

About the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program

Alberta's grassroots watershed stewardship groups are making a difference. Since 2005, the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, made possible through the Government of Alberta's *Water for Life Strategy*, has provide funding to the province's stewardship community to support their efforts.

Over the years, Alberta's watershed stewardship groups have received more than \$1,000,000 to develop and implement grassroots projects in their communities, which have in turn contributed to ensuring:

- A safe, secure drinking water supply.
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

Through this program, community-driven stewardship groups are increasingly contributing to local and regional watershed management planning, and are playing a principal role in on-the-ground implementation of improved watershed management practices to achieve planning outcomes. This demonstrates how community-based stewardship is important in achieving the outcomes of Alberta's *Water for Life Strategy* and *Land-use Framework*.

This significant investment in community based stewardship has provided the foundational support for groups to make a difference within their local watersheds. Funds received from the Grant Program have enabled stewardship groups to engage in community-based projects that focus on:

1. Increasing the awareness and understanding of local watershed issues.
2. Demonstrating, testing or displaying various watershed management options.
3. Building membership and organizational capacity.
4. Measuring and reporting on environmental and social indicators of watershed health.
5. Developing management plans for and engaging in physical "on-the-ground" activities to improve the condition of local watersheds and water bodies.

The projects are diverse; ranging widely in their objectives, complexity and size, but all have meaningful impact within their respective watersheds. From public forums, workshops and other coordinated outreach efforts, to riparian assessments, habitat improvement and naturalization activities, the projects supported by the Grant Program represent an ambitious assortment of local programs, presentations, and initiatives that have contributed significantly to the stewardship of Alberta's precious water resources.

To learn more about the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program or to request a copy of the most recent Grant Program report, please contact:

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