

Who Manages the Elbow River Alluvial Aquifer?

Land use on the aquifer is managed by the Kananaskis Improvement District; Alberta Sustainable Resource Development; Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation; Rocky View County; the Tsuu T'ina Nation; and the City of Calgary. The Elbow River Basin Water Management Plan was developed to provide guidance to these and other stakeholders on protecting water quality in the watershed.

4 Reasons to Protect Your Aquifer

Water Supply

Protecting the alluvial aquifer ensures that it continues to be recharged and is able to provide water to the Elbow River during low-flow months.

Water Quality

Protecting the alluvial aquifer helps provide clean water by preventing pollutants from contaminating the aquifer's groundwater, which eventually makes its way to the Elbow River.

Fish and Wildlife

Protecting the alluvial aquifer preserves riparian areas, which provide food, shade, and shelter for birds and wildlife, as well as fish.

Aesthetics

Protecting the alluvial aquifer maintains the natural beauty of the floodplain.

5 Actions Others Have Taken to Protect Your Aquifer

- Cattle have been fenced off the river and off-site watering has been provided.
- Several riparian areas have been restored.
- Organic fertilizer is being used on a golf course that has adopted integrated pest management— an environmentally sound process that works with nature to prevent or suppress pests.
- Trails have been rerouted away from streambanks.
- The aquifer has been professionally mapped to support decision-making with respect to land use.

8 Ways to Protect Your Aquifer

Dispose of household hazardous waste properly

Pick up after your dog

Stay on marked trails

Return unused medications to the pharmacy

Use personal care products, such as shampoo and deodorant, with environmentally-friendly ingredients

Test and maintain your water well

Inspect and maintain your septic system

Install a garden of native plants that is fed by rainwater (rain garden)

