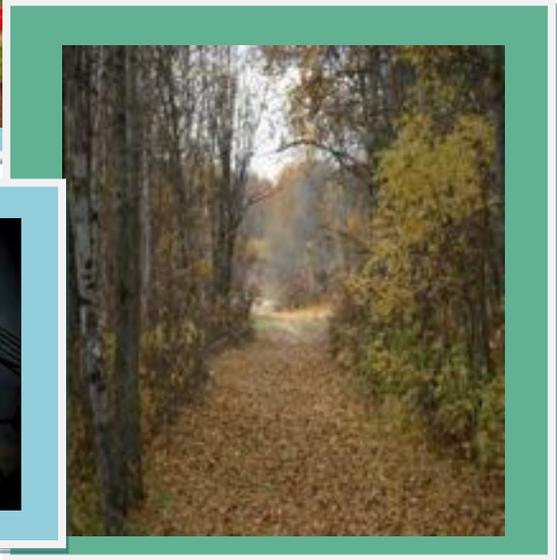


# Municipal Development Plan

## Bylaw No. 37-2007

Consolidated for convenience only. Current as of July 14, 2015.



---

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

---

Parkland County's most significant and enduring resource is its land base, primarily the County's natural and environmentally significant lands. These lands are irreplaceable and contribute immensely to the high quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Parkland County. The use of land, therefore, must be carefully managed to retain its integrity and value for the benefit of future generations.

The County recognizes the importance of the environment as a major contributor to the quality of life of residents by commissioning the preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Conservation Plan. This plan, completed in 2004 by Westworth Associates Environmental Ltd., identifies and prioritizes environmental areas in Parkland County as being provincially, regionally or locally significant. Map 5 shows the prioritized environmentally significant areas. The Environmental Management Policies listed below will assist in protecting these areas.

### Goals

**The County supports communities that are designed to minimize air, water, and soil pollution, reduce resource consumption and waste, and protect natural systems that support life.**

**The County supports protecting environmentally significant areas and, in particular, it supports maintaining the environmental integrity of the County's rivers, streams and lakes.**

### Objectives

- Protect environmentally significant areas as identified by the Environmental Conservation Plan from inappropriate development.
- Reduce the impact of development on the natural environment to the extent possible.
- Apply Environmental Reserve and other provisions to protect environmentally significant areas.
- Protect water quality and quantity through effective subdivision design.
- Require a Biophysical Assessment as part of the development process.
- Promote public awareness regarding the impact of development on the environment.

### Policies

#### **Protect Environmentally Significant Lands**

- 6.1 Lands deemed to be environmentally significant shall be protected using a variety of legislative and voluntary techniques such as Environmental Reserve dedication or the placement of Conservation Easements with particular emphasis on protecting the environmental integrity of the County's rivers, streams and lakes.



**Biophysical Assessment**

6.2 A Biophysical Assessment will be required for a site proposed for a Multi-parcel subdivision or a major development if all or part of the site is located within areas defined as environmentally significant in the Environmental Conservation Plan (see Map 5), and may be required within 0.8 km of areas defined as environmentally significant in the Environmental Conservation Plan, or if the site contains natural features such as sloughs or extensive tree cover. The biophysical assessment shall identify and evaluate the environmental significance and sensitivity of existing vegetation, wetlands, other water features, wildlife habitat and unique physical features, and shall recommend appropriate measures for protecting significant features.

**Outline Plan**

6.3 Environmentally significant areas shall be identified in an Outline Plan and the level of protection to be determined at the time of subdivision.

**Environmental Reserve Dedication**

6.4 Environmentally significant features, setbacks and hazard lands that meet the environmental reserve provisions of the Municipal Government Act shall be dedicated as Environmental Reserve at the time of subdivision, and subsequently managed by the municipality.

**Environmental Reserve**

6.5 The amount of land to be dedicated as Environmental Reserve or protected by Environmental Reserve easement shall be determined at the time of subdivision.

**Setback from Water Features**

6.6 A property line setback from the top of the bank of a river or stream and/or the high water mark of a lake shall be applied. The appropriate setback distance shall be recommended by a qualified professional engineer acceptable to Parkland County.

**Setbacks from Slopes**

6.7 Where slopes are 15% or greater, the property line setback distance shall be set in accordance with the recommendations of a qualified professional engineer acceptable to Parkland County.

**Conservation Easement**

6.8 A Conservation Easement may be considered by landowners as a way of preserving significant natural features and areas that do not qualify as Environmental Reserve under the Municipal Government Act. The use and control of these features and areas shall be clearly stated in the easement agreement.