

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.

WRRP Grants (Announced in Medicine Hat on April 24, 2017)

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
County of Warner	Location: Milk River basin Riparian enhancement with fencing and off-site watering systems for flood and drought mitigation as well as water quality improvement.	\$157,000
South East Alberta Watershed Alliance Society (SEAWA)	Location: South Saskatchewan River basin Project will conduct riparian assessment and work with landowners to restore 10 kilometres riparian area along Seven Persons Creek.	\$221,000
TOTAL		\$378,000

Applicant Eligibility

Non-governmental organizations, stewardship groups and other not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, First Nations, and all local authorities are eligible to receive funds under the program, provided that it is for a project 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 is limited to watershed mitigation efforts that promote the long-term ability of watersheds to mitigate the effects of future flood and drought events and help communities adapt to a changing climate. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Riparian enhancements (e.g. fencing, plantings, grazing management, off-stream watering, etc.)
- Wetland enhancements (e.g. wetland creation, conservation or restoration, etc.)
- Floodplain/river improvements (e.g. channel naturalization, removal of old structures, removal of flow impediments, re-vegetation, floodplain storage capacity enhancements, etc.)
- Creation/increase of absorptive capacities of a watershed
- Irrigation and 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: dams, berms, dykes, tunnels, riprap, storm water ponds
- Municipal infrastructure, such as stormwater ponds, etc.
- Groyne and other in-stream structures
- River training or realignment
- Erosion protection efforts

Project Selection Criteria

The primary criteria are the degree to which the project mitigates the impacts from flood or droughts and impact 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 and outreach, education and stewardship, will also be considered.