

BUNCHBERRY MEADOWS

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



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ABOUT EALT

Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving natural areas in and around Edmonton to protect biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and allow individuals to connect with nature, not only today, but for generations to come.



EALT acknowledges that Canada's Indigenous peoples were the original stewards of the land. Learn more at www.ealt.ca/indigenous-connections

BUNCHBERRY MEADOWS

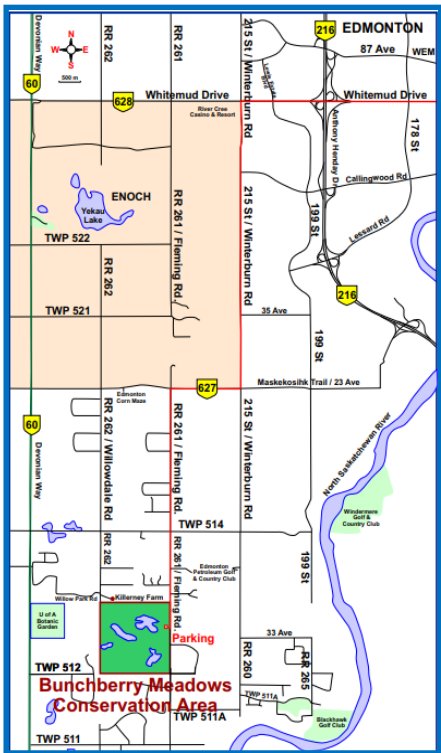
EALT co-owns the Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The area has a highly sensitive aquifer under sandy soils. The close proximity of the Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area to the Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary, North Saskatchewan River Valley, and the Devonian Botanical Gardens provides a significant habitat corridor and greater landscape connectivity in the region for wildlife.



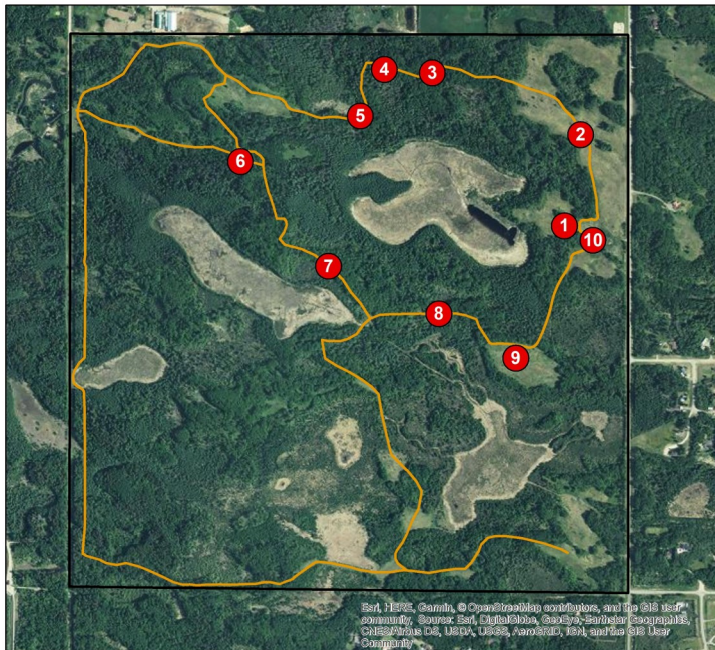
DIRECTIONS

FROM WEST EDMONTON:

Head west on
Whitemud Drive
(HWY 628). Turn
south on
Winterburn Rd. NW
(215 St. NW). Turn
west on HWY 627.
Turn south (left) on
RR 261, continue for
5.4 km to the
parking lot located
on the west (right)
side of the road.



SELF-GUIDED TOUR TRAIL MAP



Legend

-  Trails
-  Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



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1

BAT BOXES

E 319422 N 5920822 UTM Zone 12

In 2018, EALT staff and volunteers installed two bat boxes to give mother bats a place to raise their pups. These are multi-chambered bat box designs that can accommodate hundreds of bats at once. These boxes offer a variety of roosting conditions. Bats will crawl to different sides of the box to cool off or warm up.



2

OPEN MEADOWS

E 319480 N 5921086 UTM Zone 12

There are a wide variety of habitats at Bunchberry Meadows, one of which is the open meadows habitat. Open meadows are characterized by tall grasses and a lack of trees. There are particular species of wildlife that prefer this habitat, including Clay-coloured Sparrows, Garter Snakes, and Coyotes. Listen for the scream-like cry of Red-tailed Hawks flying overhead!



3

WOODPECKER SNAG

E 319053 N 5921283 UTM Zone 12



A snag is a standing, dead or dying tree, that is often missing branches. Woodpeckers can often be spotted on snags pecking away for their next meal, since these dead trees are home to many wood-boring beetles and other insects. Watch for birds sitting atop the snag or peeking out of holes where they nest!

4

OLD-GROWTH FOREST

E 318913 N 5921298 UTM Zone 12

Have you noticed how wide some of the tree trunks in this forest are? Bunchberry Meadows is home to old-growth forest, and many of the trees within it are over 100 years old. Large, old trees are important reservoirs of carbon above and below ground, and also offer habitat for many plant and animal species.



5

NEST BOXES

E 318837 N 5921165 UTM Zone 12



The cedar boxes mounted on trees along the path are places for birds to make their nests. The size of the opening into the nest box determines which species might use it. The ones with smaller holes (around an inch in diameter) are for Chickadees or Wrens, and the larger holes (about 2 inches in diameter) are for Bluebirds or Tree Swallows. Mountain bluebirds frequent this area, so keep your eyes peeled!

6

BUNCHBERRY

E 318481 N 5921046 UTM Zone 12

Bunchberry is a 4 to 6 leaved plant that grows low to the forest floor. It is identifiable by a white, four-petaled flower, but later in the summer, the plant produces a cluster of red berries. Bunchberries are edible, but tasteless, and are plentiful here on the forest floor (but not in the meadows!)



7

BIRCH STAND

E 318727 N 5920730 UTM Zone 12

This stand of paper birch trees is a very unique part of the natural area. Birch trees are characterized by their bark that peels off in white, papery sheets - hence the name!

Indigenous Peoples used the bark to make canoes, baskets, and containers. Please don't collect bark from living birch trees - it can permanently scar or even kill the tree.





SOUNDS OF NATURE

E 319045 N 5920579 UTM Zone 12



Photo by Gerald Romanchuk

At this point, take a moment and listen to the world around you. Do you hear the rustling of leaves in the breeze? Or the chipper “chi-beck” call of the Least Flycatcher? Listen for the sound of squirrels’ loud, defensive chatter or the familiar chirping of Black-capped Chickadees. Bunchberry Meadows is full of life and stopping to listen is one way to experience it!

9

SAND DUNES

E 319265 N 5920441 UTM Zone 12



After the last ice age, meltwater created glacial Lake Edmonton, and much of the material was deposited in the east side of Parkland County. The sediment from Lake Edmonton were blown by post-glacial winds into unique sand dune formations – there is no other such landscape in the Edmonton region, and they have associated unique plant community features.

10

WETLANDS

E 319504 N 5920776 UTM Zone 12

This is one of several wetlands on the Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Lands. Not only are wetlands extremely valuable wildlife habitat, but they also help to improve the local water supply by acting as a filter. Some of the species you may spot using this wetland include Canada Geese, Mallard ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Wood Frogs, and dragonflies or damselflies.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate! Every donation helps conserve nature for the future www.ealt.ca/donate

Volunteer! Volunteer at our conservation lands or at outreach events www.ealt.ca/volunteer

Visit! Visit our conservation lands to experience nature www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands

Advocate! Spread awareness about EALT and local conservation [@EdAreaLandTrust](https://twitter.com/EdAreaLandTrust)

Partner! Conservation is a community effort www.ealt.ca/partnerships

Bequest! Leave a legacy in your Will www.ealt.ca/legacy



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[@EdAreaLandTrust](https://twitter.com/EdAreaLandTrust)

You can visit more of EALT's natural areas!

Directions and trail maps are available at:

www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands