

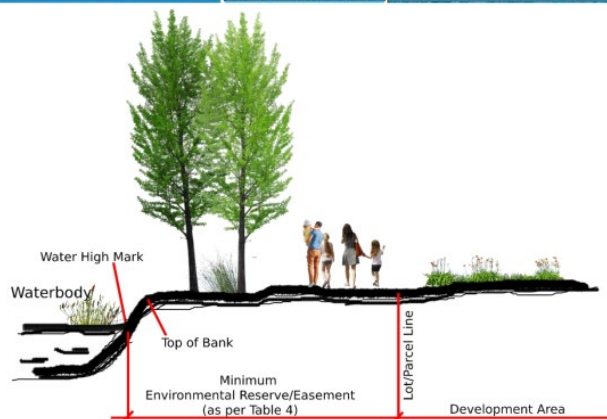
DEVELOPMENT NEAR WETLANDS

COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER PLANNING & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

<https://www.vermilion-river.com/departments/community-services/development-permits>

What Is a Wetland?

Wetlands are "land saturated with water long enough to promote formation of water altered soils, growth of water tolerant vegetation, and various kinds of biological activity that are adapted to the wet environment."



County of Vermilion River Land Use Bylaw:

Section 3.2(2)(d)

An environmental reserve or Easement of not less than 30m (98ft.) in width from the high-water mark of water bodies and/or the top of bank of lakes and rivers shall be required as a condition of Subdivision approval. The Use of Conservation Easements may be considered as an alternative to traditional environmental reserve during the Subdivision process.

Section 4.9.5(a)(iii)

If development occurs in a wetland in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw, the developer shall be required to avoid wetlands wherever possible, to mitigate the extent of the disturbance on wetlands when avoidance is not possible, and when avoidance and mitigation are not possible to construct an equivalent wetland facility to replace the wetland that was destroyed through development. The Development Authority will ensure that the policy of "no net loss" is adhered to for all developments occurring in wetlands.

QUICK FACTS:

The goal of the **Alberta Wetland Policy (2013)** is to conserve, restore, protect, and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society, and economy.

To achieve this goal, the policy focuses on 4 outcomes:

- 1) Wetlands of highest value are protected for the long-term benefit of Albertans
- 2) Wetlands and their benefits are conserved and restored in areas where losses have been high
- 3) Wetlands are managed by avoiding, minimizing, and if necessary, replacing lost wetland value
- 4) Wetland management considers regional context

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