

Calgary Connect

MONITORING CALGARY'S WILDLIFE



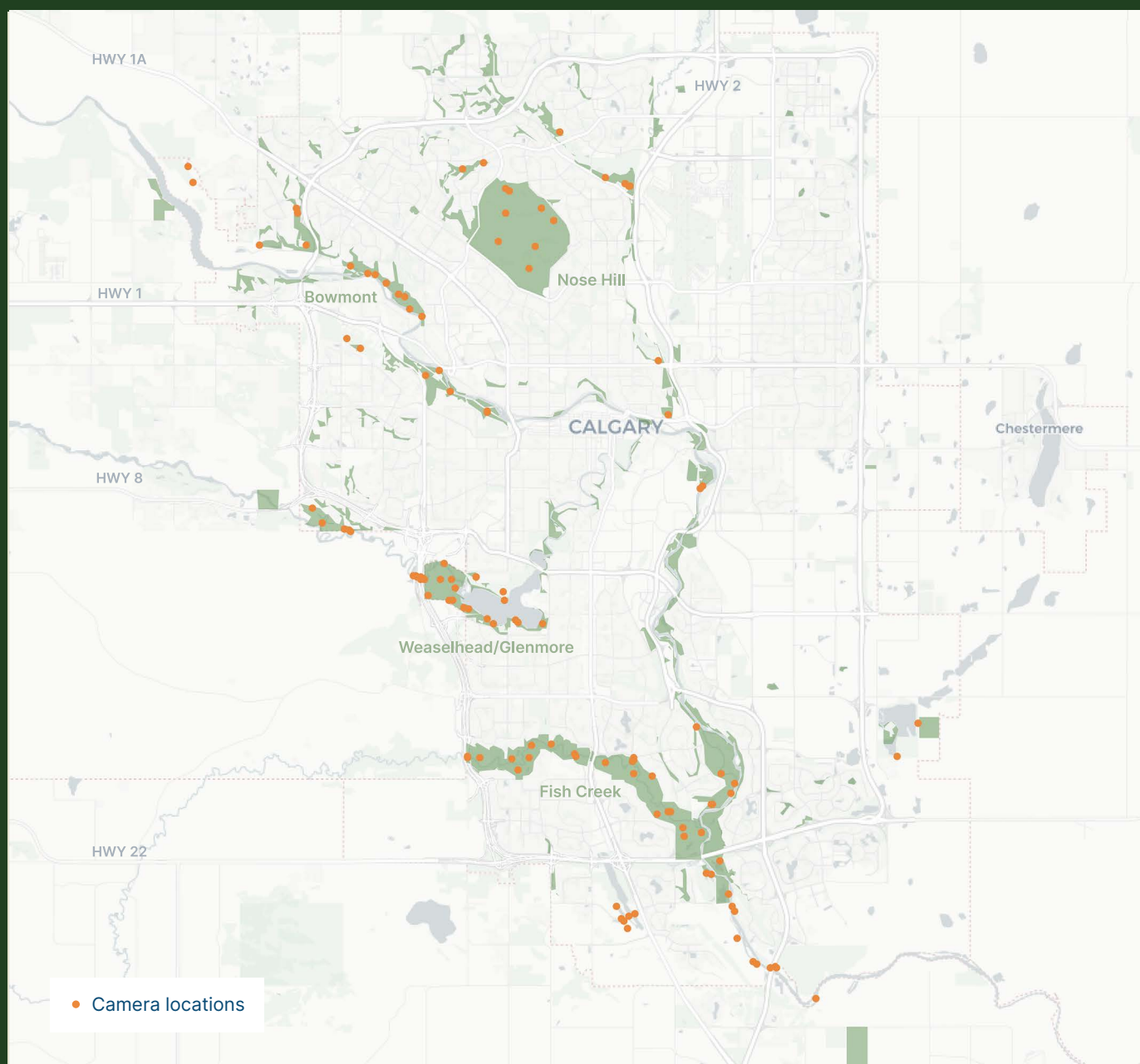
Monitoring Calgary's Wildlife

Calgary Connect is a long-term study that uses remote cameras to document how wildlife moves around Calgary and the surrounding area. We installed remote cameras at 128 locations over the last five years in city parks and natural areas capturing hundreds of thousands of images. Here is a bit of what we learned.

5 Year Project Span
2017-2022

128 Camera Locations

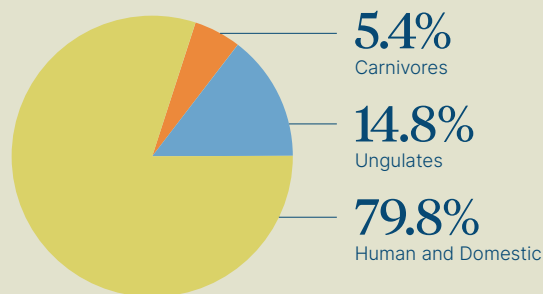
213,443 Camera Detections



Who Is Using Parks in Calgary?

Humans and domestic dogs are the main park users (80% of detections), and white-tailed deer, mule deer and coyote were detected on all cameras. All other species made up less than 5% of total camera detections.

DETECTIONS BY GROUP



Human, No Dog
100,664 detections
47.2% of total



Human, Dog off Leash
50,247 detections
23.5% of total



White-tailed Deer
19,088 detections
8.9% of total



Human, Dog on Leash
18,681 detections
8.6% of total



Coyote
10,129 detections
4.7% of total



Mule Deer
6378 detections
3.0% of total



Deer (Sp. Unknown)
5331 detections
2.5% of total



Common Raccoon
983 detections
<0.5% of total



Domestic Cow
430 detections
<0.5% of total



Bobcat
323 detections
<0.5% of total



Moose
242 detections
<0.5% of total



Red Fox
98 detections
<0.05% of total



Striped Skunk
66 detections
<0.05% of total



Domestic Horse
61 detections
<0.05% of total



Domestic Cat
41 detections
<0.05% of total



Cougar
21 detections
<0.01% of total



Weasel
18 detections
<0.01% of total



Black Bear
16 detections
<0.01% of total



Domestic Goat
9 detections
<0.01% of total



American Badger
2 detections
<0.01% of total



Elk
1 detection
<0.01% of total



Domestic Pig
1 detection
<0.01% of total

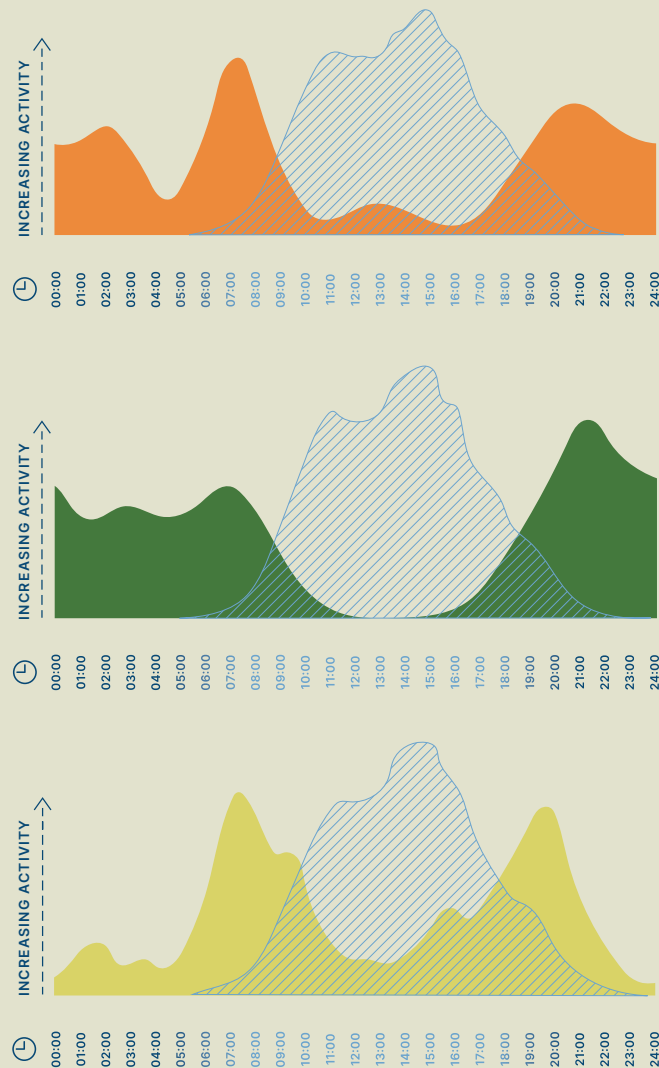
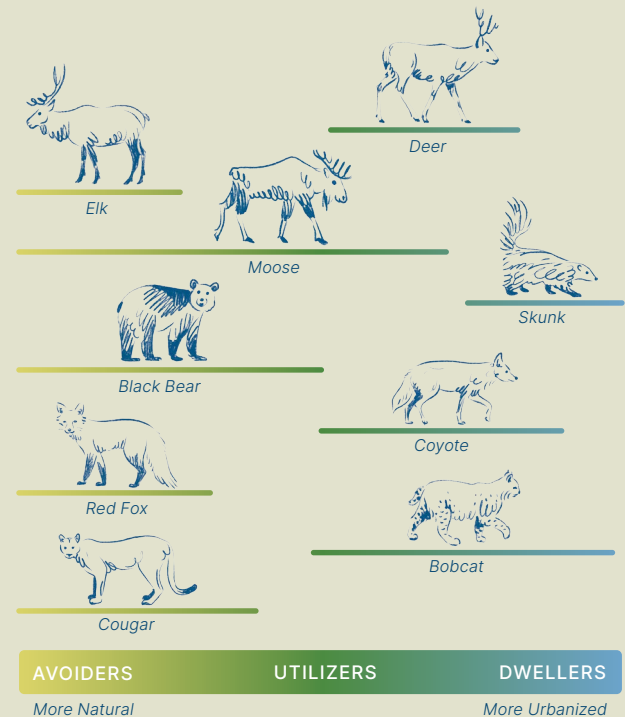
Urbanization of Native Species

Wildlife activity in cities varies along an urbanization gradient from the natural landscapes at the edge of the city to areas with more dense development:

Avoiders are dependent on natural area connections outside the urban environment, such as elk, cougar and bears.

Utilizers live and breed in urban areas but need links to natural areas (parks, green spaces), such as moose, deer and coyote.

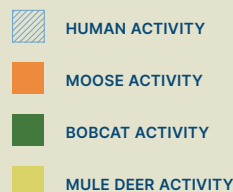
Dwellers live in the city with or without natural areas such as skunk and bobcat.



How Does Human Activity Impact Wildlife?

Humans and wildlife use parks in different ways and at different times. All wildlife species seem to alter how they use the landscape based on human presence, but how much they change their behaviour depends on the species.

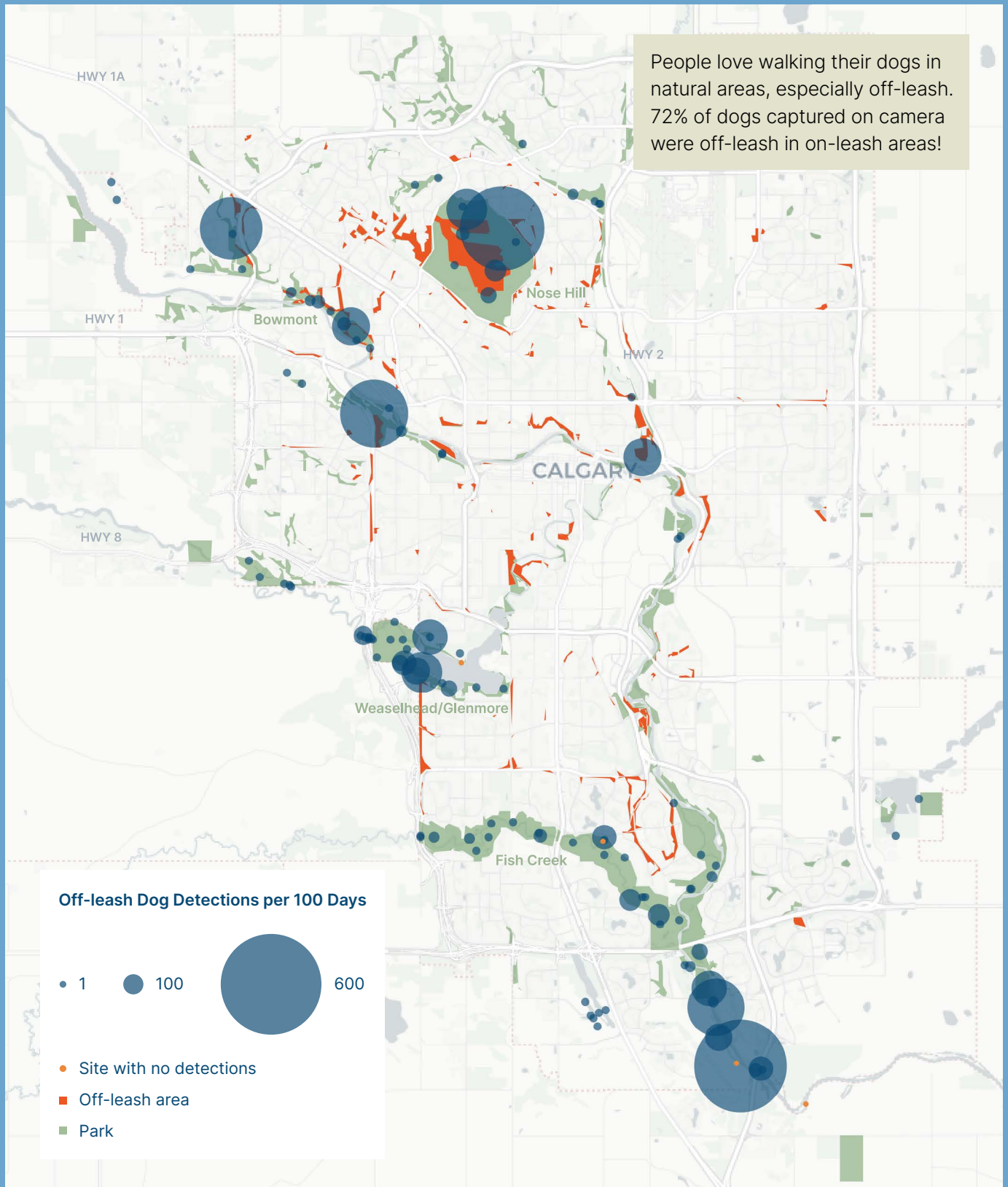
In areas with high human activity, moose and bobcat change daily activity to use these areas when humans are less present, such as at night. Mule deer, on the other hand, seem to be less impacted by high human activity. In low human activity areas, all species are more present during the day.





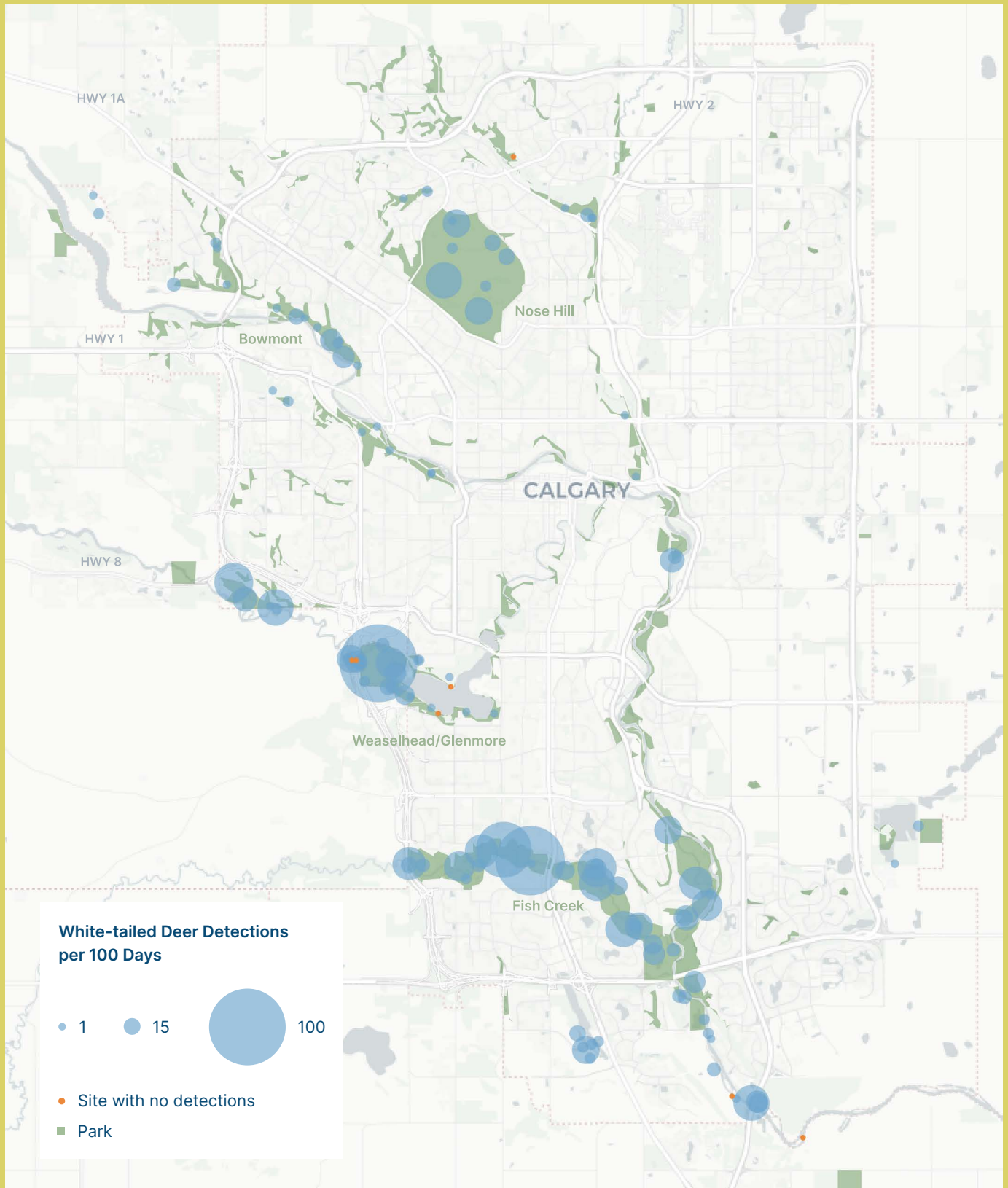
Off-Leash Dogs in Our Parks

People love walking their dogs in natural areas, especially off-leash. 72% of dogs captured on camera were off-leash in on-leash areas!



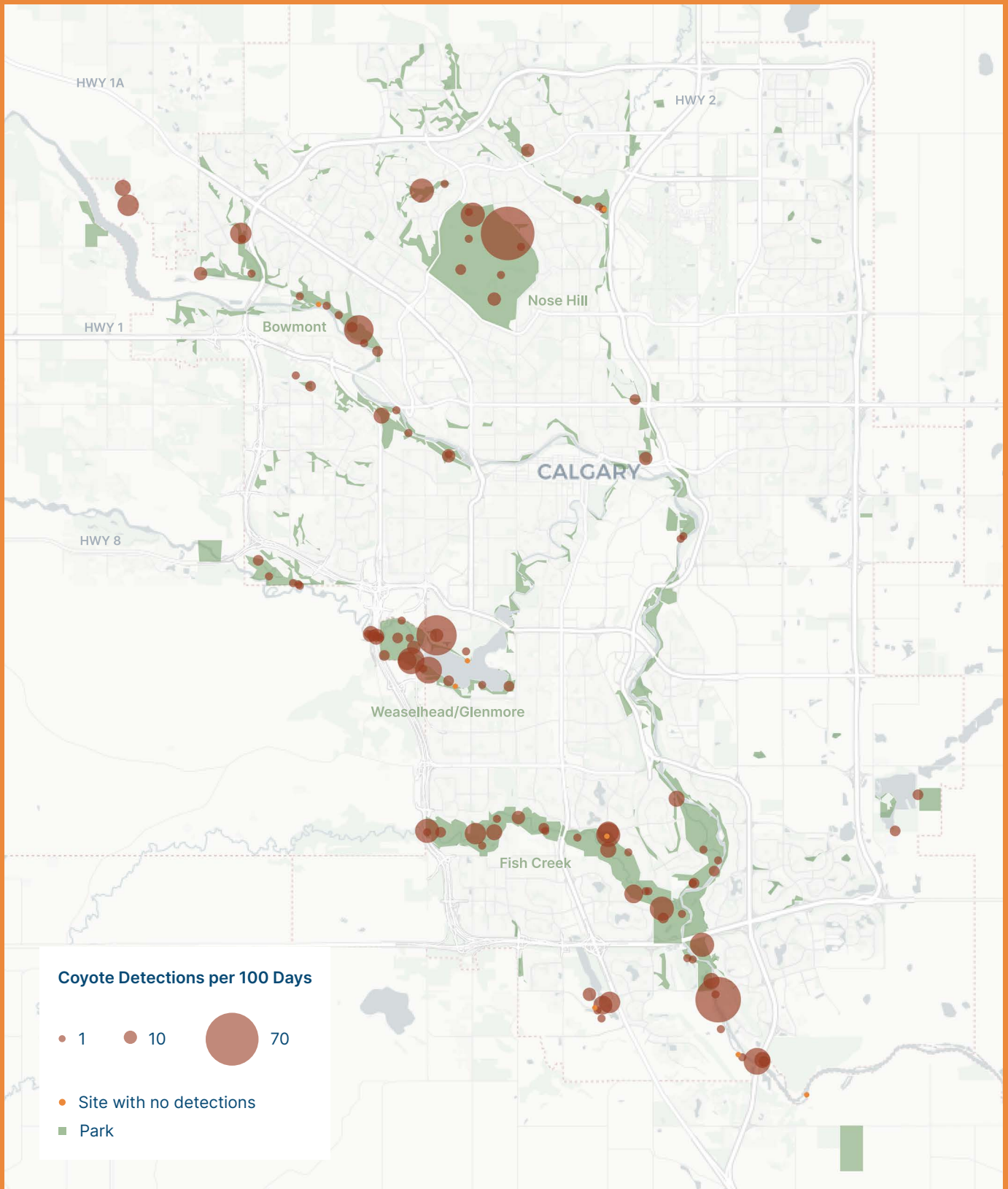


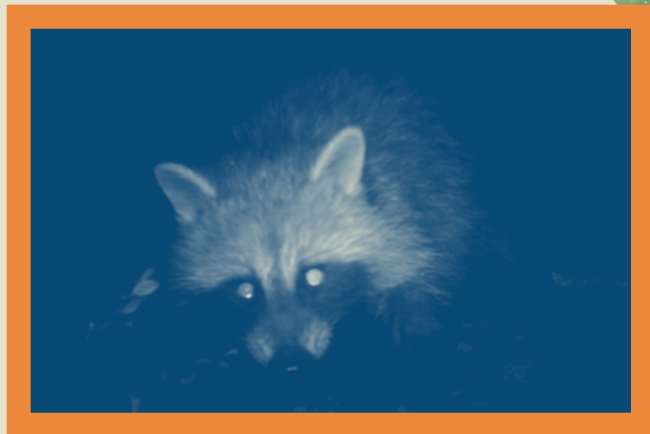
White-Tailed Deer in Our Parks





Coyote in Our Parks





What can we do to support wildlife in Calgary parks?

Wildlife is present in our parks at all times but they are working to avoid interactions and conflict with people. To help return the favour we can:

- ✓ Keep dogs on-leash and on dog-friendly trails
- ✓ Stay on designated trails
- ✓ Give wildlife the night to move freely around parks

Our Partners

City of Calgary
Alberta Parks
Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society
Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society

Our Funders

The Calgary Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Enbridge
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

To learn more visit Miistakis Intitute's website at: rockies.ca