



NCC Alberta: Local Impact, Local Leadership

NCC Alberta: Today's Presenters



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Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

Canada's leading conservation organization

- Private, non-profit charity established in 1962
- Contributed to conserving over 20 million hectares across Canada

Collaboration is key to our work

- We are a longstanding and trusted partner
- Work with municipalities, landowners, Indigenous Nations and communities, non-profits, businesses, and across all levels of government

Together, we conserve nature for its benefits

- We collaborate to achieve practical, science-based conservation outcomes



NCC in Alberta

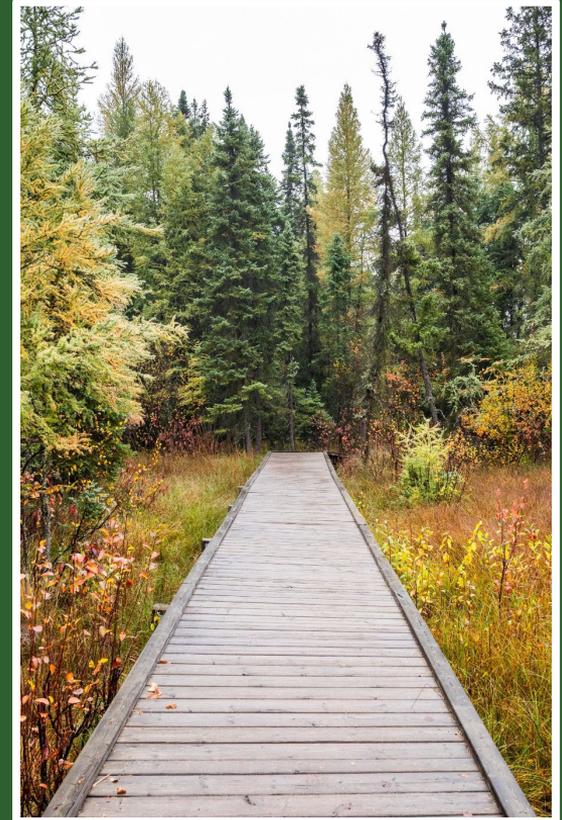
Alberta-based regional business unit of NCC

- Guided by Alberta Regional Advisory Board
- Offices in Edmonton and Calgary; field staff live where they work

Longstanding conservation partner in Alberta

- 300+ projects. 485,000+ hectares conserved
- Help conservation-minded landowners to achieve their goals
- Manage lands to benefit working landscapes and communities
- First project: **Wagner Bog**, Parkland County (1970)

Wagner Natural Area



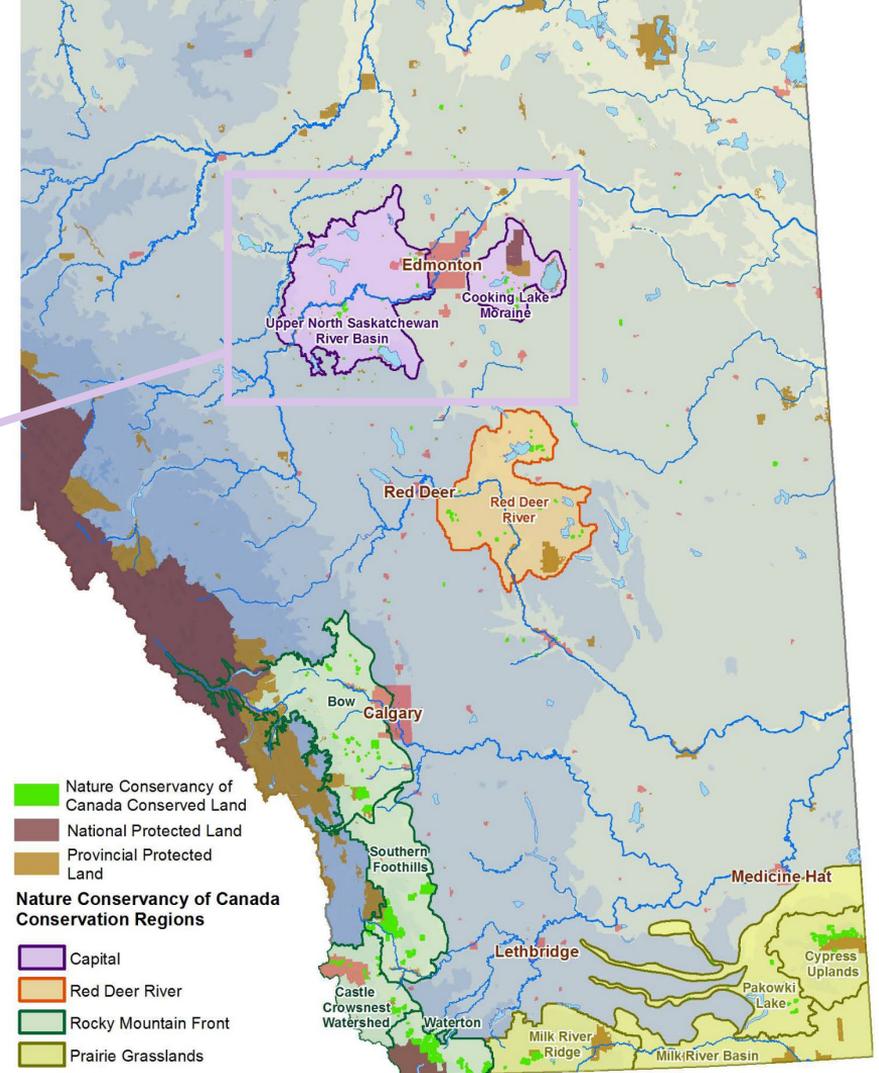
Where we work

“Capital Conservation Region”

- 1) Cooking Lake Moraine (“Beaver Hills”)
- 2) Upper North Saskatchewan River Basin

Conservation objectives:

- Flood and drought mitigation through wetland conservation
- Maintain natural infrastructure
- Wildlife habitat and biodiversity protection
- Public access and recreation opportunities



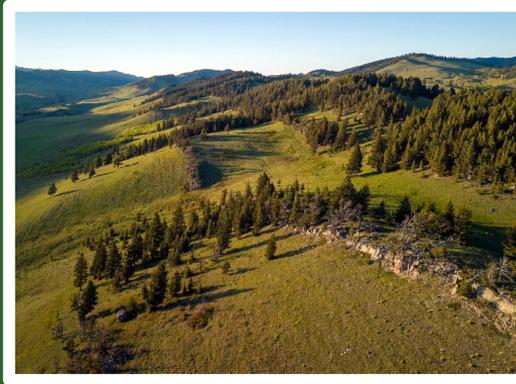
How we work

Land donation / purchase



- NCC owned and managed
- Most open to the public
- Casey Forest (2025)

Conservation agreement



- Landowner owned and managed
- Landowner transfers some development rights to NCC
- Waldron Ranch (2013)

Public lands partnership



- Multiparty agreement to designate conserved areas on Crown land
- Birch River Wildlands (2018)



NCC conservation in Parkland County

- **5 owned properties:** 562 ha (1,389 acres)
 - Boreal Sanctuary (2025) — 47 ha (115 acres)
- **Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary:**
 - NCC holds conservation easement
 - 134 ha (331 acres)
 - Land owned by Ducks Unlimited Canada
- **Total conserved:** 698 ha (1,721 acres)



NCC volunteer pulling invasive plants
at Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary



Wagner Natural Area



Wagner Natural Area

- 4,700-year-old groundwater-fed fens form unique ecological island
- 251 hectares (620 acres) conserved
- Designated as Provincial Natural Area (1975)
- Managed by the Wagner Natural Area Society since 1983
- **Long-term preservation depends on protecting both the land and its water supply**

Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area

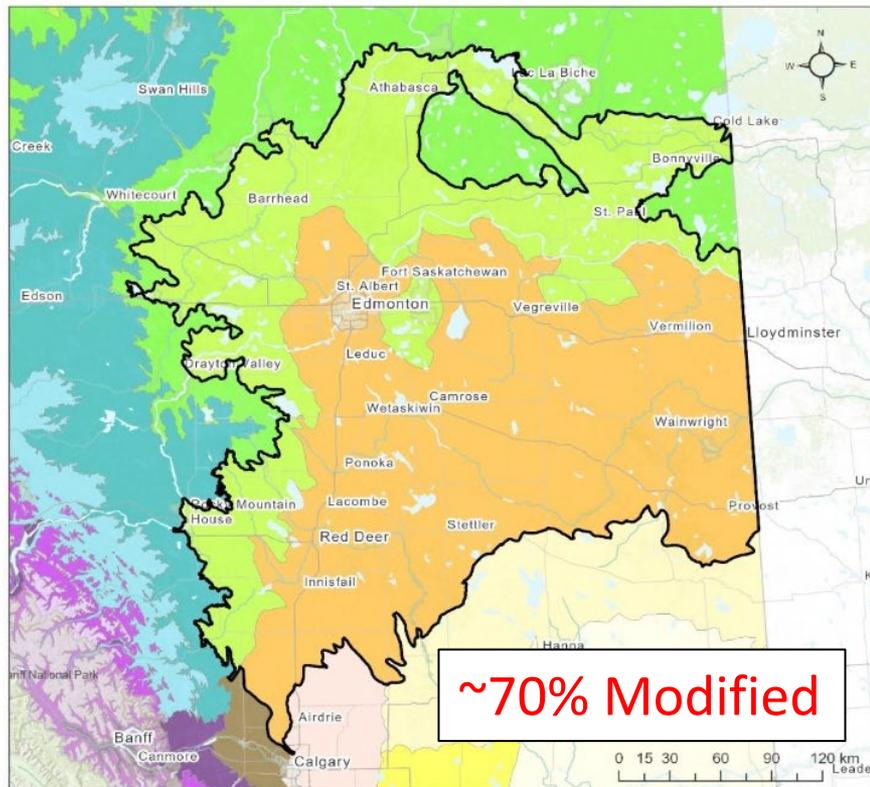
- 260 hectares (643 acres) of old-growth forest, meadows and wetlands
- Conserved in 2016
- Co-owned with **Edmonton & Area Land Trust (EALT)**
- NCC's most visited public access site in Alberta, with ~9 kilometres of hiking trails
- Managed for long-term conservation and public benefit



Bunchberry Meadows

Where we are going

Boundary of Aspen Parkland - Boreal Fringe



- Aspen Parkland - Boreal Fringe Boundary
- Natural Subregions of Alberta
 - Central Mixedwood
 - Dry Mixedwood
 - Alpine
 - Subalpine
 - Montane
 - Lower Foothills
 - Upper Foothills
 - Foothills Parkland
 - Central Parkland
 - Dry Mixedgrass
 - Foothills Fescue
 - Northern Fescue
 - Mixedgrass

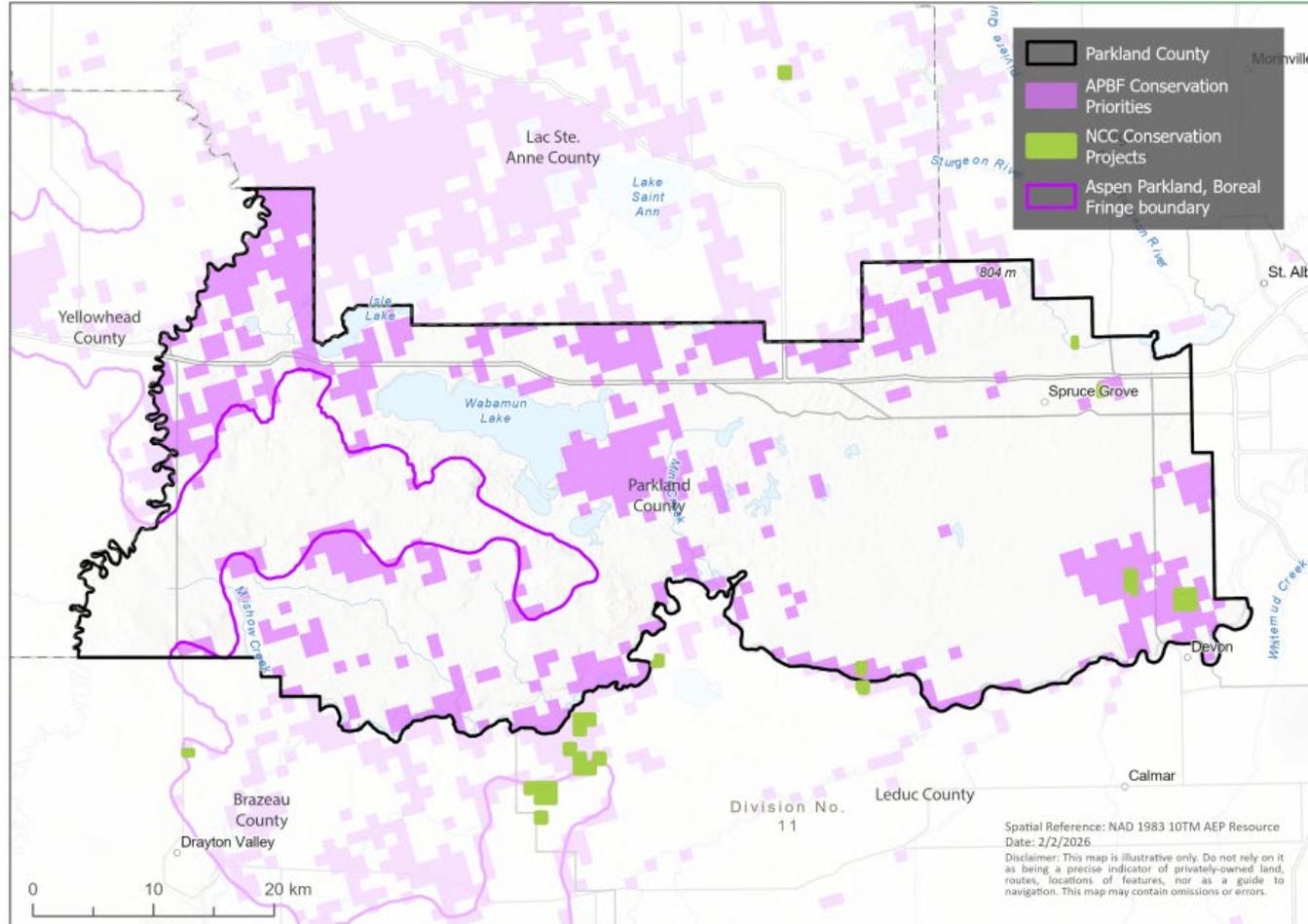


Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 10TM AEP Resource



Conservation Priorities

around Parkland County



Municipal Collaboration Opportunities:

- **Trusted and established partner** to municipalities, Indigenous Nations, industry, and community groups across Canada
- **Evidence-based conservation expertise** supporting planning, policy, and land-use decisions
- **Resilient landscapes and natural infrastructure** for long-term community benefit
- **Commitment to land stewardship**
- **Leverages partners and investment** to advance shared conservation goals
- **Natural infrastructure solutions** that reduce costs and improve stormwater and flood management



Capital Conservation Region: Key Partners

Private landowners

Government Partners

- Parkland County
- Leduc County
- Strathcona County
- City of Edmonton
- Government of Alberta
- Government of Canada

Restoration Companies

- Wild + Pine
- Project Forest

Conservation Organizations

- Edmonton Area Land Trust
- Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Alberta Conservation Association
- Wagner Natural Area Society
- Cows and Fish (riparian conservation)
- Clifford E. Lee Association

Community Groups

- Nature Alberta
- Edmonton Native Plant Society
- Alberta Native Plant Council

Research Organizations

- University of Alberta
- Miistakis Institute
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
- Alberta Community Bat Program
- Alberta Lepidopterists Guild

Wildlife Rehabilitation

- Wild North

Education

- Inside Education





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