

2023 Annual Project Report

Project Forest Nutrien Forest



Project
Forest

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Land Acknowledgement

| Traditional Territories



Members of Cumberland House Cree Nation (CHCN) at the CHCN Food and Medicine Forest

Project Forest acknowledges that our work is conducted on both Treaty and non-Treaty lands. These lands are the traditional territories of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that our work is intertwined with the deep and diverse histories of Indigenous Peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in these territories and are committed to the recognition and respect of those who live or have lived, travelled, and gathered on these lands for time immemorial.

About Us

| Our Mission and Values

Rewilding Canada, one forest at a time.

Project Forest is a non-profit organization working in partnership with conservation groups, Indigenous communities and Canadian businesses to make a positive environmental and social impact in our communities through planting forests. The forests we plant clean the air and water, increase biodiversity and contribute to the overall health and well-being of our communities.



Our work is rooted in our values.

Responsibility

We believe it is our responsibility to use our skills, knowledge, and experience to bring about positive change in the world.

Reciprocity

We recognize that we have benefited from the earth's resources and are committed to giving back through careful and thoughtful solutions.

Humility

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from nature, to contribute to improving our environment, and to make a positive impact in people's lives.

Transparency

We document, monitor, and share our processes and findings with partners and the public—every step of the way, on every project.

Community

We create spaces where people can connect with nature, and each other. We respect every community we are invited into, and work together to make positive change.

Overview

| United Nations Sustainability Development Goals

Goals to Transform Our World

Planting new forests is critically important in addressing the challenges of our time, particularly when aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). As our communities grapple with climate change and biodiversity loss, forests emerge as pivotal solutions that intersect with multiple UN SDGs including, combating climate change and preserving biodiversity, fostering economic development, ensuring food security, promoting clean water access, and advancing social equity. Aligning the impacts of our forests with the UN SDGs is essential for communicating to stakeholders our dedication to sustainability, transparency, and the measurement of progress over time.

In our 2023 Annual Report, we have linked the outcomes of our rewilding projects with relevant UN SDG targets and indicators, as well as aligned them with corresponding Environment, Social, and Governance goals. This comprehensive approach ensures that our partners have readily accessible information for corporate sustainability reporting, simplifying the process and enhancing transparency.



Purpose & Positive Impact

The following UN SDGs are impacted by the Project Forest Strathcona Forest:

Purpose



Positive Impact



Overview

| Forest Facts

About the forest you funded.

NAME

Project Forest Nutrien Forest

LOCATION

Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

[53°43'46.2"N 113°11'00.9"W](#)

DATE PLANTED

Spring 2023

SIZE

17 hectares

TOTAL SEEDLINGS PLANTED

26,100

TOTAL SPECIES PLANTED

1

TOTAL CO2 REMOVED FROM THE AIR*

9,354 metric tonnes

SPECIES PLANTED

Okanese Poplar (26,100)



* Metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) projected to be removed from the air over 150 years.

Purpose

| UN SDG 15 - Life on Land

Goal: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Matching ESG Goals:

- Providing clean air and water
- Improving biodiversity
- Re-establishing traditional landscapes



Project Forest is making a positive impact through restoring degraded land to increase forest cover, enhance biodiversity, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area



26,100
Trees Planted

The Project Forest Nutrien Forest has increased forested area in the Fort Saskatchewan region in northern Alberta through the planting of 26,100 trees. The trees were planted in June 2023 at the Nutrien Fort Saskatchewan site as part of the reclamation of a phosphogypsum stack. The site is owned and maintained by Nutrien.

Purpose

| UN SDG 15 - Life on Land



Indicator 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

Project Forest is rewilding degraded land that has been disturbed and has not recovered through normal ecological processes.

The Project Forest Nutrien Forest is an innovative reclamation process piloted at Nutrien’s Fort Saskatchewan facility. It uses phosphogypsum — a gypsum byproduct of the phosphate fertilizer industry — incorporated into the planting soil to create a thriving forest.

Very large piles of phosphogypsum (also known as “stacks”) are typically reclaimed by covering them with soil and seeding them to a grass mixture. At this facility, *afforestation* techniques are being used as an improved approach for reclamation. The tree plantations are not only aesthetically pleasing; they bring significant environmental benefits including new wildlife habitat, a stronger local ecosystem, and carbon sequestration.

The Nutrien Fort Saskatchewan facility is located 30 km east of Edmonton, in the city of Fort Saskatchewan.

Planting forests in degraded ecosystems has several positive effects including, an improvement to soil health, increased biodiversity, habitat for birds and animals, ground water filtration and improved air quality.

Ecosystem degradation

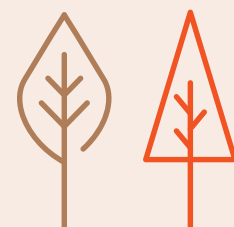
is defined as, “an event or process that reduces the productivity or value of an ecosystem, or that delays or prevents an ecosystem from recovering from disturbance through normal successional processes.” (Haeussler et al., 2002)

Afforestation “is the direct human-induced conversion of land that has not been forested for a period of at least 50 years to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources. annual monitoring survey” (UNFCC, 2008).



“Through ongoing reclamation, we’re transforming historically unusable areas at our site into productive forests with innovative techniques and a collaborative mindset. We’re harnessing the power of forests and the many benefits they bring to the environment.”

—**Ted Sawchuk**, General Manager of Nutrien’s Fort Saskatchewan Nitrogen Facility



Purpose

| UN SDG 13 - Climate Action

Goal: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Matching ESG Goals:

- Reducing GHG emissions
- Experiencing nature in an educational and interactive way



The forests we plant can have a significant impact on mitigating climate change.

Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing it in their biomass and soil. By planting forests, we increase the amount of CO₂ sequestered, thereby reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. This helps mitigate climate change by reducing the amount of CO₂ that contributes to global warming (NRCAN, 2022).

The amount of CO₂ projected to be removed from the atmosphere over the lifetime of the Project Forest Nutrien Forest is 9,354 metric tonnes.

Project Forest uses the [Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector \(CBM-CFS3\)](#) modelling framework developed by Natural Resources Canada to assess the impacts of our forests on carbon. This is the national standard for reporting on forest carbon.

9,354

Metric tonnes of CO₂ project to be removed from the air.

Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector

is an aspatial, stand- and landscape-level modelling framework used for international reporting of the forest carbon balance of Canada's managed forest (NRCAN, 2024).

Purpose

| UN SDG 13 - Climate Action



Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Project Forest provides our partners and the wider community with the opportunity to participate in educational activities through our Community and Corporate Outreach Program. Experiencing nature in an educational and interactive way enriches knowledge, fosters a connection with the environment, promotes well-being, and encourages responsible environmental behaviour. These are some of the engagement activities we conducted in 2023:

Lunch and Learns, Keynote Presentations and Panel Discussions

- Overview of the rewilding process, our projects, and stories of community impact
- Stakeholder project impacts and opportunity to engage with the Project Forest team

Corporate Tree Planting Events

- In-person, hands-on volunteering opportunities for Silver, Gold and Platinum financial partners
- Educational talks around seedling physiology, forest succession, tree planting technique, tree planting survey methodology, seed collection, plant identification, and traditional plant uses

Indigenous Engagement

- Opportunity to learn from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders in various capacities from presentations, interviews and talks, to one-on-one exchanges at our Corporate Planting Events and Annual Partner Celebration

Podcast, radio, tv and webinar interview

- Overview of the rewilding process for general audiences
- Discussions of more in-depth topics such as working with Indigenous communities, operating a non-profit, and sustainable forest practices

Annual Partner Celebration

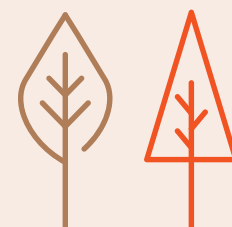
- Presentations featuring a wide range of speakers from the Project Forest community
- Focus on Indigenous reconciliation through rewilding, sustainable business practices, and community investment

Seedling and Seed Kit giveaway events throughout the year

- Opportunity to interact with the Project Forest team
- Celebrate the impact your organization is making
- Engage with the Project Forest community

1

Project Funding Partner



Positive Impact

| UN SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

Goal: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.



Planting a forest can have several positive impacts on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages.

Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

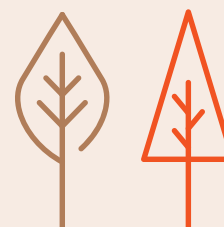
Forests act as natural air filters by absorbing pollutants and particulate matter from the atmosphere. Trees remove harmful gases by absorbing them through their leaf stomata, filtering these chemicals from the air. Particulate matter is intercepted by the tree's surfaces. When it rains, the particles are washed off and carried to the ground. Planting forests can help improve air quality, by reducing the exposure of communities to harmful pollutants. (Nowak et al., 2014)

In addition to improving air quality, forests provide opportunities for people to connect with nature, enjoy recreational activities, and experience the positive physical and mental health effects of spending time outdoors. They also provide various ecosystem services that indirectly contribute to our health and well-being.

Some of the important ecological services provided by forests include:

- cleaning water through water filtration
- cleaning air through oxygen production and absorption of pollutants
- rebuilding of soils and restoration of nutrients
- holding back floodwaters and releasing needed water into rivers and streams
- absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere
- maintaining biodiversity by providing habitat for countless species

These services all indirectly impact human health and well-being.



Positive Impact

| UN SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



The forests we plant can have positive impacts on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water.

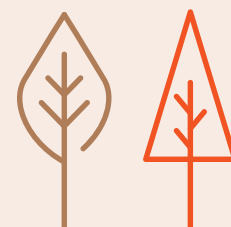
Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.

Forests filter, purify and improve the quality of our water. Tree roots help retain soil and reduce the transport of pollutants into water bodies. Planting forests in watershed areas can contribute to protecting water quality, ensuring access to clean water for communities. (NRCAN, 2021)

While planting forests alone cannot solve all our water-related challenges, they do offer nature-based solutions to help achieve sustainable management of our water resources.

Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Forests act as natural sponges and filters, absorbing rainfall and gradually releasing it while purifying it as it passes through the ecosystem. By restoring forests, we can enhance water quality, reduce erosion, and promote water retention in the landscape.



Partner
| Funding Partner



Project Forest Nutrien Forest

Our work is not possible without you.

Thank you to Nutrien for being the exclusive funder of this forest.



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