

Site Name:	Clifford E. Lee
Site Type:	Natural Area
Status:	Order-in-council (OC)
Subtype:	Conservation
PASite ID (Map Ref #):	525
O.C. No. (Land Ref. Manual):	519/95
Site # (Parks Website):	533
Reserved Area:	0.00 ha. (0.00 ac.)
Designated Area:	11.33 ha. (28.00 ac.)
Total Area:	11.33 ha. (28.00 ac.)
Additional Protected Areas:	none
Lat/Long Co-ordinates:	53.415879655 N, -113.785333308 W
Natural Region:	Parkland
Natural Subregion(s):	Central Parkland
2nd Natural Region:	
2nd Natural Subregion(s):	
IUCN Classification:	II
Operated By:	Parks Division
Info Phone:	780-960-8170
Steward(s) Aug2002:	Volunteer(s) 1
Steward(s) Aug2003:	Volunteer(s) 1
Steward(s) Dec2011:	yes
Petroleum & Natural Gas Surface Access Aug2002:	No Surface Access
Day Use Site(s):	Clifford E. Lee
Recreation Activities:	none noted

Access:

Notes: The Clifford E. Lee Natural Area (11 ha), located north of Devon, is a critical addition to the Canadian Nature Federation's Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary. The natural area ensures protection of the outlet channel of the sanctuary's main wetland. It contains cattail-sedge marsh and sandy upland habitat.

This site lies in the Parkland Natural Region, Central Parkland Sub-region. Fourteen Level 1 and 63 level 2 natural history themes have been identified to describe the environmental diversity of the Central Parkland. Full representation of 5 of the Level 1 themes has been achieved, but the remaining level 1 themes are not well represented within the parks and protected areas network. There is some representation of most level 2 themes within the network. The Clifford E. Lee Natural Area was established or expanded as part of the Special Places program (Alberta Parks web site, 2012).

Field Trip to Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary - 24 July 2004

Nine people came to explore this popular Nature Sanctuary near Edmonton and the smaller Natural Area across the road. Margaret Reine showed us around. In spite of the recent (heavy!) rains, the lake was showing the effects of too many years of dry weather, and the boardwalk was high and dry, but there was some consolation, as some plants were growing nearby in areas normally underwater, such as mealy primrose and fringed gentian. Whether it was the low water levels or the very hot day, there were not many water birds to be seen, which are one of the main features of this reserve, and no yellow-headed blackbirds, its signature logo bird. More disturbing information was the increasing threat of nearby acreage development, and persistent vandalism, including the deliberate sawing off of the thick steel pipe supporting a donation box. Stewards can only do so much, but it is their constant vigilance in tracking adjacent activities that prevents further encroachments and deterioration of these otherwise unprotected areas. (SAPAA Newsletter 2004)

Images:



