

The Alternative Land Use Services Program





Outline

- Environmental Stewardship on Private lands: why ALUS?
- How ALUS works
- The Lake Isle Watershed Partnership



Environmental Stewardship on Private Land

- Education
- Regulation
- Incentives



Environmental Stewardship on Private Land

Environmental Stewardship (restoration, enhancement, and conservation) of our agricultural landscape carries a private cost and produces a public benefit.

"Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest" -Aldo Leopold, 1934



Valuing Ecosystem Services

Traditional Products:

Canola

Wheat

Cattle

Alfalfa

Ecosystem Services:

Flood and drought mitigation, Wildlife Habitat, Groundwater recharge, Etc.



Alignment: Provincial Land Use Framework

"The Government of Alberta will support and encourage stewardship of private lands in Alberta through the development of applicable incentives and market-based instruments. The government will also consider new funding opportunities at the municipal level for stewardship and conservation initiatives on private lands." pg.33.

https://landuse.alberta.ca/LandUse%20Documents/Land-use%20Framework%20-%202008-12.pdf



Alignment: North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance



Watershed Management Direction 3.1: Develop aquatic ecosystem health objectives for all major waterbodies

Actions:

3.1.1

Develop aquatic ecosystem health objectives for the mainstem of the NSR and for priority waterbodies including major tributaries, lakes, wetlands and their associated riparian areas.

3.1.2

Regularly monitor and assess the current state of aquatic ecosystem health of the NSR mainstem and key waterbodies.

Watershed Management Direc

WRA + ALUS

3.2.1

Government of Alberta to complete development and approval of the new Provincial Wetland Policy.

3.2.2

Government of Alberta and Municipalities to incorporate wetland mitigation, conservation and restoration guidelines, as currently administered through the Provincial Wetland Restoration/Compensation Guide (2007), into provincial regulations and municipal by-laws.

3.2.3

Complete and maintain an inventory of wetlands in the NSR watershed, including drained and altered wetlands.

3.2.4

Maintain and protect naturally-occurring wetlands with due consideration for social, economic and environmental factors.

3.2.5

Restore drained and altered wetlands in areas where historical losses of wetlands have occurred by using voluntary, incentive-based mechanisms.

3.2.6

Restore drained or altered wetlands, or create new wetlands, to compensate for current and future losses of wetlands.

Restoration efforts should be implemented within the same watershed in which the losses occurred.

3.2.7

Develop incentive and support programs (financial and expertise) to enable and assist landowners to retain naturally-occurring wetlands, restore drained and altered wetlands and create new wetlands on their own land.

Watershed Management Direction 3.3: Maintain and restore riparian areas

Actions:

3.3.1

Complete an inventory and assess the condition of riparian areas in the NSR watershed.

3.3.2

Municipalities, in consultation with landowners groups and other stakeholders, are encouraged to develop riparian set-back guidelines which exceed provincial regulations.

3.3.3

Develop incentive and support programs (financial and expertise) to enable and assist landowners to retain naturally-occurring riparian areas, restore damaged riparian areas and replant riparian vegetation on their own land.

Alignment: North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Watershed Management Direction 3.4: Minimize or reduce the impacts of the resource, transportation and utilities industries on aquatic ecosystem health

Actions:

3.4.1

Reduce the density and impacts of linear developments (roads, seismic lines, power lines, pipelines, etc.) in the Green Area by:

- Developing, implementing and enforcing coordinated access management plans and joint-use agreements among stakeholders.
- Developing and coordinating road-density plans to minimize the creation of new roads on the landscape
- Reclaiming, restoring and reforesting roads and other linear developments no longer in use.

3.4.2

Reduce the footprint of active oil and gas well sites, and reclaim abandoned well sites or those identified as no longer in use.

3.4.3

Minimize the impact of resource development activities by:

- · Improving integrated planning.
- Enhancing best management and reclamation practices.
- Enhancing road maintenance plans.
- Eliminating hanging culverts.
- Minimizing the construction of stream crossings.

Watershed Management Direction 3.5: Minimize or reduce the impacts of municipal and industrial development on aquatic ecosystem health

Actions:

3.5.1

Implement best land-use planning and management practices in future development

- Increase densities of residential developments.
- Incorporate ecological corridors and low-impact designs.
- Ensure the timing and volume of post-development surface water runoff does not exceed that of pre-development conditions.
- Minimize linear disturbance in new developments.
- Coordinate urban land-use through adoption of inter-municipal development plans.
- Restrict new development within flood-prone areas.
- Minimize the size of the development footprint.

Watershed Management Direction 3.6: Maintain and restore forested land and vegetation cover

Actions:

3.6.1

Develop and implement policies to guide and minimize the conversion of forested land to other uses in the Green Area.

3.6.2

Minimize the loss of trees, shrubs and other natural vegetation in the White Area.

3.6.3

Develop policies and best management practices to encourage re-forestation in areas where forest and vegetation cover have been removed.

Outline

- Environmental Stewardship on Private lands: why ALUS?
- How ALUS works
- The Lake Isle Watershed Partnership



Environmental Conservation Master Plan

MAP 14: ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF PARKLAND COUNTY (NEW 2013)



Wetland Inventory & Historical Loss Assessment

- 1. County-wide wetland inventory
 - a. Classification using AWCS
 - b. Criteria Development
 - c. Valuation
- 2. Historical County-wide inventory
- 3. Comparison

Completion: Q1 2016



Getting the Word Out

Newspaper Radio **Direct Mail Outs Pamphlets Events** Web Social Media Tours Word of Mouth



2 Neighbours Project: Red Deer County

- Talk to Neighbours
- Introduce project, staff to Neighbours
- Invite Neighours to attend events (field days etc.)
- Provide encouragement and ideas to Neighbours for their projects
- Attend events with their Neighbours
- Stewardship Showcases and Signs for their projects





The ALUS Process



ALUS: Community-Developed

- PAC composition
- Setting priority areas
- Setting priority project types
- Setting establishment cost sharing %
- Setting annual payment rates



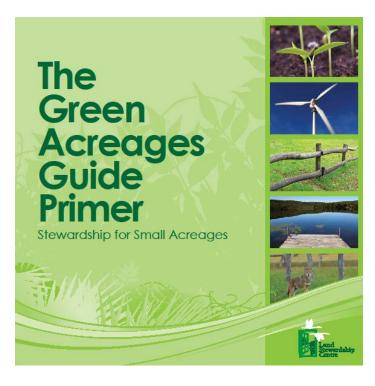
ALUS - Parkland County Projects



ALUS - Parkland County Projects



Green Acreages Program



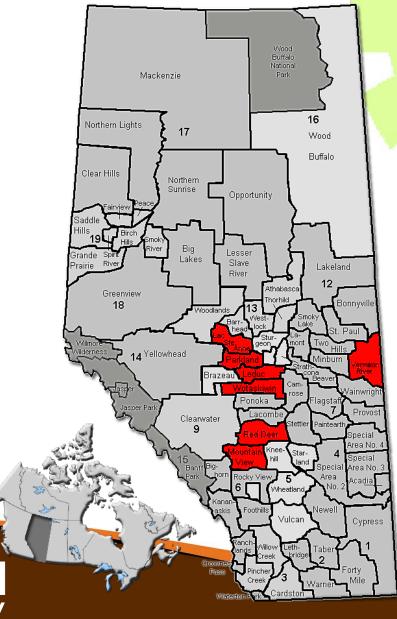
Education and incentive program for acreage owners in Parkland County.

The program will have three goals:

- 1. Help acreage owners identify environmental issues on their land.
- 2. Help them develop plans to address those issues.
- 3. (Most important) Help them put those plans into on-the-ground action through incentives resulting in real environmental benefit.



ALUS in Alberta



Outline

- Environmental Stewardship on Private lands: why ALUS?
- How ALUS works
- The Lake Isle Watershed Partnership



Lake Isle Watershed Partnership

- Partners: Parkland County & Lac Ste. Anne County
- Joint realization that something needs to be done
- Supports Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
- \$551,000.00 Grant from AWE/WRRP
- Shared funding for 3 years
- Covers 100% of the establishment costs

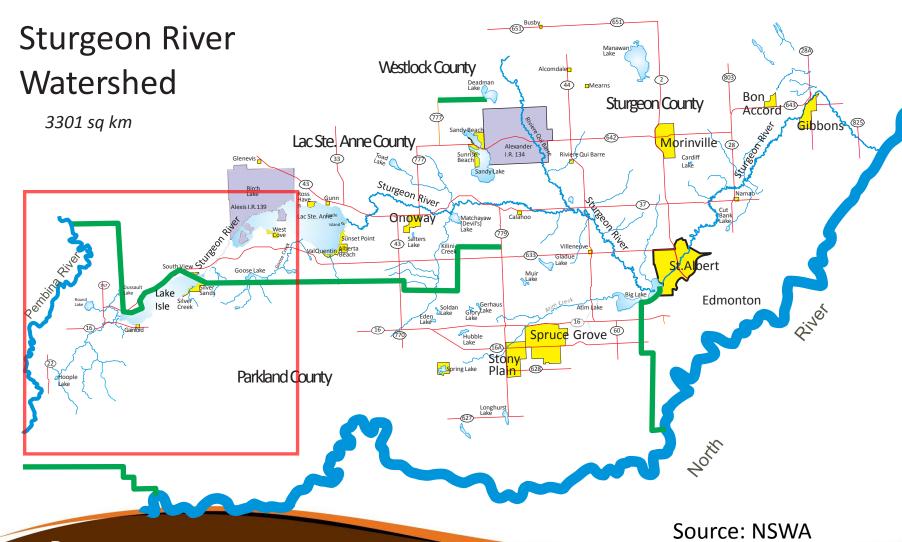








Lake Isle Watershed Partnership

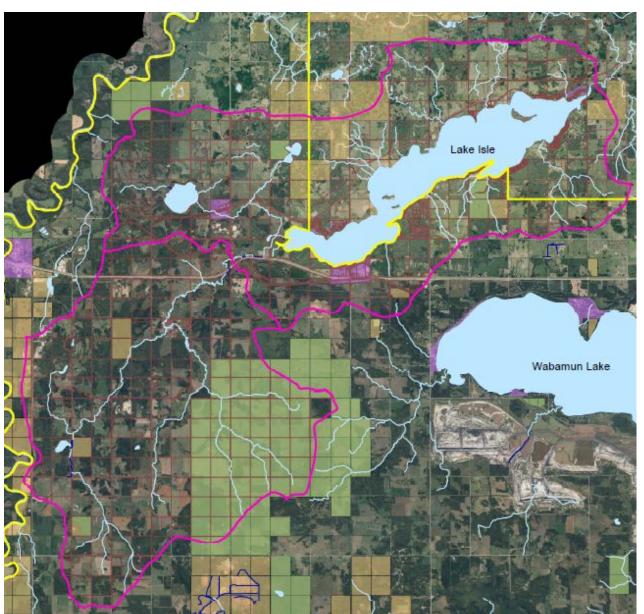












ALUS - Parkland County Projects



ALUS - Parkland County Projects



Thank you

Gabriel Clarke
Supervisor, Environment & Community Sustainability
gclarke@parklandcounty.com

Ph: (780) 968-8888 (ext. 8261)

www.parklandcounty.com/ALUS

www.parklandcounty.com/greenacreages

www.alus.ca



