



Local Conservation Fund Policy

PREPARED BY:	Agriculture and Environment Services	COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:	JUN 10, 2025
EFFECTIVE DATE:	JUN 10, 2025		
REFERENCES:	Nature Policy Framework	PREVIOUS REVISION DATE:	NEW
FUNCTION:	Agriculture and Environment Services	LS REVIEW DATE:	April 16, 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enable the County to acquire and devote financial resources for:

- 1) The proactive conservation of Environmentally Significant Areas and high value Natural Assets; and
- 2) Education, outreach and research to support nature conservation in Parkland County.

POLICY STATEMENT

The County is committed to creating, maintaining, and resourcing a Local Conservation Fund to support the County's and the community's nature conservation goals.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms as defined in the Nature Policy Framework apply in this policy:

1. Conservation Land Transfer
2. Conservation Reserve
3. Environmental Reserve
4. Environmentally Significant Areas
5. Innovative Conservation Approach
6. Land Trust
7. Local Conservation Fund
8. Natural Assets
9. Natural Features

SCOPE

This policy applies to all departments within Parkland County.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Director of Agriculture and Environment Services is responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of this policy. Responsibility of departments is:

1. The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring implementation through the budget and accounting process.

STANDARDS

General

1. The County shall create and maintain a Local Conservation Fund with the purpose of financially supporting the County's nature conservation goals.

Acquisition of Funds

2. The following revenue sources shall be allocated to the Local Conservation Fund:
 - a. Revenue generated from the sale, lease or license of lands designated as Environmental Reserve, or Conservation Reserve, or that were received through Conservation Land Transfer;
 - b. The sale of County-owned lands contained within Environmentally Significant Areas; and
 - c. Payments made as part of an Innovative Conservation Approach.
3. Funds for the Local Conservation Fund may also be sourced from:
 - a. Special allocations;
 - b. Regular budget allocations;
 - c. Dedicated fees or property taxes; and/or
 - d. Other financially responsible means.

Disposal of Funds

4. Funds acquired for the Local Conservation Fund may be used for the following purposes:
 - a. Acquisition of Conservation Reserves, Conservation Easements, or other Protected Natural Areas;
 - b. Wetland Replacement or enhancement;
 - c. Riparian Restoration;
 - d. Supporting Land Trust conservation of lands within the County;
 - e. Education and awareness activities; and/or
 - f. Research related to the County's nature conservation goals;
5. Funds acquired for the Local Conservation Fund may not be used for the following purposes:
 - a. Acquiring land or Conservation Easements outside of the County's jurisdiction;
 - b. Conservation activities that benefit Natural Features which are primarily outside of the County and have only an incidental conservation benefit for the County;
 - c. Projects which provide a personal advantage to any Councillor;
 - d. Projects which do not support the nature conservation goals of the County as outlined in the Nature Policy Framework.
6. The final decision on the allocation of Local Conservation Fund funding shall rest with Council.
 - a. Council decisions on the allocation of Local Conservation Fund funding shall be informed by the recommendations of a Public Committee of Council.
7. Local Conservation Fund funding may be used for capital purchases.

Community Engagement

8. The County shall establish or designate an advisory committee made primarily of ratepayers to review proposals for expenditures from the Local Conservation Fund.
9. The County may pursue conservation activities funded by the Local Conservation Fund in conjunction with external partners.

Administration

10. Administration shall create a financial sustainability plan for the Local Conservation Fund.

PROPOSED