

Ecological Information Requirements to Inform Land Use Planning

The following outlines how ecological protections are implemented throughout the planning process:

- Strategies, Plans, Policies and Guidelines: as described in Attachment 2
- Area Structure Plan (ASP): Phase I Ecological Network Report is required that identifies
 - The existing ecological network of the area and proposes how it can be retained
 - Wetlands that the Crown has the potential to claim under the public Lands Act are identified
 - Wetlands that can be avoided (as per the Alberta Water Act) are recommended for protection
 - Lowland (e.g. wetlands and other water bodies) and upland (e.g. native forest, grass or shrublands) natural areas are integrated into the ASP Drainage Plan to address long term sustainability
 - Note: most technical information at ASP is collected remotely due to private property restrictions
- Neighbourhood Structure Plan: Phase II Ecological Network Report requires:
 - Remotely sensed information from ASP stage is confirmed with field studies
 - Ecological Network of the area is formalized and estimated wetland and upland natural area buffers are incorporated
 - Crown claimed water bodies delineated through legal land survey
 - Neighbourhood Design Report (NSP Drainage Plan) addresses natural area retention and sustainability
 - Incorporation of standard NSP policy that states site-specific Natural Area Management Plan is required when development is within 250m of a protected tableland natural area
 - Top of Bank Policy C542 is implemented
- Zoning and Subdivision
 - Wetlands, water bodies, and associated flood and pollution buffers dedicated as Environmental Reserve as per the MGA and the City's Guidelines for Determining Environmental Reserve (ER) Dedication for Wetlands and Other Water Bodies (Policy C531)
 - Upland natural areas dedicated either as Municipal Reserve or acquired through purchase

Attachment 4

- Crown Claimed water bodies zoned AJ
- Post-2007, all protected natural areas and their buffers are zoned (NA) Natural Areas Protection Zone (Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 12800)
- River valley lands zoned (A) Metropolitan Recreation Zone (Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 12800)
- Site-specific Natural Area Management Plan is required for tableland natural areas that formalize natural area buffers and approved uses within the natural area

Additional tools and guidelines used to support natural area protection throughout the planning and management process:

- Wildlife Passage Engineering and Design Guidelines (2010): a technical document designed to provide transportation designers and decision makers with recommendations on how to incorporate the needs of wildlife into transportation projects. Guideline outcomes include: 1) maintain habitat connectivity through Edmonton, 2) improve safety through reduced human/wildlife collisions.
- City-wide Natural Area Management Plan (2014): sets out objectives and strategies for managing and restoring the Natural Areas owned by the City of Edmonton.