



THE CONSERVATION & GROW TRUSTS

Manitoba Climate and Green Plan Initiatives
delivered by The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation



2020/2021 Progress Report

A summary of Trust commitments and outputs to March 31, 2021



MANITOBA
HABITAT
HERITAGE
CORPORATION

Homegrown conservation since 1986.

THE TRUSTS AT A GLANCE

The Provincial Government's Made-In-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan (2017) called for the establishment of a Conservation Trust to provide long-term support for nature-based approaches to climate change.

The Conservation Trust was established in 2018 with a \$102 million contribution from Manitoba to The Winnipeg Foundation to establish an endowment fund to generate annual revenues for conservation projects in perpetuity.

Manitoba also established the GROW Trust with a contribution of \$52 million to support the new Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) initiative delivered by Watershed Districts across the Province.

In 2019, Manitoba established the Wetlands GROW Trust with a \$50 million contribution to support protection of critical wetlands under GROW.

In total, Manitoba has provided \$204 million to endowment funds that will generate approximately \$9 million annually for conservation.

Grant funds are managed by The Winnipeg Foundation, and projects are selected, administered, and evaluated by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC).

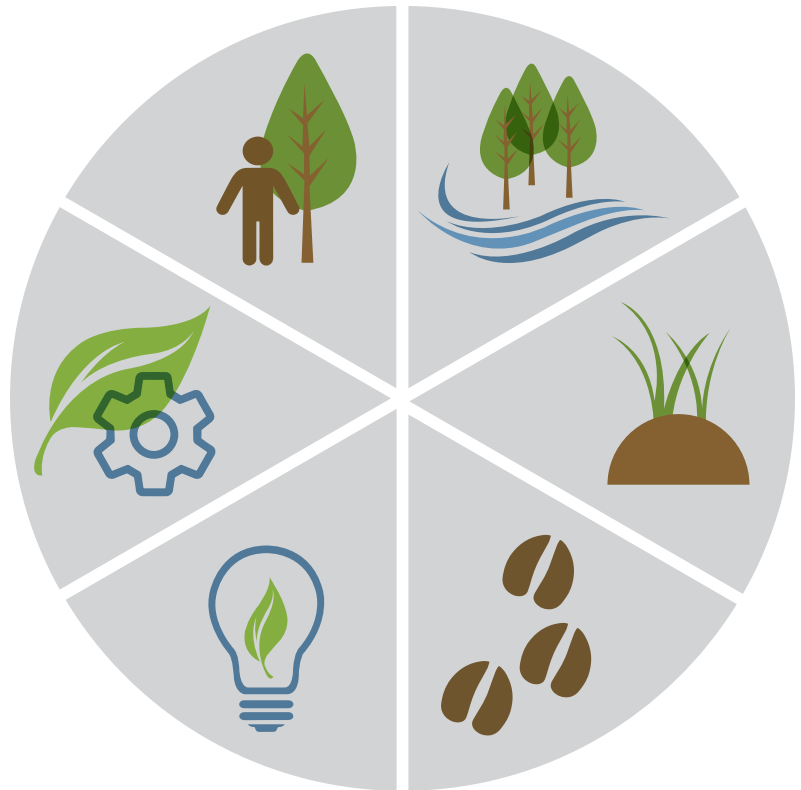


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines all Trust funded granting commitments and progress results made to March 31, 2021. These and future conservation results are made possible by the Province of Manitoba's decision to fund three trusts– the Conservation Trust, the GROW Trust and the Wetlands GROW Trust – with investments made between 2018 and 2020 that totaled \$204 million. These Trusts are held by The Winnipeg Foundation. The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), as the designated beneficiary, directs annual revenues to land and water conservation projects that will, cumulatively, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change in our agricultural landscape. The emphasis is on supporting nature-based solutions that will help to renaturalize the landscape and deliver key ecological goods and services.

Trust funded granting commitments have increased each year as the three Trusts began generating investment revenues.

As of March 31, 2021 there has been a total of \$12,464,958 in Trust funded granting commitments. This includes \$6,857,838 to projects through the Conservation Trust intake, and \$5,607,120 through the GROW intake. Given that there may be up to 3 years between initial funding commitments, completion of projects and receipt of final reports, 2020/21 is the first year in which significant reporting of project outputs has occurred. This report aggregates outputs from 42 final project reports for work completed as of March 31/21. As of March 31, 2021, there were an additional 77 Trust funded projects in progress.

MHHC is nearing completion of an estimation model designed to calculate priority Trust outcomes. This estimation model will be available in the coming months.



photo credit: Peter Lindsay

HISTORY OF THE TRUSTS

In 2018, the Province of Manitoba launched an ambitious and unique plan to fund conservation over the long-term. It established three endowment funds over a three year period at The Winnipeg Foundation: the Conservation Trust (\$102 million), the GROW Trust (\$52 million) and the Wetlands GROW Trust (\$50 million). From those investments, an annual revenue stream for conservation projects was guaranteed for Manitoba-based conservation groups.

MHHC's role in the Trusts is established by agreements between Manitoba, The Winnipeg Foundation, and MHHC. Those agreements identify MHHC's responsibilities for granting programs, including project selection, financial and project results monitoring, grant program evaluation, and reporting. The provincial Trusts initiative has transformed funding for conservation in Manitoba, and added a new dimension of activities for MHHC to undertake.

In 2018, MHHC began to build capacity to carry out these responsibilities. Working from the purpose and objectives established for the Trusts, and consulting with a number of organizations, especially provincial government staff, MHHC laid the basis for a strategic approach by developing granting categories and criteria along with an electronic grants management system in advance of its first proposal intake. The first award of funds occurred in 2019.



Photo credit: MHHC

Rick Frost, CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation; Brent Pooles, MHHC's Board Chair; the Honourable Brian Pallister, M.L.A. Premier of Manitoba; and the Honorable Rochelle Squires, M.L.A. Minister of Sustainable Development at the 2019 announcement of the first projects to be funded by the Conservation Trust.

HISTORY OF THE TRUSTS

MHHC implemented a structured proposal review process that included internal and external reviewers. Final authority to approve projects rests with the MHHC Board of Directors. Prior to the Board receiving a slate of proposals for review, a technical review of proposals is conducted by the Trust Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), consisting of experts in the fields of watershed planning and management, conservation program design and delivery, agricultural sustainability and production, and environmental assessment. The TAC includes five representatives from Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Management, one from the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, two from Environment Canada, and two from MHHC. Trust Team staff also provide input into the review process. The TAC review includes proposal rankings by category and recommendations regarding funding amounts and modifications to projects.

The MHHC Trust Team has established contribution agreements and reporting systems for grantees, and continues to refine its criteria and processes. Two additional projects, currently in progress, include: 1) a common database into which all Trust grantees will report project results, and 2) a Trust Outcomes Estimation Model that will assist in translating project outputs into estimates of progress towards achieving priority outcomes. The latter project is being developed in consultation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and includes assembling the best available science to assist in measuring outcomes from Trust-supported projects, especially in relation to water quality, flood and drought mitigation, carbon sequestration, soil health, conservation of priority wildlife species, and biological diversity.

While three Trusts are available to support granting programs, each Trust has somewhat different points of emphasis. From those three revenue sources, two annual grant proposal intakes are operated.

The Conservation Trust intake supports a broad array of conservation initiatives. It is funded entirely from Conservation Trust revenues.

The GROW intake supports Manitoba's 14 Watershed Districts with GROW implementation, and receives revenues from all three Trusts.

THE CONSERVATION TRUST

Established in 2018 with a \$102 million contribution from Manitoba to The Winnipeg Foundation, the Conservation Trust may support a wide array of initiatives that promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural infrastructure in working landscapes. MHHC's working definition of natural infrastructure is, " ...an area or system that is either naturally occurring or naturalized and then intentionally managed to provide multiple benefits for the environment and human well-being."

The emphasis is on projects that achieve measurable change on the ground and within the project time period. With the ultimate objective of building extensive landscape resilience to the impacts of climate change, land and water conservation projects, especially those that provide multiple ecological goods and services (EG&S) benefits, are preferred. With these fundamental priorities in mind, core outcomes were established for the Trust (see Table 1 on page 11). Further, the Trusts focus on the agricultural landscape in built up areas of the province ("Municipal" Manitoba) where environmental impacts have been most significant in relation to human populations, and where restoration of landscape resilience can have the most significant impacts on people. Trust guidelines are explained in detail at mhhc.mb.ca.

To help organize and communicate Trust priorities, and to provide a basis for notional allocations of funds, Trust funding categories were established:

- Watersheds
- Habitats and Wildlife
- Soil Health
- Innovation
- Conservation Planning
- Connecting People to Nature

For a detailed description of each category, see Figure 1 on page 8.

Eligible organizations included local and provincial not-for-profit groups, Watershed Districts, and national not-for-profit organizations with a base of operations in Manitoba. Individuals, for-profit groups, and governments are not eligible.

The objective of the Conservation Trust is for the largest allocation (90% to 95%) to go to the first three categories, which are landscape-based and contain projects that can deliver multiple ecological goods and services benefits on the ground. The latter categories, while important to the future of conservation, generally do not show immediate or direct results. Within the Innovation and Conservation Planning categories, projects should provide significant guidance and/or new conservation tools to support conservation activities that can be effectively implemented at a large scale. The Connecting People to Nature category may be delivered in urban or high-use rural areas. Its projects should result in significant new opportunities to access nature and/or nature-based education and interpretation activities by large audiences.

FIGURE 1: CONSERVATION TRUST CATEGORIES



HABITAT & WILDLIFE

Projects designed to improve habitat quality and quantity.



WATERSHEDS

Projects that have water quality and quantity (water retention, drought mitigation, etc.) as key EG&S outcomes.



SOIL HEALTH

Activities that build soil organic matter, decrease soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration through perennial cover management, or other cropping practices that maximize the period of living roots in the soil on agricultural lands.



INNOVATION

On-the-ground pilot projects that are designed to focus on new approaches to the conservation of land, water, and wildlife. Deliverables must be tied to on-the-ground projects within the grant period.



CONSERVATION PLANNING

Large area planning initiatives at an eco-regional, basin, or multi-species scale.



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Successful projects in the Connecting People to Nature category have generally included all three activities (landscape enhancements, infrastructure enhancements, and in-person outdoor-based interpretive programming).

THE GROW AND WETLANDS GROW TRUSTS

Given the importance of water management to sustainable development and adaptation to climate change, the Province established two additional Trusts, the GROW Trust and the Wetlands GROW Trust, to explicitly support watershed management, wetlands protection, and the work of Manitoba's 14 Watershed Districts.

Established in 2019 with a \$52 million contribution, the GROW Trust was intended to focus its support on the emerging provincial GROW initiative, an incentive-based watersheds program delivered by Manitoba's Watershed Districts. All GROW Trust funds have been directed to Watershed Districts, with the exception of an allocation that has been used by MHHC to deliver the Trans-Canada Highway Shelterbelt Renewal Program. (See highlighted projects, page 30). Initial GROW Trust funded projects were implemented in 2020.

The Wetlands GROW Trust was established in 2020. While also intended to support GROW and Watershed Districts, it is specifically focused on conserving wetlands at high risk of loss in agricultural landscapes. The highest priority target is temporary wetlands, which are not protected by regulations and are the most easily drained. Initial Wetlands GROW Trust funded projects were implemented in 2021.

There is a separate intake for GROW proposals. Reviews follow a similar process as described above for the Conservation Trust. As with the Conservation Trust, the TAC plays a key role in reviewing proposals prior to submission to the MHHC Board.

Currently, with the exception of the Highway One Shelterbelt Renewal Program, all GROW and Wetland GROW funds are allocated through an intake that is restricted to Manitoba's 14 Watershed Districts and the GROW initiative. A portion of the Conservation Trust also supports the GROW program.



photo credit: Patricia Karacsony

TRUST PRIORITY OUTCOMES

Water Quality

- Incremental Phosphorus capture, including annual rate and cumulative retention of phosphorus resulting from Conservation Trust activities

Water Quantity/Flood Mitigation

- Incremental water storage capacity, expressed as a volume, resulting from Conservation Trust activities

Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health (subset of carbon sequestration)

- Cumulative annual and CSA-period rate of carbon storage and cumulative aggregation of carbon resulting from Conservation Trust activities

Harvestable Wildlife

- Increases in productivity and populations resulting from Conservation Trust activities
- Acreage of restored or enhanced habitat

Biological Diversity

- Cumulative acreage of habitat conserved, enhanced and restored

Economic

- Estimated impacts of Conservation Trust and match-funding expenditures on jobs and income, using standard methodologies



TABLE 1: TRUST OUTCOMES BY PROJECT CATEGORY

	Trust Outcomes							
	Conservation Trust						GROW Trust	
EG&S Outcomes	Watersheds	Habitat and Wildlife	Soil Health	Innovation	Planning	Connecting People to Nature	GROW	Wetlands GROW
Improved Water Quality	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Flood Mitigation	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Improved Drought Resistance	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Increased Biodiversity	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Increased Production of Harvestable Wildlife Species	●	●		●	●		●	●
Enhanced Carbon Sequestration	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Increased Soil Health	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Economic Benefits: Jobs & Income	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Recreational Opportunities to Connect People to Nature						●		
Activities that Enhance a Recognized Greenway or Equivalent Natural Area						●		
Increased Public Access to Nature						●		
Interpretive Programs Delivered in Natural Areas						●		

THE CURRENT PROGRESS REPORT

There are significant time lags between the awarding of grant funds (for the purposes of this report, deemed to be the time at which the MHHC Board of Directors approves grant proposals) and the final realization of accomplishments reported back by grantees to MHHC. The provincial government fiscal (GFY) year ending March 31, 2021 is the first year in which significant deliverables (termed “outputs” for the purposes of this report) can be aggregated and reported.

Grant awards have been for one- or two-year time periods, and it has not been unusual for project extensions to be allowed for reasons such as COVID-19 impacts and other factors. Further, because funds are advanced to grantees, revenues, expenditures, and reported outcomes may not align with the GFY. Final reports are received after project completion, which, due to COVID-19 and climate related delays, may take up to three years.

Recognizing this reality, this report focuses on two areas: 1) reporting on financial commitments made to grantees, both since inception as well as the 2020-2021 GFY and 2) aggregating outputs from grantee final reports, with project activities ending March 31, 2021. Subsequent annual progress reports will build on this first report of Trust outcomes.



photo credit: Patricia Karacsony

RESULTS TO MARCH 31, 2021

Funding Commitments from the Trusts

From inception to March 31, 2021, a total of \$12,464,958 has been committed to projects from the Trusts. A breakdown of commitments, by funding category, is provided in Table 2 on page 15. Summaries of funding commitments by category are provided in Appendices A and B, and brief project descriptions for each funded project are provided in Appendices C and D.

As of March 31, 2021, revenues available from all Trust Funds were essentially fully allocated to projects and associated Trust expenditures, with the exception of funding that was allocated to a GROW program intake that was not finalized until June of the 2021/22 GFY.

Summary of Results from Project Final Reports

A total of 42 completed projects from Trust grantees are the basis of this summary report of project outputs (see Table 3 on page 16). To be included, final reports and summaries of outputs had to be provided for the period up to March 31, 2021, in order to align with the GFY being summarized in this report. All approved projects and their funding categories are listed in summary form in Appendix A. More detailed descriptions for all projects are provided in Appendix C and D.

Most completed projects have measurable, landscape-based results that have been aggregated in Table 3. In order to be able to roll up results from a range of organizations and projects, landscape-based outputs are categorized as follows:

Wetlands Acres

- o Conserved
- o Restored
- o Enhanced

The focus in this category is activity on existing or former wetland areas.

Water Retention Acres

- o Temporary
- o Seasonal
- o Permanent

The focus of this category is structured to create new water retention capacity where none currently or previously exist.

RESULTS TO MARCH 31, 2021

Grasslands/Perennial Cover Acres

- o Conserved
- o Restored
- o Enhanced

The focus of this category is either existing grassland areas (native or otherwise) or activities that establish or enhance perennial herbaceous cover. Activities such as riparian area management, buffer strip establishment, and development of grassed waterways are within this category.

Riparian Area Acres

- o Conserved
- o Restored
- o Enhanced

The focus of this category may include re-established riparian areas through grass or tree plantings, buffer strip plantings, grassed waterways, or existing riparian areas where livestock access is being managed to help enhance riparian area functions.

Upland Wooded

- o Conserved
- o Restored
- o Enhanced

The focus of this category is primarily activities tied to existing stands of trees, though block planting may be reported.

Other significant activities that are reported on include:

- Numbers of trees and shrubs planted (in shelterbelt, farmyard and other settings, and the Highway #1 Shelterbelt program)
- Structures for wildlife (e.g. duck nesting structures)
- Structures (trails, signage, etc.) in support of Connecting People to Nature projects
- Communications activities in support of Trust-funded projects
- Areas influenced by Resource Management Plans
- Decision-Support tools developed

It should be noted that a small number of projects found in the Innovation and Conservation Planning categories do not have deliverables that are easily expressed in acres impacted on-the-ground. Where reports have been provided, they are summarized in the output table. If a project has the potential to impact a definable region (e.g. a plan affecting certain watersheds), those “influenced” acres will be identified in the table, but are not directly comparable to projects whose impacts are direct and can be measured in the project period. Project descriptions in Appendix C provide additional information on Innovation and Planning project results. MHHC may provide more detailed information on these projects upon request.

TABLE 2: CUMULATIVE TRUST GRANTING TO DATE

(AS OF MARCH 31, 2021)

	Fiscal Year 2018-2019	Fiscal Year 2019-2020	Fiscal Year 2020-2021		
Stage in Process	Conservation Trust Signature Projects	Conservation Trust 2019	Conservation Trust 2020	Conservation Trust - Watersheds & GROW 2020	Conservation Trust 2021
Letters of Intent (LOIs) Submitted	-	49	55	24	40
LOIs Denied	-	7	16	2	2
Total LOIs (Submitted - Denied)	-	42	39	22	38
Applications Withdrawn by Applicant	-	1	8	1	5
Applications Denied	-	6	8	3	10
Applications Submitted	-	41	31	21	33
Total Applications Funded	6	35	23	20	23
Trust Funds	\$500,000	\$1,717,020.00	\$1,865,909.00	\$5,607,120	\$2,774,909
Match Funds	-	\$4,816,981.00	\$5,371,512.86	\$8,442,538.00	\$6,418,991.00
Match Ratio	-	2.8 : 1	2.9 : 1	1.7 : 1	2.3 : 1

Conservation Trust funded projects total: **\$6,857,838**
 GROW Trust funded projects total: **\$5,607,120**

TABLE 3: TRUST OUTPUTS

		TRUST-FUNDED			MATCH-FUNDED			TOTAL		
		Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet	Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet	Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet
Wetland	Conserved	170.6	8	110.0	3,469.9	194	110.0	3,640.5	202	220.0
	Enhanced	4,467.7	8	4.0	1,006.7	15	-	5,474.4	23	4.0
	Restored	306.8	174	86.7	5.7	1	40.3	312.5	175	127.0
	Total	4,945.1	190	200.7	4,482.3	210	150.3	9,427.4	400	351.0
Riparian	Conserved	145.7			90.4			236.1		
	Enhanced	4,605.6			1,025.0			5,630.5		
	Restored	0.5			0.5			1.0		
	Total	4,751.8			1,115.9			5,867.6		
Upland-Grassland	Conserved	1,077.0			854.9			1,931.9		
	Enhanced	31,154.2			3,436.1			34,590.3		
	Restored	4,682.2			403.5			5,085.7		
	Total	36,913.4			4,694.5			41,608.0		
Upland-Wooded	Conserved	259.0			73.8			332.8		
	Enhanced	259.0			53.8			312.8		
	Restored	-			-			-		
	Total	518.0			127.6			645.6		
		TRUST-FUNDED			MATCH-FUNDED			TOTAL		
		Acres	Acre Feet	Number of Basins	Acres	Acre Feet	Number of Basins	Acres	Acre Feet	Number of Basins
Water Retention Structures	Temporary	3.8	2	1	-	70	-	3.8	72	1
	Extended	129.9	128	2	100.0	110	1	229.9	238	3
	Permanent	71.8	43	5	-	74	1	71.8	117	6
	Total	205.5	173	8	100.0	254	2	305.5	427	10
Other Outputs		Acres	Number		Acres	Number		Acres	Number	
	Nest Structures Installed		516			208		-	724	
	Cover Crop- Single Species	-			-			-		
	Cover Crop- Multi Species	3,822			200			4,022		
	Off-site watering system	112	4		254	7		366	11	
	Cattle Excluded		1,101			1,310			2,411	
	Livestock Crossing	-	11		-	1		-	12	
		Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)
	Fencing	120.7	21.4	-	240.8	8.8	-	361.5	30.2	-
	Bufferstrip Established	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufferstrip Enhanced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
New Pollinator Habitat	832.8			555.2			1,388.0			
Enhanced Pollinator Habitat	0.01			0.02			0.03			
Shelterbelt Established	1.2	27.2	-	0.8	11.5	-	2.0	38.7	-	
Shelterbelt Enhanced	-	38.6	-	-	96.1	-	-	134.7	-	
		TRUST-FUNDED			MATCH-FUNDED			TOTAL		
Enter Activity		Units	Quantity		Units	Quantity		Units	Quantity	
Additional Outputs	Structures supported (trails, boardwalks, canoe racks, etc)	Number of structures	11					Number	11	
	Communications/outreach activities (events, meetings, workshops, newsletters)	Number of activities	87		Number of activities	44		Number of activities	131	
	People directly affected (participants, visitors, volunteers, etc)	Number of people	132,453		Number of people	302		Number of people	132,755	
	People reached by media	Number of people	266,330		Number of people	10,000		Number of people	276,330	
	Trees planted	Number of trees	20,591		Number of trees	6,854		Number of trees	27,445	
	Stabilized streambanks	Kilometers	46.25		Kilometers	46.25		Kilometers	92.5	
	Resource Management Plans (RMPs)	Number of plans	28		Number of plans	14		Number of plans	42	
	Acres influenced by plans	Acres	94,928					Acres	94,928	
	Square Kilometers influenced by plans (in addition to acres)	Square Kilometers	34,374					Square Kilometers	34,374	
	Decision making tools developed	Number of tools	1					Number of tools	1	
	Square Kilometers influenced by decision making tools	Square Kilometers	5,000					Square Kilometers	5,000	

Final outputs identified in this progress report may adjust slightly once output shapefiles have been georectified.

TRUST OUTCOMES ESTIMATION

Completed Trust reports are the basis for determining progress towards achieving Trust priority outcomes. Translating activities like water retention structures or perennial cover establishment on cultivated land, to outcomes of interest like improving water quality, biological diversity, or carbon sequestration is a more significant challenge.

In GFY 2019/20, MHHC contracted the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to begin a project designed to develop an outcomes estimation model for the Trusts. The first year of the project focused on a literature review of the current science, developing estimates for output impacts on priority outcomes (see Table 1 on page 11). This work was guided by a steering committee that included MHHC staff and representatives from Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development. The report from this study, *An Evaluation System for the Manitoba Conservation Trust*, was received in January 2021.

In May of 2021, MHHC contracted IISD for the second phase of this work: to develop the Trusts Outcomes Estimation Model. Working from the pool of science assembled in phase one, this phase is focused on the detailed work of calculating outcome estimates. This work is complex in that most outputs have multiple impacts. For example, a restored wetland will reduce peak water flows, improve drought resilience, reduce the movement of contaminants in surface waters, affect carbon sequestration, and will significantly improve biological diversity. The Trusts Outcomes Estimation Model (TOEM) is being built to calculate estimated results across a range of outcomes.

In addition to the complexity identified above, this work is challenged by the fact that the science behind predicting the impacts of landscape conservation activities is not always conclusive. It is often limited by difficulties in conducting field-scale experiments over a range of years, and by landscape conditions. The above notwithstanding, the objective is to have the TOEM available for use as soon as possible, and to update it as better research becomes available across the spectrum of activities being delivered by Trust-supported projects.



photo credit:
Manitoba
Association of
Watersheds



HABITAT & WILDLIFE

Project Spotlight

**Recipient: Association of
Manitoba Community Pastures**

Grant: \$282,500

Total Project Budgets: \$850,594

**Alonsa and McCreary Community Pastures
Range Health and Land Management**

**Planning Project (\$32,500) & Manitoba Community Pasture
Grassland Study and Biodiversity Enhancement Project
(\$250,000)**

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures have had several incremental Conservation Trust projects and are an example of the effectiveness of the sustainable funding model offered by the Trusts.

A 2019 funded planning project impacted pasture management on over 70,000 acres of grasslands, wetlands, and forested areas in two community pastures. The project resulted in 2,000 acres of enhanced grassland biodiversity, drought resiliency, and wildlife habitat through the creation of two new dugouts and two Land Use Management Plans. These plans led to the successful Trust submission of the 2020 Manitoba Community Pasture Grassland Study and Biodiversity Enhancement Project, which impacted enhancements at nine Community Pastures: Alonsa, Bield, Cote-San Clara, Ellice-Archie, Ethelbert, Langford, Spy Hill-Ellice, Wallace, and Woodlands. With a strong combination of grazing and new investments, over 19,440 acres of rangelands and 12 riparian acres will be more diverse, productive, and will provide numerous other benefits including improved wildlife habitat.



*photo credit:
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures*

Project Spotlight

**Recipient: Ducks Unlimited
Canada**

**Grant: \$300,000
Total Project Budget: \$750,000**

Prairie Habitat Restoration Project

The 2019 Prairie Habitat Restoration Projects through Ducks Unlimited Canada used Trust funding to restore 141 acres of wetlands in 125 basins and 1,310 acres of grassland, through partnerships with 35 landowners. 1,077 of the restored grasslands are conserved with long-term agreements, and the project directly engaged 440+ individuals. With match funding, this project was able to conserve an additional 660 acres (178 basins) of wetlands and 709 acres of grassland via perpetual and long-term agreements with private landowners.



photo credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada



WATERSHEDS

Project Spotlight

**Recipient: Seine Rat Roseau
Watershed District**

**Grant: \$125,000
Total Project Budget:
\$375,000**

Improving Watershed Health in the SSRCD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape

Harold Janzen jumped at the chance to be one of the first producer participants in Seine-Rat River Conservation District's 2019 project. The pilot program resulted in 117 restored wetland acres, and 34 acres of water retention structures with 20 acre feet of water stored. Within the Marsh River Watershed, the pilot improved watershed health through riparian and wetland restoration and enhancement activities, which include establishment of buffer strips, exclusion fencing with alternative watering facilities, harvesting and removal of potential phosphorus sources, small dam creation, erosion control, and shelterbelt plantings.

Janzen's vision to increase sustainability within the watershed caught on quickly and created a buzz resulting in 33 landowners engaging in site plan development, and 117 interested local farmers. The level of commitment to sustainability found along the Marsh River sets a solid foundation for the program to build partnerships with producers across the watershed district in southeast Manitoba.



photo credit: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District



SOIL HEALTH

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Grant: \$113,000

Total Project Budget: \$339,800

A New Approach to Restoring Profitability, Wildlife Habitat, and Soil Health on a Watershed Basis

"I wish we never broke that area," says Scott Anderson, a Sinclair area grain farmer about some of his land that he has recently enrolled in a Conservation Trust project. "Some areas were never meant to be grain farmed."

Thanks to the 2020 Conservation Trust project, Anderson and 45 producers like him have restored 3,114 acres from grain to forage and habitat-focused practices on their unprofitable lands that will have many benefits for biodiversity, soil and watershed health, and producers. In addition, the project conserved 1,374 wetland acres.

"With the cost of cropping inputs on the rise and the loss of cattle producers in the industry over the last number of years, this program can assist with establishing more grass on the landscape," says Larry Wegner, MFGA Chair. "With the funds provided by the Conservation Trust, the aim is to alleviate some of the financial burden by assisting cattle producers in recouping some of their seed cost, making it easier for them to establish forages on their operations."



*photo credit:
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association*



INNOVATION

Project Spotlight

**Recipient: Manitoba Association
of Watersheds (MAW)**

**Grant: \$50,000
Total Project Budget: \$150,000**

Planning & Building Natural Infrastructure Networks Based on Value for Money

Principles in the Seine Rat River Watershed District

The 2019 project contracted Strategic Community Consulting (now Strategic Systems Engineering) to develop a transferable flood risk mitigation model that affects 5,000 km² of the Seine Rat River Watershed District, helping to predict flood impacts, locate mitigation sites for possible retention, and provide decision-making support to the sub-district and Board members on water retention projects. The Natural Infrastructure Decision Support System (NIDSS) model identifies the number and location of a network of small dams to reduce flood risk in an agricultural watershed. NIDSS uses an evolutionary search algorithm to find the optimal small dam network based on “Value-for-Money” principles - essentially the small dam network that maximizes the net Benefit Cost Ratio of flood damage reduction to capital cost. The flood damage reduction estimate is based on a LiDAR-based flood damage model of the watershed.

The project has demonstrated that, based on flood damage reduction only, it is possible to identify small dam networks with Benefit-Cost Ratios greater than 1. Next steps for the NIDSS will include water storage, water quality, and habitat co-benefits in the Value for Money analysis.

The major benefit of the approach is that Watershed Districts will have a more defensible method for demonstrating the investment case for Natural Infrastructure networks based on small dams.



*map from:
Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District*



CONSERVATION PLANNING

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Whitemud Watershed District

Grant: \$25,000
Total Project Budget: \$75,000

**Planning for Restoration and
Protection of Water Quality in
Lake Manitoba**

Whitemud Watershed District impacted 34,374 km² by developing a common plan for EG&S program delivery for the protection of water quality in Lake Manitoba by four districts: Intermountain Watershed District, Swan Lake Watershed District, West Interlake Watershed District, and Whitemud Watershed District. Recommendations* are to be delivered by the Watershed Districts in the western portion of the Lake Manitoba basin.

Four approved projects have been completed in the planning category. In addition, grantees completed 42 site-based resource management plans as part of their Conservation Trust projects. The minimum area impacted by all of the Trust funded plans is 34,374 km² and 94,928 acres**

*Contact MHHC if you are interested in accessing copies of the planning reports

**Including 70,000 acres impacted by two AMCP Land Use Management Plans in Habitat & Wildlife



photo credit:
Whitemud
Watershed
District



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Save Our Seine
Environment Inc.

Grant: \$100,000
Total Project Budget:
\$318,075

Seine River Greenspaces Enhancement Project

This 2019 project is still in progress, however Save Our Seine has successfully installed Winnipeg's first accessible canoe and kayak launch, which allows people to get their boats into the water from solid ground using an access chute.

Save Our Seine worked with community volunteers and the City of Winnipeg to restore native vegetation, rehabilitate eroded streambanks, repair and improve popular trails, improve interpretive signage, and provide public- and school-based interpretive programs.

The Seine River provides important natural habitat for wildlife and people in the heart of Winnipeg. Now, more than ever, Winnipeg residents are drawn to experience nature along the Seine river by foot, bicycle, canoe, or kayak.



photo credit: Michele Kading



Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Brandon Riverbank Inc.

Grant: \$100,000
Total Project Budget: \$242,175

East Area Wetland Restoration

This 2019 project restored the East Area Interpretive Wetlands, which were greatly damaged by flooding in 2011 and 2014. The Centre also wanted to facilitate appropriate interpretive opportunities for the 100,000+ annual visitors by installing an accessible boardwalk. Individuals and school groups can now access the wetlands through the boardwalk and trail enhancements.

photo credit: Sandy Black

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun

**Grant: \$100,000
Total Project Budget: \$1,102,272**

Seven Oaks School Division Learning and Service Centre: Ecological Restoration Project



At the “Blue Thunderbird Land-based Teachings Learning Centre,” Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun students connect to nature by getting their boots wet and their hands buggy. The 2019 Blue Thunderbird Land-based Teachings Learning Centre Ecological Restoration Project (\$100,000) restored 49 acres of previously degraded cropland into 35 acres of tall grass prairie using Indigenous prairie species with seed harvested from within a 300 km radius. Project outputs include 1.5 km of ecobuffer and 331 shrubs and trees planted, 2,000 Indigenous plant plugs propagated and planted at the site and distributed to 16 schools, and a 3,200 m² stormwater retention pond, which collects and filters water before it discharges into the Red River watershed and was naturalized to display a perennial cover of native wetland species

While this project was approved in the Habitat and Wildlife category, the Trust funded project also allowed over 6,000 students, staff, and visitors to create sustainable and meaningful connections to the land and each other through teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. It also created 3 km of trails to facilitate exploring, hiking, harvesting and storing indigenous seeds, planting, studying bugs and wildlife, winter tracking, gardening, cooking together over a fire, and facilitating school division-wide composting with the BIOVator machine.

A prescribed burn was completed in 2019. A short film was produced by a local filmmaker who volunteered to support the burn.

This video was used as an educational tool with visiting students:
youtube.com/watch?v=dYGfX_Jij70&t=117s

Seven Oaks School Division implemented biodiversity conservation within a remnant prairie, and fostered connection to the land during the pandemic. This project improved soil health, water quality, and biodiversity and habitat, and mitigated climate change while creating land-based educational, recreational, and stewardship experiences for the Seven Oaks School Division and broader community.

A brief description of these and other projects not described here can be found in Appendices C and D

THE TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY SHELTERBELT RENEWAL PROGRAM

Project Spotlight

The Trans-Canada Highway, one of Manitoba's busiest transportation corridors, can be a challenge to drive in the winter. The stretch between Headingley and Portage la Prairie is especially trying, and experiences a number of temporary closures during winter snowfall and high-wind events.

Three decades ago, an ambitious natural solution was undertaken. A multi-year tree and shrub planting effort on the north side of the highway established shelterbelts that helped to significantly reduce blowing snow across the highway. Over time, some plantings reached their expected lifespan or died from disease, temporary flooding, and other adverse impacts, and the efficacy of the shelterbelts declined significantly. The new plantings follow an "ecobuffer" concept, using multiple species of trees and shrubs planted in relatively high densities to achieve wind management objectives and be self-sustaining over the long-term.

The importance of this vital corridor was recognized in the launch of the GROW Trust. It included a provision for MHHC to coordinate a shelterbelt renewal program. In 2019/20, MHHC staff worked with infrastructure, forestry, and agricultural experts from the province, as well as landscape architects from the private sector, to develop a multi-year planting and management plan. Some pre-planting site preparation occurred in the fall of 2019, in advance of plantings in 2020. A three-year planting and maintenance contract was signed with a Manitoba-based company and included tree and shrub stock from Manitoba nurseries. A total of \$1.6 million was allocated from the GROW Trust to launch this project, which is one of the largest highway-based planting projects in the country.



**1,745
Trees
Planted**

in 2020

**APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS
BY CATEGORY
FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020**

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Conservation Trust Signature Projects (2018 - 2019)

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Watersheds Category		
Whitemud Watershed District	WWCD Distributed Multi-Functional Water Storage	\$100,000
Connecting People to Nature Category		
Save Our Seine Environment Inc.	Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project	\$50,000
Habitat and Wildlife Category		
Brandon Riverbank Inc.	East Area Wetland Restoration	\$100,000
Delta Waterfowl	Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation Project	\$100,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Kirkella Community Pasture Association Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project	\$100,000
Save Our Seine Environment Inc.	Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project	\$50,000
Total (Habitat and Wildlife)		\$350,000
Total (Conservation Trust Signature Projects 2018-2019): \$500,000		

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Conservation Trust 2019 Habitat & Wildlife Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Alonsa and McCreary Community Pastures Range Health Project and Land Management Planning	\$32,500
Bird Studies Canada - Manitoba office	Enhancing Avian Species At Risk Applicability in Conservation Delivery	\$50,000
Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun	Seven Oaks School Division Learning and Service Centre: Ecological Restoration Project	\$100,000
Souris River Watershed District	Establishment of Pollinator Habitat in the Mixed Grass Prairie Region of Manitoba	\$60,000
The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive	Watershed Restoration and Habitat Management	\$17,500
The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive	North Prairie Control Burn and Renewed Habitat Management	\$29,000
The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program o/a Turtle Mountain Conservation District	Engaging Landowners in Southwestern Manitoba to Improve and Protect Habitat for Burrowing Owls.	\$12,500
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Habitat & Wildlife Enhancement in Working Landscapes	\$100,000
		Total \$401,500

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Conservation Trust 2019 Watersheds Category		
Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Gopher Creek Water Retention & Wetland Creation Project	\$100,895
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Protecting Water, Riparian Habitat and Biodiversity	\$22,475
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Improving Watershed Health in LSRCd by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape	\$125,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Prairie Pothole and Grassland Restoration Project	\$125,000
East Interlake Watershed District	Integrated Waterway and Roadside Native Vegetation Project (IWRNV project)	\$25,000
East Interlake Watershed District	Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/Protection	\$50,000
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Expansion of IMCD Burdeniuk Tree Plantation	\$6,000
Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW)	Planning & Building Natural Infrastructure Networks Based on Value for Money Principles in the SRRCD	\$50,000
Manitoba Forestry Association	Sustainable Slopes	\$105,000
North East Red Watershed District	Ste Genevieve Water Retention Area	\$84,150
Redboine Watershed District	Mill Creek Retention Project	\$75,000
Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District	Improving Watershed Health in the SRRCD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape	\$125,000
Souris River Watershed District	Improving Water Quality and Advancing Climate Change Adaptation in the Lower Souris River Watershed	\$78,000
Swan Lake Watershed District	Streambank Stabilization and Enhanced Vegetated Buffer	\$54,000
West Interlake Watershed District	Building Resilience and Improving Lake Manitoba Watershed	\$20,000
Total		\$1,045,520

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Conservation Trust 2019 Innovation and Planning

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Assiniboine River Basin Initiative	Assiniboine River Basin Initiative Framework for Watershed Stewardship Strategic Plan Development	\$25,000
International Institute for Sustainable Development	Prioritizing Natural Infrastructure in Manitoba Watersheds	\$25,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Transforming Watershed Action Plans Into On-The-Ground BMPs - A Made-in-Manitoba EG&S Program	\$10,000
Whitemud Watershed District	Planning for Restoration and Protection of Water Quality in Lake Manitoba	\$25,000
		Total \$85,000

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Conservation Trust 2019 Connecting People to Nature Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Douglas Marsh Interpretive Center	\$5,000
Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Inc.	Indigenous Youth Leadership for Lake Winnipeg	\$50,000
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre	Connecting People with Wetlands	\$11,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Conservation of Natural ecosystems through Education at the Binney Nature Preserve	\$4,000
Redboine Watershed District	Cypress River Wetland Trail Enhancement	\$20,000
Redboine Watershed District	Pinkerton Lakes Wildlife Refuge Trail Restoration	\$20,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Nature & You: Making a Connection	\$25,000
Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre	Interactive Youth Program with Wildlife Haven: Wildlife Stewardship and Environmental Responsibility	\$50,000
		Total \$185,000

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020

Funded Projects Prior to Fiscal Year 2020

Trust	Amount
Conservation Trust Signature Projects (2018-2019)	\$500,000
Conservation Trust 2019	\$1,717,020
Total	\$2,217,020

**APPENDIX B
SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY
FUNDING CATEGORY
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2020 Habitat & Wildlife Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Manitoba Community Pasture Grassland Study and Biodiversity Enhancement Project	\$250,000
Benchland Forage Consortium	Aspen Parkland Habitat Improvement via Range Management Infrastructure Planning and Implementation	\$60,000
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Building Climate Change Resiliency and Wind Erosion Resiliency by way of Shelterbelts	\$30,000
Delta Waterfowl Foundation	Conservation and Enhancement of Wetlands in Manitoba 2020	\$75,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Prairie Habitat Restoration Project	\$250,000
Holistic Management Canada	Accelerating Adoption of Regenerative Farming to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure: Phase 1	\$124,179
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Streambank Stabilization on the Turtle River	\$147,500
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	A New Approach to Restoring Profitability, Wildlife Habitat, and Soil Health on a Watershed Basis.	\$113,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Expansion of Natural Riparian Zones for Wildlife and Watersheds	\$28,333
Nature Manitoba	Manitoba's First Shorebird Scrape	\$8,000
Souris River Watershed District	Hay, Forages and Shelterbelts for Wildlife Habitat in the Souris River Watershed	\$40,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Restoration & Conservation of Land and Water in Agro-Manitoba	\$250,000
		Total \$1,376,012

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2020 Soil Health Category		
Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Soil Health and Cover Crops: Addressing Watershed Priorities for Producers and Wildlife Habitat	\$90,000
West Interlake Watershed District	Working With Landowners to Improve Soil Health in Lake Manitoba Watershed	\$90,000
		Total \$180,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2020 Innovation Category		
Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Souris River Watershed District	Optimized Design of Surface Water Retention in the East Souris River Watershed	\$50,000
Total		\$50,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2020 Conservation Planning Category

Organization	Project Name	Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Land Management Planning – Bield and Wallace	\$25,000
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) Conservation Areas Initiative	\$25,000
Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Inc.	Planning for Coordinated Evidence-Based Action to Reduce Phosphorus Loading in Targeted Hotspots	\$25,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Natural Infrastructure Systems Design in the Pembina Valley Watershed District using LiDAR	\$25,000
Total		\$100,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2020 Connecting People to Nature Category

Organization	Project Name	Amount
Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Inc.	Connecting Prairie Pothole Habitat Conservation with Beef Cattle Production	\$19,897
Opasquia Trails Incorporated	Grace Lake Boardwalk and Boreal Forest Trail	\$50,000
The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive	Connecting People to Nature in the Interpretive Centre Open Spaces at FortWhyte Alive	\$40,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	PINE: Preserving Interest in Nature through Engagement	\$50,000
		Total \$159,897

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust - Watersheds & GROW 2020

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Recognizing Ecological Services from Farms and Ranches in Assiniboine West Watershed District / Improving Watershed Health in AWWD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape	\$750,000
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Farming the Best- Conserving the Rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District	\$500,000
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources	Nutrient Reduction Innovation: Pilot Projects for a Regional Water Quality Trading Regime	\$150,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Prairie Habitat Restoration Project- Phase 2	\$50,000
East Interlake Watershed District	Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/ Enhancement and Protection Program (WRAPP)	\$250,000
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Advancing Landscape Resiliency within Inter-Mountain Watershed District	\$500,000
Kelsey Watershed District	Off-Site Watering for Riparian Health	\$40,000
North East Red Watershed District	Cooks-Devils Bank Stabilization	\$20,000
North East Red Watershed District	North East Red Watershed District GROW Program	\$250,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Pembina Valley Watershed District Pembina Plum Initiative	\$500,000
Redboine Watershed District	Boyne River Watershed GROW Program	\$225,000
Redboine Watershed District	James Valley Retention Project	\$45,000
Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District	GROWing EG&S in the Seine Rat and Roseau Watershed District / GROW Seed Project: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District – GROW	\$750,000
Souris River Watershed District	Water Retention & Wetland Conservation Programing in the Souris River Watershed	\$440,000
Swan Lake Watershed District	Surface Water Quality Improvement for the Swan River Valley	\$167,120

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust - Watersheds & GROW 2020 (Continued)

West Interlake Watershed District	Working Together to Improve Watershed Health in the West Interlake Watershed	\$250,000
Westlake Watershed District	Integrated Watershed Management Plan Fulfillment Project	\$220,000
Whitemud Watershed District	Whitemud Watershed 2020-21 GROW Program	\$500,000
Total		\$5,607,120

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

2020 Funded Projects

Trust	Amount
Conservation Trust 2020	\$1,865,909
Conservation Trust - Watersheds and GROW 2020	\$5,607,120
Total	\$7,473,029

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Habitat & Wildlife Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Improving Grassland Biodiversity in Manitoba's Community Pastures	\$300,000
Bird Studies Canada - Manitoba office	Providing Incentives to Save Grassland Birds and Engaging Citizen Scientists for Impact Assessment	\$140,000
Delta Waterfowl	Wetland Conservation and Enhancement in Manitoba to Improve Duck Reproductive Success - Spring 2021	\$85,955
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes - Part 2	\$300,000
Manitoba Beef Producers	Grassland Enhancement Program	\$300,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	A New Approach to Restoring Profitability, Wildlife Habitat, and Soil Health	\$232,288
Manitoba Wildlife Federation	The Wildlife Management Area Enhancement Initiative - Pilot Projects	\$100,000
Mennonite Heritage Village	MHV Basin - People with Nature	\$50,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Prairie Habitat Restoration - Discovery Nature Sanctuary - Winkler Manitoba	\$6,666
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Native Prairie and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	\$140,000
Total		\$1,654,909

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Watersheds Category		
Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes - Part 1	\$300,000
North East Red Watershed District	Edie Creek Retention Enhancements	\$25,000
Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group Inc.	Sandy Lake Source Water Protection Project	\$25,000
Total		\$350,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Soil Health Category		
Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Holistic Management Canada	Accelerating Adoption of Regenerative Farming to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure: Phase 2	\$200,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Soil Health: Addressing Watershed Priorities for Producers and Wildlife Habitat	\$100,000
Manitoba Organic Alliance	Improving Soil Stewardship on Manitoba Organic Farms	\$100,000
West Interlake Watershed District	Working with Landowners to Improve Soil Health in the West Interlake Watershed	\$100,000
Total		\$500,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Innovation Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW)	A Wetland Permanence Classification Tool for the Prairie Pothole Region of Manitoba	\$100,000
Total		\$100,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Conservation Planning Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Conservation Planning in the Interlake Plain: Narcisse and Sylvan Dale Community Pastures	\$25,000
International Institute for Sustainable Development	Planning for the Future: Enhancing Climate Resilience in Integrated Watershed Management Plans	\$25,000
Total		\$50,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Conservation Trust 2021 Connecting People to Nature Category

Organization	Project Name	Amount
Assiniboine Park Conservancy	Indigenous Youth Storytelling Project	\$20,000
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Connecting Manitobans to Nature – Outdoor Learning Program	\$50,000
Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun	Indigenous Tall Grass Prairie Enhancement and Conservation Through Community-Based Stewardship	\$50,000
Total		\$120,000

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

2020/2021 Funded Projects

Trust	Amount
Conservation Trust 2020	\$1,865,909
Conservation Trust - Watersheds and GROW 2020	\$5,607,120
Conservation Trust 2021	\$2,774,909
Total	\$10,247,938

**APPENDIX C
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS FOR
FUNDED PROJECTS
BY FUNDING CATEGORY
FOR FISCAL YEARS PRIOR TO 2020**

CONSERVATION TRUST 2018-2019

APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: WWCD Distributed Multi-Functional Water Storage

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Whitemud Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget \$322,900

Water storage is crucial to the resiliency of the Whitemud Watershed system, as the topography and land use is highly susceptible to flooding, drought, and erosion. The WWCD Distributed Multi-Functional Water Storage program will be used to construct water storage projects at 6 sites, creating up to 150 acre-feet of storage capacity and 50 acres of additional wetland area.

Project Title: Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project

Project Category:
Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget \$318,075

This project will protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats along the Seine River while improving access, and enhancing people's connection to the river.

Project Title: East Area Wetland Restoration

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife

Organization: Brandon Riverbank Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget \$242,175

Our intention is to build the eastern pond to a state that will allow the natural environment to display itself in accordance with the proposal from Ducks Unlimited. This will revitalize the wetlands so we can use the money from the Conservation Trust to restore the dyke's infrastructure and use the remainder of the money from that fund to put towards the building of the boardwalks. The rest of the money required will come from Brandon Riverbank and partners.

Project Title: Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation Project

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife

Organization: Delta Waterfowl

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget \$385,000

Providing funds for building and installing 500 new Hen Houses, Delta will expand the use of this effective tool to produce ducks by increasing nest success and hen survival. By gaining access from private landowners to install Hen Houses, we will establish relationships to foster additional conservation work, including wetland protection through conservation agreements and annual payment programming. This project protects and enhances wetlands in southwestern Manitoba.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2018-2019

APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Kirkella Community Pasture Association Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000 **Total Project Budget** \$200,000

The Kirkella Community Pasture Association Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project will involve a pasture assessment and range enhancement activities on the 4,000-acre Kirkella Pasture, a community-owned landscape that has significant environmental and cattle production values also used by a number of species at risk. Project activities may include fencing, livestock watering, control of invasive shrubs, and will enhance grasslands, wetlands, and associated habitats in the Pasture.

Project Title: Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000 **Total Project Budget** \$318,075

This project will protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats along the Seine River while improving access, and enhancing people’s connection to the river.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Alonsa and McCreary Community Pastures Range Health Project and Land Management Planning

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Association of Manitoba Community Pastures

Trust Funded Amount: \$32,500 **Total Project Budget** \$99,997

The project proposes range health assessments, management planning, and tangible improvements to the Alonsa and McCreary Community Pastures, promote range health improvements, vigorous forage supply, grassland animal and plant species diversity, and grassland resiliency.

Project Title: Enhancing Avian Species At Risk Applicability in Conservation Delivery

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Bird Studies Canada - Manitoba office

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000 **Total Project Budget** \$159,970

Six grassland bird species at risk are on a collision course with extirpation in Manitoba. They have lost most of their former Manitoba range and hang on by a fragile thread. Their needs and critical habitat are insufficiently addressed by current conservation delivery programs. This project will ensure their habitat on private land is stewarded, and ultimately secured, by engaging with landowners and exploring best approaches to counter market pressures for conversion of pasture to cropland.

Project Title: Seven Oaks School Division Learning and Service Centre: Ecological Restoration Project

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000 **Total Project Budget** \$1,102,272

Seven Oaks School Division will enhance the natural infrastructure across 20 hectares by conserving native biodiversity, creating a naturalized stormwater retention pond, restoring 14 hectares to tall grass prairie, and facilitating educational and recreational opportunities that connect people to nature.

Project Title: Establishment of Pollinator Habitat in the Mixed Grass Prairie Region of Manitoba

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$60,000 **Total Project Budget** \$245,000

The establishment of habitat will increase pollinator populations that provide a valuable ecological service essential to humans and wildlife. Approximately 60% of the world's food crops, fruits, and seeds combined producing 30% of the food that humans consume, require pollinators. This project will expand the populations of beneficial insects that prey on crop pests, recycle nutrients, increase crop yields and quality, improve soil quality, and are a food source for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Watershed Restoration and Habitat Management

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive

Trust Funded Amount: \$17,500 **Total Project Budget** \$39,750

This project will replenish dwindling water levels in FortWhyte Alive's reclaimed clay pit lakes, a unique source of surface water attracting wildlife, waterfowl, and human visitors for over 50 years. Benefits of this project include improvements to drought resilience, better water quantity and quality, biodiversity in replenished wetlands and shorelines, replenished and sustained habitat for harvestable wildlife, mitigated invasive species, reduced erosion, and improved carbon sequestration.

Project Title: North Prairie Control Burn and Renewed Habitat Management

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive

Trust Funded Amount: \$29,000 **Total Project Budget** \$99,000

FortWhyte Alive's North Prairie Control Burn and Renewed Habitat Management project will utilize agronomist-informed prescribed burn intervention to regenerate its North Prairie (91 acres) and South Meadow (1 acre) habitats. These activities will be complemented by intentional knowledge dissemination of the vital role fire plays in prairie ecosystems.

Project Title: Engaging Landowners in Southwestern Manitoba to Improve and Protect Habitat for Burrowing Owls.

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program o/a Turtle Mountain Conservation District

Trust Funded Amount: \$12,500 **Total Project Budget** \$

Our project will improve habitat and increase the population of burrowing owls in Manitoba through landowners habitat enhancement agreements and reintroductions. Habitat improvement will include the installation of artificial nest burrows (ANBs) on suitable land. ANBs provide protected nests for adults and young. Successful reintroductions (where pairs successfully fledge young) increase the likelihood of return in future seasons. Reintroductions will increase burrowing owl populations in Manitoba.

Project Title: Habitat & Wildlife Enhancement in Working Landscapes

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000 **Total Project Budget** \$126,460

This project will secure and enhance critical habitat for wildlife and other biodiversity within ecologically significant working landscapes. Activities planned and implemented within an adaptive management framework will enhance and increase biodiversity, and support the provision of ecological goods and services across 20,000 acres of habitat in partnership with private landowners, producers, and other conservation organizations.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019

APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Gopher Creek Water Retention & Wetland Creation Project

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,895

Total Project Budget \$302,685

Assiniboine West Watershed District (AWWD) will work with interested landowners to reduce wetland loss, and catch and store new water on the landscape. We will build flood and drought tolerance, and provide many other ecological goods and services into the Arrow Oak watershed, benefitting the surrounding community and all of Manitoba.

Project Title: Protecting Water, Riparian Habitat and Biodiversity

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$22,475

Total Project Budget \$67,430

AWWD will work with ranchers in the Assiniboine River Watershed to protect wetlands, riparian areas, and aquatic habitats. Our project will result in enhanced ecological goods and services produced from our grasslands and range lands.

Project Title: Improving Watershed Health in LSRCD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$125,000

Total Project Budget \$382,600

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Canada projects in the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District will improve water quality and lower the risk of flood and drought in the watershed. Additional benefits will include the creation of wildlife habitat, and soil protection and improvement. The ALUS program is voluntary, and farmers, ranchers, and community members work together to identify environmental priorities and solutions.

Project Title: Prairie Pothole and Grassland Restoration Project

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$125,000

Total Project Budget \$375,000

Ducks Unlimited Canada will use incentive-based, long-term partnerships with landowners to complete the proposed Prairie Pothole and Grassland Restoration Project. The project will advance wetland and grassland restoration initiatives in the southwestern pothole region of Manitoba. In addition to restoring habitat, the project will maintain and improve the EG&S offered by the province's natural infrastructure: wetlands and grasslands.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Integrated Waterway and Roadside Native Vegetation Project (IWRNV project)

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: East Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$75,000

The Integrated Waterway and Roadside Native Vegetation project (IWRNV project) will deliver measurable improvements to local soil, water, wildlife, and farming resources while rejuvenating the endangered tall grass prairie ecosystem.

Project Title: Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/Protection

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: East Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget \$150,000

The Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/Protection project will restore and protect wetland and riparian areas in Manitoba's Interlake region.

Project Title: Expansion of IMCD Burdeniuk Tree Plantation

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$6,000

Total Project Budget \$46,000

This project will enable the Inter-mountain Conservation District to expand its Tree Nursery and Plantation to 5 acres from its current 3 acres. This Nursery & Plantation was established due lack of other tree nurseries nearby, and the expansion will allow Intermountain to supply trees free of charge to local community parks, Intermountain project sites, riparian areas, shelterbelts, and wildlife block plantings. 250 larger trees will be permanently planted in these areas.

Project Title: Planning & Building Natural Infrastructure Networks Based on Value for Money Principles in the SRRCD

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW)

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget \$150,000

The project objective is to build small retention storage networks based on "Value for Money" (VfM) principles using leading-edge analytic tools, and to provide these tools as a free resource to Conservation Districts for their natural infrastructure investment planning. The proposed project adapts US retention storage design principles (as implemented in PondBuilder) for the Canadian context using small dam design and construction principles advocated by the Canadian Dam Association.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Sustainable Slopes

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Manitoba Forestry Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$105,000

Total Project Budget \$320,000

Through the Sustainable Slopes Project, the Manitoba Forestry Association, along with its partners the Pembina Valley Conservation District, La Salle Redboine Conservation District, and Whitemud Watershed Conservation District aim to raise awareness of the importance of natural landscapes, and assist landowners in managing their working landscapes for multiple priorities, including the provision of ecological goods and services.

Project Title: Ste Genevieve Water Retention Area

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: North East Red Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$84,150

Total Project Budget \$255,000

The Ste Genevieve Water Retention Area will mitigate flooding to the the Cooks Creek Watershed by storing up to 110 acre feet of water. The project will also provide 65 hectares of habitat for a number of species, and improve the water quality in Cooks Creek and Lake Winnipeg. The project will improve the health of the Cooks Creek watershed and its residents.

Project Title: Mill Creek Retention Project

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$75,000

Total Project Budget \$245,000

This project will create a water retention strategy along the Mill Creek to better manage water resources in the area. It will provide peak flow reduction, nutrient reduction, water supply benefits, flood protection and drought protection to the landowners along the creek as well as reduce the flow pressure on municipal infrastructure and reduce the water supply dependency on the Provincial pumps in the Assiniboine River.

Project Title: Improving Watershed Health in the SRRCD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$125,000

Total Project Budget \$375,000

Alternative Land Use Services projects in the Seine Rat River Conservation District will improve water quality and reduce erosion of marginal or environmentally targeted soils in the watershed by engaging producers and paying for project maintenance. Benefits also include the creation of wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and soil enhancement and protection. The ALUS program is voluntary. Farmers, ranchers, and community members work together to identify environmental priorities and solutions.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Improving Water Quality and Advancing Climate Change Adaptation in the Lower Souris River Watershed

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$78,000

Total Project Budget \$317,500

The entire goal of this project is to reach a goal of sustainability on the watershed level. By increasing storage, improving water recharge, and reducing the effects of flood, we set up for resilience to climate change while achieving the goal of improved water quality. Improved water quality and storage within the watershed means less infrastructure loss, reduced sedimentation loss, increased holding capacity, faster groundwater recharge, and more native habitat.

Project Title: Streambank Stabilization and Enhanced Vegetated Buffer

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: Swan Lake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$54,000

Total Project Budget \$165,000

The project seeks to stabilize streambanks from erosion, which loads nutrient laden soil and debris downstream that would otherwise cause eutrophication and negative effects to fish habitat. Stabilizing streambanks helps encourage the natural function of riparian zones in filtering nutrients and reducing flow velocity. The project also strives to educate landowners on the benefits of stabilizing streambanks and the implementation of the stabilization process.

Project Title: Building Resilience and Improving Lake Manitoba Watershed

Project Category: Watersheds

Organization: West Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$20,000

Total Project Budget \$63,000

This project will provide the Lake Manitoba Watershed and its residents with many environmental benefits, such as land restoration, shoreline stabilization and erosion control, flood mitigation and improved drought resilience, improved soil health and water quality and quantity, enhanced habitat and wildlife and improved biodiversity in the area, enhanced carbon sequestration, aesthetic values to the property and communities, and connecting people to nature.

Project Title: Assiniboine River Basin Initiative Framework for Watershed Stewardship Strategic Plan Development

Project Category:

Innovation & Planning

Organization:

Assiniboine River Basin Initiative

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$100,000

The project will bring together stakeholders from across the Assiniboine River basin to identify key issues and concerns from both a water and landscape perspective. These concerns will be prioritized in a manner which Assiniboine River Basin Initiative can utilize to move forward in the development of their work plan and priorities. This will ensure that these priority items can then be addressed for the betterment of the basin and the citizens that call it home.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Prioritizing Natural Infrastructure in Manitoba Watersheds

Project Category:

Innovation & Planning

Organization:

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$85,000

In a changing climate it will be municipalities, First Nations and other local governments who bear the greatest burdens but hold the most potential to quickly adapt. This project will collaboratively develop innovative plans for municipalities and First Nations in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to meet 21st century needs using Natural Infrastructure.

Project Title: Transforming Watershed Action Plans Into On-The-Ground BMPs - A Made-in-Manitoba EG&S Program

Project Category:

Innovation & Planning

Organization:

Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$10,000

Total Project Budget \$30,000

Conservation districts, non-government organizations, and government representatives will gather for a day-long session to collectively develop strategies to integrate EG&S into their established or emerging Integrated Watershed Management Plans. The resulting "how-to" document will be a widely shared tool that will inform on-the-ground projects, enhance watershed management in Manitoba, and ensure EG&S strategies are clearly defined and accessible to all stakeholders.

Project Title: Planning for Restoration and Protection of Water Quality in Lake Manitoba

Project Category:

Innovation & Planning

Organization:

Whitemud Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$75,000

This project will develop a common plan for EG&S program delivery, targeted to the protection of water quality in Lake Manitoba, and delivered by the Watershed Districts in the western portion of the Lake Manitoba basin.

Project Title: Douglas Marsh Interpretive Center

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$5,000

Total Project Budget \$15,000

The project will accomplish an educational site along the Douglas Marsh that will educate on wetlands and native prairies, along with providing a safe place to view the yellow rail that is present in the marsh.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Indigenous Youth Leadership for Lake Winnipeg

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget \$162,500

The “Indigenous Youth Leadership for Lake Winnipeg” project aims to inspire, mentor, support and strengthen emerging Indigenous youth leaders in the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg and the greater watershed. Young people will be provided with the tools, resources and mentorship needed to lead on-the-ground projects to protect water, participate in key decision-making gatherings, and learn their traditional laws and ways of being on the land.

Project Title: Connecting People with Wetlands

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Trust Funded Amount: \$11,000

Total Project Budget \$33,000

A self-guided canoe trail at Oak Hammock Marsh will engage and educate visitors as to the importance of wetlands and associated uplands in an immersive and memorable experience.

Project Title: Conservation of Natural Ecosystems Through Education at the Binney Nature Preserve

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$4,000

Total Project Budget \$14,500

This project will enhance the public’s access to nature at the Binney Nature Preserve by providing a new boardwalk that allows for access to half to the park’s trails and infrastructure.

Project Title: Cypress River Wetland Trail Enhancement

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$20,000

Total Project Budget \$65,000

The Cypress River Wetland Trail Enhancement project will upgrade the existing wetland boardwalk and create new hiking trails to increase accessibility and enhance the experience of the trail for all park users. This project will allow for increased interpretive programming for school groups through the creation of an on-site classroom area, which will allow all park users to get up close and personal with the wetland.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2019 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Pinkerton Lakes Wildlife Refuge Trail Restoration

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$20,000

Total Project Budget \$75,000

The Redboine Watershed District will construct small boardwalk sections and raised bed pathways across the wet sections of the Pinkerton Lakes Wildlife Refuge Trail to allow for year-round use, better accessibility to all trail users, and more efficient maintenance efforts. This will allow for more educational events like school hikes, Scout campouts, and water festivals. The project will be completed and given a grand reopening with the hosting of the 2020 Manitoba Envirothon South Regional event.

Project Title: Nature & You: Making a Connection

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$75,000

The Nature & You project will address the need for Manitobans to be more connected to natural areas in their province, and the need to increase understanding of the conservation of these areas. The project will engage Manitobans in a variety of interactive hands-on programs for diverse audiences that are relevant to their communities and locations.

Project Title: Interactive Youth Program with Wildlife Haven: Wildlife Stewardship and Environmental Responsibility

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget \$160,000

Wildlife Haven Education Centre will offer school aged children, community groups, and families the opportunity to see nature up close. Our campus has a naturalized wetland, a tall grass prairie garden, and a fruit orchard for visitors to experience along with our wildlife ambassadors. Our curriculum is STEM-based with a focus on wildlife protection, and hand-on activities focused on science, technology engineering and mathematics. Our goal is to bring awareness of the importance of nature to residents.

**APPENDIX D
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS FOR
FUNDED PROJECTS
BY FUNDING CATEGORY
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2021**

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Manitoba Community Pasture Grassland Study and Biodiversity Enhancement Project

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Association of Manitoba Community Pastures

Trust Funded Amount: \$250,000

Total Project Budget: \$750,597

Manitoba's Community Pastures are large agricultural working landscapes that support numerous species at risk through managed grazing regimes. With new investments that improve grazing and range management, the project will enhance the drought resiliency, diversity, and wildlife habitat quality of 10,000 acres of lands at nine Community Pastures throughout the Manitoba Prairies. Species at risk and wildlife surveys will be conducted at select sites.

Project Title: Aspen Parkland Habitat Improvement via Range Management Infrastructure Planning and Implementation

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Benchland Forage Consortium

Trust Funded Amount: \$60,000

Total Project Budget: \$180,000

A cost share program for Benchland Forage Consortium members to apply for funding for projects that have both rangeland management and conservation goals. Applicants will develop a plan they feel best suits their land resource, and has the best potential to improve wildlife habitat by using an outcome-based framework to meet habitat improvement and EG&S deliverables. We will positively impact 5,000 acres of habitat through 10 producer-led projects over two years.

Project Title: Building Climate Change Resiliency and Wind Erosion Resiliency by way of Shelterbelts

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$30,000

Total Project Budget: \$90,000

The project will provide 10 miles of diverse habitat for wildlife, for traveling in an area that has limited travel corridors. Through that work, these other benefits will be achieved: carbon sequestration, wind erosion, and aquifer recharge.

Project Title: Conservation and Enhancement of Wetlands in Manitoba 2020

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Delta Waterfowl

Trust Funded Amount: \$75,000

Total Project Budget: \$281,500

Manitoba is home to some of the most important breeding waterfowl habitat in North America, but the wetlands vital to these birds are slowly being lost or degraded. Conservation Trust funding will help Delta Waterfowl permanently enact habitat conservation on as much as 330 acres of Manitoba's wetlands, and enhance another 1,300 acres through placement and maintenance of Hen House nesting structures. This is great news for wetlands, waterfowl, waterfowl hunters, and all Manitobans.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Prairie Habitat Restoration Project

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$250,000

Total Project Budget: \$750,000

Ducks Unlimited Canada will use incentive-based, long-term partnerships with landowners to complete the proposed Prairie Habitat Restoration Project. The project will restore 17 hectares of wetland and 211 hectares of grassland habitat in the southwestern pothole region of Manitoba. The project will also maintain and improve the EG&S offered by the province's natural infrastructure by conserving an additional 128 hectares of wetland and 192 hectares of grassland habitat.

Project Title: Accelerating Adoption of Regenerative Farming to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure: Phase 1

Project Category: Soil Health

Organization: Holistic Management Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$124,179

Total Project Budget: \$372,525

We'll work with participating farmers provide support to accelerate the transition to regenerative practices across thousands of acres of land. Regenerative agriculture plays a critical role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and improving degraded ecosystems. Through practices that year over year result in cleaner water systems, healthier soil and more biodiverse habitats for wildlife, regenerative agriculture is strengthening Manitoba's natural infrastructure.

Project Title: Streambank Stabilization on the Turtle River

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$147,500

Total Project Budget: \$759,786

The eroding banks of the Turtle River are an ongoing issue due to clearing, cultivation, and drainage of land, as well as the high velocity of flows from the Riding Mountain National Park. By armouring up to 3 miles of unstable banks of the river, and some landowners establishing a riparian area including planting trees, this should reduce further bank erosion. These activities will improve water quality, increase carbon sequestration, reduce agricultural land loss, and reduce sedimentation of spawning habitat.

Project Title: A New Approach to Restoring Profitability, Wildlife Habitat and Soil Health on a Watershed Basis

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$113,000

Total Project Budget: \$339,800

Project partners are taking a new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat, and soil health on a watershed basis. The project provides financial incentives, extension support, and equipment that will allow producers to overcome the challenges of converting marginal crop land to grassland. Unique program options are available for both livestock and grain producers, with the goal of restoring 2,600 grassland acres while securing 400 wetland acres, both under long-term agreements.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Expansion of Natural Riparian Zones for Wildlife and Watersheds

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$28,333

Total Project Budget: \$85,000

The project will provide grassland habitat to wildlife while at the same time providing flood mitigation to the Souris River. The project will act as a natural buffer between annual crop land and natural riparian zones. Both wildlife and agriculture will benefit from increased grass production, while the carbon capture from the grasslands will work towards carbon draw down.

Project Title: Manitoba's First Shorebird Scrape

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Nature Manitoba

Trust Funded Amount: \$8,000

Total Project Budget: \$25,725.50

Shorebird populations have decreased by 40% in Canada since 1970, with loss of suitable habitat being a key contributor in Manitoba. This project increases high-quality habitat available for large concentrations of shorebirds by 30 acres through the creation of Manitoba's first shorebird scrape (a shallow depression in the earth that is seasonally wet) and restoration of habitat used by endangered piping plovers and red knots, currently severely degraded by the presence of invasive plants.

Project Title: Hay, Forages and Shelterbelts for Wildlife Habitat in the Souris River Watershed

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$40,000

Total Project Budget: \$124,000

The establishment of wildlife habitat through hay, forage, and shelterbelts will provide habitat niches for numerous wildlife species, as their habitat ranges are dwindling and are ever more fragile to expansion of agriculture, industry, and urban areas. The Souris River Watershed District intends to establish 800 acres of wildlife upland habitat within the watershed. This will be achieved by planting a diverse forage seed mixture along with six miles of multi-species shelterbelts.

Project Title: Restoration & Conservation of Land and Water in Agro-Manitoba

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife

Organization: The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$250,000

Total Project Budget: \$767,725

This project will secure, restore, and enhance critical habitat for wildlife and other biodiversity within ecologically significant working landscapes. Activities planned and implemented within an adaptive management framework will enhance and increase biodiversity, and support the provision of ecological goods and services across more than 40,000 acres of habitat in partnership with private landowners, producers, and other conservation organizations and agencies.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Soil Health and Cover Crops: Addressing Watershed Priorities for Producers and Wildlife Habitat

Project Category: Soil Health

Organization: Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$90,000

Total Project Budget: \$274,300

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association will lead a partnership of three Manitoba Watershed Districts from southwest Manitoba to support landowners' Regenerative Agriculture practices that benefit their farms and the soils. MFGA, Central Assiniboine, Assiniboine West, and Souris River Watershed Districts will work with producers in the specific watersheds to target 2,000 acres over the one-year project to improve the health of the soil and see improved ecological services delivered from the farming landscape.

Project Title: Working With Landowners to Improve Soil Health in Lake Manitoba Watershed

Project Category: Soil Health

Organization: West Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$90,000

Total Project Budget: \$290,000

This project will engage 10-15 farmers to enhance at least 1,500 acres of soil in the Lake Manitoba Watershed through the use of cover crops. The benefits of using cover crops include soil health improvements, reduction of soil erosion, water and air quality protection, increased flood and drought resilience, optimized nutrient management, improved natural pollination, pest and disease suppression, reduction in greenhouse gas emission, and enhanced carbon sequestration.

Project Title: Optimized Design of Surface Water Retention in the East Souris River Watershed

Project Category: Innovation

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget: \$156,423

This project will enhance the resiliency of the East Souris River Watershed through an evaluation of surface water retention strategies, and provide optimal location of water retention structures by providing 400 acre-feet of storage potential, and an assessment of how soil health can potentially improve hydrologic resiliency through building an integrated groundwater-surface water model to characterize how the agricultural landscape, soil, and groundwater interact during extreme hydrologic events.

Project Title: Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Land Management Planning – Bield and Wallace

Project Category:
Conservation Planning

Organization: Association of Manitoba Community Pastures

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$77,000

The project proposes developing land management plans based on range health assessment results for the Bield and Wallace Community Pastures. The plans will support the productivity and resiliency of prairie landscapes totalling a combined 7,000 hectares within the Aspen Parkland Ecoregion. Targets will be established to achieve high range health supported by sustainable grazing practices and other land management tools that promote the ecological functioning of the project sites.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) Conservation Areas Initiative

Project Category:
Conservation Planning

Organization: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society -
Manitoba Chapter

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$369,153

The initiative aims to protect the health of a thriving natural landscape on the southwest side of Lake Winnipeg, which includes forests, wetlands, beaches, and habitats of species at risk, so it can continue to provide for sustainable economic opportunities, and support cherished lifestyles and cultures. We aim to develop a regionally-appropriate and balanced conservation plan for a 1.1 million hectare study area through Indigenous leadership, multi-stakeholder engagement, and public participation.

Project Title: Planning for Coordinated Evidence-Based Action to Reduce Phosphorus Loading in Targeted Hotspots

Project Category:
Conservation Planning

Organization: Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$75,000

Phosphorus losses from agriculture reduce productivity and impact downstream water quality. Evidence-based phosphorus beneficial management practices (PBMPs) must be targeted to known phosphorus hotspots to improve water quality, yet both economic and operational challenges limit implementation. This planning project will identify prospective PBMPs and suitable sites within the Manning Canal phosphorus hotspot, while also documenting barriers and developing strategies to increase PBMP adoption.

Project Title: Natural Infrastructure Systems Design in the Pembina Valley Watershed District using LiDAR

Project Category:
Conservation Planning

Organization: Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$87,500

The Pembina River Watershed District, using newly acquired LiDAR, will identify a headwater distributed retention storage network as a climate adaptation strategy that will address flood/drought risk, water quality, habitat benefits, improve the security of municipal water supplies, decrease eutrophication, and improve aquatic habitat quality in a key ecological feature, the Pembina Tri-Lakes chain. This will include a GIS-based Decision Support System and a Value for Money investment strategy.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Connecting Prairie Pothole Habitat Conservation with Beef Cattle Production

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Inc.**Trust Funded Amount:** \$19,897**Total Project Budget:** \$61,383.36

Connecting Prairie Pothole Habitat Conservation with Beef Cattle Production will establish a raised forage garden showcasing up to 64 native and tame plants and ½ acre of restored native meadow integrated with a 1 km wetland trail at the Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Learning Centre. The outdoor interpretive program will connect youth and the public with prairie diversity in a high-use rural setting, showcasing the role of beef cattle grazing in its conservation.

Project Title: Grace Lake Boardwalk and Boreal Forest Trail

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Opasquia Trails Incorporated**Trust Funded Amount:** \$50,000**Total Project Budget:** \$970,000

The Grace Lake Boardwalk and Boreal Trail is an exciting project which will see a floating boardwalk built along the shores of Grace Lake near The Pas. The board walk will connect with a land based trail through an old growth boreal forest for approximately 0.8 kilometers before exiting to a floating viewing platform on the lake. This project is multi-faceted, with end goals being found in protection and education of the natural environment, culture, arts, recreation, tourism, and life skills training.

Project Title: Connecting People to Nature in the Interpretive Centre Open Spaces at FortWhyte Alive

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive

Trust Funded Amount: \$40,000**Total Project Budget:** \$190,000

Connecting People to Nature in the Interpretive Centre Open Spaces at FortWhyte Alive will improve our interpretive programming space and gateway to FortWhyte's trails in the area behind the Interpretive Centre. This will be accomplished through significant site retrofits designed to improve access to, and experience with, nature for over 110,000 visitors per year from all ages and abilities.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: PINE: Preserving Interest in Nature through Engagement

Project Category: Connecting People to Nature	Organization: The Nature Conservancy of Canada
Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000	Total Project Budget: \$150,000

PINE: Preserving Interest in Nature through Engagement will address the need for Manitobans to be more connected to natural areas in their province, and the need to increase understanding of the conservation of these areas. The project will engage 740 Manitobans in a variety of interactive, hands-on programs for diverse audiences that are relevant to their communities and locations.

CONSERVATION TRUST - WATERSHEDS & GROW 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Recognizing Ecological Services from Farms and Ranches in Assiniboine West Watershed District / Improving Watershed Health in AWWD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$750,000

Total Project Budget: \$2,255,967

Through this program, beneficial ecological services from farms and ranches will be enhanced in the Assiniboine West Watershed District. This work will engage and train landowners to conserve, enhance, or restore 2,296 acres of wetlands, upland soils, riparian areas, and buffer strips, and will protect downstream infrastructure and combat drought by retaining 260 acre-feet of water.

Project Title: Farming the Best- Conserving the Rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Organization: Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$500,000

Total Project Budget: \$1,024,176

Our project aims to offer targeted EG&S programming to improve watershed health by offering a number of programs. The programs are targeted towards wetlands, water retention, riparian areas, buffer establishment, and upland area. The projects will conserve, enhance, or restore 1,194 acres of targeted sensitive habitat.

Project Title: Nutrient Reduction Innovation: Pilot Projects for a Regional Water Quality Trading Regime

Organization: Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Trust Funded Amount: \$150,000

Total Project Budget: \$530,100

This project will improve water quality and reduce nutrient loading in the Lake Winnipeg Basin through the construction of natural infrastructure in four locations covering approximately 50 acres. This project will have an immediate impact on-the-ground as well as help build the foundation for a regional water quality trading regime. In addition to improving water quality, this project will achieve co-benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood and drought mitigation, and habitat restoration.

Project Title: Prairie Habitat Restoration Project- Phase 2

Organization: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget: \$150,000

Ducks Unlimited Canada will use incentive-based, long-term partnerships with landowners to complete the proposed Prairie Habitat Restoration Project – Phase 2. The project will restore 4.5 hectares of wetland habitat in the southwestern pothole region of Manitoba. An additional 73 hectares of wetland and grassland habitat will be secured perpetually, which will maintain and improve the Ecological Goods and Services provided by the province's natural infrastructure.

CONSERVATION TRUST - WATERSHEDS & GROW 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/Enhancement and Protection Program (WRAPP)

Organization: East Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$250,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$375,000

This program will significantly increase East Interlake Watershed District's current Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/Protection Project sites, which will improve watershed resilience to the impacts of climate change and improve water quality. It is estimated that 200 acres of wetland/riparian and 200 acres of upland areas will be restored/enhanced and protected, 170 acre feet of water storage will be created and/or protected, 4 acres of native vegetation will be planted, and 50 cows will be removed from waterways.

Project Title: Advancing Landscape Resiliency within Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Organization: Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$500,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$1,000,000

Inter-Mountain Watershed District will utilize GROW funding for landowner incentives to improve the resiliency of our landscape. We will be constructing three new multi-functional dams (150 acre-feet of water retained). We will conserve, enhance or restore 75 acres of wetlands, 125 acres of riparian areas, 1400 acres of upland areas, 25 km (125 acres) of buffer strips, and 15 km of shelterbelts. In addition, 15 km of waterways are to be fenced off, with five off-site watering systems and three livestock crossings installed.

Project Title: Off-site Watering for Riparian Health

Organization: Kelsey Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$40,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$130,000

Kelsey Watershed District's proposal for off-site watering for riparian health will accomplish the removal of livestock from waterways and sensitive areas. The benefits of this are well proven, and will include restoration of the riparian area and improved water quality. Off-site watering will increase the biodiversity of the riparian zone, reducing nutrient loading and improving water quality.

Project Title: Cooks-Devils Bank Stabilization

Organization: North East Red Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$20,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$60,000

The district hopes to prevent erosion in the future by establishing vegetation as soon as possible after any work or erosion occurs. The District is also in the process of establishing its GROW program, which will work with producers to establish riparian area buffers that will prevent farming operations immediately adjacent to streambanks. This should help prevent erosion on a watershed scale.

CONSERVATION TRUST - WATERSHEDS & GROW 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: NRWD GROW Program

Organization: North East Red Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$250,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$350,000

The Northeast Red Watershed District (NRWD) GROW program will work with local landowners to provide Ecological Goods and Services to the watershed. The NRWD will aim to restore and enhance 200 acres of wetlands and riparian areas in the next two years.

Project Title: Pembina Valley Watershed District Pembina Plum Initiative

Organization: Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$500,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$1,851,000

Pembina Valley Watershed District's GROW program outputs: 825 acre-feet of storage, 409 acres of protected class 1/2 wetlands, build 12 water retention structures, exclude 750 livestock, install two km of riparian fencing, protect five acres of the riparian zone, install six erosion control projects, plant 10,120 trees, improve soil health on 1,567 acres, and protect 80 acres of an at-risk natural landscape.

Project Title: Boyne River Watershed GROW Program

Organization: Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$225,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$552,000

The Redboine Watershed District will partner with landowners and municipalities in the Boyne River Sub-Watershed to create a GROW program that will increase the watershed's resiliency to a changing climate, and help increase water quality throughout the area. This GROW program will implement beneficial management projects that will manage surface water, alleviate flooding and erosion issues, help to increase water quality, and increase the water supply security of the Boyne River Sub-Watershed.

Project Title: James Valley Retention Project

Organization: Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$45,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$135,000

In partnership with the James Valley Hutterite Colony, Redboine Watershed District will construct a water retention project along the Scott Coulee south of Elie. This project will help will reduce peak flow, mitigate flood damage, and decrease erosion risks, as well as acting as a water source for use in irrigation by the James Valley Colony. The project will also help create and enhance fish habitat in the La Salle Watershed.

CONSERVATION TRUST - WATERSHEDS & GROW 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: GROWing EG&S in the Seine Rat and Roseau Watershed District / GROW Seed Project: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District – GROW

Organization: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$750,000

Total Project Budget: \$1,602,000

The Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District will improve water quality, build resiliency to climate change, and reduce erosion of marginal or environmentally targeted soils across 1,030 acres in the watershed. Additional benefits will include the creation of wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and soil enhancement and protection. The SRRWD GROWing EG&S program is voluntary. Farmers, ranchers, and community members work together to identify environmental priorities and implement solutions.

Project Title: Water Retention & Wetland Conservation Programing in the Souris River Watershed

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$440,000

Total Project Budget: \$915,600

The project will enhance the climate and ecological resiliency of the Souris River Watershed through the conservation of class 1 and 2 prairie pothole wetlands, construction of water retention structures, and conservation/restoration of upland and riparian areas. The project will provide annual incentive payments for the conservation of 519 acres of class 1 and 2 wetlands, conservation/restoration of 125 acres of upland areas, 375 acres of riparian areas, and 25 acres water stored.

Project Title: Surface Water Quality Improvement for the Swan River Valley

Organization: Swan Lake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$167,120

Total Project Budget: \$265,120

The Swan Lake Watershed District is developing a wetland conservation and riparian restoration program with the main goal of surface water quality improvement within the Swan River Valley. The program will sign 10-year term contracts with landowners, which will include five wetland incentive projects. These 5 projects will achieve five km of river shorelines protected (minimizing livestock access), 150 acres of wetland conserved, 40 acres of riparian zones protected, and 40 acres of buffer strips each year.

CONSERVATION TRUST - WATERSHEDS & GROW 2020 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Integrated Watershed Management Plan Fulfillment Project

Organization: Westlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$220,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$577,500

The proposal will improve watershed resiliency, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, enhance riparian and aquatic habitat, improve on-farm water management, and enhance sustainable agricultural production. Estimated outputs: restoration of 50 acres and enhancement of 30 acres of riparian habitat, enhancement of 960 acres of upland/grassland, construction of three water retention projects (estimated 900 acre feet storage), and construction of 10 km of exclusion fencing with six new crossings.

Project Title: Whitemud Watershed 2020-21 GROW Program

Organization: Whitemud Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$500,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$1,602,162

The Whitemud Watershed District 2020-21 GROW Program will achieve 200 acre-feet of water storage, protect 500 acres of wetlands, 500 acres of riparian area, and 500 acres of upland area; enhance 415 acres of riparian habitat through stabilization, improved crossings, vegetation re-establishment, exclusion fencing, and alternative watering systems; plant 17,500 tree seedlings; establish 20 km of shelterbelts, 15 acres of perennial buffers, 10 acres of grassed waterways; and enhance 3,300 acres of soil organic matter.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Improving Grassland Biodiversity in Manitoba's Community Pastures

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Association of Manitoba Community Pastures
Trust Funded Amount: \$300,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$900,000

Thanks to Conservation Trust funding and in-kind support, new strategic range management investments and brush management controls will be implemented to enhance over 8,500 acres of Community Pasture rangelands throughout Manitoba, with stocking rate data produced to serve the Association of Manitoba Community Pastures pasture network. The project is supported by bird surveys, with an emphasis on grassland species at risk, at selected sites.

Project Title: Using the Bird-Friendliness Index to Assess Impacts of Best Management Practices for Grassland Conservation

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Bird Studies Canada - Manitoba office
Trust Funded Amount: \$140,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$506,422

Grassland birds have declined by about 60% since the 1970s. Birds Canada will work with other conservation program delivery agents in Manitoba to assess the impact of Best Management Practices for prairie grasslands on the bird community by using the "Bird-Friendliness Index" (BFI). Data for the BFI will be collected by 30 citizen scientists, professional biologists, and Autonomous Recording Units. The results will be used to optimize conservation action for grasslands birds in Manitoba and beyond.

Project Title: Wetland Conservation and Enhancement in Manitoba to Improve Duck Reproductive Success - Spring 2021

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Delta Waterfowl
Trust Funded Amount: \$85,955 **Total Project Budget:** \$324,955

Manitoba wetlands are critical for breeding waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. Assistance from the Conservation Trust will help Delta Waterfowl permanently conserve up to 400 acres of Manitoba's wetland habitat, enhance 1,950 wetland acres using nest structures, and produce up to 8,300 mallard ducklings.

Project Title: Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes - Part 2

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Ducks Unlimited Canada
Trust Funded Amount: \$300,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$900,000

Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes – Part 2 will allow Ducks Unlimited Canada to provide incentive-based, long-term partnerships to landowners in order to restore 28 acres of wetlands and 850 acres of grassland. An additional 492 acres of grassland will be enhanced for wildlife cover, and 1,143 acres of wetland and grassland habitat will be secured perpetually, which will increase the EG&S that Manitoba's natural landscapes provide.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Grassland Enhancement Program

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Manitoba Beef Producers

Trust Funded Amount: \$300,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$900,000

The Grassland Enhancement project will work with beef and forage producers to preserve and enhance 6,969 acres grasslands in southwestern Manitoba through 10-year term securement agreements and the implementation of beneficial management practices (BMPs), including perimeter and cross fencing, livestock watering systems (including pasture pipelines), shrub mowing, perennial cover establishment, bufferstrip establishment, invasive species control (match-funded), and woodlot management plans.

Project Title: A New Approach to Restoring Profitability, Wildlife Habitat, and Soil Health

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$232,288 **Total Project Budget:** \$696,864

Project partners are taking a new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat, and soil health. The project provides financial incentives and extension support that assists producers in overcoming the challenges of converting marginal cropland to forage. The new approach is tailored to both beef and grain producers such that 4,000 acres of forage will be restored and 1,000 acres of associated wetlands will be protected by long-term agreements.

Project Title: The Wildlife Management Area Enhancement Initiative - Pilot Projects

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$389,500

The Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Enhancement Initiative aims to address issues of woody vegetation encroachment and declining grassland habitat on WMA lands through the use of adaptive management practices. This pilot project will see up to 640 acres of grassland habitat restored on each of the Langruth and Broomhill WMAs, while demonstrating the benefits, such as an increase in biodiversity, wildlife production, and harvestable opportunities of various habitat management techniques.

Project Title: MHV Basin - People with Nature

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Mennonite Heritage Village

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$175,300

This project will stabilize 450 metres of degraded shoreline in a sustainable way. Over 1,000 trees and tall plants will be planted that will restore 3.5 acres of a degraded wetland on a public museum ground. A 300 metre path that circumnavigates the pond will increase visitor enjoyment of the area (we estimate 15,000 visitors to the basin annually) and will be used for public education on wetlands. The Steinbach and Area Garden Club will lead education tours for adults and school children alike.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Prairie Habitat Restoration - Discovery Nature Sanctuary - Winkler Manitoba

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$6,666 **Total Project Budget:** \$26,666

The proposed Conservation Trust funding request will help the Discovery Nature Sanctuary source native seed and prepare the field conditions for the establishment of stable native ground cover on 6.77 contiguous acres of land. Funding will support the site preparation work, the purchase of native seed, and will support the professional services needed to oversee this process.

Project Title: Native Prairie and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Project Category: Habitat and Wildlife **Organization:** The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$140,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$780,000

This proposed project will restore and enhance native prairie and wildlife habitat in Manitoba's Prairie ecozone. Woody species control and modified management will enhance and restore 600 acres of prairie habitat. A cover crop will be established on 350 cultivated acres on Nature Conservancy of Canada's Fort Ellice Project to set the stage for future mixed-grass prairie restoration using locally collected and appropriate native seed.

Project Title: Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes - Part 1

Project Category: Watersheds **Organization:** Ducks Unlimited Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$300,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$900,000

Incentive-based, long-term partnerships with landowners will allow Ducks Unlimited Canada to restore 41 acres of wetlands and 800 acres of grassland as part of the Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes – Part 1 project. An additional 1,143 acres of wetland and grassland habitat will be secured perpetually, which will increase the Ecological Goods and Services provided by Manitoba's natural infrastructure.

Project Title: Edie Creek Retention Enhancements

Project Category: Watersheds **Organization:** North East Red Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$75,000

The Northeast Red Watershed District will improve surface water quality while providing flood mitigation and improved drought resilience by diverting portions of the Edie Creek to a water retention structure.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Sandy Lake Source Water Protection Project

Project Category:

Watersheds

Organization:

Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group Inc.

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$75,000

The Sandy Lake Source Water Protection Project will enhance existing wetlands and create new wetlands on the Sandy Lake Golf Course. This bio-filter will remove nutrients that enter Sandy Lake via the streams flowing through the golf course. The six acre-feet of water retained in 3.75 acres of cattail wetlands will slow lake water quality deterioration and protect the community's most valuable socioeconomic resource: the lake.

Project Title: Accelerating Adoption of Regenerative Farming to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure: Phase 2

Project Category: Soil Health**Organization:** Holistic Management Canada

Trust Funded Amount: \$200,000

Total Project Budget: \$577,455

The goal of this proposal is to grow Holistic Management Canada's Regenerative Accelerator Program. This program aims to scale up the adoption of regenerative farming practices that build healthy ecosystems and improve soil health on farms in Manitoba. This project will allow Holistic Management Canada and our partners to work with more farmers across Manitoba and provide them with expertise and funding to plan and implement regenerative farming projects that will impact over 4,000 acres.

Project Title: Soil Health: Addressing Watershed Priorities for Producers and Wildlife Habitat- PHASE 2 (2021)

Project Category: Soil Health**Organization:** Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget: \$300,000

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association (MFGA) will lead a partnership of three Manitoba Watershed Districts from southwest Manitoba to support landowners' Regenerative Agriculture practices via cover and relay crops that focus on healthy soils, healthy farms, and healthy watersheds. MFGA, Central Assiniboine, Assiniboine West, and Souris River Watershed Districts will target 3,600 acres at \$25 per acre for a total of \$90,000 over this one-year project to improve the soil and deliver improved EG&S and watershed benefits from their farms.

Project Title: Improving Soil Stewardship on Manitoba Organic Farms

Project Category: Soil Health**Organization:** Manitoba Organic Alliance

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget: \$261,130

Improving soil stewardship on Manitoba organic farms is a two-year project using a suite of inter-related activities, including a consultant agronomist program, cost-share funding, farmer education, and building a grazing exchange website for farmers and ranchers, to improve soil health practices. Targeted practices introduced on 1,600 acres include integrating livestock onto cropland, minimizing tillage, planting diverse cover crops and perennial plants, and improving crop rotations.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Working With Landowners to Improve Soil Health in the West Interlake Watershed

Project Category: Soil Health

Organization: West Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget: \$302,750

This project will engage up to 10 farmers to enhance up to 1,500 acres of soil in West Interlake Watershed through the use of cover crops/polycrops. Key environmental criteria include soil health, protection from erosion, effective soil management, water/air quality protection, flood and drought resilience, nutrient management, natural pollination, pest and disease suppression, reduction in greenhouse gas emission, and enhanced carbon sequestration.

Project Title: A Wetland Permanence Classification Tool for the Prairie Pothole Region of Manitoba

Project Category: Innovation

Organization: Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW)

Trust Funded Amount: \$100,000

Total Project Budget: \$256,625

This project will fund the completion of a web-based Wetland Permanence Classification Tool, capable of distinguishing Class 1 and 2 wetland basins from wetlands of higher permanence. This web-based app will serve as a decision support tool to help watershed districts and conservation organizations efficiently and consistently deliver wetland conservation programming in the province of Manitoba.

Project Title: Conservation Planning in the Interlake Plain: Narcisse and Sylvan Dale Community Pastures

Project Category:

Conservation Planning

Organization:

Association of Manitoba Community Pastures

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$75,000

Association of Manitoba Community Pastures will complete range health assessments and land management plans for the Narcisse and Sylvan Dale Community Pastures in order to foster healthy, resilient prairie landscapes covering a total 26,000 acres within the Interlake Plain Ecoregion. The management plans will incorporate ecological goods and services of the Community Pastures including diverse, productive forages as well as wildlife habitat conservation goals.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Planning for the Future: Enhancing Climate Resilience in Integrated Watershed Management Plans

Project Category:

Conservation Planning

Organization:

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Trust Funded Amount: \$25,000

Total Project Budget: \$80,000

Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMPs) provide a roadmap for watershed-based planning in Manitoba. This project aims to build climate resilience at the watershed level by developing guidance and tools to enhance integration of climate change adaptation into the IWMP planning process for Watershed Districts. Its application will ensure that IWMP processes consider and respond to potential climate change impacts, ensuring that investments made today build climate-resilience for tomorrow.

Project Title: Indigenous Youth Storytelling Project

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Trust Funded Amount: \$20,000

Total Project Budget: \$70,000

The Indigenous Youth Storytelling Program honours the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing, and supports an environmental interpretive movement that reframes nature from natural resource to living relation through storytelling. This program will support 32 Indigenous youth over two years in connecting with the land and sharing that connection through storytelling with an estimated 3,000 visitors to Assiniboine Park and its website.

Project Title: Connecting Manitobans to Nature – Outdoor Learning Program

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization:

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Manitoba Chapter

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget: \$290,850

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Manitoba Outdoor Learning Program was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created an urgent need to support educators and parents seeking safe ways to engage children and youth.

This flexible program was designed to be delivered by educators, parents, or CPAWS staff. With Conservation Trust support, CPAWS will expand online resources and deliver interpretive programs for thousands of school children, families, and adults interested in our natural world.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Indigenous Tall Grass Prairie Enhancement and Conservation through Community-based Stewardship

Project Category:

Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun

Trust Funded Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Budget: \$347,050

Seven Oaks School Division's Indigenous Tall Grass Prairie Enhancement and Conservation through Community-based Stewardship project will enhance tall grass prairie establishment and increase diversity across 30 acres and will conserve five acres of remnant prairie. Interpretive signage will be designed to improve self-guided orientation and learning on-site and to enrich experiential land-based learning opportunities.