

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

2022/23 Grant Approval Fact Sheet

Approved in March 2023.
All funds disbursed in 2022/23

Recipient	Project location and description	Amount
Alberta Conservation Association	Dogpound Creek (Red Deer River Basin) Permanent livestock exclusion fencing, portable fencing and off-site watering systems will be installed along Dogpound Creek to manage the impact of grazing, reduce local flooding and improve local drought resiliency by improving riparian health, maintaining riparian intactness, and promoting best practices in livestock grazing along waterways. Through this project, 28 hectares of riparian land will be placed into conservation for 10 years.	\$26,100
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society	Riparian Areas on Private Lands (All Major River Basins) Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society will work with 35 landowners over three years to implement riparian stewardship management practices, increase awareness and improve riparian function on private land. This is an expansion of past work based on growing demands and an evolution of low-technology process-based restoration, in combination with more typical riparian grazing management changes like off-site watering and riparian fencing projects.	\$266,013
Athabasca Watershed Council	Pembina, McLeod, and Tawatinaw Watersheds (Athabasca River Basin) Athabasca Watershed Council will utilize riparian intactness assessments to educate and engage landowners, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and experts to study, conserve and restore riparian lands in the Pembina, McLeod, and Tawatinaw watersheds.	\$170,000
Battle River Watershed Alliance Society	Battler River and Sounding Creek Watersheds (Battle River Basin) Battle River Watershed Alliance will educate and engage landowners, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and experts to study, conserve and restore riparian lands in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.	\$188,500
County of Barrhead No. 11 on behalf of Highway 2 Conservation	Athabasca River and Pembina River Watersheds (Athabasca River Basin) Highway 2 Conservation and Alternative Land-use Services Barrhead Westlock Athabasca will promote beaver mitigation strategies and work with agricultural producers to implement management practices for riparian health.	\$61,900
Fish Creek Watershed Association	Fish Creek Watershed (Bow River Basin) Project will develop education materials and engage landowners in the upper Fish Creek watershed to promote stewardship and establish two watershed resiliency demonstration projects.	\$53,000

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Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8 on behalf of the Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership	Jumpingpound Creek Watershed (Bow River Basin) Project will evaluate established watershed stewardship projects to inform future work with landowners in the Jumpingpound Creek watershed.	\$40,275
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Milk River Ridge (Milk River Basin) Project will develop a new offsite water supply which will then allow us to keep the gates closed year-round, protecting the creek from any cattle incursion. This involves drilling a groundwater well and installing a solar pump to supply an offsite water tank water trough.	\$100,000
Parkland County	Parkland County (North Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will integrate natural infrastructure planning into Parkland County's asset management and operations, and update design standards to include bio-engineering, and the use of other nature-based solutions.	\$293,500
Pheasants Forever	Ross Creek (South Saskatchewan River Basin) Additional funds for a previously approved project that will restore the natural hydrology in Ross Creek by removing old irrigation infrastructure.	\$65,000
Red Deer County	Red Deer River and Tributaries (Red Deer River Basin) Working with Red Deer County, Cows and Fish will conduct at least 20 riparian health assessments with agricultural producers and install projects to improve resiliency to flood and drought.	\$291,000
Red Deer County	Red Deer County (Red Deer River Basin) Red Deer County will collaborate with agricultural producers on tools to remotely monitor watering systems and use riparian assessments at watering sites to measure environmental outcomes.	\$99,000
Siksika Nation	Siksika Nation between Carseland and Bassano (Bow River Basin) Support for Siksika Nation in the steps to naturalize two wetland complexes along the Bow River to a more natural and resilient state.	\$58,000
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society	Bow River Watershed and Oldman River Watershed (South Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will install ten solar watering systems to enhance grazing management and improve 30 hectares of riparian and wetland areas along the Eastern Slopes of the southern Alberta.	\$188,452
Town of Devon	North Saskatchewan River (North Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will restore previously degraded riparian areas and educate the community about soil bio-engineering technique.	\$310,400
Town of Drumheller	Red Deer River and Berry Creek Watersheds (Red Deer River Basin) Project will install livestock exclusion fencing and willow plantings along the Red Deer River in Drumheller to improve the function of the riparian area.	\$75,275
Town of Ponoka	Battle River (Battle River Basin) Project will restore riverbank and riparian area along the Battle River and educate the community about soil bio-engineering technique.	\$331,655

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Town of Vegreville	Vermillion River (North Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will restore previously degraded riparian area along the Vermilion River and educate the community about soil bio-engineering technique.	\$180,925
Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association	Southwestern Alberta (South Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will support landowners to implement riparian and wetland enhancement projects in southwestern Alberta, and conduct outreach to educate the community about stewardship of the land.	\$298,005
Western Irrigation District	Southern Alberta (South Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will restore natural drainage by decommissioning approximately 2 kilometres of legacy irrigation canals.	\$118,500
Western Sky Land Trust	Ghost River Watershed (Bow River Basin) Project will purchase and install two remote/solar watering systems and exclusion fencing to prevent damage to riparian areas by livestock.	\$24,500
Wheatland County	Wheatland County (South Saskatchewan River Basin) Project will support agricultural producers and landowners to install wetland and riparian resiliency projects in Wheatland County.	\$260,000
Total		\$3,500,000

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. 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.