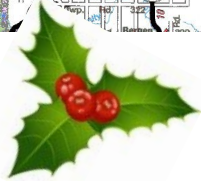
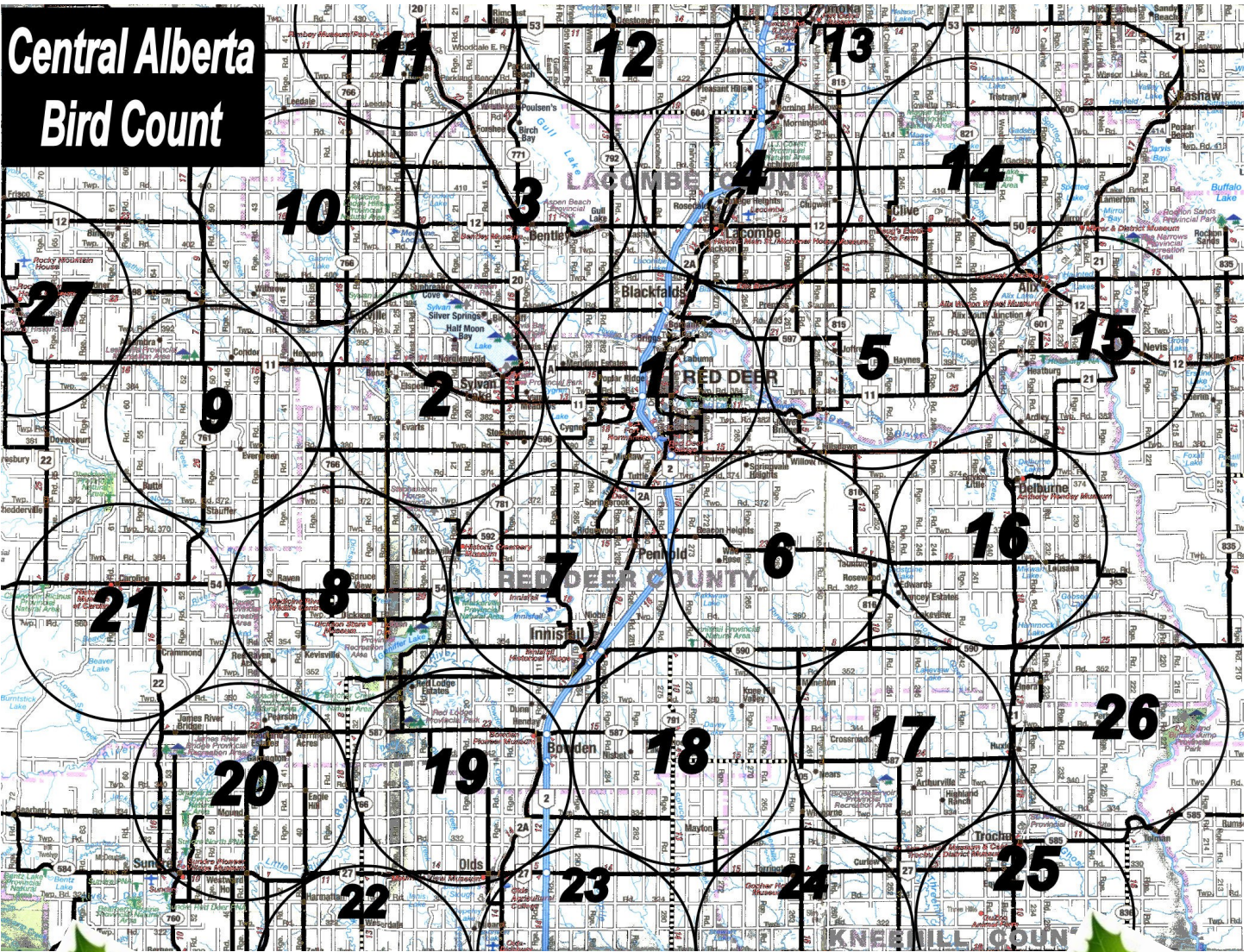


Central Alberta Bird Count



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT INSTRUCTIONS



- CBCs across North America take place each year between December 14th and January 5th.
- The official day-time count is between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. You can also Owl (count before or after these times). There is no minimum time limit, and you can watch your feeders or count birds on foot, by car or using any other mode of transportation.
- A Count area must fill (preferably) or fit entirely within a 24-km diameter official count circle.
- It is important to record low and high temperatures, as well as snow and sky conditions.
- All counters must record hours and kilometres walked/driven/skied, etc.

You can also record any interesting or unusual bird seen any time during the Count Week (three days before and three days after the official Count Day). Please make sure, though, that you mark down when and where you saw the bird and what the bird was doing at the time. Add these birds to your tally sheet but make sure it is evident that it is a Count Week (CW) bird.

Tally sheets must be received by Dec. 29. You can drop sheets off (Attn: Shelly-anne) at KWNC, or email to rdrn.nature@gmail.com. Put "CBC" in the subject line.

RED DEER CITY REZONING CONCERNS

Brenda Garrett, President, Waskasoo Community Association

The City of Red Deer is revising the bylaws that control how Red Deer's Park and Public Service open spaces are developed. The proposed new bylaws not only increase the number of permitted uses but also reduce the regulations to a minimum. By Provincial Law, a Permitted Use means any development application for that use **MUST** be approved if the development fits the bylaw regulations. There is no community consultation and no legal way for City Administration, the Public, or even Council to have input. In the current bylaws, the only permitted uses in the Parks zone are Open Space, Community Gardens, Utilities, Campgrounds, and some types of Signs. The new bylaws propose adding the following permitted uses: Indoor Recreation (gyms, recreation centres), Outdoor Recreation, and Public Assembly Facilities (e.g. churches, auditoriums, convention centres, clubhouses etc.). Additionally, the proposed regulations that control how a facility can be built are being relaxed, including reducing the current 15m setbacks to zero metres, having no maximum height, and no maximum lot coverage. Finally, also proposed is a change to the purpose for our Parks from providing "areas and facilities for the use and enjoyment of the public," to providing "areas and facilities typically for the use and enjoyment of the public."

The revised Purpose combined with the new uses seem to indicate an increase in private clubs and for-profit businesses in our Parks. If these changes pass, for example, a convention centre with an auditorium, a clubhouse and hall, or a for-profit gym (permitted uses) possibly with food services and merchandise sales (discretionary uses) can be built to unlimited heights and fill the open space from lot line to lot line anywhere in Red Deer's Park system. The justification for these changes is that

they reduce red tape and provide "added flexibility." Do we need (or even want) maximum flexibility for developments throughout our entire Park system, the very thing that up until now has fostered a healthy environment and high quality of life?

We are also concerned that the lot at 4240 59 St (former River Glen School yard between Gateway School and the Red Deer River) is proposed to be changed from Public Service to a new zone called Community and Government Service. In this new zone, supportive living accommodations, professional offices, and government buildings are permitted uses and

regular apartments are discretionary, again with zero lot lines and no maximum lot coverage. In 2023, East Lincoln Properties applied to rezone this lot to high density residential to build 120+ seniors' apartments. The RDRN, other environmental groups, area schools and hundreds of Red Deer residents opposed the change and City Council unanimously denied the application.

Now, City Administration is proposing to rezone the lot for them and no one will be able to stop or even modify their multifamily development on this important pinch point that functions as a wildlife corridor along the Red Deer River, between the Gaetz Lakes and the river, and near Waskasoo Creek. **This truly feels like Administration is doing an "end run" around Council and the community.**

Comments on these proposed changes can be sent to planning@reddeer.ca until January 6, 2025. You can also, of course, cc Red Deer City Council. To find out more about these proposed changes to Red Deer's Open Spaces, go to <https://engage.reddeer.ca/zoning-bylaw-phase-2>.

BIRDS OF CHRISTMAS:

