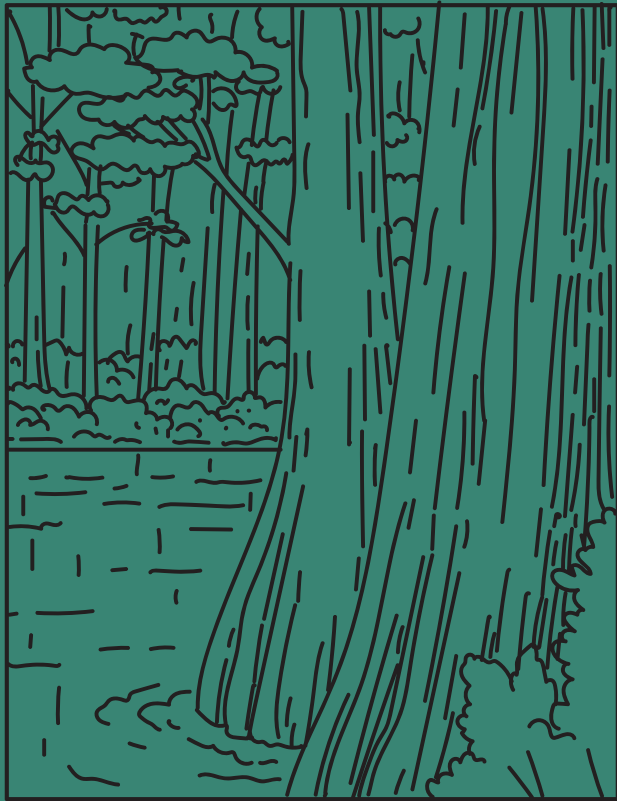


Ecosystems of Fish Creek Provincial Park



Volume I Foothills Parkland “FPCII” Basket Willow – Awned (Water) Sedge

The Foothills Parkland sub-region occupies a small discontinuous belt along the eastern edge of the foothills from NE Calgary to the north end of the Porcupine Hills and south of Pincher Creek to the U.S. border. The species diversity in this sub-region is high due to the rapid changes in topography and climate going from east to west. Three vegetation types are considered representative: Foothills rough fescue grasslands, beaked willow shrublands, and aspen groves. The lands of the Foothills parkland provide a multitude of ecological goods and services including drought, flood, and climate resiliency, carbon sequestration and storage, and wildlife habitat. The FPCII plant community is common along Fish Creek in the Bow Valley Ranch.

White Spruce

Picea glauca FPC11 Canopy Cover: 1%

- This species is common across the province, but makes up only 1% of the FPC11 plant community
- Grows slowly but eventually tower over other trees



- Needle-like leaves, dark green in color
- The bark is thin, gray, and has flaky scales
- Has a brown, oblong-elliptic cone

Bog/ Dwarf Birch

Betula glandulosa FPC11 Canopy Cover: 7%

- Dark brown bark and twigs are covered with wart-like glands
- Leaves are circular to oval with a toothed margin
- Wildlife such as moose, deer, beaver, caribou, and elk use the shrub as food



Basket Willow

Salix petiolaris FPC11 Canopy Cover: 30%

- Large shrub that is common and widespread
- Prefers open marsh habitats, but can be found growing along wetland edges

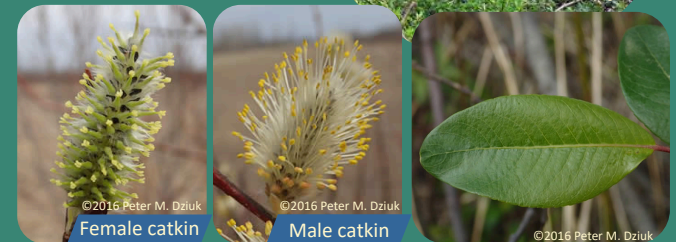


- Male and Female flowers are on separate plants in spike-like clusters (catkins). Blooms from April - May
- Leaves are alternate, finely toothed around the edges, and is narrowly elliptical

Flat-Leaved Willow

Salix planifolia FPC11 Canopy Cover: 3%

- Like the Basket willow, it's thickets provide cover for wildlife such as ducks, song birds, and salmonids like trout



- Male and Female flowers are on separate plants in spike-like clusters (catkins)
- Leaves are alternate, oblong-elliptic to narrowly urn-shaped
- Blooms from April - June

Veiny Meadow Rue

Thalictrum venulosum FPC11 Canopy Cover: 1%

- A native perennial plant the blooms between June - July
- The plant prefers part shade in well drained soil



- The leaves are bunched in groups of 3
- It either has 3 to 5 notches
- Male and Female flowers are on separate plants

Awned Sedge

Carex atherodes FPC11 Canopy Cover: 15%

- This blooms from June - July
- It prefers wet habitats with full sun like marshes, swamps and riverbanks



- Each spike has a stamen and a pistil
- The stamen are located at the tip whilst the pistil is located below

Tufted Hair Grass

Deschampsia cespitosa FPC11 Canopy Cover: 3%

- A moisture loving native grass that grows on sunny sites, in moist to wet soil
- It is clump-forming which is great in moist, sunny sites, as well as boggy or seasonally wet area



- The plant blooms between June - September
- It's blooms turn from purplish to bronze

Lindley's Aster

Symphyotrichum ciliolatum FPC11 Canopy Cover: 1%

- Flowers are in an open branching cluster at the top of the plant
- Flowering occurs between late July - October



- Leaves are thin and generally heart shaped
- The flowers are pale blue with a yellow centre disc



Water Sedge

Carex aquatilis FPC11 Canopy Cover: 24%

- Fruiting season is from July - August
- Grows in sites where the water table is near the soil surface
- Can survive being underwater for 30 to 60 days



- Fruit develops starting in early summer, forming clusters of seeds, each wrapped in a casing, all under overlapping scales

Do you want to learn more about growing native plants? We can help!



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