

Wetland Replacement Program

Wetlands are a vital part of Alberta's ecological landscape and necessary for a sustainable economy and healthy communities.

The Wetland Replacement Program (WRP) aims to re-establish wetlands in partnership with Albertans by providing resources for collaborative restoration projects across the province.

Under the Alberta Wetland Policy, the WRP will offset wetland area lost due to activities on the land. A priority of the Alberta Wetland Policy and WRP is to replace wetlands within municipalities and watersheds that have had the highest amount of lost wetland area since 2015, as well as areas of high historical loss.

The WRP focuses on fostering partnerships with municipalities and non-profits that have a vested interest in wetland replacement. Working together, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), municipalities and non-profits will help achieve shared outcomes for wetland replacement and conservation.

Wetland replacement includes the following activities:

Wetland Restoration:

- Returning natural/historic area and functions to a former or degraded wetland.

Wetland Construction:

- Creating a wetland on a site that was historically non-wetland.



Recontouring a historical dugout to restoring a natural wetland.

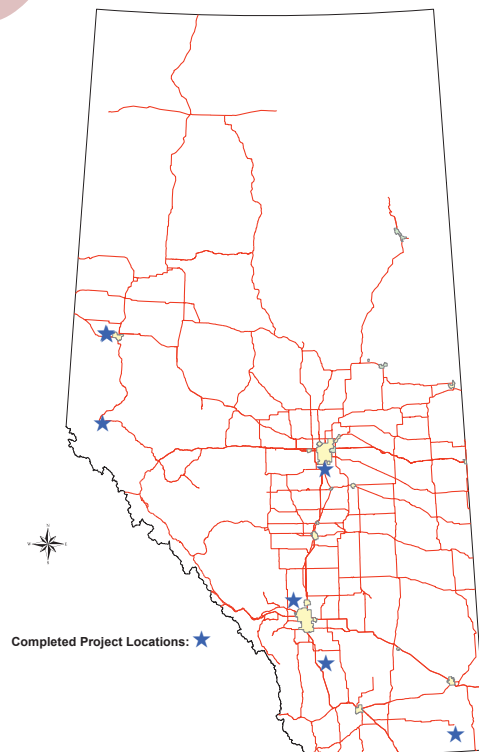
Partnerships

AEP has funding available for eligible wetland replacement projects and is seeking to establish partnerships with more municipalities and non-profits. AEP is currently working with 11 municipalities and one non-profit to replace wetlands in Alberta.

In 2020, seven wetland replacement projects were funded and completed totaling 158 hectares of restored or new wetland habitat through these successful partnerships, utilizing 3.7 million dollars of WRP funding.

Municipalities and non-profits that are committed to identifying and undertaking wetland replacement projects within their municipality are eligible to participate in the WRP. Participants in the WRP will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AEP. The MOU will allow the participant to submit proposals for wetland replacement projects to AEP for approval.

Contact the Wetland Replacement Program at aep.wetlandreplacement@gov.ab.ca for more information.



Wetland Replacement Projects completed in 2020.

Project Highlights



Location: County of Grande Prairie

Hectares Restored: 2.0 ha

Method: Restoration and Construction – Modifications to existing dugouts and creation of ribbon wetlands along eroded drainage ditches.

Wetland benefit: Improve water quality of Saskatoon Lake and improve wildlife habitat within the Trumpeter Swan buffer area.



Location: Municipal District of Greenview

Hectares restored: 0.5 ha

Method: Construction – creation of a wetland within an abandoned utility corridor.

Wetland benefit: Improve water quality of Victor Lake, the primary source of drinking water for Grande Cache.



Location: City of Leduc

Hectares Restored: 0.4 ha

Method: Restoration – re-contouring and removing fill in the location of a former wetland caused by historical farm practices.

Wetland benefit: Improve water quality of Telford Lake and provide an educational opportunity to residents.



Location: Ducks Unlimited – Rocky View County

Hectares restored: 112 ha

Method: Restoration – ditch plug on a historical ditch.

Wetland benefit: Increased flood storage protection within a watershed and provide wildlife and waterfowl habitat.