



Photo: Gail Lacey

Agricultural land



Photo: Al Rempel

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village



Photo: Janette Lane

Elk Island National Park



Photo: Cecilia Neath

Alberta Parks



Photo: Cecilia Neath

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park

Beaver Hills

A special place for all generations

For generations, people of all ages have enjoyed living, working and spending their leisure time in the Beaver Hills.

This ever-changing landscape supports living and working communities, parks and conserved areas. Together these foster the health of the entire ecosystem.



Provincial Archives of Alberta, B6356.

A cultural landscape

Biosphere reserves recognize that people are part of the landscape, too.

Learning from the rich human history—the experiences of the indigenous peoples, early settlers, landowners and visitors—helps to inform current and future sustainable land use.

Our activities continue to shape the Beaver Hills.

A vision for the future

Biosphere reserves provide opportunities to address global challenges through local actions.

While the biosphere reserve designation is international, best practices in conservation stewardship and sustainable development take root among local people, communities, organizations and governments.

So many parts of the world face similar challenges—increasing growth and development, loss of wildlife habitat, climate change and more. Together, we can cultivate innovative solutions that sustain people and the places we call home.

A united effort

Understanding the importance of conserving this distinct landscape, the region came together in 2002 to create the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI).

Thanks to the innovative work by the members of the BHI, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) designated the Beaver Hills a biosphere reserve in 2016.



Provincial Archives of Alberta, B766.



Photo: Dragomir Vujanovic

Photo: Al Rempel