

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 (November 2015)

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
The City of Calgary – Water Resources	Location: Elbow River, Bow River, Nose Creek Restoration of 5 kilometres of riparian areas that were severely affected by the 2013 flood. Restoration is guided by technical studies and evidence that well-vegetated riparian areas have better resiliency and erosion control during flood events.	\$750,000
Town of High River	Location: Highwood River Riparian areas will be enhanced with native plants at 4 sites in locations that were restored following the 2013 flood.	\$300,000
Alberta Birds of Prey Foundation	Location: Upstream of Town of Coaldale, Oldman River basin Restoration of wetland features and creation of 16.2 hectare (40-acre) wetland in a flood sensitive area. Outreach and education on the importance of wetlands and natural watershed features will be included in existing public program.	\$749,000
Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Location: Fish Creek Provincial Park Restoration of 500 metres of riparian area and engagement with local community to promote stewardship.	\$16,820
Taber Irrigation District	Location: Oldman River basin Following the development of a stormwater management plan, the project will restore riparian areas and enhance wetlands in the irrigation district.	\$45,000
Lesser Slave Watershed Council	Location: Lesser Slave Lake basin Riparian restoration assessment plan to identify priority areas and engage with land owners to promote stewardship and select sites for restoration.	\$12,500
Oldman Watershed Council	Location: Dutch Creek watershed, Oldman River basin headwaters Establishment of a demonstration site to test protocols for land reclamation/restoration and, community outreach and engagement to promote stewardship.	\$233,000
Western Sky Land Trust	Location: Bow River and its major tributaries Engagement with 450 riparian land owners along the Bow and Elbow Rivers upstream of Calgary and the Sheep and Highwood Rivers to promote stewardship by direct engagement using information tools such as newly developed maps, the Green Acreage Guide and opportunities for voluntary conservation practices.	\$221,000
Trout Unlimited Canada	Location: Bow, Elbow, Highwood, Sheep Rivers Visual inventory of 290 kilometers of riparian area to identify and document the extent of structural erosion controls (e.g. bank armouring). The project will include outreach to land managers and identification of restoration opportunities.	\$32,733
Bow River Basin Council	Location: Bow River basin Development of a sub-module of the Land-use Cumulative Effects Simulation model (ALCES) as an analytical tool for assessing the consequences of watershed restoration.	\$245,000

Foothills Research Institute	Location: Headwaters of the Bow River basin The collection of data and the development of a tool for prioritization of on-the-ground restoration in forested riparian areas.	\$99,880
Red Deer County	Location: Red Deer River basin Engagement with up to 20 landowners to implement agricultural management practices for improved flood and drought resiliency as well as improved water quality.	\$175,000
TOTAL		\$2,879,933

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-AWE joint program approach 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 also water quality. 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 Resilience 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
- Structural 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.