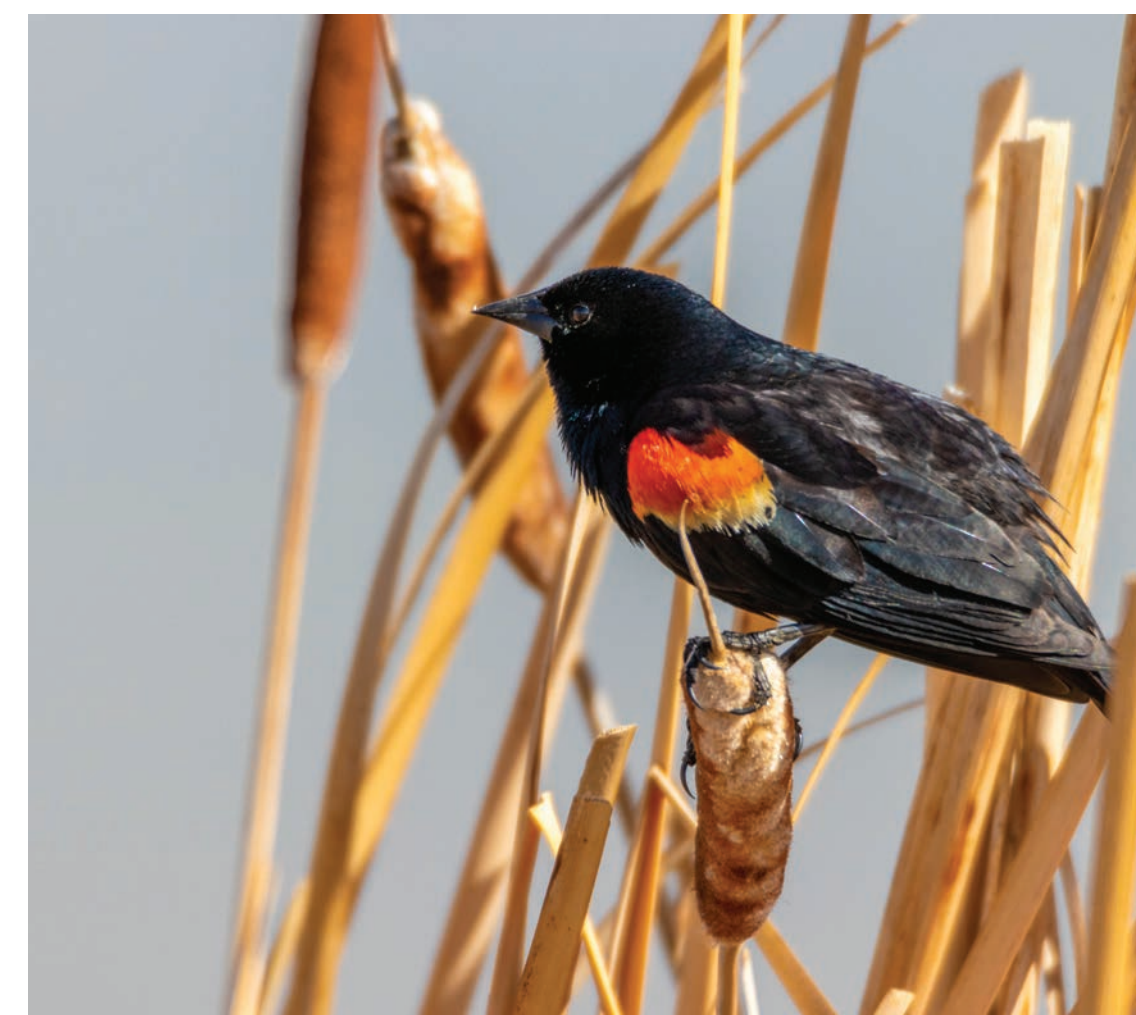




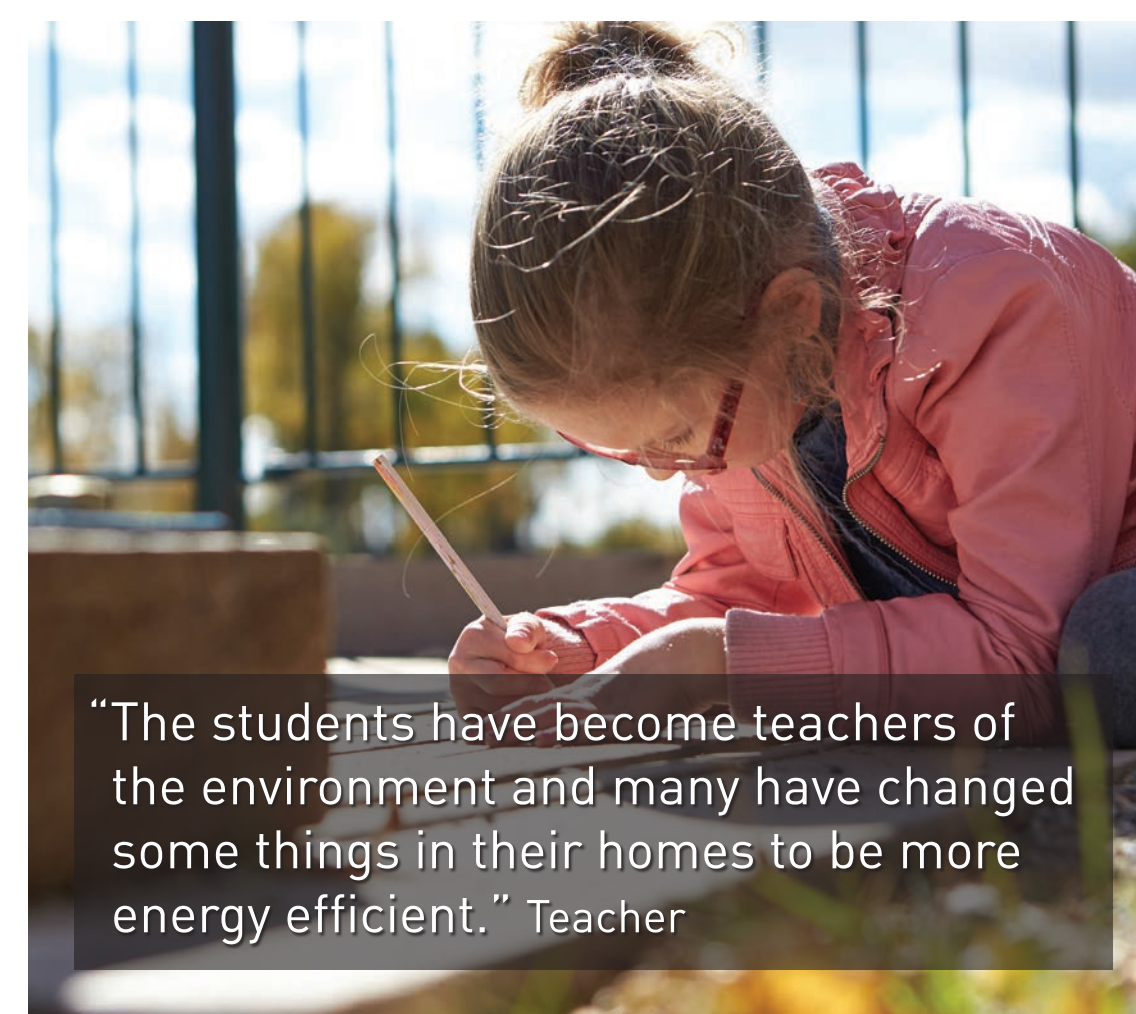
"This is more fun than weekends. I love looking at the animals, the water, and when we got to go on an adventure walk." Student



"We learned if we work together to make small changes we can help the world move towards bigger changes." Student



"Students developed an understanding of how they might think more carefully now before making certain choices and how each of our individual actions, whether positive or negative, can affect our environment." Teacher



"The students have become teachers of the environment and many have changed some things in their homes to be more energy efficient." Teacher



## CITY ECOACTION SCHOOL

How can I become more connected with nature? What is my role in creating a healthy and sustainable city? Why are urban parks important? How can I design an environmental initiative that will positively impact my community?

City EcoAction School creates engaged and informed citizens who can make sustainable choices for Calgary's environmental future. This program showcases many different aspects of The City of Calgary and educates program participants on the complexities of public spaces at one of two different parks in our city.

Ralph Klein Park is home to the Shepard Wetland, the largest constructed stormwater treatment wetland in Canada. The LEED Platinum Certified building was constructed to facilitate transformative experiences, allowing citizens to reclaim meaningful connections to their watershed and to local nature. The idea of "we all live downstream from someone else" is the guiding principle at this site.

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary has a rich history of wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship. The riparian forests and open grassland provide a welcome stop over and home to over 270 species of birds. The Nature Centre provides a jumping off point to explore

how we can support wildlife trying to survive in the middle of large city. History and scientific inquiry collide at this biodiverse oasis on the Bow River.

Learning experiences at both sites focus on shifting attitudes and creating environmental awareness in our daily lives. Students and teachers are presented with the opportunity to work alongside subject-matter experts who share information about City services, planning decisions, and available resources. They are then able to share this information with members of their own communities.

Journaling and other reflection-based activities will enrich students' understanding of our local natural spaces and wildlife. Observing various habitats and natural landscapes allows for place-based learning, developing a changemaking attitude. Hands-on activities lead to meaningful discussions on how to coexist with nature while balancing human needs. Through storytelling and creative activities, students are encouraged to reflect on their connection to the natural world and intentionally consider their role as an environmentally responsible citizen.

