



Restoration & Enhancement of Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Cropland

Funding for Individual Private Landowners

Project activities funded in part by



Application Guide
Updated November 2019

Application Guide contents

- Introduction
- FAQ
- Eligibility
- Appendix B: Eligible Costs
- Appendix C: Application Outline

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands and riparian areas are ecosystems that provide water storage, flood attenuation, sediment and contaminant retention, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities. These Ecological Services benefit people, other living organisms, and the overall functioning of interconnected natural systems within watersheds. Conservation and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas in Alberta are needed for sustainably functioning watersheds.

In partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA), Cows & Fish, and the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance, Lamont County is facilitating projects to restore and enhance wetlands and riparian areas in the region. Increasing the ability of wetlands and riparian areas to carry out their natural functions as described above will help improve watershed resiliency to floods and drought.

These projects are funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership) Environmental Stewardship Grant.

The Partnership grant we received will provide funding for us and our partners to reach out to producers and landowners within Lamont County to talk about flooding and drought issues facing them in a changing climate, and how maintaining or improving riparian health in the watershed can help mitigate some of these issues.



FAQ for potential applicants

Q. What will this funding do for me?

A. This funding is available for private landowners in the region who are interested in restoring degraded or lost natural wetlands and riparian areas, enhancing existing natural wetlands and riparian areas, or establishing riparian buffers within their lands.

Q. What types of projects are considered? How much funding can I get?

A. As part of the CAP grant, our team can work with crop producers to plant permanent vegetation cover along riparian areas adjacent to annual crops. Referred to as riparian buffers, buffer strips, or grassed buffers, these areas of perennial vegetation create, as their name suggests, a “buffer” between crops and riparian areas. This buffer can increase the effectiveness of a riparian area by helping filter nutrient run-off from fields, as well as catching sediments before they reach the riparian area and, ultimately, the waterbody nearby. The more permanent root systems of the perennial plants have a higher capacity to reduce soil erosion compared to those of annual crops

Q. How do I apply?

A. Landowners in Lamont County who are interested in a potential project should contact Lindsay Benbow, the Program Administrator, at: 780-895-2547 Ext. 271 for more information and application form. Project eligibility details are outlined in this Application Guide.

Q. When are applications due? If my project is approved, when must it be completed?

A. There is no formal application window for the 2020/2021 season. Projects should first be discussed with Lindsay Benbow at Lamont County, at which time an application form will be provided. If a project is approved, all project-related activities INCLUDING reimbursement claim submission must be completed by **1 November 2021**. Expenditures can be from **15 April 2020** up to **1 November 2021**.



ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Eligible Applicants

- 1.1.1. To apply for financial support for a restoration and/or enhancement project, a person must be:
- a) the legal owner(s) of the private land(s) on which a wetland and/or riparian areas is/are to be restored or enhanced; and/or riparian buffers are to be established.

1.2. Eligible Projects

- 1.2.1. An Eligible Project must have an Eligible Applicant.
- 1.2.2. An Eligible Project may include a combination of restoration and enhancement practices, and agricultural beneficial management practices (BMPs). Specific activities should be discussed with the Program Administrator.
- 1.2.3. An Eligible Project must restore or enhance a wetland or riparian area, or establish riparian buffers adjacent to a river/stream or lake.
- 1.2.4. In-stream works may need permits and approvals from municipal, provincial and/or federal government agencies. It is the duty of the applicant to ensure that these requirements are completed, and provide a copy to the Program Administrator.
- 1.2.5. The Program Administrator will review all Applications and determine which ones are Eligible Projects to be funded.

1.3. Approved Projects

- 1.3.1 Only Approved Projects will be funded.
- 1.3.2 An Approved Project must:
 - a) have an Approval Letter sent by the Program Administrator to the Applicant indicating the specific restoration or enhancement site, its Project Term, the amount of funding awarded, deliverables, and schedule and conditions of payments;
 - b) comply with the Terms and Conditions sent with the Approval Letter;
 - c) be completed within the specified Project Term.
- 1.3.3 In completing the Approved Project, the Applicant must:
 - a) comply with all applicable laws and regulations;
 - b) meet all applicable guidelines issued by the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

1.4. Eligible Expenses

- 1.5.1 Eligible Expenses are approved by the Program Administrator and stated in the Approval Letter, and may include:
 - a) Eligible Costs listed in APPENDIX B: Eligible Costs
 - b) Any other expense approved by the Program Administrator or when referred to and deemed eligible by the grant funder;

1.5. Ineligible Expenses

- 1.6.1 Expenses that are **not** eligible for reimbursement:
 - a) Goods and services tax (GST);
 - b) Activity costs exceeding the following maximums: i) RHA (riparian health assessment) related to climate change mitigation in excess of \$3000.00 ii) Project research, materials, and testing in excess of \$9000.
 - c) Extended warranties on equipment, electronics, or technology purchased;
 - d) Leasing costs;
 - e) Local travel costs (necessary project-based travel to locations 150km+ from the project site will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Program Administrator);
 - f) Expenses incurred prior to the date the Application is received. If applicable, the Program

- Administrator will indicate in the Approval Letter a retroactive date.
- g) Expenses incurred outside of the Project Term for an Approved Project;
 - h) Expenses incurred when an Approved Project is not completed by the Applicant during the Project Term;
 - i) Expenses already funded through any other federal or provincial government grants, programs or projects; and
 - j) Any other expense deemed ineligible by the Program Administrator, or when referred to and deemed ineligible by the grant funder.
 - k) Costs incurred prior to or after the program dates **15 April 2020** up to **1 November 2021**.
- 1.6.2 Barter and exchange transactions are ineligible for reimbursement. Only expenses incurred in monetary transactions evidenced by receipts paid-in-full are eligible for reimbursement.



Appendix B – Eligible Costs

Costs of the following directly associated with the restoration works*:

- Construction materials – based on parameters approved by Program Administrator
- Planting and associated materials
- Testing and sampling of the area (Eg. Water or soil samples)
- Riparian Health Assessments
- Equipment costs (example, fencing equipment)
- Equipment rentals
- Fuel (Exclusions/limits may apply)
- Shipping of materials
- Contractor services (eg. Cows and Fish assessments)
- Pre-approved mileage expenses at \$0.505 per km up to 300 km.

**Expense claims require receipts of payments and/or mileage logs (if mileage is pre-approved).*

Appendix C – Application & Project Selection Process Outline

- 1) The Landowner completes and submits an Application Form to the Program Administrator before the stated deadline. As noted in the Application Form, the application should include: a proposed project description, relevant photos/maps/schematics depicting restoration or enhancement activities, project rationale, proposed budget.
- 2) The Program Administrator and associated Selection Committee reviews all applications to ensure eligibility, and selects projects based on project feasibility as well as alignment with the funder's restoration/enhancement priorities. Selected projects are recommended for approval.
- 3) Landowners of approved projects are sent an Approval Package which contains:
 - a) Letter of Agreement, b) Approved Project Plan*, c) Approved Budget*, d) Roles/responsibilities of both the Landowner and the program administrator, and e) Terms & Conditions.
- 4) The Landowner completes the project as per the signed Letter of Agreement, incurring project costs upfront. After project completion, the landowner submits to the Program Administrator: a) Reimbursement Claim Form (template provided by the Program Administrator), b) original project-related invoices/receipts and 3) Project Completion Questionnaire. The Program Administrator reviews the completed project and Reimbursement Claim to ensure adherence to the Approved Project Plan and reimburses the landowner as per details in the Approved Budget.

** The Approved Project Plan and Approved Budget is based on the updated project proposal/budget accepted by the selection committee and may NOT necessarily be identical to the original proposal/budget submitted by the landowner.*

Questions? Need more information? Contact:

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