office of the Chief Superintendent, Calgary Board of Education highlights the true learning value:

"The opportunity to spend extended periods of time observing and reflecting on the natural environment within this setting deepens student learning and plays a major role in helping to foster attitudes of environmental stewardship, responsibility, and the need for a healthy urban development."

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