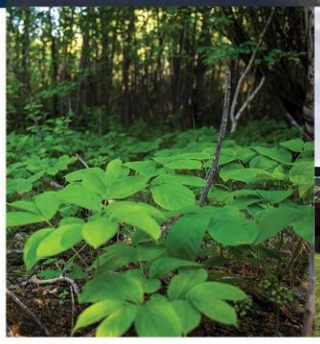
2024-2034

GREEN ENVIRONMENT

10-YEAR LONG-RANGE STRATEGY



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Green Environment Strategy - Annual Report
Green Environment (Implementation)

Introduction

The Green Environment Strategy (GES) is a long-term plan developed by the City of St. Albert to guide operational activities that advance environmental sustainability over the next decade. It aligns with the City's Community Vision and Pillars of Sustainability, the Municipal Development Plan (*Flourish: Growing to 100K*), Council Strategic Plan, and the Services and Service Levels Inventory. The strategy builds on the green environment principles of the Municipal Development Plan, which emphasizes the protection and enhancement of natural features, biodiversity, water quality and the urban forest. These principles are supported through four strategic directions: Biodiversity, Governance, Stewardship and Watershed, which together provide a clear and actionable roadmap for environmental progress.

	**Biodiversity -** Monitor, protect and enhance natural features, parks, and open spaces to maintain, sustain and enrich biodiversity.
	**Governance -** Develop and follow regulatory documentation for the protection of the environment. This could include regulations, guidelines, standards, policies and processes.
	**Stewardship -** Develop, maintain and enhance community environmental programs to foster a sense of stewardship of natural features, parks, and open spaces.
	**Watershed -** Protect wetlands and riparian areas and improve stormwater quality to contribute to the health of the watershed.

This annual report presents the City of St. Albert's progress in advancing the Green Environment Strategy 2024-2028 Implementation Plan. It supports transparency and accountability in achieving the City's environmental goals and includes the following sections:

1. **Initiatives Summary** - This section highlights progress on key initiatives that support the Green Environment Strategy, focusing on the strategic directions prioritized during the year.

2. **Performance Measures** - This section provides an overview of performance measures that ensure the goals, objectives and results of the Green Environment Strategy are being achieved.

Initiatives Summary

18
TOTAL # of INITIATIVES

5	2	0	10	0	1
ON TRACK	DELAYED	STOPPED	NOT STARTED	COMPLETED	CANCELLED

In 2025, the Green Environment Strategy focused on the initiation and progression of seven initiatives designed to advance both the watershed and biodiversity strategic directions. The following summarizes progress made throughout the year:

- **Invasive Species Management,** a key component of the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan, underwent comprehensive updates between 2023 and 2025. These updates introduced an invasive species identification list with a St. Albert–specific status summary, established management plans for priority species such as beavers and coyotes and expanded programs for other species, including wild boar and raccoons.
- **Natural Asset Integration** made significant advancements to incorporate natural assets into the City's asset management planning framework. In 2025, natural assets were formally identified as an asset portfolio, enabling their data to be managed within the City's asset management systems.
- **Low Impact Development (LID) Water Management Improvement** is underway through the Storm Water Management Facilities Standards update. As part of this work, a consultant has been retained to conduct a jurisdictional review of LID practices and provide recommendations for consideration in 2026.
- **Riparian Areas Restoration Program** has completed a desktop identification of key restoration areas, with field verification and site prioritization planned for 2026.
- **Water Quality Improvement** progressed through the compilation of river and outfall flow data, stormwater management facility condition assessments and updates to the stormwater management section of the City's Engineering Standards. These activities will contribute to recommendations for water quality improvements in 2026 and beyond.
- **Conservation Reserve Program** will enable the City to identify and designate environmentally significant lands for long-term protection. This

initiative began in late 2025 with the procurement of a consulting contract to develop the program and associated policy framework.
- **Enhance Urban Forest** advanced significantly in 2025 by securing three grants including TD Tree Days, Tree Canada and the most substantial, a $240,000 award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Growing Canada's Community Canopy Program to support planting projects between 2025 and 2027.

As we move into 2026, the strategy will continue to advance the watershed and biodiversity strategic directions through ongoing work on these initiatives while also launching initiatives that support governance and stewardship.

Performance Measures

Charts

Number of Outfall Problem Areas Improved

DESCRIPTION

This measure tracks the number of stormwater outfall problem areas where the City has implemented mitigation strategies, such as installing oil and grit interceptors (OGIs). These efforts reflect the City's commitment to improving stormwater quality and reducing pollutant discharge into natural water bodies. Monitoring the number of improvements helps demonstrate tangible action toward environmental protection and watershed health.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

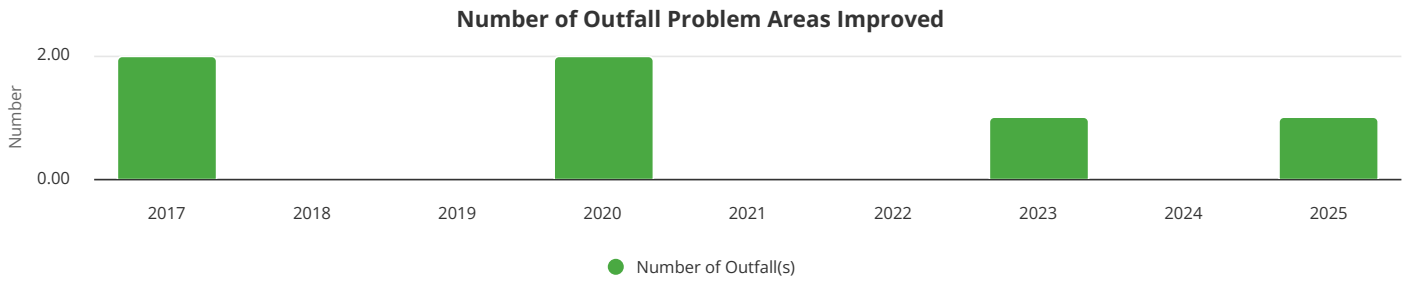
ANALYSIS

The number of improved outfall problem areas in the following graph reflects the installation of oil and grit interceptors (OGIs) at high- and medium-priority stormwater discharge points. A strategic plan for retrofitting key outfalls was developed prior to 2017 and significant progress has been made in addressing those identified as high or medium priority.

Since 2017, improvements have occurred in select years, with two problem areas addressed in 2017, two in 2020, one in 2023 and one in 2025. This pattern reflects the project-based nature of the work, where improvements are completed when conditions align such as design readiness and construction scheduling.

Recent changes to engineering standards now require these interceptors to be installed at the time of development, reducing the need for future retrofits. These units play a crucial role in preventing hydrocarbons and sediments from entering the Sturgeon River by using settling chambers and skimmers.

Full Interactive Chart: Number of Outfall Problem Areas Improved



Charts

Density In Growth Neighbourhoods

DESCRIPTION

This indicator tracks the as-built residential density which is dwelling units that have actually been built and registered per net residential hectare in St. Albert's seven growth neighbourhoods (Chérot, Erin Ridge North, Jensen Lakes, North Ridge Phase 2 (Nouveau), Riverside, Ville Giroux and South Riel). It excludes established areas and infill sites. Comparing actual density to the planned density targets (as defined by relevant Area Structure Plans and Neighbourhood Plans) shows whether new development is using land efficiently and reducing long-term infrastructure and environmental footprints.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

ANALYSIS

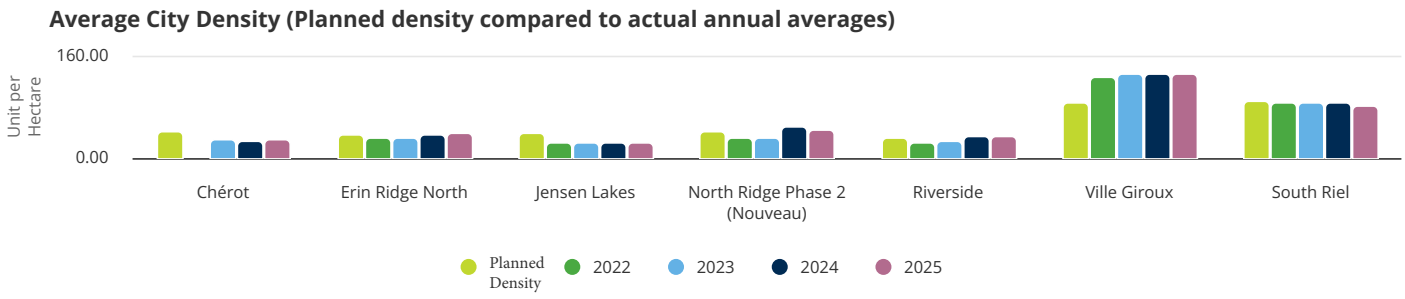
As-built density in the growth neighbourhoods continued to evolve in 2025, with mixed results across the seven areas when compared with both 2024 actual densities and the planned densities. Several neighbourhoods increased in density in 2025, while others remained relatively stable or declined, reflecting the staged and market-driven nature of residential buildout.

Ville Giroux remained the densest neighbourhood at 131.18 units per net residential hectare, unchanged from 2024 and well above its planned density of 86.57. North Ridge Phase 2 (Nouveau) decreased from 49.70 in 2024 to 44.63 in 2025, but remained above its planned density of 40.58. Riverside increased from 32.69 to 33.58, slightly exceeding its planned density of 32.25. Erin Ridge North also increased from 35.91 to 38.89, moving above its planned density of 36.20.

Other neighbourhoods remained below their planned densities in 2025. South Riel declined from 87.21 in 2024 to 80.07 in 2025, falling below its planned density of 88.11. Chérot increased from 25.20 to 27.74 but remained below its planned density of 40.56. Jensen Lakes increased slightly from 23.24 to 23.77, remaining well below its planned density of 37.68.

Overall, the 2025 results continue to show that density outcomes vary by neighbourhood depending on housing mix, stage of development and the pace of construction of higher-density housing forms. Continued monitoring will help determine whether densities in developing areas move closer to planned levels as buildout continues.

Full Interactive Chart: Average City Density



Charts

Environmental Construction Operations Plans (Number of plans submitted on time)

DESCRIPTION

Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) Plans are required for construction projects that the City's Contractor Environmental Responsibility Package checklist identifies as having notable environmental risk. Each plan outlines how the contractor will protect soil, water and wildlife while work is underway. The measure records both the total number of plans received and how many arrive by the specified submission date. Receiving the plans before ground is broken gives City staff time to assess the proposed controls, request any changes, and schedule site inspections so that protective measures are in place from day one of construction.

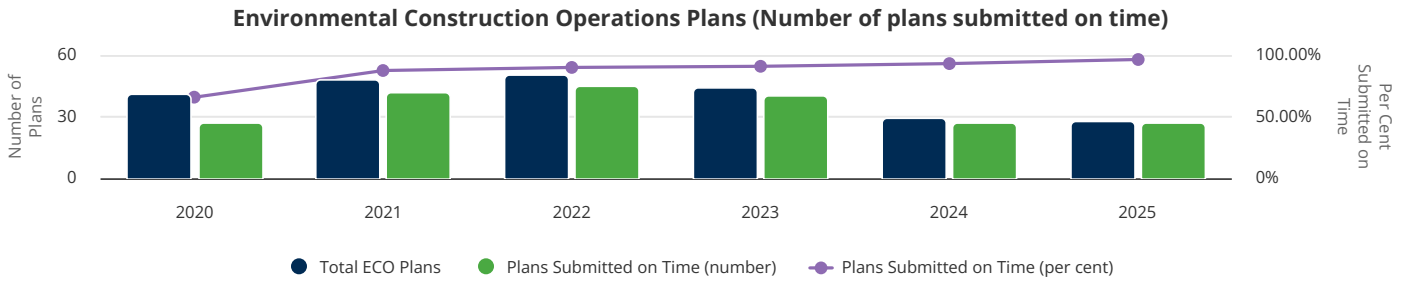
STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

ANALYSIS

The City received 28 ECO Plans in 2025, slightly down from 29 in 2024, continuing the lower volume seen after 44 plans in 2023 and 50 in 2022. This likely reflects the number and type of capital projects requiring ECO Plans rather than a decline in compliance, since only projects identified through the checklist are required to submit one.

Of the 28 plans received in 2025, 27 were submitted on time, resulting in an on-time submission rate of 96.43 per cent, up from 93.10 per cent in 2024. This indicates continued improvement in timely submissions and suggests that contractor awareness, clearer expectations and the established submission process are supporting strong compliance. Overall, while the total number of ECO Plans remained relatively low in 2025, the high on-time submission rate is a positive result and helps ensure environmental protection measures can be reviewed and implemented before construction begins.

Full Interactive Chart: ECO Plans (Number of plans submitted on time)



Charts

Environmental Construction Operations Plans (Number of Inspections)

DESCRIPTION

This measure counts the number of on-site inspections the City conducts each year to verify that contractors are following the Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) Plans approved for their projects. Regular inspections confirm that erosion controls, spill-prevention measures, and wildlife-protection steps described in the plans are implemented in the field, thereby reducing environmental risk during construction. The measure also tracks inspections completed as a percentage of total ECO Plans submitted, providing additional context on the level of inspection activity relative to the number of projects requiring ECO Plans.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

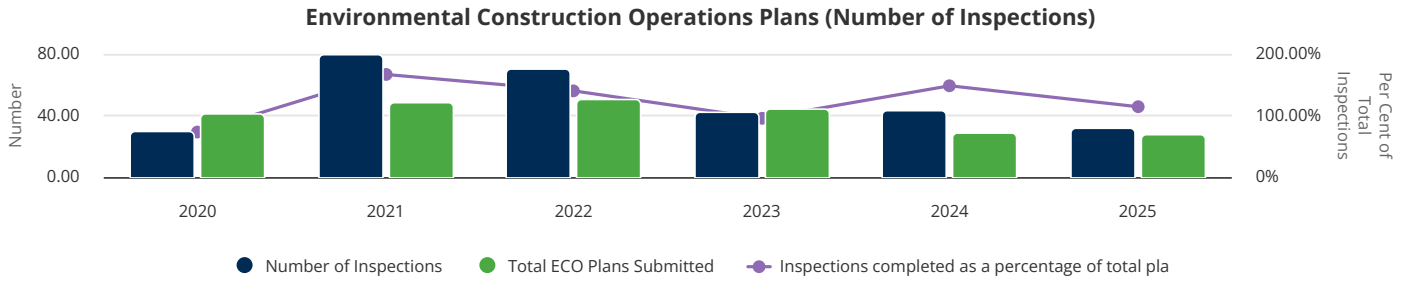
ANALYSIS

City inspectors completed 32 ECO Plan inspections in 2025, down from 43 in 2024 and 42 in 2023. This decrease aligns with the slightly lower number of ECO Plans submitted in 2025 (28, compared with 29 in 2024), and likely reflects a lighter construction schedule and fewer projects requiring environmental oversight.

The addition of the percentage measure provides further context for interpreting inspection activity. In 2025, inspections completed were equal to 114.29 per cent of total ECO Plans submitted, compared with 148.28 per cent in 2024 and 95.45 per cent in 2023. A percentage above 100 per cent indicates that some projects required more than one inspection during the year, which is expected depending on project complexity, duration, site conditions and compliance needs.

Although the total number of inspections decreased in 2025, the inspection rate remained above the number of plans submitted. This indicates that inspection activity continued to provide active oversight of projects with ECO Plans. Year-to-year changes in this measure are expected, as inspection demand is tied to both the number of applicable projects and the level of follow-up required at each site.

Full Interactive Chart: ECO Plans (Number of Inspections)



Charts

EMS Audits

DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Management System (EMS) audits check each participating City department on two fronts: conformance with the City's EMS requirements and procedures (audited annually), and compliance with environmental legislation (audited every three years).

To assess conformance with the City's EMS requirements and procedures, the audit looks for confirmation that EMS documents, training records, corrective-action logs are current and that past findings have been addressed. Fewer findings indicate that participating departments are following EMS procedures. When a new branch joins the EMS, an uptick in non-conformance rates is normal and is viewed as an opportunity to correct practices early.

To assess compliance with environmental legislation, the audit looks for confirmation that City of St. Albert staff are following required environmental practices and meeting all legal and policy obligations. Every finding of non-compliance marks a gap that must be corrected. Tracking these findings after each audit shows how well participating departments are maintaining their programs and highlights where new or expanded EMS coverage still needs improvement.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

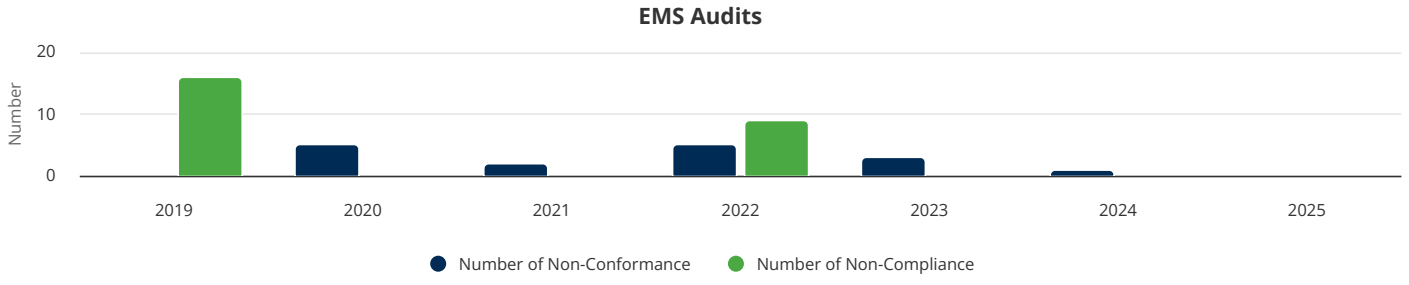
ANALYSIS

The City conducts a corporate EMS audit roughly every three years. As a result, the most recent non-compliance results are 16 findings in 2019 and nine in 2022. The 44 per cent decrease suggests that corrective actions taken after the first audit, along with greater staff familiarity with EMS procedures, have strengthened compliance in departments already participating in the program. A third-cycle audit is planned for 2026. Because several additional departments will be assessed for the first time, the raw count of non-compliances could increase even if existing participants continue to perform well. The target remains zero findings in mature departments, while any issues identified in new areas will be treated as opportunities for improvement rather than setbacks.

The 2025 EMS audit results also show continued improvement in non-conformance findings, with zero recorded in 2025. This continues a steady decline from five findings in 2020 and five in 2022, to three in 2023, one in 2024 and zero in 2025. The trend suggests that corrective actions from previous audits and growing staff familiarity with EMS requirements are strengthening environmental management practices across participating departments.

Overall, the combined results indicate that the EMS program is maturing and that participating departments are improving both procedural consistency and compliance with requirements. Although future audits may identify new findings, particularly when audit scope expands or new areas are brought into the program, the 2025 results are positive and suggest that previous corrective actions have been effective.

Full interactive Chart: EMS Audits



Charts

Environmental Incidents (Number of reportable incidents)

DESCRIPTION

This measure counts every environmental release classified as a "reportable incident." A reportable incident is any spill, release or emergency that may cause, is causing or has caused an adverse effect to the environment. Tracking the annual total helps the City gauge how often spills occur and where additional prevention or training may be needed.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

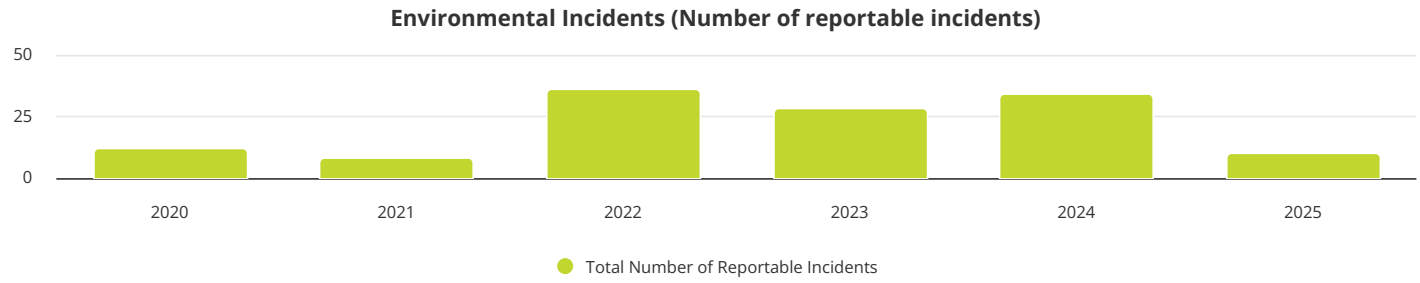
ANALYSIS

The City recorded 10 reportable environmental incidents in 2025, down from 34 in 2024, 28 in 2023 and the recent peak of 36 in 2022. This represents a substantial decline from the previous three years and brings the total closer to the lower levels reported in 2020 (12) and 2021 (8).

Year-to-year changes in this measure can reflect several factors, including operational activity levels, the nature of construction and maintenance work, seasonal conditions and reporting practices. A lower total in 2025 may indicate fewer incidents requiring reporting but results should still be interpreted with caution, as annual fluctuations do not necessarily reflect a long-term trend on their own.

Overall, the 2025 result is positive, suggesting fewer environmental incidents met the threshold for reporting during the year. Continued monitoring of incident types, locations and causes will help determine whether the decline reflects improved prevention and response practices or normal variation in operations and reporting.

Full Interactive Chart: Environmental Incidents (Number of reportable incidents)



Charts

Invasive Species

DESCRIPTION

This measure tracks the number of unique invasive species and the number of unique locations affected by invasive species within St. Albert. The number of invasive species presented focuses on provincially listed prohibited noxious and noxious plant species. Because not every weed is mapped, the total invasive species count represents a conservative indicator of invasive species pressure rather than an exhaustive inventory. The number of locations affected by invasive species reflects the spatial extent of infestation. Together, both measures help evaluate how effectively the City's prevention, containment and eradication programs are performing. Data for both indicators is recorded in the Weed & Pest App. Animal pests are only recorded in designated problem areas.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

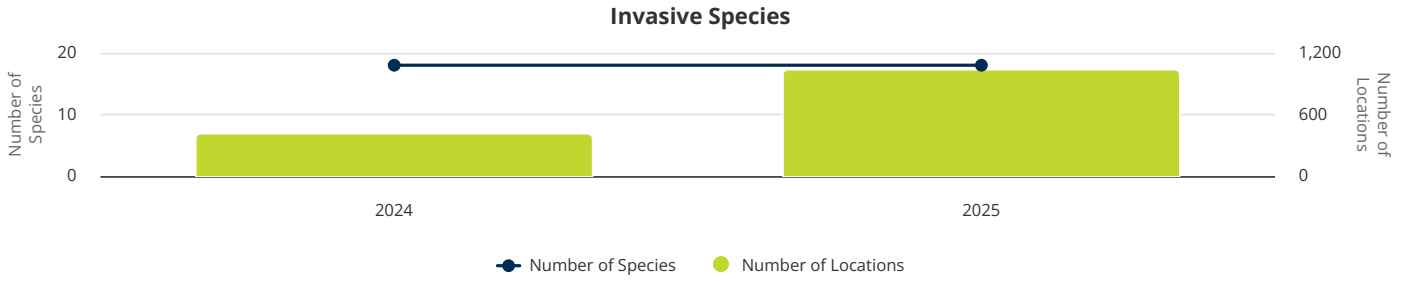
ANALYSIS

The 2025 survey identified 18 unique invasive species, unchanged from 2024. Maintaining the same number of species is a positive result, as it suggests no new invasive plant species were identified within the city during the year. Over time, holding this number steady or reducing it would indicate that prevention, monitoring, public education and targeted control measures are helping limit new introductions and spread.

In contrast, the number of recorded locations affected by invasive species increased substantially, from 413 in 2024 to 1,043 in 2025. While this appears significant, the increase does not necessarily indicate a worsening infestation. It likely reflects a more proactive and comprehensive effort to identify, map and record invasive species locations across the city so that treatment can be better targeted. Improved detection and more complete data collection can increase reported locations in the short term, even while management efforts are strengthening overall program effectiveness.

Taken together, the 2025 results suggest that invasive species monitoring and control efforts are becoming more systematic. The stable number of species indicates no expansion in the range of invasive plant species identified, while the higher number of locations provides a more complete picture of where treatment and follow-up are needed. Continued monitoring in future years will help determine whether more comprehensive mapping, combined with containment and eradication efforts, leads to a reduction in affected locations over time.

Full Interactive Chart: Invasive Species



Charts

Planted Public Trees (Number of Trees)

DESCRIPTION

The planted public tree inventory counts every living tree planted by City staff, contractors, or developers in parks, boulevards, medians and utility corridors. It does not capture trees in naturalized areas and generally excludes school-yard plantings unless those yards fall within City-managed parkland. This measure tracks progress toward the City's goal of increasing the planted tree inventory each year, confirming that annual plantings consistently exceed removals due to disease, safety concerns or redevelopment. By monitoring this total, the City can verify that its urban forest is not only being preserved but steadily expanded to support canopy cover, biodiversity and community well-being.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

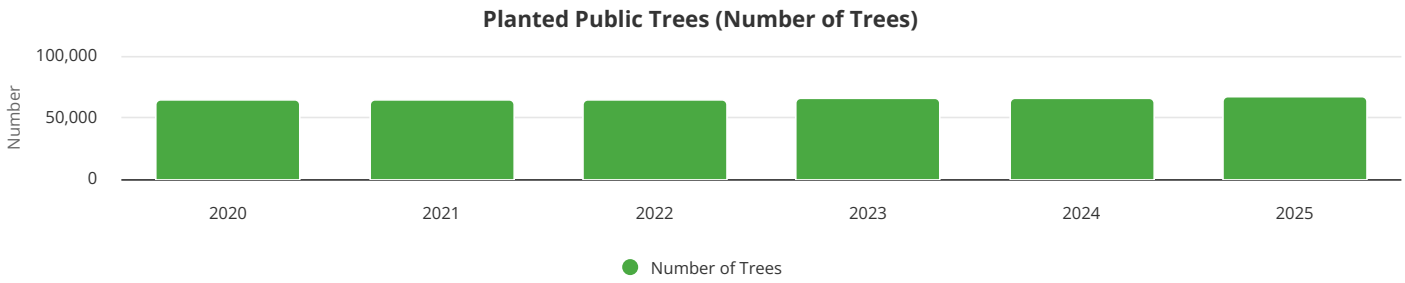
ANALYSIS

At the end of 2025, the planted public tree inventory totalled 66,701 trees, up from 65,219 in 2024. This represents an increase of 1,482 trees year over year and is the highest total in the period shown. The increase more than offsets the decline recorded in 2024 and indicates continued growth in the City's planted public tree inventory.

Additional trees are added to the inventory from several sources, including new trees turned over to the City from developer-built neighbourhoods at Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC), trees transferred from new or rehabilitated capital project sites and trees planted directly by the Public Operations – Parks branch. As a result, annual changes in the inventory reflect both ongoing planting activity and the timing of when trees are formally transferred to City ownership.

Overall, the 2025 increase suggests continued expansion of the urban forest and supports the City's goals for canopy cover, biodiversity and community well-being. Continued monitoring will help confirm whether this upward trend is sustained as more trees are planted and additional development areas reach final acceptance.

Full Interactive Chart: Planted Public Trees (Number of Trees)



Charts

Planted Public Trees (Per cent Species Diversity)

DESCRIPTION

This measure shows the relative share of each tree species in the City's planted public tree inventory, expressed as a percentage. A well-balanced mix reduces the risk that any single pest or disease can devastate canopy cover, so tracking annual changes in species diversity helps the City gauge whether planting policies are gradually creating a more resilient urban forest. The inventory includes only City-owned park, boulevard, median and utility-corridor trees. Naturalized areas and most school yards are excluded.

Only the ten most common species (those that dominate the canopy) are labelled in the figure. Together they account for roughly 85 per cent of all planted trees. In total, the inventory contains about 30 different species.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

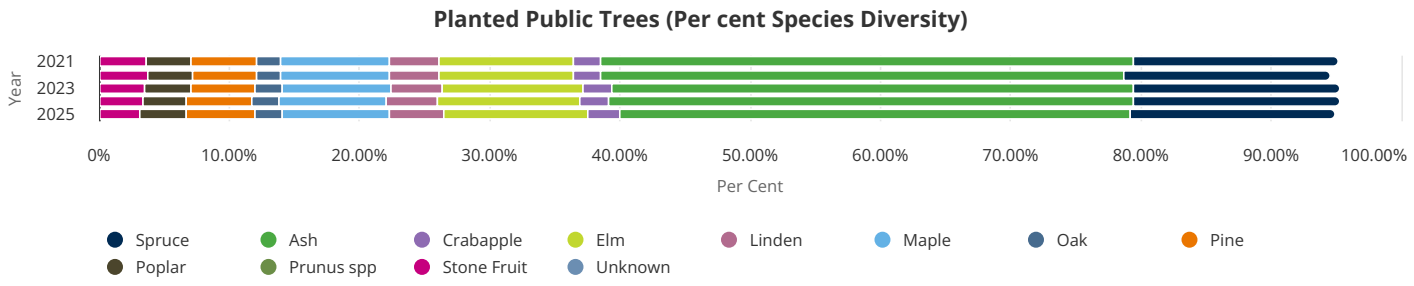
ANALYSIS

The 2025 species diversity results show modest but positive movement toward a more balanced urban forest. Ash remained the largest share of the planted public tree inventory at 39.26 per cent, down from 40.28 per cent in 2024. Spruce remained the second largest group at 15.65 per cent, down slightly from 15.82 per cent, while elm increased from 10.93 per cent to 11.11 per cent. No other individual species accounted for more than nine per cent of the total inventory.

Several other species increased slightly in 2025, including crabapple (2.20 to 2.39 per cent), linden (3.97 to 4.20 per cent), oak (2.02 to 2.17 per cent) and pine (5.00 to 5.26 per cent). These changes suggest gradual progress in diversifying the planted public tree inventory although the overall species mix remains heavily concentrated in ash, spruce and elm.

This concentration continues to present a risk to the urban forest, particularly given the threat of invasive pests and disease. Reducing reliance on ash remains especially important because of the risk posed by emerald ash borer, while elm remains vulnerable to dutch elm disease. Although annual changes are small, the 2025 results suggest that planting and species selection practices are gradually broadening the mix of trees in the inventory. Continued diversification over time will help improve the resilience of St. Albert's urban forest to pests, disease and climate-related stress.

Full Interactive Chart: Planted Public Trees (Per cent Species Diversity)



Charts

Environmental Program

DESCRIPTION

This indicator tracks the total number of participants that take part in City-led environmental programs including Arbor Day, Naturalization plantings, Clean & Green RiverFest, Weed Warriors' weed-pulls, neighbourhood or schoolyard clean-ups, Partners in Parks, and (for students) the Garbage Can Design contest. Participation is a useful indicator of community stewardship. When turnout is high and remains steady, it generally means people are strongly committed to protecting and improving St. Albert's natural spaces.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

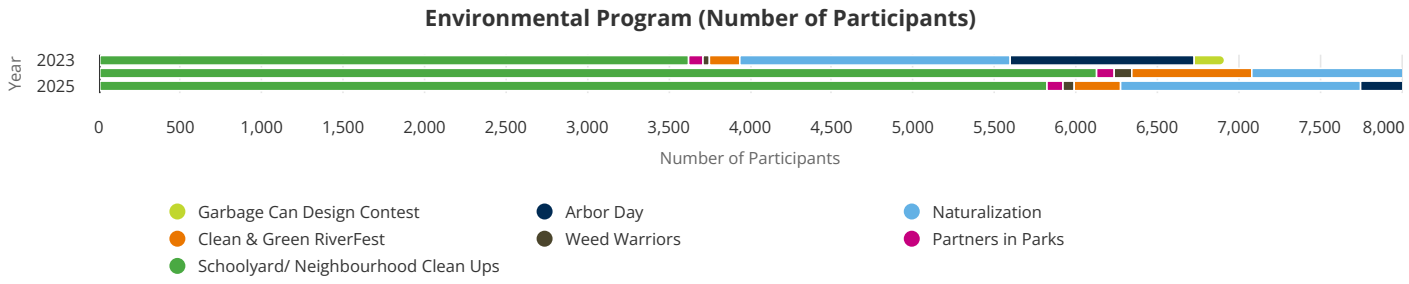
ANALYSIS

Participation in City-led environmental programs remained strong in 2025, although most programs recorded slightly lower numbers than in 2024. Arbor Day participation declined from 1,202 to 1,078, while naturalization participation decreased from 1,625 to 1,468. Schoolyard and neighbourhood clean-ups also declined from 6,131 to 5,824, and Weed Warriors participation fell from 111 to 74. Partners in Parks decreased slightly from 103 to 93 participants.

The largest year-over-year decline was in Clean & Green RiverFest which dropped from 735 participants in 2024 to 286 in 2025. This appears to reflect unusually high participation in 2024 due to a one-time larger community group taking part, rather than a sustained decline in interest. Although 2025 participation was lower, turnout remained solid for the event.

Overall, the 2025 results suggest that community interest in environmental stewardship remains strong, even with some year-to-year variation across individual programs. Lower participation in some activities may reflect external factors such as scheduling challenges, weather or school-related disruptions rather than reduced public commitment. Continued monitoring will help determine whether participation stabilizes or grows as programs continue to evolve.

Full Chart: Environmental Program (Number of Participants)



Charts

Naturalization Events (Hectares Planted)

DESCRIPTION

This measure records the number of hectares planted with trees and shrubs through City-led Naturalization Program. It covers community volunteer plantings and any contractor work such as the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park restoration. Tracking the total area planted each year shows how much naturalized vegetation the City creates.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

Biodiversity Stewardship

ANALYSIS

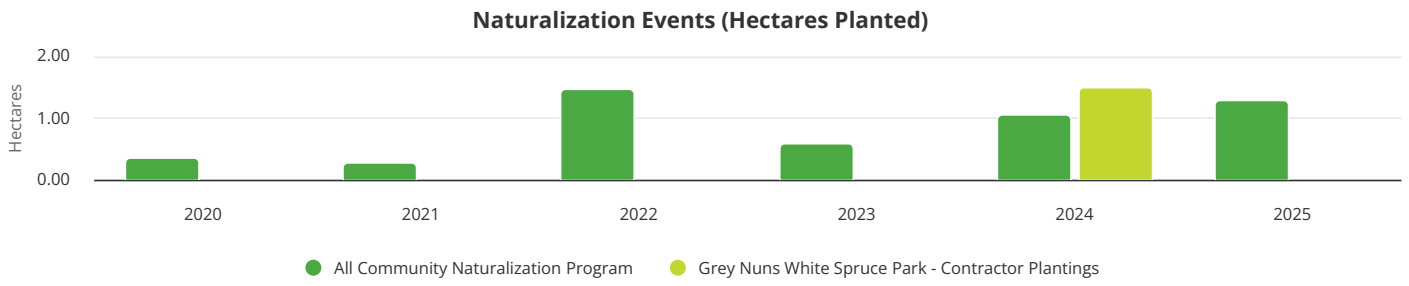
In 2025, the City planted 1.28 hectares through community naturalization projects, up from 1.06 hectares in 2024. Community naturalization events benefited from another Tree Canada grant, which allowed the City to accommodate almost all public requests for planting opportunities. This contributed to a higher level of community-led planting activity during the year.

Fall plantings were reduced in 2025 due to concerns about drought conditions and the ability of new plantings to establish successfully in dry soil. As a result, some groups were postponed to spring 2026. No hectares were planted at Grey Nuns White Spruce Park in 2025. The area planned for future planting requires additional weed management before it can be naturalized with native plants.

Overall, the 2025 result reflects continued progress in community naturalization efforts despite dry conditions and site preparation constraints. Continued planting through grant-supported programs and future work at Grey Nuns White Spruce Park should help sustain or increase the area naturalized in coming years.

Note: Plantings occurred under Grey Nuns White Spruce Park in 2021 and 2022, but no hectares were recorded because the work took place in forest understory, where the planted area could not be accurately mapped.

Full Interactive Chart: Naturalization Events (Hectares Planted)



Charts

Naturalization Events (Number of native trees and shrubs planted)

DESCRIPTION

This measure counts how many native trees and shrubs the City plants each year through Naturalization Program. It includes two streams: community volunteer events and any contractor work such as the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park restoration. The total shows the scale of habitat creation.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

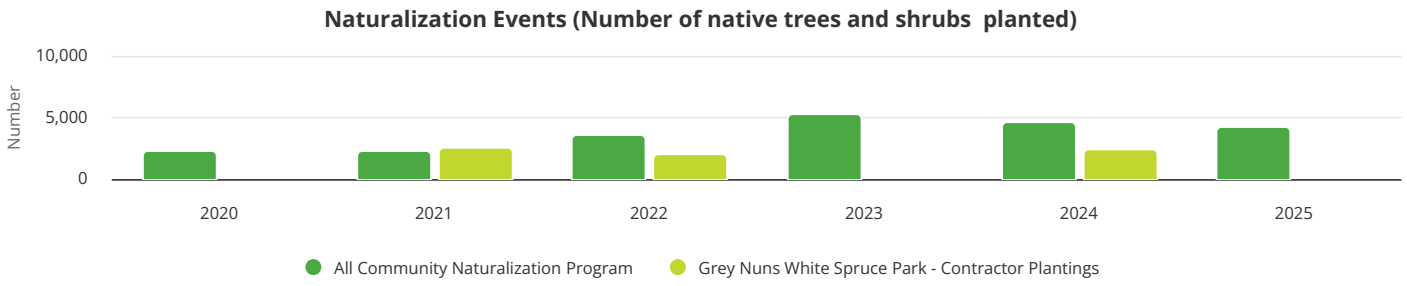
ANALYSIS

In 2025, the City planted 4,200 native trees and shrubs through community naturalization program. While this was slightly lower than 4,675 in 2024 and 5,214 in 2023, it remained well above the totals recorded in 2020 (2,234), 2021 (2,252) and 2022 (3,557), indicating that community naturalization planting levels remain strong.

As in previous years, grant support from programs such as Tree Canada and TD Tree Days helped enable additional community planting projects in 2025. However, summer and fall drought conditions affected planting plans, and some potential projects were postponed to 2026 because of concerns about plant survival under dry conditions.

No contractor planting was recorded at Grey Nuns White Spruce Park in 2025 compared with 2,340 contractor-planted native trees and shrubs in 2024 as the area planned for future planting requires additional weed management before it can be naturalized with native plants. Overall, the 2025 result shows continued strong community naturalization activity with year-to-year variation influenced by weather conditions and the timing of contractor-led restoration work.

Full Interactive Chart: Naturalization Events (Number of native trees and shrubs planted)



Charts

Wildlife Interactions (Number of Sightings)

DESCRIPTION

This measure tracks the number of wildlife sightings reported within specific areas of the city. A higher number of sightings may indicate healthy biodiversity and functional natural areas that attract and support a range of wildlife species. Ideally, sightings occur in natural areas, suggesting effective habitat preservation and connectivity.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

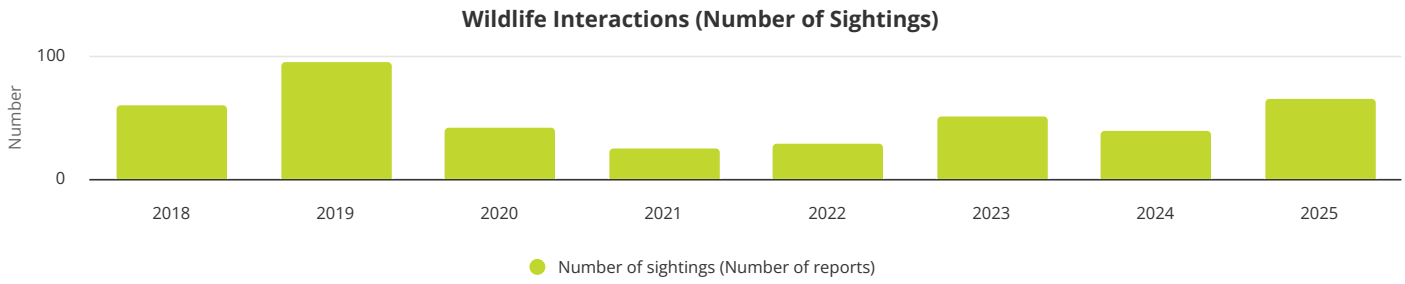
ANALYSIS

In 2025, there were 66 recorded wildlife sightings, up from 40 in 2024 and 51 in 2023. This increase was largely driven by a high level of coyote activity in the Oakmont area. As a result, the higher total appears to reflect localized wildlife activity and reporting rather than a broad city-wide change on its own.

Wildlife sighting totals can vary from year to year based on animal movement patterns, habitat conditions, seasonal factors and reporting behaviour. An increase in sightings does not necessarily indicate either improved biodiversity or worsening environmental conditions by itself. Instead, it highlights the importance of continued monitoring to better understand where and why wildlife interactions are occurring.

Overall, the 2025 result points to elevated wildlife interaction in specific parts of the city particularly Oakmont, and reinforces the need to track trends over time to assess habitat connectivity, wildlife behaviour and potential pressures in urban areas.

Full Chart: Wildlife Interactions (Number of Sightings)



Charts

River Water Quality Index

DESCRIPTION

This measure tracks changes in the river water quality index based on five parameters: total nitrogen, total phosphorus, total suspended solids, chloride and E. coli. It helps evaluate how effectively the City is protecting river water quality over time. The index uses annual median values from all five river sampling locations. Some medians are compared directly to existing guidelines, while others are compared to long term medians when guidelines do not exist. The index is reported as follows:

1. Nutrient & sediment index (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids): Each parameter is scored on a four-point scale (4 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor).
2. Pass / fail index (chloride and E. coli): These parameters are compared directly with provincial guidelines (1 = Pass, 0 = Fail).

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

Watershed

ANALYSIS

In 2025, the graded river water quality index remained similar to 2024. Total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total suspended solids all remained at Fair (2), while the pass/fail portion of the index also remained steady. Chloride and E. coli continued to be within guideline limits with both indicators scoring a Pass (1).

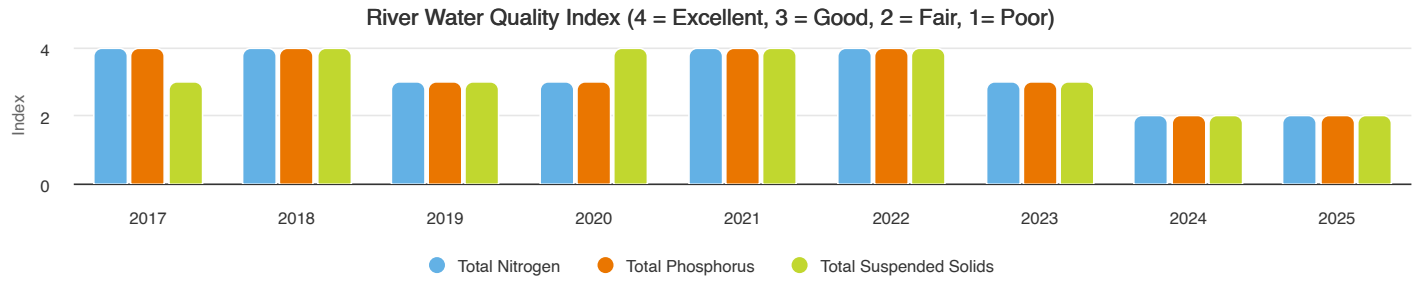
Although results were stable year over year, they continue to reflect a lower level of water quality than in earlier years, when nutrient and sediment indicators more often scored in the good or excellent range. This longer-term decline may be influenced by ongoing drought conditions, reduced river flow, seasonal variation in precipitation and runoff and increasing urbanization, all of which can affect river chemistry and sediment levels.

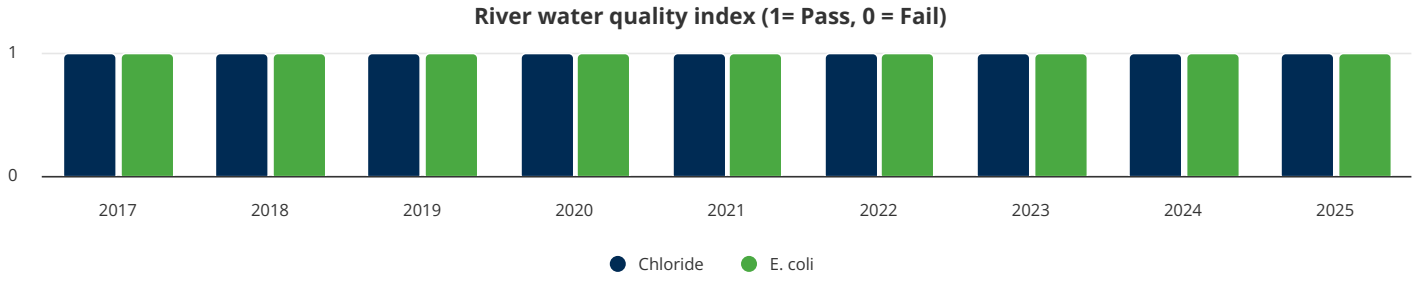
Overall, the 2025 results show that river water quality remained stable relative to 2024 and continued to stay within acceptable health and environmental limits for chloride and E. coli. However, the continued fair ratings for nutrient and sediment indicators underscore the importance of proactive watershed management and ongoing monitoring under changing climatic and urban conditions.

Future updates to the index will replace E. coli with Enterococcus, a more accurate indicator of recreational water safety under current provincial monitoring guidance.

Full Charts: 1. River Water Quality Index (4 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1= Poor)

2. River water quality index (1= Pass, 0 = Fail)





Charts

Number of Maintained Wildlife-Use Stepping Stones Lost

DESCRIPTION

This measure tracks the number of maintained wildlife-use stepping stone areas that have been lost or significantly altered. These stepping stones are small but important natural areas that help support habitat connectivity by allowing wildlife to move between larger habitat areas. This measure is reported as a subset of the broader natural areas loss analysis and helps illustrate the ecological impact of land-use change on wildlife movement.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

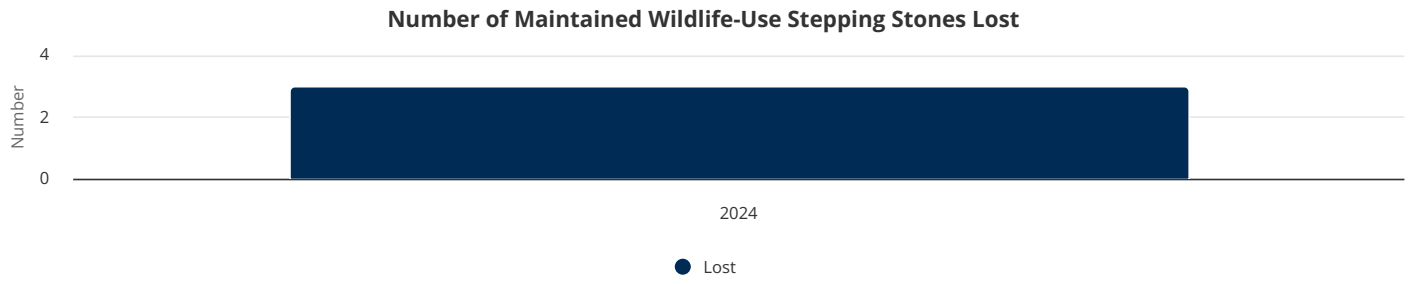
Biodiversity

ANALYSIS

In 2024, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis identified that three wildlife-use stepping stone areas were lost in the north end of the city due to urban development. These losses represent a subset of the broader per cent net change in natural areas lost and directly impact habitat connectivity. Additional stepping stone areas are anticipated to be lost or heavily impacted due to development in the future.

Because this measure depends on detailed spatial analysis of natural area loss and habitat connectivity, it will not be updated annually. The 2024 results shows that animal habitats are being broken up. To address this, future land-use plans should incorporate dedicated wildlife corridors and prioritize the preservation of adjacent green spaces to maintain ecological connectivity.

Full Interactive Chart: Number of Maintained Wildlife-Use Stepping Stones Lost



Charts

Per Cent Net Change in Natural Areas

DESCRIPTION

This measure shows the percentage change in the City's mapped natural areas since the 2015 baseline. By indicating how much land has been lost or gained, it helps assess how well the City is protecting its natural landscapes as development and other land-use changes occur.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION ALIGNMENT

Biodiversity

ANALYSIS

In 2015, the City had 711.7 hectares of mapped natural area including 220.5 hectares added through annexation. This inventory serves as the baseline for comparison. Based on 2024 aerial imagery, the latest mapping shows that 647.2 hectares (90.9 per cent) of those original natural areas remain. This represents a net loss of 64.5 hectares or about 9 per cent from the baseline.

Of this total loss, 37.1 hectares (5.2 per cent) were completely removed, meaning the areas were fully converted and no natural vegetation remains, while 17.7 hectares (2.5 per cent) were partially removed, meaning only part of the original natural area remains. Together, these visible changes account for 54.8 hectares of loss. The remaining 9.7 hectares (1.4 per cent) were removed from the inventory for technical reasons including boundary adjustments following annexation and improved interpretation from sharper 2024 imagery.

The decline in natural areas is primarily attributed to urban development on privately owned lands.

Full Interactive Chart: Per Cent Net Change in Natural Areas