

Natural Assets Checklist

Use this list to identify which natural assets you have within your community on municipally owned or managed properties:

<input type="checkbox"/> Forests, woodlands 	<input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands, meadows, prairies 	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands 
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannahs, thickets 	<input type="checkbox"/> Rivers, streams, ditches, creeks 	<input type="checkbox"/> Lakes, ponds, reservoirs 
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaches 	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand dunes 	<input type="checkbox"/> Rocky shorelines 
<input type="checkbox"/> Escarpment, bluffs 	<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian areas 	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquifers 
<input type="checkbox"/> Alvars* 	<input type="checkbox"/> Street and park trees 	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks 

Natural Assets Checklist

<p>Forests, woodlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas dominated by dense stands of trees with greater than 35% canopy cover 	<p>Grasslands, meadows, prairies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasslands include meadows, tallgrass prairies, and (manicured) lawns** • Areas with less than 25% tree canopy cover, instead dominated by non-woody herbaceous plants 	<p>Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands covered seasonally or permanently by water, at or near ground surface • Poorly drained soils • Includes swamps, marshes, bogs, fens, and open water
<p>Savannahs, thickets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successional ecosystems with woody plants • Savannahs have 25–35% tree cover, thickets have greater than 25% shrub cover 	<p>Rivers, streams, ditches**, creeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercourses with flow at least some of the year 	<p>Lakes, ponds, reservoirs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland standing waterbodies • Lakes are larger than 2 ha, ponds are smaller than 2 ha
<p>Beaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy shorelines of lakes/rivers at water level 	<p>Sand dunes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hills of accumulated sand near the sandy shorelines of a lake 	<p>Rocky shorelines***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-sandy terrestrial edges of lakes, ponds, and other waterbodies
<p>Escarpment, bluffs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High and steep landforms separating areas of different heights • Bluffs are found along shorelines of waterbodies and watercourses 	<p>Riparian areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation communities adjacent to, or associated with, watercourses 	<p>Aquifers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater captured underground in layers of bedrock/sediment
<p>Alvars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively flat, bedrock habitats with thin/no soil • Sparse shrub or herbaceous cover 	<p>Street and park trees**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual trees along streets or in parks • Often planted, may receive regular maintenance 	<p>Parks**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands with natural/cultural environments • May contain other assets (e.g., forests, grasslands, lakes)

**Technically enhanced assets (created through human intervention) but often included with natural assets

***Generally engineered/hardened coastal shorelines not included, except where nature-based features or hybrid designs integrate natural elements to enhance ecological and coastal resilience