

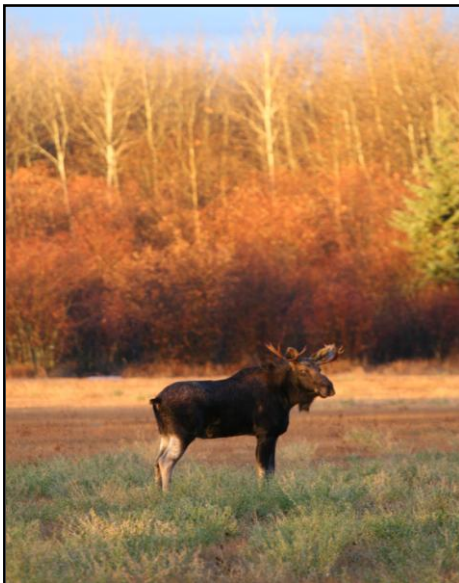


**Strathcona**  
County



## Ensuring a Lasting Wildland Legacy

### The Golden Ranches: A 1500-acre Gem at Edmonton's Door



**The Cooking Lake Moraine Natural Area (CLM)** has been designated a conservation high priority area by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, the Alberta Conservation Association and the Alberta Fish and Game Association. It is located in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada, an area internationally known for its highly productive wetlands. The Natural Area falls within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) program boundaries. In addition, the CLM is an important area as identified by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). The CLM contains Cooking, Ministik and Hasting Lakes -all of which provide excellent breeding and staging areas for globally significant concentrations of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in the spring.

The waterscapes by themselves cannot support the visible plant and animal biodiversity associated with the ecological health of the Moraine. The uplands and riparian lands associated with the water bodies are essential components which combine to ensure ongoing security and productivity of the flora and fauna associated this remarkable ecosystem.

### Golden Ranches: An Incredible Conservation Opportunity

Located in the heart of the Cooking Lake Moraine and approximately 27 km east of the City of Edmonton is the 1509-acre Golden Ranches. Purchased by its current owners in the early 1950s, the Golden Ranches represents the largest working ranch left in Strathcona County and the Cooking Lake Moraine Natural Area.

The Ranch borders North Cooking Lake and is located one mile from Hastings Lake and the Blackfoot Grazing Reserve, both Provincial "Environmentally Significant Areas" (ESA). Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary, a Provincial ESA, is 3.5 miles south and Elk Island National Park, a National ESA, is located 5 miles north. The property also lies within a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) targeted area, and provides important habitat for migrating and nesting waterfowl.



Golden Ranches provides more than four miles of important riparian habitat along North Cooking Lake. The diversified landscape favours an abundance of wildlife such as mule deer, moose and red-tailed hawk and numerous species of songbirds and small mammals.

Threats to the property, if it is not conserved through a partnership of conservation groups, include clearing of additional forest habitat for agriculture, unsustainable grazing management, country-residential development and the invasion and spread of non-native species.

## Why Invest in the Golden Ranches Project?

The Golden Ranches project presents an unprecedented opportunity for the non-profit stakeholder partners and their supporters work collectively towards creating a living wildland legacy within sight of over a million urban residents of the Edmonton metropolitan area. As a partnership, this project brings Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Strathcona County, Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA), Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Edmonton and Area Land Trust together to apply the art and science of conservation and environmental stewardship for a broad range of stakeholders.



The Golden Ranches Project will be unique in ascribing to a wide range of non-invasive wilderness enjoyment activities while sustaining the wildland attributes that it presented to the first settlers arriving on the landscape almost 200 years ago.

This project will be quite unlike the National Park to the north with its wildland preservation goals and its restricted public use pressures, the grazing reserve to the east with its emphasis on livestock use and active horse and snowmobile use, and the bird sanctuary to the south with a focus on migratory bird protection. The Golden Ranches will be managed as a low-impact visitor-use area while sustaining a broad range of biodiversity goals established on the basis of good science and prudent management practices. The conservation and stewardship practices that will be employed will define the potential of the Partnership and set in motion a working alliance for the synergy required to continue this type of work within the Cooking Lake Moraine.

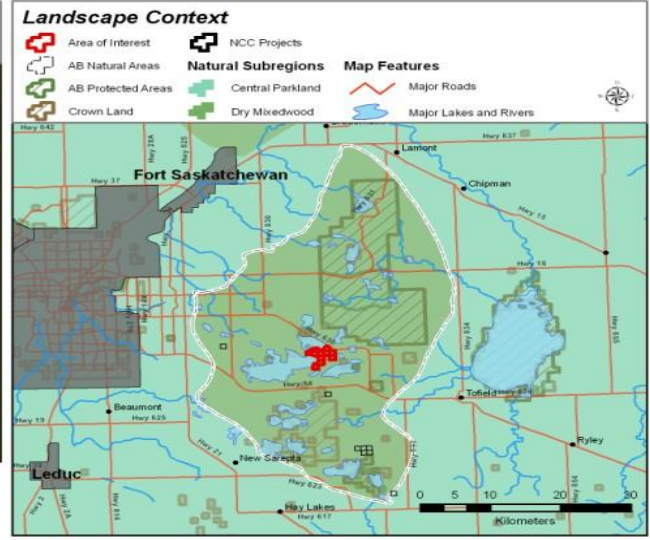
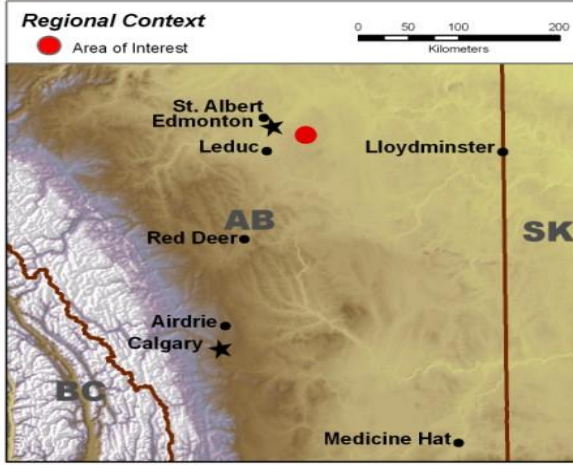
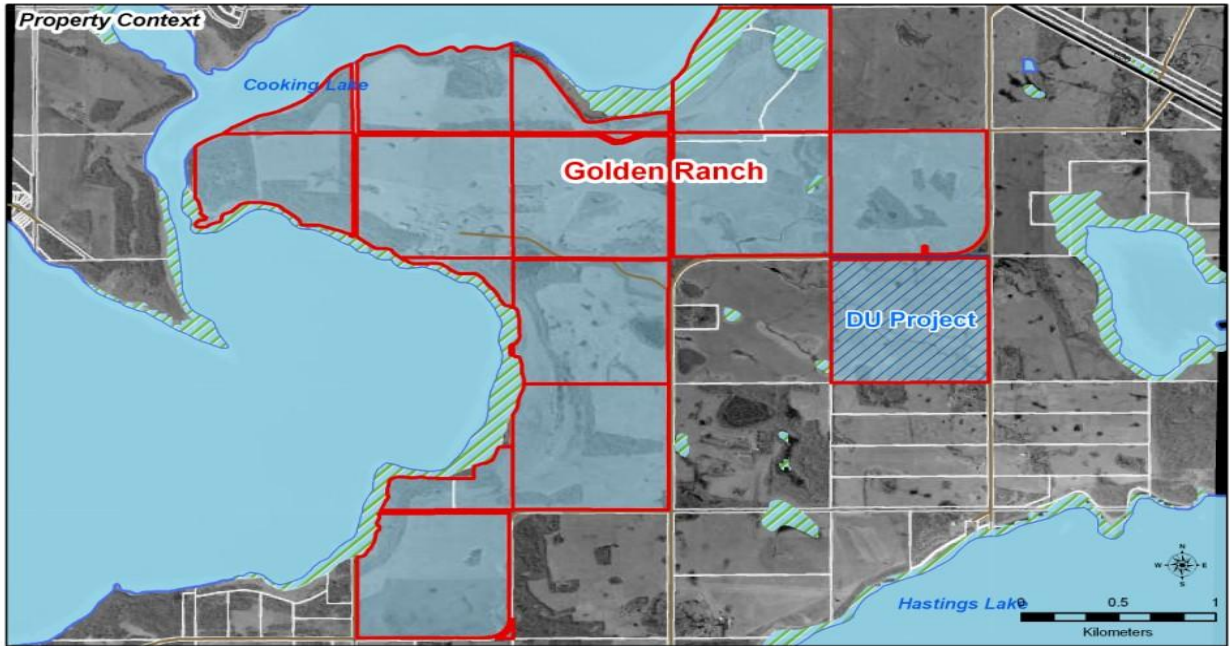


## Location of Golden Ranches Property

## Conservation Management of the Golden Ranches

The Partnership's work is just beginning with securing of the land. The Nature Conservancy of Canada's stewardship program will play a major role in defining how we will manage the property for its natural values and ecological significance for the long term. A baseline inventory and management plan will be developed for the property in 2009, which will combine range management and wildlife biology with the local landowners' knowledge of the landscape to conserve native habitats for wildlife species. Low-impact public access will be addressed as well. Yearly monitoring of the property's conservation targets will occur, as identified in the Cooking Lake Moraine Natural Area Conservation Plan.

# Golden Ranch - Cooking Lake Moraine Natural Area



Map Creation: August 2008 Nature Conservancy of Canada  
 Map Projection: Regional Map - Canada Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Property / Landscape Maps - NAD 1983 10TM AEP Resource  
 Data Sources: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), 2008  
 Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2008

## Costs to Conserve Golden Ranches Property

Component	Value
Cost of Land Purchase	\$12,000,000
Associated Securement Costs	\$135,000
Short-term Stewardship Costs	\$160,000
Stewardship Endowment	\$500,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$12,795,000</i>

## Our Request

The Golden Ranches Conservation Project represents an outstanding opportunity for investors to demonstrate their commitment to conservation, increase community profile and play a key role in saving Alberta's a unique boreal ecotype.

This project will be highlighted as a significant investment by your organization as this partnership project, and the celebration, will attract interest from both the media and the general public across the province.

An investment up to twelve-million dollars will ensure that this partnership of conservation groups is able to conserve this unique and ecologically sensitive project before the end of April. Investors will benefit from the significant attention this project will attract and the tax benefits offered through the Federal Eco Gifts Program and we would welcome the opportunity to celebrate the completion of this outstanding project with your help.

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