

THE WAY WE GROW

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

BYLAW 15100



THE CITY OF
Edmonton

TRANSFORMING  **EDMONTON**
BRINGING OUR CITY VISION TO LIFE

7.1**Natural Areas****7.1.1 *Protect, preserve and enhance a system of conserved natural areas within a functioning and interconnected ecological network.*****Policies:**

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| 7.1.1.1 | Support the implementation of the City of Edmonton's Natural Connections Strategic Plan. | 7.1.1.7 | Public projects, new neighbourhoods and developments will protect and integrate ecological networks, as identified in the Natural Connections Strategic Plan, by adopting an ecological network approach to land use planning and design. |
| 7.1.1.2 | Acquire and manage the most ecologically sensitive areas in Edmonton. | 7.1.1.8 | Apply Ecological Information Requirements to development proposals that will affect, or potentially could affect, natural systems or ecological processes. |
| 7.1.1.3 | Develop procedures to support, encourage and promote innovative ways to acquire, preserve and maintain natural areas and connections on private and public lands, such as land swapping, easements, buffers and bylaws. | 7.1.1.9 | Work with the Capital Region Board and adjacent municipalities to acquire, protect and restore natural systems and linkages, recognizing that Edmonton's ecological network is part of a larger regional network (see Map 17: Natural Areas and Watershed Sub-Basins). |
| 7.1.1.4 | Determine appropriate buffer areas around the periphery of natural areas identified for protection. | 7.1.1.10 | Utilize the full legislative entitlements of environmental reserve, in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, during the land development process. |
| 7.1.1.5 | Acquire critical natural linkages and buffer zones to ensure natural areas of ecological value remain sustainable within an urban context. | | |
| 7.1.1.6 | Act proactively to acquire ecologically sensitive and environmentally valuable land in the North Saskatchewan River Valley where necessary. | | |

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7.2 Wetlands

7.2.1 *Protect, manage and integrate natural wetlands into new and existing developments as key assets in Edmonton's ecological network.*

Policies:

In addition to all natural areas policies, the following will also apply to wetlands:

- 7.2.1.1 Cooperate with the Government of Alberta to actively support and complement its Wetland Policy through the following actions:
- In partnership with the Province, the Capital Region Board and adjacent municipalities, develop a comprehensive plan for wetland conservation and the integration of wetlands into the urban environment.
 - Where appropriate, acquire wetlands, riparian areas and buffers according to the Municipal Government Act definition of environmental reserve.
 - Where privately held wetlands cannot be protected through other means, encourage their dedication through conservation easements.
 - Work with land owners to see that compensation required by the Province, as a result of the alteration or destruction of wetlands, is carried out within city boundaries.