

Resources and examples of riparian area management

<p>City of Grande Prairie</p>	<p>Riparian Health Assessments The City of Grande Prairie has partnered with the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish) to assess the riparian health and map the riparian boundary of the City's ecologically significant streams, lakes and wetlands. This project classifies riparian areas as healthy, healthy – but with problems, or unhealthy. It is being undertaken as the City is moving towards a watershed/landscape approach to planning for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Click here to see more about the riparian health assessments.</p>
<p>Municipality of Crowsnest Pass</p>	<p>Riparian Area Informational Sheets The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass has created two riparian area informational sheet that provide facts on what riparian areas are, why they are important, and steps to take to protect them. Current actions the Municipality is taking to protect riparian areas include efforts to eliminate invasive weeds that threaten to overpopulate riparian areas and harm the environment.</p> <p>Click here and here to see the informational sheets.</p>
<p>Rocky View County</p>	<p>Riparian Policy for the Municipal District of Rocky View no. 44 The Municipal District of Rocky View has created a comprehensive riparian policy that sets out riparian buffer requirements for development in their community.</p> <p>Click here to see the policy.</p>
<p>Town of Okotoks</p>	<p>Riparian Bio-Retention Stormwater management The Town of Okotoks is aiming to lead the way in environmental standards with their innovative new riparian bio-retention stormwater management system. Once complete, it will be the largest bio-retention research project in Western Canada. Bio-retention systems involve planting a number of species of plants along riparian areas that absorb stormwater runoff. The new site will be engineered to flow water through the vegetation, which will both hold and filter water before returning it to the river.</p> <p>Click here to learn more about the project.</p>

Additional Resources:

<p>Alberta Water Council</p>	<p>Riparian Land Conservation and Management Report and Recommendations The Alberta Water Council established the Riparian land Conservation and Management Project Team in 2013 to enhance knowledge and provide</p>
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	<p>recommendations for effective conservation and management of riparian lands in support of Alberta <i>Water for Life</i> goals. AUMA participated in the process, expressing municipal concerns and issues in riparian management.</p> <p>The team's findings stressed the importance of improving riparian land management through alignment and coordination with cumulative effects management, integrated resource management, regional planning and watershed planning. In addition, they stressed the need for strong leadership to ensure that riparian management stays at the forefront of land and water planning, cemented by a provincial level vision and desired outcomes.</p> <p>Click here to see the report.</p> <p>Riparian Lands in Alberta: Current State Management, conservation tools, and management approaches.</p> <p>The AWC also commissioned a biological consulting firm to create a report detailing riparian area management in Alberta for use as a background for the Riparian land Conservation and Management Project Team. The report contains a detailed analysis of the current state of riparian areas in the province, as well as methods of conserving and managing the areas.</p> <p>Click here to see the report.</p>
Bow River Basin Council	<p>Protecting Riparian Areas: Creative Approaches to Subdivision Development in the Bow River Basin</p> <p>The Bow River Basin is a multi-stakeholder non-profit society that seeks to encourage effective strategies for water use management and environmental stewardship. As part of this mandate, it funded the Bow River Project in creating a publication designed to assist municipalities and those thinking of subdividing land in the Bow River Basin. The publication provides officials and developers with creative and environmentally sustainable alternatives to protect riparian areas.</p> <p>Click here to view the Protecting Riparian Areas publication.</p>
Cows and Fish	<p>Web Resources</p> <p>The Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society, also known as "Cows and Fish", is a non-profit society that provides information the management of riparian areas. The Cows and Fish website is an excellent source of information about what riparian areas are, how they operate, and methods of conserving them.</p> <p>Click here to see the Cows and Fish website.</p>
Government of Alberta	<p>Stepping Back from the Water Handbook</p> <p>Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) has prepared a comprehensive handbook of management practices for new development near water bodies in Alberta's settled regions. The handbook</p>

	<p>contains background information on riparian areas, and science based recommendations for setback requirements.</p> <p>Click here to see the handbook.</p> <p>Managing Riparian Areas Fact Sheet Alberta ESRD has also created a basic fact sheet useful for providing information about riparian areas and riparian area management.</p> <p>Click here to see the fact sheet.</p> <p>Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) The WRRP goals are to enhance the ability of watersheds to mitigate the effects of flooding and drought, restore degraded watershed areas to strengthen communities' ability to withstand future flooding or droughts, and to promote ongoing stewardship and preservation of watersheds.</p> <p>Eligible projects must promote the long-term ability of watersheds to mitigate effects of flood and drought events, such as riparian and/or wetland enhancements, floodplain/river improvements, conservation initiatives, and watershed resiliency education and outreach.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p> <p>Alberta Community Resilience Program (ACRP) The ACRP is a province-wide, cost-shared capital funding program that focuses on long-term community resilience. The program supports projects that develop community resilience, focusing on mitigation efforts from floods and droughts, while improving and supporting watershed health.</p> <p>Eligible initiatives include the design and construction of projects that protect critical municipal infrastructure from floods and droughts, improve the health of watersheds, and help ensure public safety.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Government of Canada</p>	<p>Riparian Area Management Website The Government of Canada has created an online resource highlighting information about riparian areas and their importance, the links between riparian areas and water quality, and best management practices for riparian area management. The site also includes a useful guide on how to identify if riparian areas are unhealthy.</p> <p>Click here to see the Government of Canada Riparian Area Management website.</p>

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