

## SCHEDULE

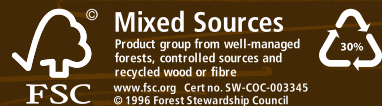
The course will include nine sessions over three weeks in early summer (evenings and weekends). Please visit the website below for more information.

## CONTACT

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## OR VISIT

[www.edmonton.ca/naturalareas](http://www.edmonton.ca/naturalareas)



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## CITY OF EDMONTON MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The Master Naturalist Program is a “learn and serve” program for Edmontonians who are interested in learning more about ecology and naturalization in our city, and being involved in the stewardship of local natural areas. Master Naturalists attend 35 hours of training and field trips, and in turn volunteer for 35 hours in activities that support natural areas management, protection, and education. Master Naturalists help to build community capacity, knowledge and enthusiasm for the ongoing stewardship of local natural areas.



## WHY A MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM?

Edmonton’s natural areas have tremendous ecological, social, educational and economic value. If that value is to be preserved, it is up to us as a community to be responsible stewards of these ecologically-rich places and the plant and wildlife species that inhabit them. The City of Edmonton has a growing inventory of natural areas that require ongoing stewardship and monitoring. We recognize our responsibility in caring for these areas, and we’re excited to work with passionate community members in doing so.

BECOME A STEWARD  
OF EDMONTON'S  
NATURAL AREAS!



NEW CITY OF EDMONTON

Master Naturalist  
PROGRAM





## COURSE TOPICS

Topics that will be covered through field trips and in-class presentations include:

- Edmonton's ecology: Watershed, ecoregion, geological history, habitat types, introduction to urban ecology and natural area management
- Natural history: Native plant and wildlife species, species at risk
- Naturescaping: Species for naturalization, creating wildlife habitat, permaculture
- Stewardship basics: Invasive species identification and removal, native plant propagation, ecological monitoring, litter control and vandalism watch, ecological education

## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

These duties are intended to complement the existing efforts of City staff and local conservation organizations. Potential activities that volunteers could complete for a total of 35 hours include:

- **Natural Area Steward:** "Adopt" a natural area through activities like ongoing litter control, removal of invasive plants, placement of bird/bat houses, photography, monitoring and reporting damage.
- **Naturalization Volunteer:** Assist City staff and community groups with naturalization and restoration projects, including possible participation in plant rescue and plant propagation projects.
- **Nature Educator:** Educate the public about natural areas and local species at fairs, conferences, and community events. Provide information to students, residents, and businesses about natural areas.
- **Ecological Monitor:** Conduct inventories of plant or animal species in a certain area over time. Monitor water quality in natural and constructed water bodies, or participate in a river valley wildlife census.
- **Community Volunteer:** Volunteer with one of the many excellent local conservation organizations in Edmonton.

## PARTNERS

In addition to City of Edmonton staff, representatives of the following organizations have kindly contributed their time and energy to the Master Naturalist program:

- Alberta Conservation Association
- Alberta Native Plant Council
- Alberta Plantwatch
- Cityfarm
- Community Garden Network
- Cows & Fish
- Edmonton and Area Land Trust
- Edmonton Naturalization Group
- Edmonton Nature Club
- Evergreen
- Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- North Sask. Watershed Alliance
- Riverwatch
- University of Alberta
- The Urban Farmer
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

## LOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION

"Home base" for the course will be Grant MacEwan University (City Centre Campus), but a lot of time will be spent on field trips at various sites throughout Edmonton. Participants will be expected to find their own way to and home from Grant MacEwan University each day, but all other transportation (i.e. for field trips) will be provided.

## COST AND FOOD

The course is absolutely free, based on a commitment by participants to complete their 35 hours of volunteer service. Snacks will be provided during the course.

