

LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Update and Recommendations

February 5, 2024

Wendy Yule, LEAB Chair, 2023

Mindy Paradis, LEAB Vice Chair, 2023



Land Acknowledgement

Respectfully working within Treaty Six Territory and the Metis homeland.

LEAB is proud to uphold the shared responsibilities to treat each other, the land, air, and water with respect so that we can continue to share its benefits with generations to come.



Outline

- **Background**
- **Board Achievements**
- **Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives**
 - Yellowfish Road
 - Naturalization
 - Telford Lake Setbacks
- **Conclusion**

Background

LEAB's Mandate:

The Board shall advise Council on environmental matters and propose to Council any programs or practices for the protection, enhancement, and wise use of the environment.

The Board shall disseminate information to and for the residents of the City, to create a better appreciation of wise and prudent environmental practices.

Current Members:

- Councillor Lars Hansen
- Councillor Ryan Pollard
- Wendy Yule, Chair
- Mindy Paradis, Vice Chair
- Alena Mazur
- Benjamin McDonald
- James Kollmar
- James Turner
- Kala Raymond
- Ngaire Nix



Board Achievements

A Year in Review

- **Events**
 - Pitch-In Week
 - Arbour Day
 - Leduc Business Expo
 - Volunteer Fest
 - Bird Counts (Spring and Christmas)
 - Pollinator Garden Challenge
- **Recycling Conference of Alberta:** informative and inspiring!
- **Citizens of Distinction:** winning submission from 2023.

Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

- **E-Scooters:**
 - A permanent program in summer 2024
- **CEIP (Clean Energy Improvement Program):**
 - Third year of a four-year pilot program.
 - 40 projects are currently in progress

Pesticide Use

- Over 60% of residents expressed interest in education around safe and effective pesticide use and alternatives to pesticide
- Pesticide education campaign in 2024

Light Efficient Communities

- The Light Efficient Communities Advisory Committee within LEAB continues to promote dark sky awareness and evaluate resources needed for a program in Leduc

Hens and Bees Program

- Permanent program launch in 2024
- Will explore methods to increase engagement and reduce barriers to participation

Status Updates and Recommendations for Ongoing/Emerging Initiatives

Yellowfish Road Program

- LEAB plans to support local Scouts with this program
- Painting yellow fish on sewer drains to educate and reduce stormwater pollution
- \$125 investment for supplies
- Scouts will pilot it in Southfork in 2024



Yellow Fish Road

Canada's premier water education program

Status Updates and Recommendations for Ongoing/Emerging Initiatives

Naturalization

- LEAB acknowledges and supports naturalization efforts throughout the City
- These areas add to the high quality of life in the City and support local biodiversity and native pollinators



Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks

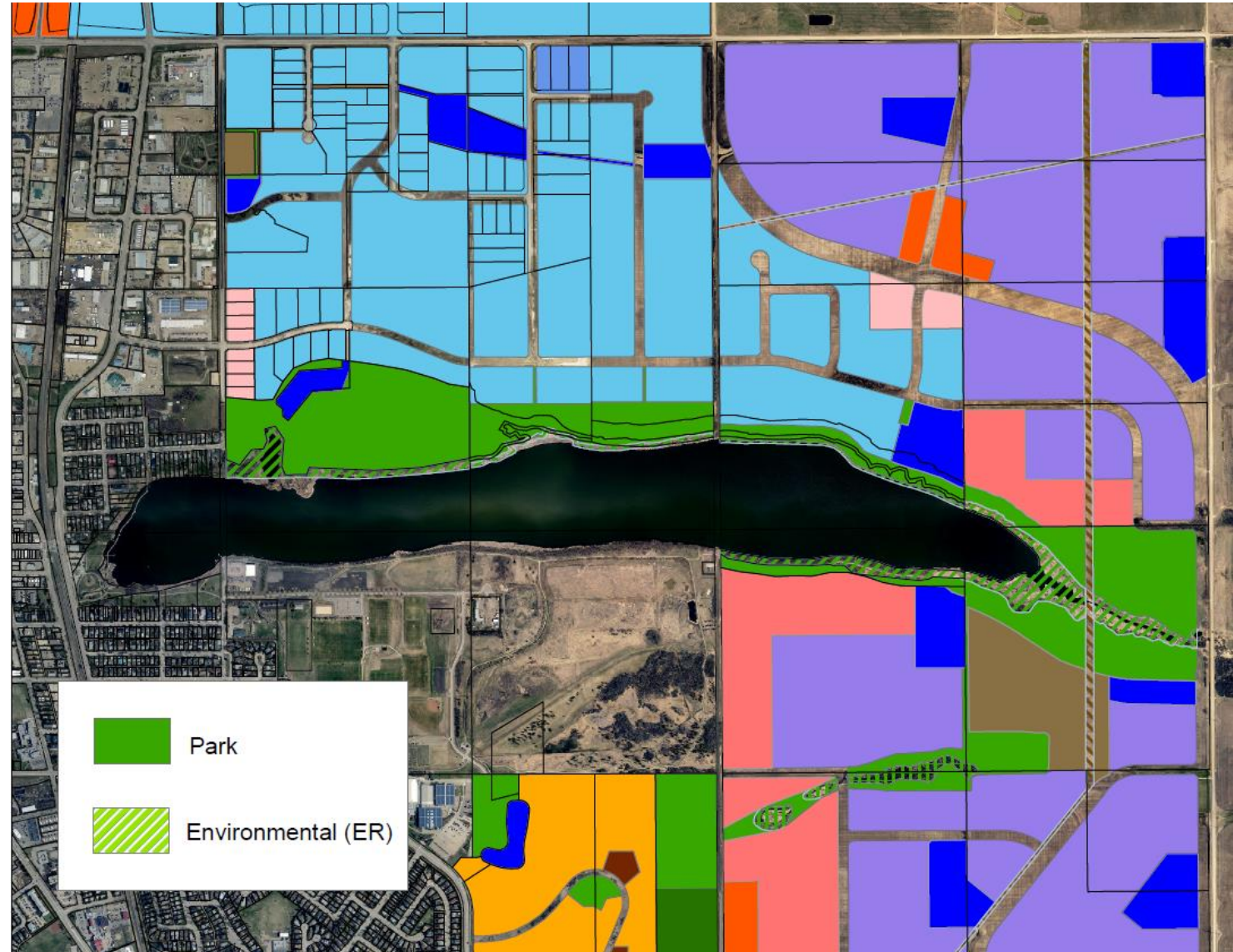
LEAB supports the preservation of the natural area around Telford Lake for the protection of water quality, wildlife, and for the enjoyment of current and future generations to come.

1. Retain and protect what we have with scientifically informed development setbacks around the lake,
2. Enhance guidelines for a buffer/transition zone between natural areas and development, and
3. Restore disturbed areas to improve their ecological condition

Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks

- 60 m of ER and MR around the lake currently dedicated
- LEAB has true concerns that this is not enough



Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks

- *Leduc Wildlife Corridor Study* (2018) recommends **300 – 350 m** buffer
- *Alberta Stepping back from the Water Guide* (2012) recommends **60 - 400 m** based on species

Corridor Widths for Conservation of Wildlife Habitat in Alberta Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Wetlands

Species of Interest	Width (m)	References
Foraging and loafing water birds	100	Rodgers and Smith 1997
Raptors	40 -150	Richardson and Miller 1997
Amphibians and reptiles	177-340	Semlitsch and Bodie 2003
Amphibians, small mammals and songbirds	100-200	Hannon et al 2002
Small mammals	60-100	Lehmkuhl et al 2008
Winter habitat for ungulates in large river valleys	400 m from water body or top of valley break + 100	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board



Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks

- Preserving the natural areas around Telford Lake is expected to require a multi-prong approach
- ***LEAB recommends that Council direct Administration to investigate the following opportunities before finalizing development decisions around Telford Lake***
- There is time to consider these ideas for an MDP update in the near future, but the time to start taking action is now

Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setback Opportunities

1. Articulate the value of Telford Lake as a natural asset in the MDP
2. Develop a Model/Policy to establish scientifically defensible setbacks around Telford Lake that consider water quality & wildlife habitat
3. Explore opportunities for regional alignment around development setbacks and best management practices (i.e. North Sask Watershed Alliance)



Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setback Opportunities

4. Conduct a Natural Asset Inventory and Ecosystem Service Assessment
 - Puts a monetary value on ecosystem services



A natural asset is a naturally-occurring feature, habitat, or ecosystem that contributes to the provision of one or more services required for the health, well-being, and long-term sustainability of a community and its residents (adapted from MNAI 2019).

The image shows the cover of a report. The top half has a brown background with a green band containing the title 'Natural Asset Inventory & Ecosystem Service Assessment for the Town of Okotoks' and 'FINAL REPORT'. Below this is a photograph of a yellow and black bird perched on a reed in a marshy area. The bottom section is dark green with white text and logos.

Natural Asset Inventory & Ecosystem Service Assessment for the Town of Okotoks
FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:
Town of Okotoks
Project #1978
July 2020

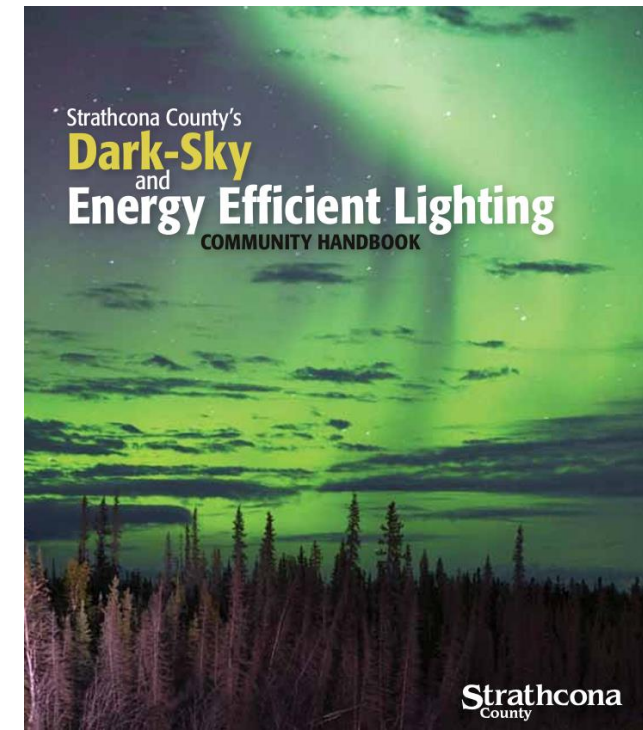
FIERA
Biological Consulting

Nichols
APPLIED MANAGEMENT INC.
MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS

Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks Opportunities

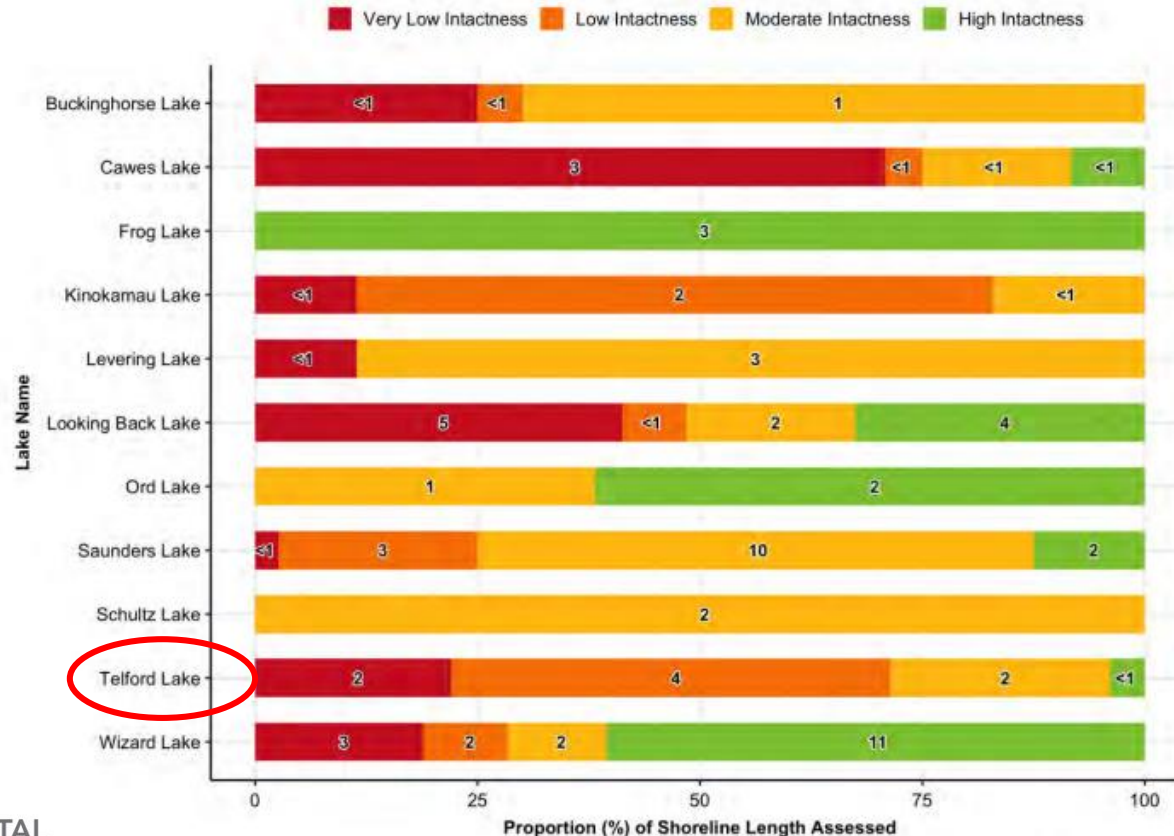
5. Conduct a Biodiversity Expert Review for development requirements in the transition/buffer areas (i.e. lighting, noise, tree planting)
 - Updates to the *Land Use Bylaw Telford Lake Overlay* requirements



Status Updates and Emerging Initiatives

Telford Lake Setbacks Opportunities

- Continue with restoration efforts around Telford Lake (i.e. naturalized area management, tree planting, wetland restoration, weed management)



NOTE: Numbers indicate the total length (km) of shoreline associated with each intactness category.



LEAB recommends that Council direct Administration to investigate the following opportunities before finalizing development decisions around Telford Lake. It is expected to take a multi-prong approach.

Summary of Opportunities	Expected Resources
1. Articulate the value of Telford Lake as a natural asset in the MDP	Administration
2. Develop a Model/Policy to establish scientifically defensible ER setbacks	Budget ~\$5,000 - \$20,000
3. Explore opportunities for regional alignment around development setbacks and best management practices (i.e. NSWA)	Administration
4. Conduct a Natural Asset Inventory and Ecosystem Service Assessment	Budget ~\$10,000 - \$30,000 for Telford, \$50,000 City wide
5. Conduct a Biodiversity Expert Review for development requirements in the transition/buffer areas (i.e. lighting, noise, tree planting)	Administration & Budget TBD
6. Continue with restoration efforts around Telford Lake (i.e. naturalization, tree planting, wetland restoration, weed management)	Continue Existing Work & Grant Funding Opportunities



Conclusion

We applaud the City of Leduc Council and staff for their continued commitment to environmental initiatives!

LEAB will continue to support the City's current environmental programs, advocate for the initiatives identified in this presentation, and identify new and emerging environmental topics, providing advisory support to Council along the way.

Thank-you!

