



Environmental Information for the Church Ranches Community

Water Issues:

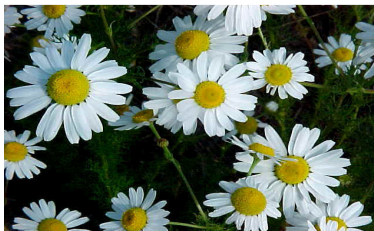
- Phosphates – ensure fertilizers are not being washed into the water system
- Silt – prevent erosion and keep 30 feet of natural area next to ponds and lakes
- Fecal Coliforms – ensure that septic fields work properly, and pick-up after pets

Controlled Community – Restrictive Covenants:

- The common lands are for the exclusive use of Church Ranches home owners
- No animals allowed except dogs, cats, small birds
- Second of two dogs is not allowed to run free
- No motorized vehicles of any kind (this includes electric motors) are allowed within the common lands (i.e. lake system, pathways, and nature reserve)
- Fishing is to be with barbless hooks. A catch and release fishing policy is in effect
- Garbage burning barrels are prohibited. Fires are not allowed in the common lands.
- All buildings and landscaping is to be contained within a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre building zone on the property
- No trees or bushes are to be cut down, or natural grass cultivated beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre building envelope

Noxious Weeds – known to be in Church Ranches:

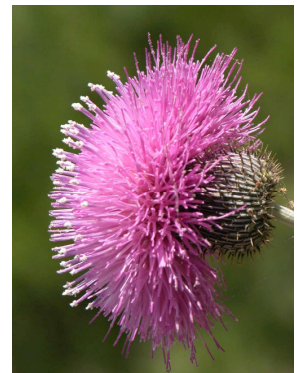
- Scentless Chamomile



- Canada Thistle



- Nodding Thistle



**Weed Control:**

- Dig out or spot weed instead of applying herbicide to entire lawn.
- It is unlawful to apply herbicides within 5 meters of any body of water used for recreation purposes – look for natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides wherever possible.
- The Weed Control Act of Alberta charges landowners with the responsibility to control weeds on their property, so as to prevent the spread to adjacent properties.

Septic Fields:

- Have holding tanks cleaned and emptied regularly (at least every 2 years)
- Cut grass over septic field on a regular basis
- Grow trees and bushes away from the septic field
- Keep heavy equipment and high use traffic off of the septic field area
- Garborator use decreases the time between required tank cleanings

Lawn Watering:

- Water in early morning or late evening on calm days to reduce evaporation
- Maintain grass height at a minimum of 2 ½" to shade roots and retain moisture. Short cutting or mowing large areas encourage pocket gophers and weed growth.
- A healthy looking lawn requires about 1" of water once weekly during the growing season.

Riparian Areas:

- Riparian areas (natural trees and grass) around ponds and lakes catch pollutants and silt before they reach the waterway and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Bulrushes naturally filter out pollutants.
- Minimize development in riparian areas and enlarge the area if possible with natural vegetation – shrubs and trees native to the area include: Saskatoons, birch, dogwood, poplar, and willows.
- Plants overhanging water protects and provides feed for smaller fish, and filters out much of the direct sunrays.
- For more information contact Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Program www.cowsandfish.org

Pets:

- Dogs must be under control
- Pick up feces
- Wildlife will be unable to raise young if continually disturbed by pets or observers



Garbage Disposal:

- Several local firms will pick up for your property. Home owners need to make individual arrangements with firms as desired.
 - Some service companies include the following:
 - Green Garbage Grabbers Ltd – Mike 667-1426, Stacy 667-1427
 - Foothills Disposal – Brad 606-0080
 - Kosland Enterprises – Dave 818-6513
 - BFI Canada – Sandra 236-3883
- Calgary Spy Hill landfill is available for garbage dump off – annual rates vary
- Paints, herbicides, and other chemicals can be taken to Spy Hill landfill or Calgary Fire Halls.

Wildlife:

- Respect the wildlife.
- Do not intrude on or approach them unnecessarily, and keep your pets under control around them.
- We want the natural wildlife to remain – they need to feel un-threatened and undisturbed.
- Wildlife common to Church Ranches include:
 - Badger
 - Black bear
 - Cougar
 - Coyote
 - Lynx
 - Moose
 - Mule deer
 - Porcupine
 - Red fox
 - Skunk
 - Squirrel
 - White tail deer
 - Also a host of birds and rodents

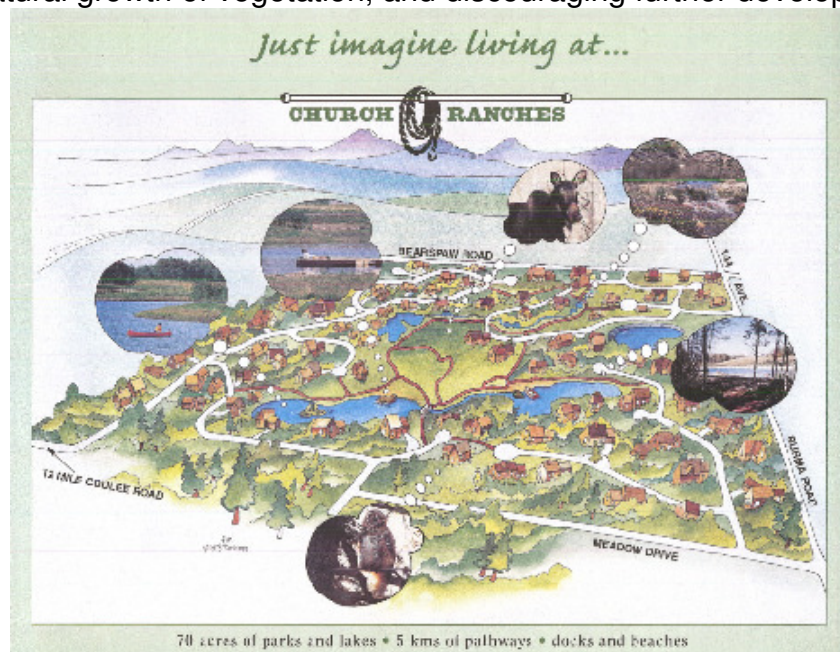


- Generally, woodlands will be more attractive to wildlife if left a little ragged around the edges. Instead of a clean, straight line or block of wooded area, allow some natural re-growth to create a more rough-edged buffer of shrubs and grasses giving way to your landscaped yard.
- If you have wildlife problems or concerns contact a wildlife agency (such as Alberta Environmental Protection). Do not use poisons as this can present potentially lethal dangers to other wildlife, pets and humans.
- Nearly all our wildlife is a real treat to enjoy rather than a threat – learn to co-exist with them and enjoy the rarity that relatively few people experience.



Church Ranches Common Lands:

- The Church Ranches “Common Lands” are managed by the Church Ranches Homeowners Association (CRHA) board and all home owners within the Church Ranches community pay an annual fee towards this association.
- The Church Ranches Common Lands are for the exclusive use of home owner’s and their guests. Guests are to be accompanied by a member of CRHA.
- The Common Lands specifically include:
 - The three lakes (Alexa, Cody, Cheyenne) and connecting water system.
 - Stocking of fish
 - Water quality testing
 - The gravel pathways (approximately 5 kms) meandering through the natural parkland
 - Weed management
 - Pathway maintenance
 - The public docks and beach areas at all three lakes.
 - The utility buildings
 - Pump house
 - Equipment garages
 - The nature reserve (approximately 70 acres)
 - Includes forested areas, grasslands, and wetlands (ponds)
- The common lands are designed to be and are maintained in such a way as to preserve the natural setting of the environment – encouraging habitation of wildlife, natural growth of vegetation, and discouraging further development.



- The CRHA board is elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- Matters outside the issues pertaining to the “Common Lands” are beyond the scope of responsibilities of the CRHA board.