

2024 Annual Project Report

Project Forest Nutrien Forest



Project
Forest

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Land Acknowledgement

| Traditional Territories



Member 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 Nutrien Forest:

Purpose



Positive Impact



Overview

| Forest Facts

About the forest you funded.

NAME

Project Forest Nutrien Forest

DATE PLANTED

Spring 2023

TOTAL SEEDLINGS PLANTED

26,100

TOTAL CO2 REMOVED FROM THE AIR*

9,354 metric tonnes

SPECIES PLANTED

Okanese Poplar (26,100)

LOCATION

Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
[53°43'46.2"N 113°11'00.9"W](#)

SIZE

17 hectares

TOTAL SPECIES PLANTED

1



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

2024 Activity Summary Report

Project Forest Nutrien Forest

This summary reframes the key findings from the 2024 Project Forest Nutrien Forest Project survey reports through the lens of three relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



| UN SDG 15 - Life on Land

Goal: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

The afforestation survey conducted at the Nutrien site in October 2024 assessed 41 plots across a 14.8-hectare planting area. The assessment was the first since planting took place in 2023 and was carried out under the Project Forest monitoring protocol. Of the 41 plots, 37 (90.2%) were deemed satisfactorily restocked (SR), with only 4 plots classified as not satisfactorily restocked (NSR), due to what appears to be mowing on site.



Figure 1: 2024 Stocking Summary

Type of Plot	# of Plots	% of Plots
Total Sufficiently Restocked (SR)	37	90.2
NSR-LIG Stocking	0	0.00
Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR)	4	9.8
Total Stocking (SR + NSR-LIG/Total # of Plots)	37	90.2

90.2%

Tree Survival Rate

The widespread presence of noxious weeds was noted across the site. This site it is mowed weekly and the weeds are addressed during this time. Also, as the seedlings planted are very fast growing, they will create crown closure in 3-5 years in turn shading out any noxious weeds.

The current vegetation management strategy is sufficient. The weeds will be managed through mechanical mowing until such time crown closure occurs and the work is no longer necessary.

Figure 2: Invasive Species List

Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Scentless chamomile
Sweet clover
Yellow Toadflax
Kochia/cypress spp.
Knapweed spp.
Perennial sow thistle

| UN SDG 13 - Climate Action

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. By restoring forest ecosystems, this project contributes to:

- **CO2 Removal:** The site is currently on track to remove 9,354 metric tonnes of CO2 as projected in year one.
- **Monitoring disturbance:** 4 plots were classified as Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR), due to what appears to be mowing on site. No fill plant is planned as some seedlings survived and could grow back on their own.

Figure 3: Nutrien Planting Site NSR



| UN SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

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

Phosphogypsum (PG) is a fine, powdery gypsum byproduct generated during phosphate fertilizer manufacturing. Large accumulations of PG, referred to as gypstacks, are present at phosphate production sites worldwide, including Nutrien's operations. In June 2023, Nutrien, in partnership with Project Forest, planted 26,100 Okanese poplar (*Populus spp.*) seedlings across a 17-hectare gypstack to support site revegetation and ecological restoration efforts [Kravchinsky, 2024].

The new forest will act as a natural tree canopy or "phytocap." The trees utilize residual nutrients present in the PG and will close canopy after 2–3 growing seasons with no rain or snowmelt infiltration beyond the tree-rooting zone [Kravchinsky, 2024]. This keeps any harmful runoff from reaching the nearby North Saskatchewan River and surrounding lands.

According to Connie Nichols, PhD, Environmental Soil Scientist at Nutrien, the mature okanese poplar will collect more water than what falls from the sky, but until they are mature, any runoff drains into a collection ditch and is injected into specialized wells away from the river.

This tree canopy is effective at preventing water infiltration into underlying materials. They form a tree root liner to prevent the downward movement of contaminants, allowing nature to protect itself - replacing the need for engineered or synthetic cover systems, [Kravchinsky, 2024].

According to *Environment Canada*, roughly **62,917,000 liters of water** accumulated at the Nutrien Forest planting zone in 2024. See Figure 4 table on next page for calculations.



62.9M

Liters of water accumulation
at Nutrien Forest in 2024

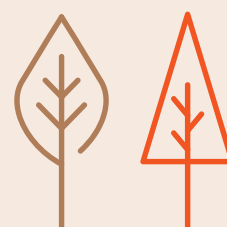


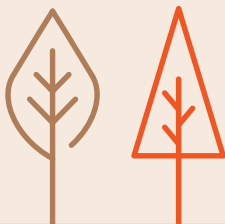


Figure 4: 2024 Nutrien Forest Annual Precipitation

	Step Description	Formula/Conversion	Rainfall
1	Area of land	1 hectare = 10,000 m ²	17ha × 10,000 = 170,000 m ²
2	Convert Depth to Meters	cm ÷ 100 mm ÷ 1000	370.1mm = 0.3701 m
3	Volume (m ³)	Volume = Area × Depth	170,000 × 0.3701 = 62,917 m ³
5	Convert to Liters	1 m ³ = 1,000 liters	62,917 × 1,000 = 62,917,000 liters
Total Accumulation = 62,917,000 liters			

Note: The numbers reflected here are for annual rainfall only. While snowfall does create available soil water, the actual number is impossible to verify due to run off and melting events while ground conditions are frozen and trees aren't transpiring.

As Project Forest does not operate its own weather monitoring stations or gauges, we rely on historical data provided by the Government of Canada. Specifically, we reference the “*Past Weather and Climate*” database to obtain annual rainfall figures within a 25 km radius of each planting site. This data can be found [HERE](#)



2023 Annual Report

Project Forest Nutrien Forest

The Project Forest Nutrien Forest Project stands as a multidimensional sustainability initiative. Through continued monitoring, adaptive management, and collaboration, Project Forest and our partners are creating tangible, lasting impacts across several pillars of the 2030 UN SDG Agenda.



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

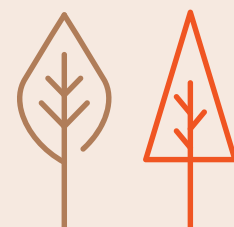
is defined as, “an event or process that reduces the productivity or value of an ecosystem, or that delays or prevents an ecosystem from recovering from disturbance through normal successional processes.” (Haeussler et al., 2002)

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

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:

1

Project Funding Partner

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

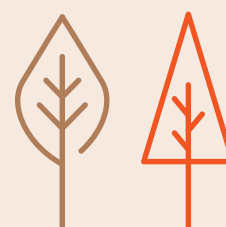
- Overview of the rewilding process for general audiences
- Discussions of more in-depth topics such as working with Indigenous communities, operating a non-profit, and sustainable forest practices

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



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

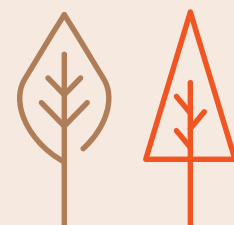
Forests act as natural air filters by absorbing pollutants and particulate matter from the atmosphere. Trees remove harmful gases by absorbing them through their leaf stomata, filtering these chemicals from the air. Particulate matter is intercepted by the tree's surfaces. When it rains, the particles 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.

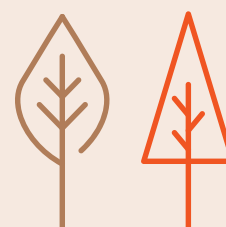
Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.

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 Partners



Project Forest Nutrien Forest

Our work is not possible without you.

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

Platinum Forest



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Appendix A - Survey Report

Afforestation Survey Cover Page				
Project site: Nutrien				
Survey Date(s)	October 18, 2024	Total Plots	41	
		Planted Area	14.8 ha	
Stocking Calculations				
Type of Plot	# of Plots	% of Plots	Meet Final Criteria	% of Plots
SR with Acceptable Conifer trees	0	0.0	0	0
SR with Acceptable Deciduous trees	37	90.2	8	19.5
SR Acceptable Shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
SR with Acceptable Conifer & Deciduous trees	0	0.0	0	0
SR with Acceptable Conifer trees & Shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
SR with Acceptable Deciduous trees & Shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
SR with Acceptable Conifer & Deciduous trees & shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Conifer	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Deciduous	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Shrub	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Conifer & Deciduous	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Conifer & Shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Deciduous & Shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
NSR-LIG with Conifer & Deciduous trees & shrubs	0	0.0	0	0
NSR -No Acceptable Woody species present	4	9.8	0	0
Acceptable Stocking Summary				
Plot Stocking Status	# of Plots	% of Plots		
SR Plots	37	90.2		
NSR-LIG Stocking	0	0.00		
NSR (excludes NSR-LIG)	4	9.8		
Total Stocking (SR + NSR-LIG):	37	90.2		
Herbaceous Vegetation Observed on Site			Noxious Weeds	
Grass spp.			Scentless chamomile	
Redstem storksbill			Sweet clover	
Common alfalfa			Yellow Toadflax	
Clover spp.			Kochia/cypress spp.	
			Knapweed spp.	
			Perennial sow thistle	
Project Comments: The 4 plots not sufficiently restocked (NSR) were along the perimeter of the planted area and appear to have been mown. Some areas have taken off better than others, with seedlings that have grown well over two meters in height. Noxious weeds were common throughout the site.				

Plot	Tree & Shrub Stocking				Status	Tallest in Plot		Risk factors	
	Acceptable		Under Height			Species	Height (cm)	Evidence of: Damage, Disease, Competition,	Noxious Weeds
	Species	Number	Species	Number					
NU_01	Okanese Poplar	3	Okanese Poplar	1	SR	Okanese Poplar	181		scentless chamomile, sweet clover
NU_02	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	209		scentless chamomile, sweet clover
NU_03	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	209		sweet clover
NU_04	Okanese Poplar	3	Okanese Poplar	1	SR	Okanese Poplar	169		Russian thistle, yellow toadflax
NU_05	Okanese Poplar	2	Okanese Poplar		SR	Okanese Poplar	127		sweet clover, storksbill
NU_06	Okanese Poplar	2	Okanese Poplar		SR	Okanese Poplar	164		sweet clover
NU_07	Okanese Poplar	3	Okanese Poplar		SR	Okanese Poplar	164		sweet clover
NU_08	Okanese Poplar	4	Okanese Poplar		SR	Okanese Poplar	165		sweet clover
NU_09					NSR				
NU_10					NSR				
NU_11	Okanese Poplar	2	Okanese Poplar	1	SR	Okanese Poplar	125	mowed	
NU_12	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	202		sweet clover
NU_13	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	172		sweet clover
NU_14	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	119		sweet clover, scentless chamomile
NU_15	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	138		sweet clover
NU_16	Okanese Poplar	2			SR	Okanese Poplar	107	Leaf and twig blight-damaged shoot	
NU_17	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	164		sweet clover
NU_18	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	205		sweet clover, knapweed
NU_19	Okanese Poplar	2			SR	Okanese Poplar	156		
NU_20					NSR				
NU_21	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	144		
NU_22	Okanese Poplar	3	Okanese Poplar	1	SR	Okanese Poplar	177		toadflax yellow, sweet clover
NU_23	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	168		Hawksbeard
NU_24	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	163		
NU_25	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	106		
NU_26	Okanese Poplar	1			SR	Okanese Poplar	138		
NU_27					NSR				
NU_28	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	151		
NU_29	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	210		
NU_30	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	192		
NU_31	Okanese Poplar	2	Okanese Poplar	1	SR	Okanese Poplar	147		
NU_32	Okanese Poplar	2			SR	Okanese Poplar	110		
NU_33	Okanese Poplar	4	Okanese Poplar		SR	Okanese Poplar	169		
NU_34	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	237		
NU_35	Okanese Poplar	3			SR	Okanese Poplar	240		
NU_36	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	223		
NU_37	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	186		
NU_38	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	197		
NU_39	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	186		
NU_40	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	168		
NU_41	Okanese Poplar	4			SR	Okanese Poplar	72	mowed	scentless chamomile, perennial sow thistle, common tansy



Nutrien Survey Plot Status Fall 2024

Project Partners:

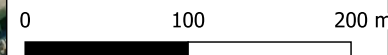


Plot Status

- NSR-
- SR-D
- ▭ Project Boundary



Date Created: 2025-02-05
Project CRS: EPSG:3400
Source: ESRI Satellite
Created By: Tree Time Services Inc.
Scale: 1:3,000



Site Photos

Plot NU_01



Plot NU_02



Plot NU_03



Plot NU_04



Plot NU_05



Plot NU_06



Plot NU_07



Plot NU_08



Plot NU_09



Plot NU_10



Plot NU_11



Plot NU_12



Plot NU_13



Plot NU_14



Plot NU_15



Plot NU_16



Plot NU_17



Plot NU_18



Plot NU_19



Plot NU_20



Plot NU_21



Plot NU_22



Plot NU_23



Plot NU_24



Plot NU_25





Plot NU_26



Plot NU_27



Plot NU_28

No Photos

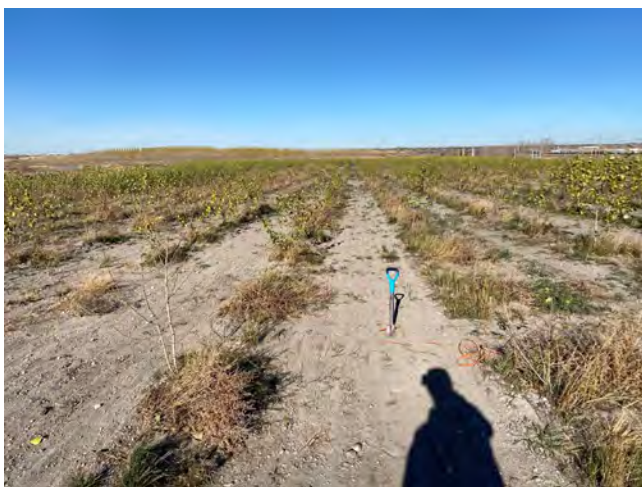
Plot NU_29



Plot NU_30



Plot NU_31



Plot NU_32



Plot NU_33



Plot NU_34



Plot NU_35



Plot NU_36



Plot NU_37



Plot NU_38



Plot NU_39



Plot NU_40



Plot NU_41



Project Forest Monitoring Assessment Summary Sheet

Project Name	Nutrien
Applicability	Trajectory of re-wilding success
Landowner	Nutrien
Site Location	53.730464, -113.184555
Year Planted	2023
Assessment #:	1

First and last name of qualified surveyors (or as attached):

Andrea McRae

Disturbance Areas and areas to be removed from reforestation project area(s):

No areas will be removed from the project area.

As per the Project Forest Monitoring Program, all area(s) impacted by forest fire, insects, or industrial development will be removed from the afforestation project area. No such disturbances were recorded.

Summary of Preventive and Corrective Actions:

No corrective actions need to be taken at this time as 90.2% of plots are successfully stocked.

Noxious weeds are common throughout the site, it is recommended that a vegetation management plan be created to control and prevent spread.

Declaration:

I do hereby declare that this submission:

- a) Adheres to all components of the required Quality Assessment/Quality Control program,
- b) Includes only surveys that have been conducted according to the methods detailed in the Project Forest – Nutrien Reforestation Monitoring Program, and,
- c) Complies with the requirements for report timing and format.

Validated/Signed by:



Registration #

1838

Date:

January 29, 2025

Print Name:

Lindsay Dent

Company:

Tree Time Services Inc.