

DID YOU KNOW:
Edmonton has
3,7145 hectares of
natural areas!

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, the Bennett Centre, City Farm, Community Garden Network, Cows & Fish, Edmonton Naturalization Group, Edmonton Nature Club, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, RiverWatch, University of Alberta, The Urban Farmer, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, Edmonton and Area Land Trust, Evergreen, Alberta Mycological Society, Nature Alberta, Alberta Invasive Plant Council.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Courses will be held at 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 from MacEwan University each day, but transportation for field trips will be provided.

DID YOU KNOW:
Edmonton is home
to 178 species of
birds, including 32
sensitive/at-risk
species!

COST

The course is absolutely free, based on a commitment by participants to complete their 35 hours of volunteer service.

SCHEDULE

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



**BECOME A STEWARD OF EDMONTON'S
NATURAL AREAS!**

CONTACT

Office of Biodiversity, City of Edmonton
780-496-6147
naturalareas@edmonton.ca

OR VISIT

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



WHY BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

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 ambassadors 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.

WHO CAN BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Anyone living in Edmonton who is over 18 and is willing to commit time and effort to learning and volunteer activities can become a Master Naturalist. You do not have to have a certain degree or level of education to qualify. Due to high program demand, applicants go through an interview process. Not all applicants are accepted. If you are not selected this year, please try for the next year.



CITY OF EDMONTON MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The Master Naturalist Program is a learn and serve program that equips volunteers to share knowledge about Edmonton's ecology and naturalization with fellow community members, and become stewards of local natural areas.

Master Naturalists will attend **35 hours of training and field trips**, and will in turn volunteer for **35 hours in activities** that support natural areas management, protection and education. Through volunteer opportunities, Master Naturalists will help build community capacity, knowledge and enthusiasm for the ongoing stewardship of local natural areas.

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
- In addition to these topics, additional topics are offered during the year through our continuous education activities.



DID YOU KNOW:

Edmonton is home to 47 species of mammals, including four sensitive/at-risk species!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.
- **Communication and Administrative Support:** Work on the Master Naturalist newsletter or blog, communication efforts, attend meetings and any other activities that maintain and support the program.

DID YOU KNOW:

Edmonton is home to 487 vascular plant species!