

Private Land Conservation in Alberta

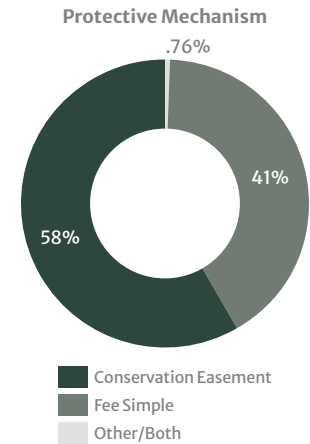
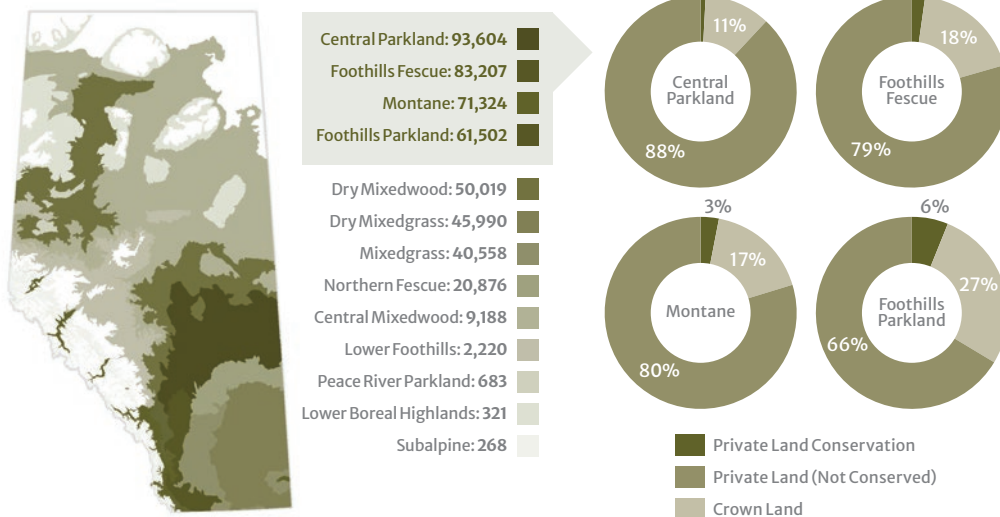
At a glance

Private land conservation is an important tool for conservation in Alberta. Compiled data from participating organizations help us understand how it contributes to broader conservation goals.

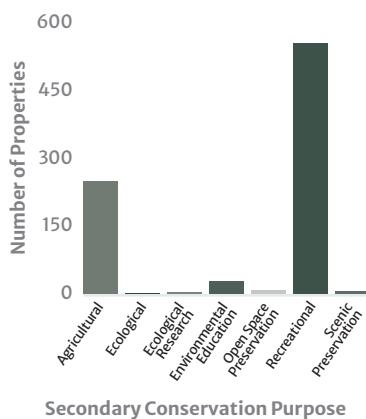


Photo by Foothills Land Trust

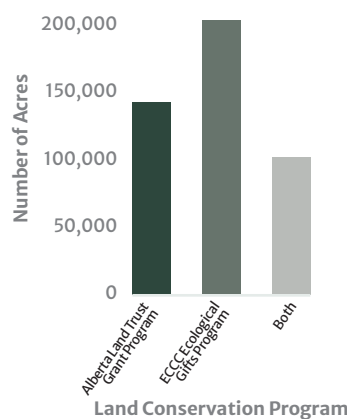
This map shows the number of acres of privately conserved land in Alberta by natural subregion, which divide the province up into similar regions based on landform, hydrology, climate, geology, soils, animals and vegetation.



There are two main tools used in private conservation. In a fee simple arrangement, the land is owned and managed by the land trust, whereas for a conservation easement the land continues to be owned by the land owner but there are restrictions on some activities that are mutually agreed upon by the land owner and the land trust. By area, 58% (279,779 acres) of privately conserved land is protected by conservation easements, and 41% (197,586 acres) protected through a fee simple arrangement.



While the primary conservation purpose of over 99% of private land conservation properties is ecological, the secondary conservation purpose can vary. The most common secondary conservation purpose is recreation.



Two key land conservation programs for private land conservation in Alberta are Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program and the Government of Alberta's Alberta Land Trust Grant Program. This plot shows the number of acres that have been supported through one or both of these programs.

- What is a land trust? Land trusts are non-profit organizations that manage land with a conservation purpose. Private land is acquired through donations, acquisitions, or conservation easements.

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