



Photo: Cecilia Neath

Mule Deer



Photo: Dragomir Vujinovic

Wood Frog



Photo: Ken Orich

Yellow Warbler

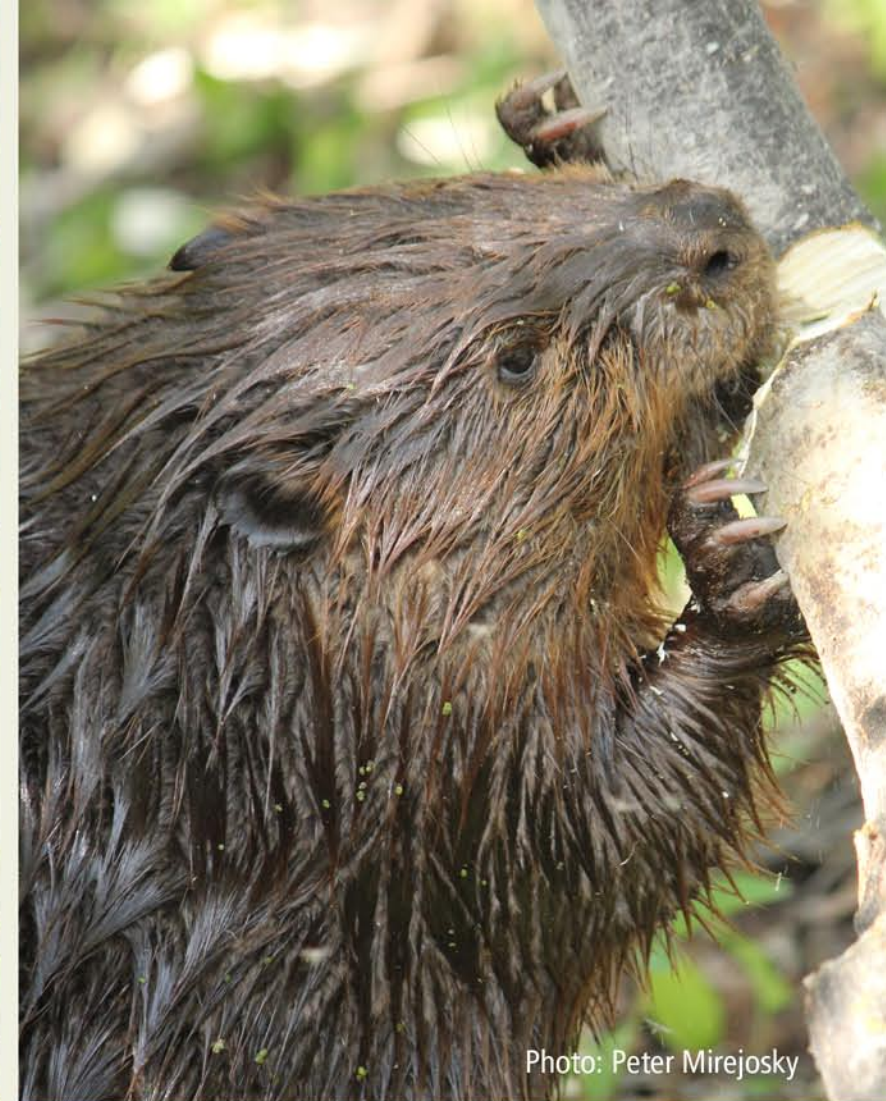


Photo: Peter Mirejosky

Beaver



Photo: Kiley Marchuk

Biodiversity Trail (Interpretive walk)

Welcome to the Beaver Hills Biodiversity Trail

Discover a landscape with stories to tell. Walk along a historic trail. Look for the ways the beavers have connected the wetlands. Notice how the trees, shrubs and mosses in the forest differ from those in the open grassy areas.



Shaping the landscape

- The Biodiversity Trail is located in the Beaver Hills, which is a raised island of dry, mixed-wood boreal forest surrounded by aspen parkland.
- As the glaciers retreated, they left behind a hummocky, rolling-hill terrain made up of rock and rubble. Ponds began to form in the depressions. The resulting wetlands, lakes and forest formed a bountiful habitat for wildlife.
- While early homesteaders raised a variety of animals and crops, the rocky soil and hilly terrain have convinced some landowners today not to farm, but to simply conserve the land. Strathcona County has purchased this quarter section of land to ensure conservation continues for future generations.
- Forest fires, drought and wildlife continue to create changes on this landscape.
- This is a place where biodiversity flourishes. The Beaver Hills Biosphere is one of the last remaining remnants of dry, mixed-wood boreal forest in central Alberta. It's part of a provincial habitat corridor that is incredibly rare and valuable.

Indigenous history

- The land upon which you stand is called Amiskwaciy, Cree for "The Beaver Hills."
- For tens of thousands of years Indigenous people have lived here; they include the Blackfoot (Niitsitapi), Gros Ventres (A'aninin), Cree (Nehiywak), Saulteaux (Anishinabe), Dene, Sioux and later the Métis among others.
- In these hills, First Nations made alliances, conducted trade, and celebrated and marked the passage of time. They had summer and winter camps where they would hunt and work together. Indigenous people continue to reside in this territory today and ask us to tread lightly on this land.
- Since the Government of Canada and First Nations signed Treaty Six, many more nations call this territory home. All current inhabitants are responsible to each other, and to the land and the resources for "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows."