


The image shows two tall, square stone pillars with pyramidal tops, set against a clear blue sky. The pillars are made of rough-hewn stone blocks. In the background, there are green trees and a dark fence. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Bridgeport and Ravine Villas

Safety Concerns

A solid orange horizontal bar is located at the bottom of the page, partially overlapping the text 'Safety Concerns'.




The fire in Deer Valley Ravine June 8, 2023 was severe and preventable.

There have been about eight fires in Deer Valley over the years, but this one was the most severe and caused the most damage. Firemen told us the fire was caused by kids igniting the poplar fluff and the wind spread the fireballs. We would like to work with the City and Fire Department to prevent future fires.





Fluff from old black poplar trees





A Bridgeport resident called 911 and was routed back and forth between Red Deer and Leduc. It took 20 minutes for the call to get to Leduc Fire Department.



We were lucky
this time!

It is not a case of IF
there will be
another fire, it is
WHEN there will be
another fire.

There are about
150 homes around
the Ravine,
apartment
buildings and
many businesses.

**These would be
at risk with
another fire!**

The Fire Department was not aware of risk and arrangement with residents.

- In previous years, we would notify the Fire Department that the poplar fluff was increasing. They would spray the fluff off the tops of the trees and wet the fluff.
- They would use this as a training exercise.
- A resident called the fire department, but no action was taken. The fire started the next evening.
- There are no fire hydrants on the Ravine.

The Ravine is increasingly being used as an area for kids to use as their personal playground, building forts and firepits.

- Bridgeport residents must constantly clean up the many messes the kids make.
- The problem is not just the poplar fluff, but unsupervised kids who have campfires in the home-made firepits. We can't supervise the kids but can reduce some of the risk factors causing fires.
- Kids cut down trees causing damage.
- There is a risk of injury. Kids are crossing the creek on fallen logs along the creek. The old logs are slippery, potentially causing injury or drowning.





Homeless encampments have been observed

We requested a by-law officer to check on homeless encampments. It took many calls and weeks to get the information that some older sites were observed, but nothing recent was seen. Homelessness is increasing, especially if HUB closes.





Deer Valley is designated as a 'naturalized area'

This means the city does not mow the grass. The City is supposed to spot-check for noxious weeds, but many weeds have been observed.

Many residents in addition to Deer Valley residents who live by 'naturalized areas' are requesting different management designation and action.



A bylaw and signs would be helpful for law enforcement.

The word 'park' should not appear – denotes more than walking trail.

Proposed Signage:

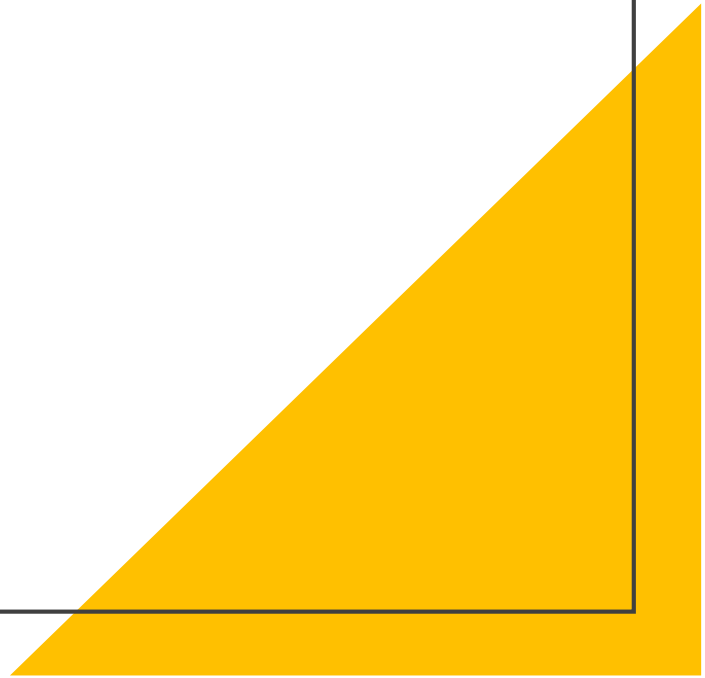
**Natural Conservation Area
Please Remain on Multiway;
Failure to Remain on Multiway
Could Result in Fines**

**No Camping or
Campfires Permitted**



Bridgeport and Ravine Villas have a Facebook group, which acts like a Neighborhood Watch.

In the case of fire or kids in danger, this is a quick and effective way to let residents know and act.





The City of Leduc and our group are not in favor of controlled burns.

Goats are not a feasible solution due to layout of ravine, traffic safety, dogs, cost, etc.

The City states there are several fire mitigations in place.

These obviously failed last spring.

The Environmental Plan released Feb 5, 2024 is advising that the area remains 'natural.'

The status quo is NOT an option.

With global warming, increasing youth mischief and homeless encampments, another fire is likely.

The city has a 3-meter buffer and Ravine Villas has a 5-meter buffer. An 8-meter buffer is no match for a severe fire.

Call for Action

- There needs to be a bylaw in place, and a sign at entrances to Deer Valley Ravine (it is not a park)
- Law enforcement needs to be more proactive in monitoring kids in the ravine and responsive to concerns when residents call
- Immediate removal of any firepit materials
- Fire Department needs to be more vigilant and responsive to concerns about poplar fluff in the spring
- Some dead trees need to be cut down – some are falling on residents' homes causing damage
- Removal of tree trunks that kids use to cross creek – safety hazard...



There is a choice!

The City and boards can decide to do nothing or we can work together to create a safer community.



Thank You!

Questions?

