

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 (July 2016)

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership	Location: South and North Saskatchewan River Basin Develop 16 low impact development demonstration sites in priority urban areas and provide educational materials and outreach to the community.	\$100,000
Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area	Location: Bow River Basin Restore riparian areas and add interpretive trails, signage and increased public engagement for the conservation area.	\$27,950
Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council	Location: North Saskatchewan River Basin Project includes access management and wetland enhancement in coordination with area recreational vehicle users.	\$70,035
Elbow River Watershed Partnership	Location: Bow River Basin Funds will allow volunteer led riparian restoration projects in flood impacted headwater areas.	\$29,900
Foothills Land Trust	Location: Bow River Basin Restoration and conservation of 52.6 hectares of riparian areas impacted by the 2013 flood.	\$82,778
fRI Research	Location: South Saskatchewan River Basin Development of a tool for prioritization of on-the-ground restoration in forested riparian areas.	\$52,600
Lesser Slave Watershed Council	Location: Athabasca River Basin Assess riparian area toprioritize and restore, including community outreach projects.	\$37,480
MD of Bighorn (for Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership)	Location: Bow River Basin Implement best management practices for more than 15 square kilometres of impacted property in the area and conduct outreach efforts to riparian landowners.	\$98,754
MD of Foothills	Location: Bow River Basin Restore approximately 50 hectares of riparian area.	\$100,000
Miistakis Institute for the Rockies	Location: South Saskatchewan River Basin Increase the use of beaver structures to improve resiliency, including demonstration sites and educational materials.	\$89,145
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance	Location: North Saskatchewan River Basin Complete a riparian assessment in 4,700 square kilometres of headwaters watershed.	\$100,000
Taber Irrigation District	Location: Oldman River Basin Construction of a 2 hectare wetland complex.	\$200,000
TOTAL		\$988,642

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 (i.e. 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.