

Natural Areas

Under the ALUS pilot project, landowners can enroll their natural areas and receive an annual payment based on their level of agricultural and environmental use.

Natural areas are any lands maintained with native grasslands, shrubs, and trees, or any combination thereof that has not been cultivated in the past 20 years. This doesn't include wetlands and riparian areas, as they are covered under separate ALUS categories. Natural areas are eligible for the following payment rates:

\$15.00 per acre when the landowner signs an ALUS contract to maintain wooded areas with no agricultural use, and no burning, breaking or clearing.

\$15.00 per acre when the landowner signs an ALUS contract to maintain grasslands with no agricultural use, with no breaking but prescribed burning permitted.

\$7.50 per acre when the landowner signs an ALUS contract to maintain or enhance wooded areas with an approved woodlot management plan.

\$7.50 per acre when the landowner signs an ALUS contract to maintain or enhance grassland areas, with haying permitted.

\$5.00 per acre when the landowner signs an ALUS contract to maintain or enhance wooded or grassland areas with controlled grazing permitted after July 1 if off-site watering is available.

Landowners who have any questions about their eligibility or the criteria for wetland areas should contact local ALUS representatives for more information.

Why Natural Areas?

Grasslands and wooded areas are valuable wildlife habitat and encourage biodiversity on Canada's agricultural landscape.

Both also minimize soil erosion, and help to sequester carbon to limit the impacts of greenhouse gases on the environment.

These areas are extremely valuable for recreation and also provide the pleasing landscape that Canadians expect from rural areas.