

# Wetland Stewardship in Alberta



## Wetland Stewardship in Policy and in Action!

The overall goal of Alberta's Wetland Policy is:

***To conserve, restore, protect and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society and the economy.***

To accomplish this goal, we need to understand the value wetlands provide and support their conservation, restoration, protection and management.

The Policy recognizes that we all have our part to play in wetland stewardship in Alberta. The Policy states:

***The Government of Alberta encourages all Albertans to enable wetland conservation and protection through voluntary stewardship activities. The Government of Alberta and its partners will continue to work to advance wetland restoration, construction, and enhancements efforts in the Province.***

A range of initiatives are being developed to encourage wetland stewardship activities and to help sustain the benefits that wetlands provide. This includes education and awareness, voluntary programs, and incentives to encourage wetland conservation, restoration and protection.

Find a way to get involved today!

## Definition of Wetland Stewardship

Stewardship can include elements of wetland protection, on the ground action, and/or wetland education. There are a number of existing groups and agencies doing stewardship work and a range of existing initiatives that relate to these three areas.

## Wetland Stewardship - What exists and how to get involved

### 1. Protection/Conservation/Restoration

- ▶ There are a number of non-profit organizations that are active in wetland stewardship including Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Partnership and the Nature Conservancy of Canada
- ▶ Many urban and rural municipalities are very involved in wetland protection and conservation.
- ▶ There are also many smaller, local groups and organizations that protect and manage wetlands. Check the on-line Alberta Stewardship Network directory for more information.
- ▶ Ducks Unlimited has published a landowner guide for restoring and maintaining wetlands in Alberta.



## 2. Voluntary Programs and Incentives:

- ▶ The Land Stewardship Centre of Canada's Alberta Stewardship Network is an excellent resource for those who want to get involved with stewardship programs. They offer:
  - ◆ an online Stewardship Directory connect you with groups in your area
  - ◆ a grant program to access funds for watershed and wetland related stewardship projects.
- ▶ The Emerald Awards is a distinguished annual award program recognizing excellence in environmental initiatives by all groups and sectors.
- ▶ The Alberta Growing Forward 2 program provides funding to support achievement of profitable, sustainable, competitive and innovative agriculture including several categories that would relate to wetland enhancement and protections.
- ▶ As part of the recently announced National Conservation Plan, Environment Canada has established the National Wetland Conservation Fund.

- ▶ To get more involved in wetland stewardship, including on your own land visit the Wetlands Alberta web site.

## 3. Education and Awareness

- ▶ Ducks Unlimited Canada has an excellent online wetlands education program called "Project Web-foot".
- ▶ Environment and Parks also has a wetland education program call "Wetlands: Webbed Feet not Required".
- ▶ Visiting a wetland first hand is one of the best ways to learn more about the resource - check out the "Visit a Wetland" page on the wetlandsalberta web site to find out where to go.
- ▶ The Alberta Tomorrow Foundation offers land simulation activities that show how our choices impact all parts of the environment including wetlands.



To learn more visit: [AEP.Alberta.ca](http://AEP.Alberta.ca) and search for 'Wetlands' or visit [www.wetlandsalberta.ca](http://www.wetlandsalberta.ca)