

Private Land Conservation in Alberta

A Look Through Time

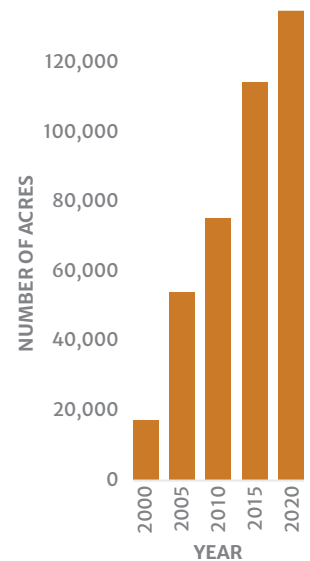
Private land conservation in Alberta has grown steadily since the late 1980s, with substantial growth over the last 20 years. This growth can be seen across multiple important landscapes such as those with high scenic values, wetlands and grasslands.



SCENIC VIEWS

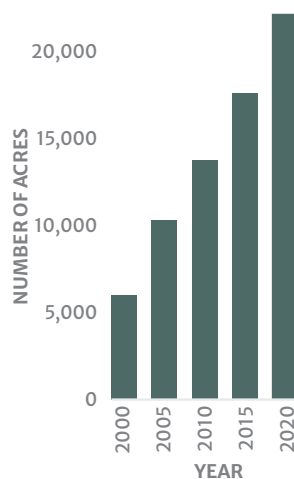
Scenic views are increasingly valued for their role in supporting human well-being. We used the scenic views dataset developed by the Government of Alberta in 2010 to assess the extent of privately conserved lands within areas ranked in the top 20% for visual value. This includes criteria such as water visibility, vegetation and terrain variability, land use, and visibility of the landscapes from recreational areas and roads.

Since 2000, protection of scenic views through private land conservation has increased sixfold. This growth is particularly important in areas adjacent to parks and other protected landscapes that have uninterrupted views.



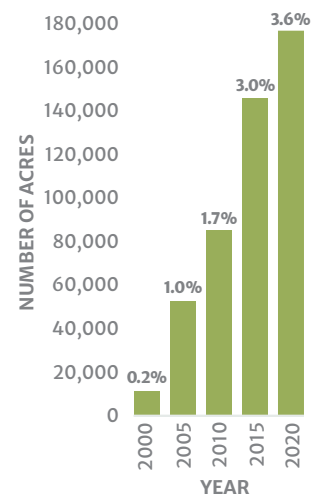
WETLANDS

Wetlands play a vital role in climate change resiliency and habitat provision for many of Alberta's species. They provide ecosystem services like flood and drought mitigation, water purification, and enhanced biodiversity. **From 2000 to 2020, the number of acres of wetlands protected by private land conservation nearly quadrupled, to 22,085 acres.** That's over 100 times the size of Lake Louise.



GRASSLANDS

Native grasslands are one of the most imperiled ecosystems in the world and Alberta is fortunate to be home to a large portion of Canada's remaining grasslands. Most grasslands are located in the south-eastern portion of the province with small pockets in the Peace Region of northwestern Alberta. **From 2000 to 2020, the number of acres protected by private land conservation increased 10-fold.** By 2020, 3.6% of private grasslands as identified in Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's Land Use Time Series dataset, were conserved.



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