

# Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

Improving Alberta's natural watershed resiliency to flood and drought

## Program Overview

The Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) aims to reduce the intensity, magnitude, duration, and effects of flood and drought through natural watershed mitigation measures. Funded projects achieve these program outcomes:

- Advancing flood and drought resiliency in priority watersheds in Alberta.
- Restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity and function in critical areas.
- Increasing knowledge, awareness and tools that enhance watershed resiliency.

Municipalities, non-profit organizations, Indigenous communities, and other organizations can apply for funding for projects that will enhance communities' ability to withstand future flood or drought, and promote the ongoing stewardship and preservation of Alberta's watersheds.

## Program Highlights

Since the program was established in 2014, \$40 million of funding has been allocated to projects in areas designated as priority watersheds for investment into flood and drought resilience throughout Alberta.

Priority watersheds were identified based on indicators of watershed resilience such as their high risk and consequence for flood and drought across the province.

Alberta's government is committed to supporting watershed resilience through funding \$7 million worth of eligible projects delivered by external partners in 2023 and 2024.

### How to get involved

For more information about the program and how to apply for funding, visit: [Alberta.ca/WRRP](https://Alberta.ca/WRRP)

## Program Focus Area and Achievements



Conservation of critical wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplain features.

Over **3400 hectares** of critical watershed lands placed into conservation by private landowners, with more areas on the way.

Wetland restoration work will continue with partners through the Government of Alberta's Wetland Replacement Program.

## Example projects:



Photo by Ducks Unlimited Canada

### Wetland Restoration, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Watershed Benefit: Restoration and conservation of 713 hectares (1763 acres) of wetland basins in the South Saskatchewan River Basin. This is an estimated 1.9 million cubic metres of restored water storage capacity on the landscape.



Photo by Alberta Low Impact Development



Photo by Alberta Low Impact Development

### Raingardens for resilience, Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership

Watershed benefit: stormwater runoff storage capacity in urban areas to manage flood and drought, and increased biodiversity.

## Program Focus Area and Achievements



Creation of tools, data, and information to help Albertans make land management decisions which build flood and drought resiliency.

Over **7000 Albertans** engaged through training workshops on natural restoration techniques and other practices that enhance watershed resiliency

## Example projects:



### Development and knowledge-sharing of beaver mitigation tools, Miistakis Institute for the Rockies and Cows and Fish

Watershed benefit: Pond leveling devices and culvert management maintains beaver ponds and wetland habitat, and minimizes local flooding.



Restoration and enhancement of degraded or lost wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains.

Restored or enhanced over **4500 hectares** of wetlands and riparian areas, and improved land use management practices in priority watersheds.



Photo by Associated Engineering

### Bio-engineering for stream stability, Town of Devon

Watershed benefit: Streambank restoration using living material. As the willow stakes grow, they will root into the soil to further stabilize the streambank and create habitat for wildlife.



Further watershed stewardship in Alberta through improved education and awareness initiatives to demonstrate the connection of flood and drought to watershed health.

Outreach to over **one million Albertans** on the benefits of nature-based solutions for flood and drought resiliency



Photo by Battle River Watershed Alliance

### Riparian restoration projects, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils.

Watershed benefit: Partnership projects and community knowledge building, including riparian assessment mapping, streambank stabilization, and land management practices implemented to enhance wetlands and streams.