



Heights, or vice versa.

There are many more details and links about amazing community projects on the website, and you are welcome to send feedback and more ideas for what you'd like to see on the site. Your invaluable input over the next few months will be incorporated when the site is upgraded in the fall. Meanwhile, don't forget to note your invitation to the June 4th Grand Opening of Whispering Signs below, and on the web; all RSVPs go to the school as indicated.



Whispering Signs Grand Opening

By Polly Knowlton
Cockett & Robin Cockett

"Whispering Signs: Ecological Encounters in an Urban Prairie" is at last a reality. For several years, dedicated volunteers from the community have worked closely with school and city personnel to create a truly unique set of interpretive panels for outdoor public environmental education. Dr. E.W. Coffin students, teachers, parents, and many local friends, in close collaboration with The City of Calgary Natural Area Parks department, have created the original art and text covering natural and cultural history concepts and issues such as invasive alien species [IAS], prairie conservation, and environmental stewardship.

In particular, two of the major panels speak directly to the threat of IAS to local grassland parks: 'Aliens Amongst Us!' and 'Owls and Oxeyes.' Local artist Pat Oezefe painted the Oxeye daisies, though to 'lovingly' depict something she truly dislikes was a challenge for someone whose livelihood is growing native seeds and plants! You may also know her through her business, ALCLA Native Plants, www.alclanativeplants.com, which Pat

and her husband, Al Fedkenheuer, run from their home in Brentwood, near where all the signs are located. Learn more by visiting Pat at the Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market, open for another season in June in Brentwood. Nancy Hansen, another local resident, painted and sketched the main art works on the Aliens Amongst Us! sign. Nancy also illustrated Exploring Nose Hill, which includes sections on invasive species. This popular field guide has just been reprinted and is available from local authors Jill Kirker and Diana Kary, by calling Grassroots NW Environmental Awareness Society at 284-1316.

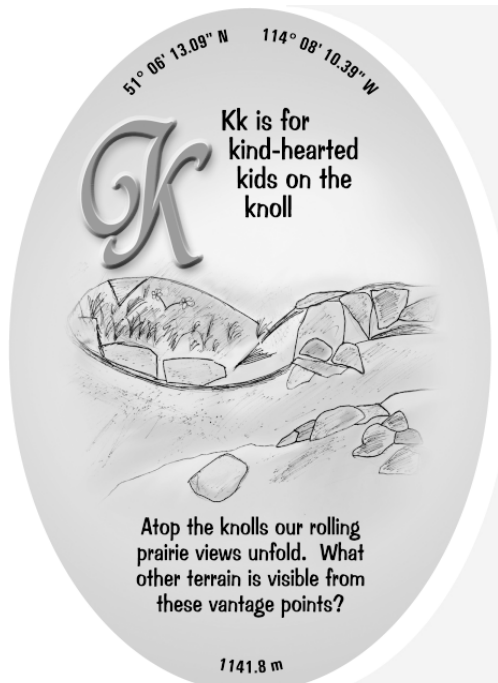
As indicated in the accompanying lamenting poem, you are encouraged, despite their apparent beauty, to discourage invasive alien plants from growing in your gardens or in our neighborhoods and parks.

Check it out! Please visit the brand new website, www.natureground.org, for exciting details about Whispering Signs interpretive signage project, including interactive maps and posters. Challenge yourself to find virtual signs hiding in the aerial photograph, and then go out and find the real thing right nearby in Brentwood

Leucanthemum Lament

Oh, Marguerite, I know thy smile,
With ox-eyed stare you would beguile.
Thy prolific seed and prostrate root
Spreads far and wide from single shoot.
Love thy beauty? Love thee nowt.
Oh, daisy, we must bear thee out!

Note: Leucanthemum vulgare Lam. is the botanical name for Oxeye Daisy, sometimes called Marguerite, or Love-me, Love-me-not....



Atop the knolls our rolling prairie views unfold. What other terrain is visible from these vantage points?

Come Celebrate!

From the Whispering Woods, to the Whispering Grasses Walkway,
From the Prairie Amphitheatre, to the Centennial Natureground,
The Whispering Signs have stories to tell,
questions to ask, secrets to share.

Please join us on Wednesday June 4th to
celebrate the grand opening of our Whispering Signs project!

Dr. E. W. Coffin School (5615 Barrett Drive NW)

1:10 pm	Open house and tours
2:00 pm	Program of celebration
3:00 pm	Refreshments
3:30 to 5:00 pm	Open house and tours

RSVP: Dr. E.W. Coffin School 777-6190 or sacalver@cbe.ab.ca

As this is a green event, please bring your own cup if possible.

51° 06' 12.67" N 114° 08' 04.38" W 1143.1 m