

How can I help?

Our work is supported by donations and support from generous citizens. Your donation will significantly help to further our work in protecting natural areas in Edmonton and the surrounding region.

Here are some ways you can support EALT's important work:

- **Donate land** – any property will help us, but we are particularly interested in lands with high ecological value, which we will protect forever
- **Sign a conservation easement** – this allows you to permanently protect natural and cultural features of your land, without giving up ownership or agreed uses
- **Donate funds** – any donation you wish to make will be used effectively to purchase and conserve our land and build this legacy for Edmonton and area
- **Become a sustaining supporter** – give support as an individual, family or corporation
- **Give in the name of others** – create a named endowment fund managed on our behalf by the Edmonton Community Foundation, with a gift of over \$10,000. Or create this fund over some years through annual donations
- **Volunteer** – help us visit or monitor properties, educate others, build support, raise funds, or with writing, administration, specialist expertise, or as an advisor

For more information on how you can help, please visit us online:

www.ealt.ca



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Protecting our land,
preserving our legacy

www.ealt.ca

What is the Edmonton & Area Land Trust?

We are a non-profit charitable organisation that works on natural areas conservation in the Edmonton region, to ensure the ecological goods and services of natural and countryside landscapes are maintained, to benefit regional residents today and in the future.

EALT is the only regional Land Trust dedicated to preserving, in perpetuity, natural areas and working landscapes throughout the Edmonton region. We fill a gap in conservation, while taking a strongly collaborative approach with others working in conservation.



What's the challenge?

Between 2001 and 2006, Edmonton alone added about 100,000 residents, and the number of dwellings increased over 20% in the last decade. In addition, rapid industrial and other development has increased pressure on Edmonton and region's natural and agricultural lands, our wildlife, infrastructure, and the people that live, work and recreate here.

What are the benefits of EALT's activities?

Conserving natural areas can provide a range of benefits:

- **Environmental:** clean water, clean air, habitat, and biological diversity
- **Economic:** increased property values and therefore increased municipal taxes, sustainable land use, and natural capital values – stocks of healthy natural resources, many of which have measurable economic values
- **Cultural and Aesthetic:** scenic beauty, recreational spaces, and aboriginal and traditional agricultural values that also raise the quality of life of citizens
- **Urban:** preserving urban forests conserves energy, reduces runoff and the need for stormwater treatment facilities, improves water quality, and provides habitat for native birds, butterflies and other species

What does EALT do?

EALT accepts donations of property and/or funds, purchases land, and holds conservation easements that help landowners establish a legacy of permanent conservation of areas of ecological significance.

We do this by:

- land acquisition through purchase
- land acquisition through donation
- conservation easements
- partnerships
- education and stewardship awareness

Why is our work important?

It is the many natural, cultural and countryside landscapes that make our region unique and special.

Healthy natural systems perform vital ecological functions and services to our communities. EALT is committed to protecting our water, air, land and wildlife, as well as the scenic beauty of our area. But the case for nature conservation is more than simply environmental, recreational or aesthetic, it is increasingly economic. Research has shown that it is often more cost-effective to conserve our existing natural systems, than to attempt to rebuild them.

The Edmonton & Area Land Trust works with people and organisations to maintain the special places and unique character of our region.



What are conservation easements?

Many landowners feel that conservation is something that they try to do on their property on an ongoing basis, not just something done by others, on parks, reserves or other protected areas. They feel themselves to be stewards of their land, until they pass it on.

However, they also have concerns about the future and what will happen to the land they have so diligently stewarded, especially in light of current development pressures on our landscapes. One solution to this problem has been the use of conservation easement (CE) designed to protect the natural features of their properties.

CEs are protective notations that can help landowners assure the future stewarding of their lands, by granting agreed rights to a land trust such as EALT, to safeguard environmental, scenic or other values of all or part of the land. The easement is registered on title and stays with the land, regardless of who owns it in the future. This ensures that specific wishes of the current landowner are honoured into the future.

Besides protecting specific values of the land, a conservation easement could also provide positive benefits to landowners in terms of property and income tax relief for donations of part or all of the value of the CE.

Besides protecting the values of the land, a conservation easement could also relieve landowners of certain property and income taxes.

