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## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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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.