



# Melissa Penney

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A lush, green backyard garden with a stone-lined pond, various trees, and a house in the background. The garden is filled with diverse plants, including tall trees, shrubs, and a large tree trunk on the right. A stone-lined pond with a small waterfall is in the foreground. A house is visible in the background on the left.

**I do not live by a forest, body of water or r**

**Canadian Wildlife  
Federation certified  
wildlife habitat**

# Since 2019...

98 species of birds

15 of those rare and would trigger a Cornell Lab of Ornithology Rare Bird Alert for the entire Edmonton region

Over 15 species of butterflies

Over 100 species of moths

Over 15 species of bees

4 years of Northern Flying Squirrel nightly visits

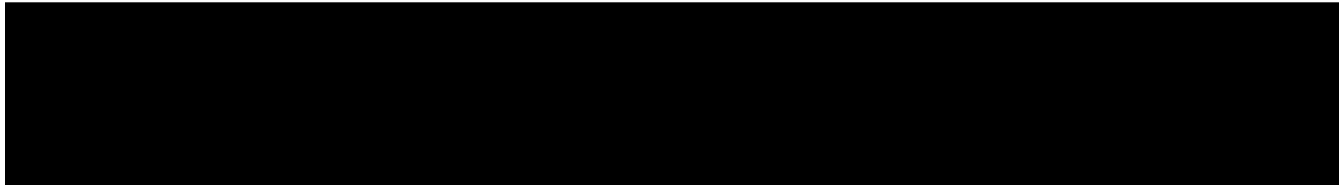
2 species of weasels

Over 70 kinds of insects

**These observations have been vetted by biologists, expert birders and entomologists.**



**Calliope Hummingbirds are not supposed to exist anywhere near Edmonton. But they have been in my yard 3 summers in a row.**





# Mature trees are a wildlife network

Before construction, undeveloped land would go through a series of surveys by biologists for wildlife present, nesting birds, sensitive ecosystems or endangered species of plants or animals that might be present.

Mature neighbourhoods with established trees should get the same treatment and due diligence you would give a greenspace before construction.

Mature neighbourhoods are a thriving urban ecosystem that cannot be replaced by planting new trees.

**Before I spoke today you could claim you didn't know about the thriving ecosystems in Edmonton's mature neighbourhood backyards.**

**But now you can't.**

**This is a new aspect to consider in the proposed rezoning. To not only increase density but to protect our urban ecosystem for generations after us. It's not a question of choosing a tree over people's housing. It's choosing maintenance of a planet that is quickly deteriorating at our hands.**

**There needs to be time for proper assessment and public engagement that is actually in an understandable format for the general public to understand.**

# What would I do?

I would designate pockets of mature neighbourhoods to become “urban preserves of nature”.

Additional high-density housing beyond what already exists in those areas could not occur and lot clearing of mature trees could not occur without a special permit. Lot clearing is easy and convenient for developers, but they can work around it.

Please ask me in the question period how I think this could work with data that is already available.

**Northern Saw  
Whet Owls** spend  
winters in my  
mature spruces to  
not only protect  
themselves from the  
weather, but also  
from larger owls  
who are their  
predators.





Thank  
you

