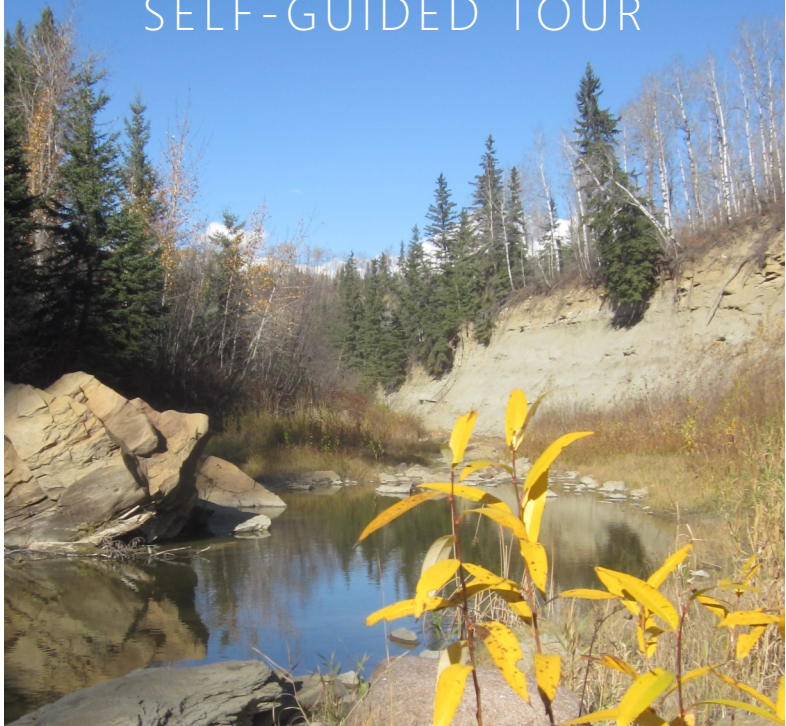


# COATES

CONSERVATION LANDS  
SELF-GUIDED TOUR





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# ABOUT EALT

Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving natural areas in and around Edmonton to protect biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and allow individuals to connect with nature, not only today, but for generations to come.



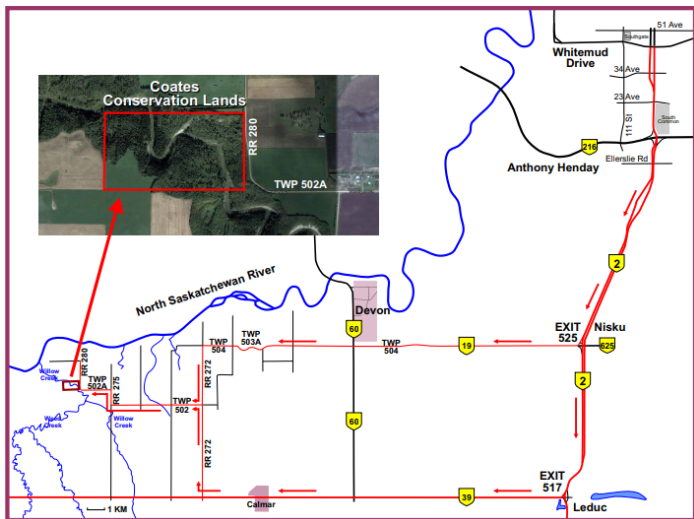
EALT acknowledges that Canada's Indigenous peoples were the original stewards of the land. Learn more at [www.ealt.ca/indigenous-connections](http://www.ealt.ca/indigenous-connections)

# COATES

Coates Conservation Lands are 80 acres of wilderness, primarily composed of parkland forest, a rapidly disappearing Alberta habitat. This natural area is dissected by Willow Creek, with sheer cliff banks, woodlands, and riparian areas that are home to unique plant and animal species. EALT thanks Ethel Coates for leaving this special piece of nature as her legacy, for all to enjoy, forever.



# DIRECTIONS






## FROM SOUTH EDMONTON:

Head south on Highway 2 to Leduc. Take exit 517 west onto Highway 39 past Calmar. Turn north on Range Road 272, west on Township Road 502, north on Range Road 275 and west on Township Road 502A until the road curves north into Range Road 280. Parking access is at the corner of Township Road 502A and Range Road 280.

# SELF-GUIDED TOUR TRAIL MAP




## Legend

-  Points of Interest
-  Trails (1.3 km)
-  Creek crossing

-  Parking
-  Boundary

Exact foot access crossing location may vary,  
and is only possible when water level is low.

0 40 80 160 Meters



© EALT 2018

# RULES OF ACCESS

Users are welcome to hike, snowshoe, cross-country ski, and connect with nature on the Coates Conservation Lands, but we ask that you follow these rules of access. Visit [www.ealt.ca/visit](http://www.ealt.ca/visit) for our full visiting guidelines.

- Foot access only.
- Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) including ATVs, quads, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, and other motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Coates Conservation Lands due to the negative impacts they have on the landscape.
- No hunting.
- Do not litter. Please take your garbage with you.
- Do not smoke, or light campfires.
- Please clean up after your dogs, and carry a leash in case you encounter wildlife or other people.
- Fossil collecting on private land is illegal in Alberta without consent of the owner.





# 1

# OFF-ROADING

E 303393 N 5911545 UTM Zone 12

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), such as quads and snowmobiles, cause damage to natural areas by:

- Eroding soil, especially on steep slopes.
- Spreading invasive plant seeds, which reduces biodiversity and degrades habitat.
- Causing habitat fragmentation and linear disturbances by the creation of many trails.
- Creating noise disturbance which masks natural sounds, altering wildlife's ability to sense danger and communicate with one another.
- Making tracks and eroded areas that reduce scenic value and create hazards for people on foot.

Help us protect this land for wildlife and people. Everyone is welcome to enjoy Coates Conservation Lands on foot!



# 2

# WILLOW CREEK

E 303375 N 5911695 UTM Zone 12

Willow Creek runs throughout the Coates Conservation Lands, and connects to the North Saskatchewan River approximately 2 km away. Conserving this land preserves crucial wildlife corridors, allowing animals to safely travel through the landscape and reach the river valley without passing directly through urban settings.

The North Saskatchewan river and its tributaries, such as Willow Creek, provide water to millions of people as it flows from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Winnipeg. Protecting this natural area and restricting the use of off-highway vehicles helps to prevent contaminants and pollution from entering the watershed, keeping this water supply and the North Saskatchewan River healthy.



# 3

## MIXEDWOODS

E 303360 N 5911807 UTM Zone 12

There are a variety of different vegetation communities on the Coates Conservation Lands. The plant community you are in now is a mixedwood forest stand. It is called a mixedwood stand because it includes a mix of both deciduous and coniferous trees. Deciduous trees are ones with leaves that shed annually, as opposed to evergreen trees that have needles year round. The mixedwoods forest in the Coates Conservation Lands is comprised of deciduous Trembling Aspen and Balsam Poplar, and coniferous White Spruce. There is a diverse community of animals and understory plants found within the mixedwoods forest, including Prickly Roses, Red Foxes, Saskatoons, Pileated Woodpeckers, Wild Raspberries, and Yellow Warblers.



# 4

## RIPARIAN AREAS

E 303251 N 5911746 UTM Zone 12

The areas surrounding rivers, creeks and streams are known as Riparian areas. A riparian area is a transition zone between the dry land and open water, which includes unique species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. These narrow strips of land offer many important benefits to the water and wildlife around them. Riparian plants contribute to improved water quality by acting as a filter to catch sediment and other contaminants. Waterside vegetation also helps to keep the water cool, regulate streamflow, and enhances wildlife habitat. Riparian areas also act as a buffer to reduce the impacts of uplands on aquatic areas, and to protect uplands from erosion. These are very important, but fragile areas – help preserve them by staying on the trails.





# 5

# DINOSAURS

E 303190 N 5911776 UTM Zone 12

This section of Willow Creek is historically significant, as many paleontological features were found and removed from the area, including Hadrosaur footprints, Albertosaurus skin impressions, and dinosaur bones. Multiple Hadrosaur, or duck-billed dinosaur, footprints were discovered in an 816 kg rock, that was removed from the area by helicopter in the early 1990s by the Royal Tyrrell Museum. As you explore the Coates Conservation Lands, pay close attention to the rocks near the river and cliff banks. Evidence of dinosaurs continues to be found on the Coates Conservation Lands today, maybe you'll get a glimpse of life millions of years ago too!



Skin impression



Bone fragment

# 6

## CONIFEROUS FOREST

E 303060 N 5911794 UTM Zone 12

Another important plant community within the Coates Conservation Lands is the coniferous forest. This stand of trees is primarily dominated by White Spruce. The terms coniferous and deciduous are often compared to one another, however one refers to how a plant reproduces, and the other to a feature of its growing pattern. Coniferous trees like the White Spruce here reproduce by forming cones, and are evergreen, because they keep their needle-like leaves year round. Coniferous forests are home to specific plants and animals including Bunchberry, Violet species, Twinflower, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley, Black-Capped Chickadees, Saw-Whet Owls and various species of fungi, mosses and lichen.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Donate!** Every donation helps conserve nature for the future [www.ealt.ca/donate](http://www.ealt.ca/donate)

**Volunteer!** Volunteer at our conservation lands or at outreach events [www.ealt.ca/volunteer](http://www.ealt.ca/volunteer)

**Visit!** Visit our conservation lands to experience nature [www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands](http://www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands)

**Advocate!** Spread awareness about EALT and local conservation [@EdAreaLandTrust](https://twitter.com/EdAreaLandTrust)

**Partner!** Conservation is a community effort [www.ealt.ca/partnerships](http://www.ealt.ca/partnerships)

**Bequest!** Leave a legacy in your Will [www.ealt.ca/legacy](http://www.ealt.ca/legacy)





[www.ealt.ca](http://www.ealt.ca)

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[@EdAreaLandTrust](https://twitter.com/EdAreaLandTrust)

You can visit more of EALT's natural areas!  
Directions and trail maps are available at:

[www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands](http://www.ealt.ca/conservation-lands)