

Application Process

The Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) Program provides funding to support collaborative, community-based stewardship efforts. Grants up to \$20,000 are issued once per year to eligible groups on a per-project basis. The following outlines eligibility requirements and the steps groups/ organizations must take to apply for WSG funding.

Step 1: Ensure your group is eligible

A broad variety of Alberta-based stewardship groups i.e., naturalist organizations, synergy groups and community associations and stewardship groups, First Nations and Métis communities, are eligible to apply for and receive WSG funding for projects that directly impact or enhance your local watershed.

Eligible groups are volunteer-based, locally oriented and actively involved in stewardship of their watershed through on-the-ground efforts that safeguard our water sources. They set common goals to achieve shared outcomes and they actively engage individuals, organizations, agriculture, industry, municipalities and other forms of local government in their work.

Stewardship groups may apply for funding under this program as either an:

- 1. Incorporated Group**

The applicant is a legal entity (i.e., a registered society or non-profit organization) whose purpose, mandate and activities support environmental stewardship within the local watershed. The applicant is prepared to accept all financial and legal responsibility for the project.

- 2. Unincorporated Group**

A group applying in partnership with an eligible legal entity. The applicant is a group, organization or community-based partnership that supports environmental stewardship of the local watershed, but is NOT a legal entity (i.e., is NOT a registered society or non-profit organization). The partnering legal entity is prepared to accept all financial and legal responsibility for this project and manage the grant funds on behalf of the group.

Not Eligible

Individuals, for-profit businesses and corporations, fish and game associations, educational institutions or previous grant recipients with outstanding reporting obligations are NOT eligible to receive funding under this grant program. Government agencies, municipal governments and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are NOT eligible to apply directly for this grant. They may, however, serve as the partnering legal entity for a group that does not have legal status.

Step 2: Ensure your project is eligible

Projects will be selected on merit relative to how well they meet the following eligibility requirements. Preference will be shown for projects that clearly identify expected outcomes and demonstrate strong supporting partnerships, community involvement and volunteer/citizen engagement. To be considered for WSG funding, proposed projects must meet the following requirements:

- 1. The proposed project has clear and measurable outcomes that will lead to one or more of the following:**
 - Increased awareness and knowledge of local watershed issues

- The adoption of practices and actions that benefit a local watershed
 - Improved environmental conditions within a local watershed
2. The proposed project activities align with and support one or more of the following key priorities identified by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas:
- Watershed management outcomes identified in approved Regional Plans
 - Source water protection planning and management
 - Biodiversity Management Framework goals
 - Watershed literacy and stewardship education, including the Wetland Policy
 - Climate Leadership Plan actions
 - Citizen science and community monitoring.

Eligible organizations may submit more than one application for separate projects but can only receive a maximum of \$20,000 per project in WSG funding per year.

If you are still uncertain whether your group or your project qualifies for WSG funding, email grant@landstewardship.org to confirm eligibility before submitting an application.

Step 3: Complete and submit the online WSG application form

When you have confirmed your group and your project are eligible, complete the application form in its entirety, providing all information as requested, and submit it on or before the application deadline.

Step 4: Confirm receipt of your application

It is recommended that all applicants email grant@landstewardship.org prior to the application deadline to confirm receipt of their grant application.