

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Grant Approval Fact Sheet

The Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) aims to protect communities from floods and drought by improving natural watershed functions.

Approved Grants (Announced in Calgary on May 1, 2018)

Recipient	Project Location and Description	Amount
Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society	Location: Blindman River subwatershed, Red Deer River Basin Implement riparian enhancement projects in cooperations with agricultural landowners in the Blindman River watershed.	\$110,738
ALUS Canada	Location: Modeste Creek subwatershed, North Saskatchewan River Basin Riparian and wetland restoration of 263 hectares in the Modeste Creek watershed and an evaluation of the effectiveness and relative scale of green infrastructure for flood and drought mitigation.	\$721,385
Castle Grazing Stewardship Group	Location: Oldman River Basin This will support efforts to engage the Castle area grazing community in implementing watershed resiliency projects.	\$50,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Location: North Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Bow, Oldman, South Saskatchewan and Milk River Basins Restoration of 165 hectares drained wetlands in priority watersheds.	\$3,300,000
Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Location: Bow River Basin Implement the Re-wild Fish Creek Provincial Park program with riparian plantings and volunteer engagement.	\$56,250
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association	Location: Beaver River Basin Watershed resiliency projects including education and outreach with agricultural landowners in Municipal District of Bonnyville and Counties of St. Paul, Lac La Biche and Smoky Lake.	\$290,000
Miistakis Institute for the Rockies Inc.	Location: Province-wide in priority watersheds Work with landowners and municipalities in priority watersheds to increase social tolerance to co-exist with beavers and mobilize knowledge in Alberta to address conflict.	\$293,000
Miistakis Institute for the Rockies Inc.	Location: South Saskatchewan River Basin Develop a process for municipal flood and drought action planning and test with a municipality in a priority watershed.	\$57,535
MD of Bighorn <i>on behalf of</i> Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership	Location: Bow River Basin Riparian restoration with agricultural landowners in the Jumpingpound Creek watershed, including education and outreach, monitoring and evaluation.	\$97,485
Oldman Watershed Council	Location: Oldman River Basin Work collaboratively with Alberta Environment and Parks on public lands to increase stewardship and restoration in recreation management.	\$411,500

Red Deer County	Location: Red Deer River Basin Watershed resiliency projects with agricultural landowners in Red Deer County, including beaver co-existence tools, riparian plantings, exclusion fencing, off-stream watering systems, stream crossings.	\$245,000
Town of Coaldale	Location: South Saskatchewan River Basin Education and outreach to the community and schools related to stormwater management at the Coaldale constructed wetland.	\$39,000
Town of Devon	Location: North Saskatchewan River Basin Riparian restoration using bio-engineering techniques, supported with education and community outreach.	\$167,872
TOTAL		\$5,839,765

Applicant Eligibility

Municipalities, First Nations, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, stewardship groups and other not-for-profit organizations are all eligible to receive funds under the program, provided the funds are for projects undertaken in partnership with landowners. Private entities, whether it is an individual or enterprise, are eligible to participate and contribute to projects but are not eligible to receive funding under the WRRP. Partnerships between multiple stakeholders are encouraged under this program.

Project Eligibility

The WRRP focuses on watershed mitigation efforts that promote the long-term ability of watersheds to mitigate the effects of future flood and drought events naturally, and to help communities adapt to a changing climate. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Riparian enhancements (e.g., plantings, re-vegetation, grazing management, off-stream watering)
- Wetland enhancements (e.g., wetland creation, conservation or restoration)
- Floodplain or river improvements (e.g., channel naturalization, removal of old structures, removal of flow impediments, floodplain storage capacity enhancements, etc.)
- Creation of or increased absorptive capacities of a watershed
- Irrigation or drainage district enhancements
- Conservation initiatives
- Data collection efforts for the purpose of research, evaluation and assessment related to a specific project(s) for watershed resiliency
- Education and outreach associated with a specific project(s) for watershed resiliency

Structural projects eligible for funding under Environment and Parks’ Alberta Community Resiliency Program (ACRP) are **not** eligible to receive funding under the WRRP. Examples of **ineligible** projects include:

- Structural restoration or construction of dams, berms, dykes, tunnels, riprap, bridges, etc.
- Municipal infrastructure, such as stormwater ponds, etc.
- Groynes and other in-stream structures
- River training or realignment
- Erosion protection efforts

Project Selection Criteria

The primary criteria focus on the degree to which a proposed project mitigates the potential impacts of flood or droughts, and impacts on community safety and health (e.g., headwaters and floodplains where individuals could be affected). Secondary criteria such as biodiversity and additional environmental benefits, and complimentary criteria including data gathering, capacity building, outreach, education and stewardship, will also be considered.