



THE CITY OF EDMONTON'S NATURALIZATION PLAN

Naturalization is a landscape management technique that involves planting trees, shrubs and wildflowers that are native to Alberta. The result is a beautiful, biodiverse, self-sustaining landscape.

A number of areas in Edmonton have been identified for naturalization. Most of these areas are along roadways, though some sites adjacent to parks and residential areas are under consideration.

GET INVOLVED

Community input is vital as the Edmonton's Naturalization Plan is formed. Opportunities for your involvement include participation at community meetings, online surveys, and surveys offered at Root for Trees tree planting events.

For more information and frequently asked questions about Naturalization visit www.edmonton.ca/naturalization

Questions? Call the City of Edmonton at 311 (or 780-442-5311 outside Edmonton) or email 311@edmonton.ca



ROOT FOR TREES

An enhanced tree planting initiative to preserve and expand our urban forest through partnerships with corporations, individual residents and community groups.

Help Edmonton Reclaim Wild by participating in planting programs and events: www.rootfortrees.ca

www.edmonton.ca/naturalization

Printed on paper that is in compliance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Reclaim WILD

Naturalization for a
Sustainable Urban Forest



THE CITY OF
Edmonton

3 STAGES OF NATURALIZATION

1. Stop mowing.
2. Plant trees and shrubs native to Alberta.
3. Continue planting smaller native shrubs and flowers to promote a healthy ecosystem.

The process can take up to 10 years or longer.

Visit
www.edmonton.ca/naturalization
for a list of City locations identified for naturalization.

WHY NATURALIZE?

Economic Benefits

- Reduced energy consumption.
- Trees capture rainwater, taking pressure off drainage systems so risk of flooding decreases.
- Reduced maintenance costs.

Environmental Benefits

- Native plants, birds and other wildlife are able to re-establish themselves.
- Plants help remove carbon dioxide and other contaminants from the air.
- Vegetation stabilizes slopes along river and ravine banks, preventing erosion.
- Natural windbreaks capture snow, reducing drifting on roads.

Quality of Life

- As dense plantings mature, noise levels are reduced.
- More green and shady areas for outdoor activities.
- Citizens and communities have a chance to get involved in environmental programs.
- The City's naturalized park and roadway landscapes will grow more beautiful over time.

COMMON CONCERNS

What About Weeds?

Weeds thrive on groomed lawns because they have ample access to light and moisture. Mowing removes the top of the weeds, but leaves the roots intact, so they grow back and continue to spread.

The City will monitor naturalization sites for weeds and apply weed control where necessary under the guidelines of Edmonton's Integrated Pest Management Plan, which minimizes the use of chemical herbicides and uses them responsibly when required.

As naturalized sites mature, the healthier ecosystem is much more resistant to invasion by weeds. The tree canopy and thriving native plants outcompete weeds by providing shade and absorbing moisture.

...And Problem Pests?

As naturalization sites mature, natural biodiversity will increase, which can include small mammals such as rabbits and mice. The City is committed to maintaining appropriate buffers between naturalization sites and adjacent residential homes.

