

## 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)

