



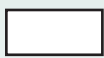



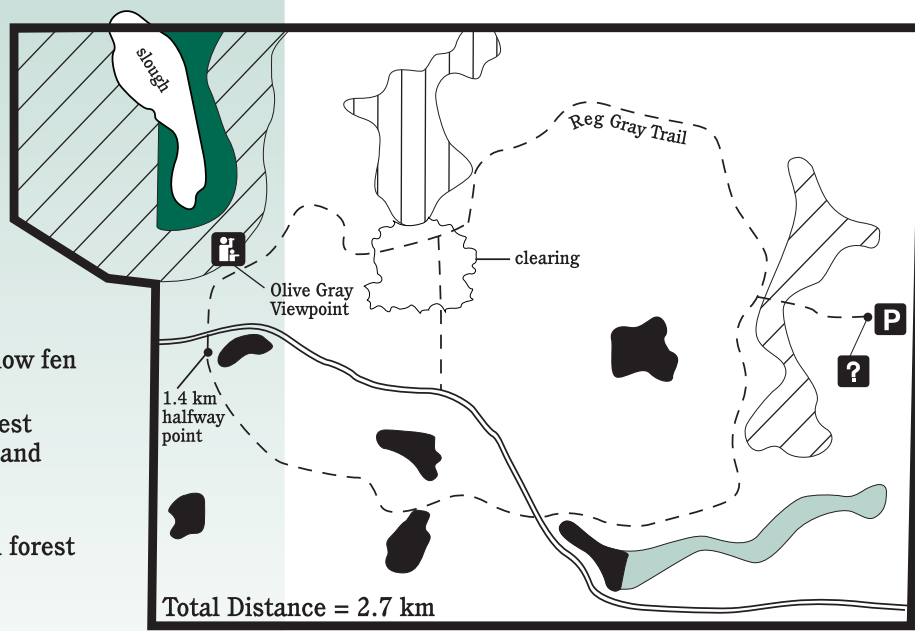
Natural Area

Sherwood Park Natural Area

This 68-hectares site is a gently rolling landscape of aspen forest and willow sedge wetlands surrounded by agricultural land and residential developments. Trails in the area are accessible from a parking lot on Range Road 231. The trail loop from the parking lot is 2.7 kilometres in length.

Legend

-  willow/herb wetland
-  willow/sedge marsh
-  birch/willow/Labrador tea shrub land
-  sedge - cattail/willow fen
-  aspen - balsam forest (excluding slough and clearing)
-  white spruce/birch forest



Natural Areas

What are Natural Areas?

Natural areas are set aside for conservation, recreation and/or environmental education purposes. They are part of an extensive network of protected areas that preserves the province's biological and physical diversity.

Sherwood Park Natural Area supports low-impact activities such as hiking, bird watching and environmental education. Most natural areas have no facilities and in those that do, facilities are minimal and consist mainly of parking areas and trails.

Sherwood Park Natural Area is south of Sherwood Park, four kilometres from the intersection of Wye Road and Range Road 231, 0.8 kilometres south of Hwy. 628/Township Road 522 (an extension of the Whitemud Fwy).

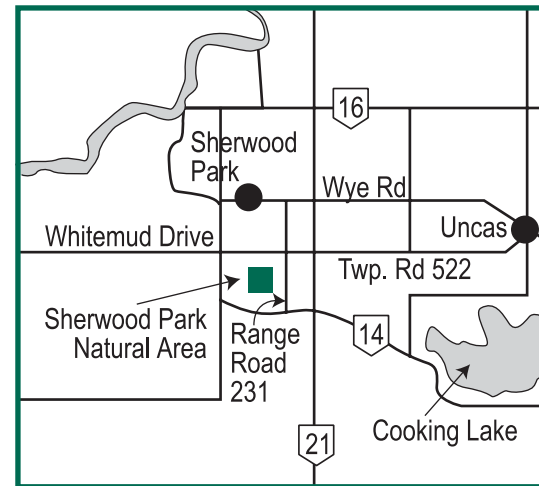
Information

For more Information about Sherwood Park Natural Area:

Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
 Parks & Protected Areas
 2nd floor, Oxbridge Place
 9820-106 Street
 Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6
 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582)
www.alberta.parks.ca

Strathcona County
 Recreation, Parks & Culture
 2025 Oak Street
 Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 0W9
 780-467-2211

Sustainable Resource Development
 Lands Division
 182 Chippewa Road
 Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 4H5
 780-464-7955



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Strathcona
 County
 RECREATION, PARKS
 & CULTURE

Alberta

SHERWOOD PARK

Natural Area



Protecting a Natural Landscape... Together

Site Features

Set on the western edge of the Cooking Lake Moraine, the gently-rolling upland terrain of Sherwood Park Natural Area is covered by mature poplar forests and scattered white birch. There are also remnant stands of mature white spruce, poplar and birch, reminders of the mixedwood forests that once covered much of the moraine. The richly dense understory of shrubs and wildflowers is a continual source of interest and colour from early May until late September.

The forests and wetlands of the site form a close-knit community of plants and animals, each one needing the others to ensure survival of the community. Forests in the natural area are home to many mammals. White-tailed deer are quite common and moose occasionally wander through the woods. Coyotes are rarely seen, however, they do hunt here. You may find large willows whose bark has been nibbled by porcupines and snowshoe hares. Red squirrels reside in spruce stands where there's year-round shelter and a dependable food supply.

There are a number of permanently wet depressions and one small slough in the northwest corner of the site. One of the wetlands is a mossy swamp with Labrador tea and a few spruce and larch. Others are dominated by willows, sedges, marsh marigolds and coltsfoot.



The mosaic of habitats in this natural area attracts a variety of bird species, many of which reside here year-round.

Among the permanent bird residents are black-capped chickadees; blue jays; ruffed grouse; great-horned and saw-whet owls; downy, hairy and pileated woodpeckers; and white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches.

Summer residents include least flycatchers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, northern orioles and yellow warblers.

Keep your eyes open for butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies and in spring, listen for the high-pitched singing of chorus frogs and the duck-like quacking of wood frogs. You may also hear the songs of chorus frogs during heavy summer rains.

Old Edmonton Trail

When the Province of Alberta was first surveyed, the site of Sherwood Park Natural Area was earmarked for a school. Local farmers held grazing permits and leases on the site beginning in the late 1800s, and people traveling between Edmonton and Cooking Lake began following a route through the area in the early 1900s. Evidence of the "Old Edmonton Trail" can still be seen today. Plaques mark several of the original survey markers along this historic route.

In 1966, adjacent land owners took action to protect the area's virgin forest for future generations. Supported by the Sherwood Park

Fish & Game Association, Colchester dairy farmers Reg and Olive Gray worked with the Government of Alberta to have the lands designated as one of Alberta's first natural areas. The site was designated in 1971.

In the late 1980s, because of the efforts of well-known naturalists and former Strathcona County residents Cam & Joy Finlay and County Reeve Jim Common, Sherwood Park Natural Area became the first project under the national "Wildlife '87" program, a year-long celebration marking 100 years of wildlife conservation in Canada.

Natural Area & You

Sherwood Park Natural Area and You

Sherwood Park Natural Area is an oasis for wildlife. Pedestrian trails wind throughout, making it easy for you to observe and appreciate nature and participate in outdoor education activities.

Strathcona County Recreation, Parks & Culture holds a recreational lease on Sherwood Park Natural Area from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Volunteer stewards assist the provincial government and the county with site monitoring and maintenance. Stewards also assist with site management by encouraging appropriate use of the area.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer steward, call 780-467-2211.

You too play a role in ensuring that Sherwood Park Natural Area remains intact for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Please:

- remain on trails and footpaths to prevent damage to the area;
- do not light fires, cut trees or camp here;
- carry out your own garbage and any other refuse you may come across;
- do not collect or remove flowers, plants or animals - leave them for others to enjoy;
- do not disturb wildlife; and
- keep your dog on a leash and please scoop up your pet's droppings and deposit them in the garbage can on the way out.

Also be aware that Strathcona County bylaws prohibit the use of horses and wheeled vehicles (including bicycles) on walking trails in Sherwood Park Natural Area.

