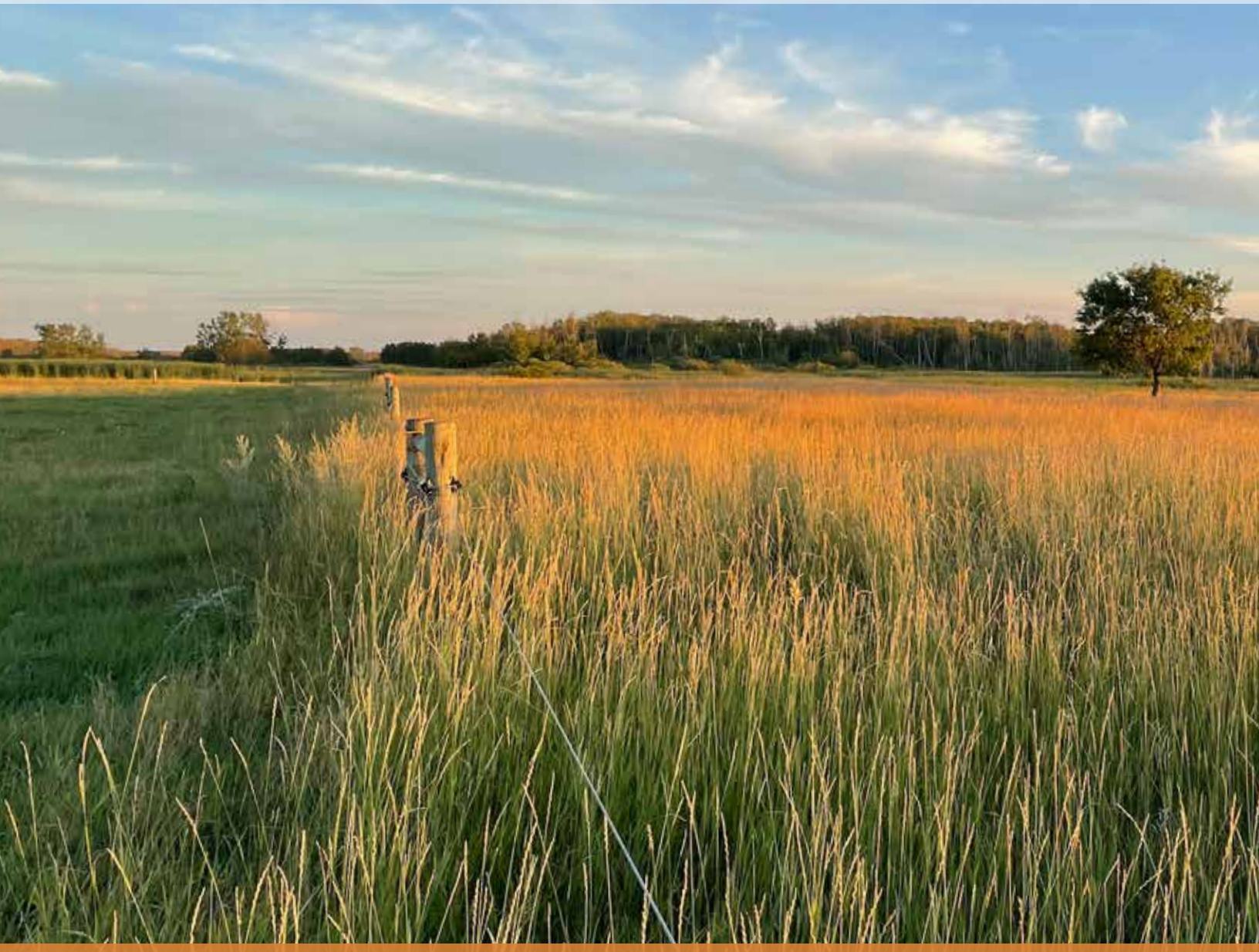
THE CONSERVATION & GROW TRUSTS

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



2021/2022 Progress Report

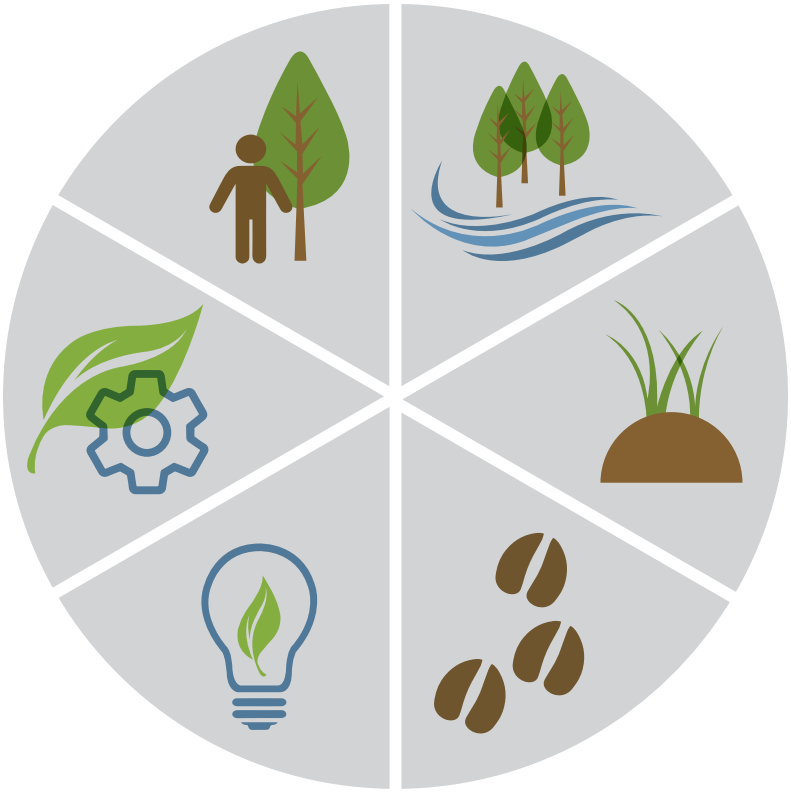
A summary of Trust commitments and outputs to March 31, 2022

MANITOBA HABITAT HERITAGE CORPORATION
Homegrown conservation since 1986.

photo credit: Benchland Forage Consortium

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, 2022. 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.

A key outcome of the Trusts is to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change including mitigating both floods and droughts. 2021 to 2022 was a challenging year with severe drought affecting the agricultural landscape. Trust-funded water retention projects and Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that support grassland management were especially beneficial during the extreme conditions experienced.

As of March 31, 2022, a total of $28,284,100 in granting commitments have been made to 151 conservation projects across Manitoba. This includes $9,694,674 to projects through the Conservation Trust and $18,589,426 through GROW.

This report aggregates outputs and estimated outcomes from 72 projects, including 30 completed in the 2021-22 Government Fiscal Year (GFY). As of March 31, 2022, there were an additional 79 Trust-funded projects in progress.

New this year is the calculation of Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S) outcomes from completed projects. MHHC contracted the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) to complete the Trust Outcome Assessment Tools (OATs). Using the cumulative outputs from completed Trust-funded projects, the OATs estimated that the projects have sequestered 105,327 tCO_{2e}, stored 88,439 pounds of phosphorus, provided 6,955 acre-feet of flood storage per event, and recharged 4,089 acre-feet of groundwater (additional outcomes are provided in Appendix A).

Photo Credit: Manitoba Association of Watersheds

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.

photo credit: MHHC

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.

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 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. The Team is in the process of developing an online grant reporting platform that will be rolled out for the upcoming 2023 reporting season. The online platform will provide grantees with a more comprehensive tool for both reporting and management of their grant projects.

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

The Conservation Trust supports 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. Land and water conservation projects, especially those that provide multiple EG&S benefits, are preferred, with the ultimate objective of building extensive landscape resilience to the impacts of climate change. With these fundamental priorities in mind, core outcomes were established for the Trust (see Table 1 on page 10). 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 Conservation Trust Categories on page 21.

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.

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, wetland 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, a made-in-Manitoba approach to ecological goods and services programming delivered by Manitoba's watershed districts.

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 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.

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: Manitoba Association of Watersheds

TRUST PRIORITY EG&S OUTCOMES

Water Quality

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

Water Quantity/Flood Mitigation

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

Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health

- Cumulative annual and cumulative aggregation of carbon resulting from Trust activities

Harvestable Wildlife

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

Biological Diversity

- Cumulative acres of habitat conserved, enhanced and restored

Economic

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

TABLE 1:
TRUST EG&S OUTCOMES

	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						●		

RESULTS TO MARCH 31, 2022

Funding Commitments from the Trusts

From inception to March 31, 2022, a total of $28,284,100 has been committed to projects from the Trusts. A breakdown of commitments, by funding category, is provided in Table 2 below. Summaries of funding commitments by category are provided in Appendix C, and brief project descriptions for each funded project are provided in Appendix D.

TABLE 2: CUMULATIVE TRUST GRANTING COMMITMENTS TO DATE
(AS OF MARCH 31, 2022)

	Prior Years	Current Year		
Stage in Process	Conservation and GROW Trusts 2018-2021	GROW Trust 2021	Conservation Trust 2022	GROW Trust 2022
Letters of Interest (LOI)				
Submitted	168	12	32	14
Denied	27	0	7	0
Approved	141	12	25	14
Applications				
Submitted	126	12	24	14
Denied	27	0	4	1
Approved	107*	12	20	13
Funding				
Trust Funds	$12,439,958*	$5,533,272	$2,861,836	$7,449,034
Match Funds	$25,640,990	$6,215,383	$6,578,667	$9,487,368
Match Ratio	2.2:1	1.1:1	2.3:1	1.3:1

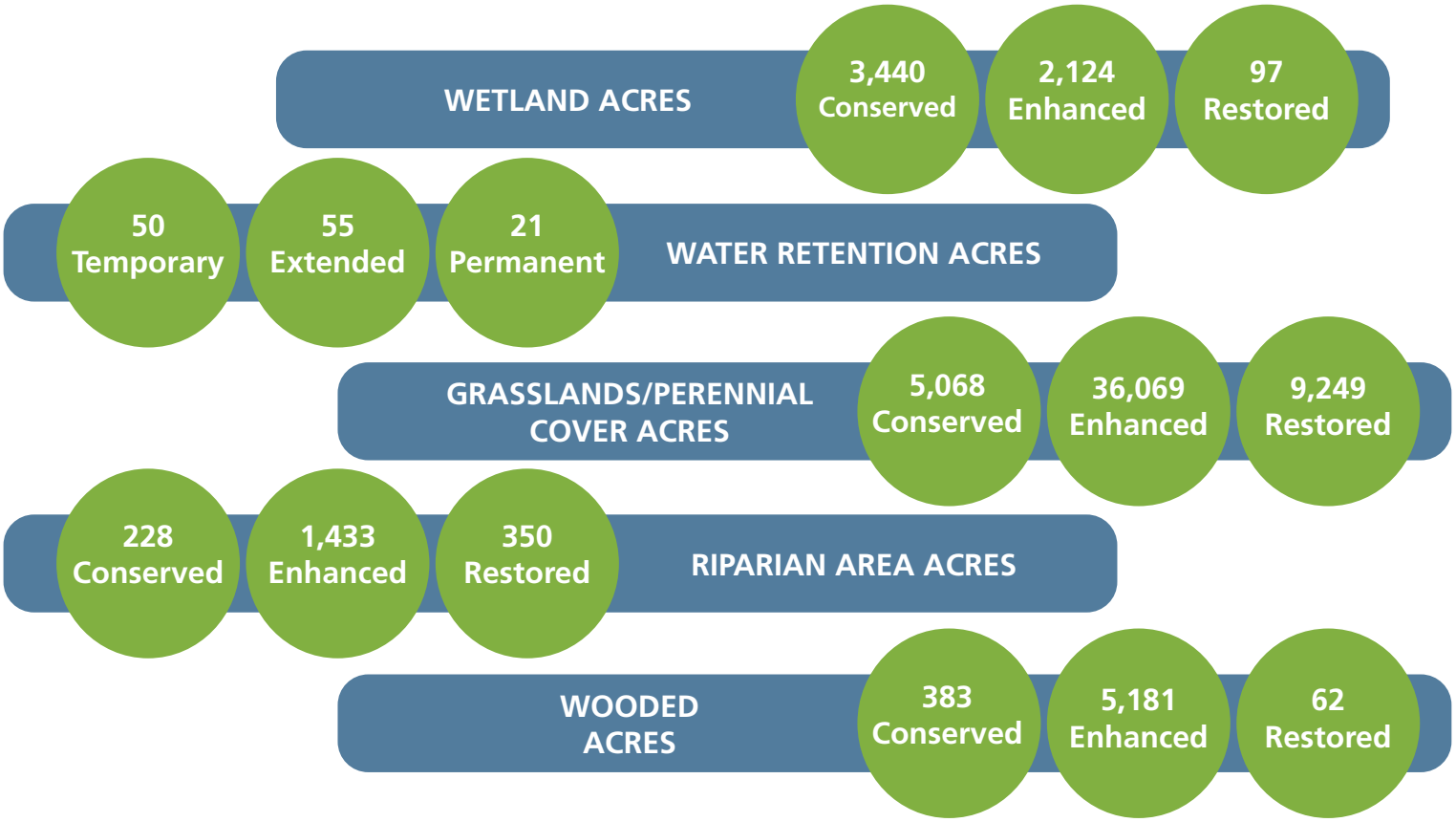
** Adjusted to reflect changes in granting commitments to date*

Conservation Trust funded projects total:	**$9,694,674**
GROW Trust funded projects total:	**$18,589,426**
Total granting commitments to March 31, 2022:	**$28,284,100**

RESULTS TO MARCH 31, 2022

Results from 2021-2022 Project Final Reports

This brief summary reports the outputs and outcomes from a total of 30 Trust-funded projects, which were completed during the 2021-22 GFY. A comprehensive table of aggregated outputs for this reporting period may be found in Appendix A, along with cumulative tables of the Trusts' to-date outputs and outcomes. For a list of the 30 projects and their grant amounts, see Appendix B.



Other significant activities

- Number and/or length of trees and shrubs planted (in shelterbelt, farmyard, and other settings)
- Structures for wildlife (e.g. duck nesting structures)
- Structures (trails, signage, kiosk, etc) commonly related to Connecting People to Nature projects
- Communications activities (advertisements, workshops, etc) in relation to Trust-funded projects
- Areas influenced by Resource Management Plans
- Decision support tools developed

It should be noted that a small number of projects do not have deliverables that are easily expressed in acres impacted on-the-ground. This is particularly true for the Innovation & Conservation Planning and Connecting People to Nature categories. If a project has the potential to impact a definable region (e.g a plan affecting a certain watershed), those acres are identified in the table as "influenced". While these projects do eventually result in EG&S benefits, they are not directly comparable to projects whose impacts are direct and can be measured in the current project period.

TRUST OUTCOMES

The Trusts were established to provide ecological goods and services (EG&S) outcomes from conservation activities in Manitoba's agricultural and municipal landscapes. These EG&S include increased Water Quality, Flood Mitigation, Drought Resilience, Biodiversity & Harvestable Wildlife, Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health. To properly report the EG&S, MHHC enlisted the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) to undertake a multi-phased project, with the directive to create a tool that would enable the Trusts to estimate quantitative values for the EG&S outcomes, translating activities like wetland conservation, or perennial cover establishment on cultivated land to measurable outcomes of interest like improving water quality, biological diversity, or carbon sequestration.

In 2020, IISD completed the first phase, a literature review to identify quantitative/qualitative values and ranges for the EG&S outcomes related to activities most supported by the Trusts. This literature review resulted in the Evaluation Matrix (Matrix), which was validated by an experienced steering committee during its development.

To analytically quantify EG&S outcomes from Trust funded projects, phase two saw the development of the Trust Outcomes Assessment Tools (Trust OATs). These tools facilitate the actual calculation of the EG&S outcomes and operate off of two primary variables. The first variable, Acres of Habitat, provides the primary input for determining the magnitude of the EG&S calculated, while the second variable, the Additional Required Input Data, represents the EG&S value of the habitat. Currently the second variable is assessed by Unit Change in Land. Unit Change in Land determines the relative benefit of EG&S calculations, which is dependent on initial land use for a given project activity. For situations where the land use does not significantly change, for example with conserved habitat, the tool utilizes the concept of avoided loss to represent the EG&S outcomes.

For additional information regarding the Trust OATs, please contact the Trust Team.

TABLE 3: 2021 - 2022 TRUSTS EG&S

Water Quality	Water Quality	Flood Mitigation	Drought Resilience Storage Capacity	Drought Resilience Groundwater Recharge	Biodiversity and Harvestable Wildlife	Carbon Sequestration	Soil Health
45,836 Total Phosphorous (lbs removed/ year)	**314,768** Total Nitrogen (lbs removed/ year)	**3,561** Acre-feet of storage per event	**9,089** Acre-feet of storage	**2,088** Acre-feet of recharge per year	**18,191** Acres of habitat	**62,653** tCO_{2e} /year sequestered	**48,735** tSOC content/year

THE GROW TRUST

GROW
Growing Outcomes in Watersheds

Identified under the Water Pillar in Manitoba's Climate and Green Plan, Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) is a way of encouraging the delivery of ecological goods and services (EG&S). GROW promotes the conservation of natural areas and land use changes that provide EG&S on agricultural land. The program works with farmers to develop projects that work for their operations and maintain or improve local watershed health. GROW is a made-in-Manitoba program on working lands that focuses on farming the best, conserving the rest.

With a focus on watershed health, management and resiliency, GROW projects will help reduce flooding and drought vulnerability and improve water quality and nutrient management in Manitoba. The GROW framework is delivered by watershed districts in partnership with landowners, non-government organizations, and all levels of government.

Wetlands GROW Trust

- Focuses primarily on the conservation of existing ephemeral/temporary wetlands that have not been drained or filled but may be cultivated from time to time.

photo credit: Delta Waterfowl

GROW

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Redboine Watershed District

Grant: $225,000
Total Project Budget: $604,549

Boyne River Watershed GROW Program

In 2020, The Redboine Watershed District, together with landowners and municipalities in the Boyne River Sub-Watershed partnered to create a Local GROW Committee and implement a new Boyne River GROW program.

Key priorities were to increase watershed resiliency to a changing climate and increase water quality. The Boyne River GROW program implemented a number of GROW activities including water retention, wetland conservation, and enhancement and conservation of riparian and upland areas.

Through GROW Trust and match-funded projects, 55 acre-feet of run-off was stored in retention areas, 459 acres of wetlands including 40 acres of vital Class 1 & 2 wetlands were protected, 502 acres of upland area was enhanced and protected, and 263 acres of riparian area was enhanced.

Water Retention

Water retention projects increase adaptive capacity for climate change, landscape and ecosystem resiliency, including reducing peak flows and enhancing water supply opportunities for agricultural use. Projects including small dams, temporary backfloods, or on-farm water retention basins, can reduce flooding downstream, improve water quality, and provide local habitat benefits.

photo credit: Redboine Watershed District

GROW

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Assiniboine West Watershed District

Grant: $750,000
Total Project Budget: $2,418,471

Improving Watershed Health in AWWD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape ($250,000) and Recognizing Ecological Services from Farms and Ranches in Assiniboine West Watershed District ($500,000)

The Assiniboine West Watershed District (AWWD) was one of the first recipients of GROW Trust funding. AWWD worked with 63 farmers and ranchers to produce ecosystem services.

The program has enabled participants to undertake projects on the agricultural landscape that conserved, enhanced, and restored 5,151 acres of wetlands, uplands, riparian areas, and buffer strips. It has also protected downstream infrastructure by retaining 199 acre-feet of water in temporary, extended or permanent water retention structures (basins) and an additional estimated 431 acre-feet in wetlands. This will improve watershed resilience to the impacts of changing climate and improved water quality through reducing erosion in streams and riparian areas and increasing infiltration in uplands.

Wetland Conservation

Wetlands store water, sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon, thereby contributing to watershed resilience and water quality, while providing numerous benefits related to biodiversity, habitat and climate change.

photo credit: AWWD

GROW

Buffer Establishment

Buffers are natural or engineered transitions between landscape features, including:

Shelterbelts: reduce wind-based soil erosion, create habitat, and increase yields.

Perennial cover buffers: between field edges and riparian areas provide protection from nutrients, chemicals and mechanical disturbance.

Eco-buffers: multiple rows of a variety of native local ecozone trees and shrubs.

Buffers and grassed waterways: permanent vegetation in low or highly sloped areas to channel water flow during runoff and heavy rain events.

Riparian Area Management

Riparian areas: The transition zone between waterbodies and surrounding uplands. Riparian areas provide riverbank and shoreline stabilization and erosion control, and capture sediments, pathogens, nutrients and pesticides from surface runoff before entering waterbodies.

photo credit: AWWD

GROW

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Grant: $30,000
Total Project Budget: $63,689

Building Climate Change Resiliency and Wind Erosion Resiliency by way of Shelterbelts

The Trust-funded project planted over 7,543 trees in multi row field shelterbelts. Five producers partnered to create the 12km of shelterbelts on a landscape that is seeing extensive annual deforestation to make room for cultivated acres.

The plantings were targeted to border annually cropped land and away from dwellings to achieve the most benefit to the agricultural landscape as possible. The plantings were completed by the landowner as their in-kind contribution and the watershed district supplied the trees, tree planter, and mulch applicator machine. The district will monitor the project for four years to ensure successful establishment of the plantings.

photo credit: MHHC

GROW

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
West Interlake Watershed District

Grant: $350,000
Total Project Budget: $1,167,551

Working together to improve watershed health in the West Interlake Watershed - 2020 ($250,000)

The West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD) worked with 30 local producers to complete 20 projects throughout the district to enhance and restore land. Throughout the two-year period, 2,065 acres of sensitive grasslands were restored through the establishment of perennial forages. A total of 352 acres of riparian area were enhanced through exclusion fencing along the Hatchery Drain, Buffalo Lake, and small water sources previously used for livestock drinking water supply. In addition, alternative watering systems were installed to allow cattle access to clean drinking water. The WIWD also worked with landowners to conserve 64 acres of temporary (Class I and II) wetlands.

"Changing practices to a more regenerative approach can be intimidating and costly, but with the help of the GROW trust, the WIWD can provide financial assistance to local producers for implementing new practices such as cover-cropping, rotational grazing, permanent perennial cover and establishment of shelterbelts to lower the risk involved," said WIWD.

photo credit: WIWD

Working with landowners to improve soil health in the West Interlake Watershed - 2021 ($100,000)

This innovative project involved 18 producers and 3,052 acres in a three-year risk reduction transition period to cover cropping.

Practices included low soil disturbance, elimination or use of less herbicides and chemical fertilizer, the use of natural inoculants, seeding polycrops, and leaving crop roots in the ground. Producers were provided with individual expert advice on field preparation, equipment selection, cover crop species selection, planting method, and seeding rate, along with partial payment of cover crop seed, soil testing, and site monitoring visits.

WIWD partnered with Dr. Yvonne Lawley, an assistant professor in the Plant Science Department at the University of Manitoba and Mary-Jane Orr, general manager for the Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiative, with a PhD in soil microbiology. Both provided consultation on cover crop species and regenerative agriculture. A cover crop and forage seed supplier provided educational resources and consulting services.

Producer cost shares were determined by production practices of the producer. Producers who implemented low soil disturbance practices, increased number of seeded species in the mix, and reduced or eliminated synthetic fertilizers and herbicides, were rewarded with a better cost share (up to 50%). Landowners implemented the project and their cash and in-kind contributions were tracked.

Intended project outcomes included increased soil health, protection from erosion, effective soil management, water and air quality protection, flood and drought resilience, nutrient management, improved natural pollination habitat, pest and disease suppression, reduction in greenhouse gas emission, and enhanced carbon sequestration.

Uplands: Management practices on annual cropland, pasture, hayland, wooded areas, and sensitive soils influence watershed resilience and water quality. Encouraging management appropriate to soil types and topography will provide benefits to soils (reducing erosion, improving both water holding capacity and carbon sequestration), biodiversity and habitat.

Upland Areas

photo credit: WIWD

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).

HABITAT & WILDLIFE

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Benchland Forage Consortium

Grant: $60,000
Total Project Budget: $180,000

Aspen parkland habitat improvement via range management infrastructure planning and implementation

The Benchland Forage Consortium is a producer led, community-based organization that has been in operation for over 40 years in Gladstone, Langruth, Plumas and surrounding areas. The membership represents a valuable land base for wildlife habitat and Aspen Parkland conservation efforts.

Every year across the prairies, wildlife habitat is degraded, threatened or lost due to land conversion. Market factors such as increasing land costs and annual crop prices contribute to pressure to convert more "marginal" lands to annual crop lands.

Benchland Forage Consortium's (BFC) goal was to work with members to manage cattle grazing to conserve and improve wildlife habitat. Supporting producers helps ensure the long-term stability of this habitat by lessening the threat of land conversion.

BFC worked with eight landowners to develop projects with strong conservation goals to improve range management and enhance 3,317 acres.

The completed projects include pasture rejuvenation with flowering legumes and infrastructure for improved grazing management and riparian area protection.

photo credit: Benchland Forage Consortium

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association

Grant: $360,261
Total Project Budget: $1,214,866

Expansion of natural riparian zones for wildlife and watersheds ($28,333), Soil Health: Addressing watershed priorities for producers and wildlife habitat-PHASE 2 ($100,000), and A new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat and soil health-PHASE 2 ($232,288)

The goals of the two-year project were to demonstrate regenerative agriculture to improve economic returns to the farm while providing water storage, improved soil health, and increased wildlife habitat.

Brooks and Jen White are the 5th generation owner/operators of Borderland Agriculture, a grain farm and bison ranch located in the far south-west corner of Manitoba.

The initiative is a restoration story; the bison return to add environmental and economic benefits for both the land and people.

In 1882 Richard and Lorinda White homesteaded in Treaty 2 territory, near Lyleton, the driest part of the province dominated by sandy soils, and at the time, a sea of mixed grass prairie with thriving bison herds. Only twelve years prior (1870), Manitoba had joined confederation with the Great Plains Bison on the provincial Seal. By 1888, no wild bison were left in Canada. Their slaughter removed the keystone species that supported Indigenous communities and the Great Plains grasslands ecosystem.

Brooks and Jen White are regenerative farmers. "Our approach to regenerative agriculture focuses on integrating poly cropping and grazing to build soil organic matter and soil biodiversity, grow better crops and produce healthier bison," said Brooks.

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photo credit: Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association

"Through this project we seeded 150 acres to a perennial pasture which we fenced and added a watering system," Brooks said. A highly-diverse mixture of grass, legumes, and forbes was utilized to improve soil structure. Fences allow for the ease of passage for all wildlife in the area and will not interfere in any way with the natural corridors or trails of deer, moose, or elk.

Souris River Watershed District constructed three earthen dams with Brooks, who said, "we installed structures to back-flood areas in the spring to encourage water infiltration and reduce field runoff to prevent downstream flooding."

"Bison are the key to building soil and improving plant health," said Brooks. "We rotate bison and our domestic livestock across the farm. We graze a variety of forages, perennial pasture, cover crops, crop residue and corn. In doing so, the animals get all the nutrients they need, and we build soil."

Bison are physically adapted to winter grazing. "Our rotational system allows us to graze fields 365 days a year," said Brooks. "The bison manure and herd trampling helps to spread nutrients, reducing our fertilizer costs by 75%. By maintaining plant cover and moving them through the farm year-round, we are essentially mimicking the ecological system when the bison roamed the Great Plains."

Through regenerative agriculture Brooks and Jen have come to see changes in their soil. "In fields where we have transitioned from annual cropping to grazed perennial pastures, we see significant changes in dung beetles and earthworms in our soil, and we see increased plant production and better water infiltration," said Jen.

"We believe in ecological systems and providing ecological goods and services from our farm," Jen said. "This includes increased biodiversity, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, improved water quality, and enhanced wildlife habitat. One thing we know for sure, the deer and moose love our farm."

In addition to The Conservation Trust funding, the Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association project was also supported by Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Souris River Watershed District, and Manitoba Agriculture-Ag Action along with significant cash and in-kind contributions from the Whites.

"Bringing home the bison is a bit like a step back in time" said Brooks. "Regenerative agriculture addresses current issues like climate change and removing carbon from the atmosphere, as well as healthy food production and supporting a cleaner environment to meet the demands of today's consumers. Better for your food and better for the planet is a common theme with regenerative agriculture."

photo credit: Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association

SOIL HEALTH

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Holistic Management Canada

Grant: $124,179
Total Project Budget: $419,666

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

Since 2020, Holistic Management Canada has been successful for three phases of funding totaling $524,179 for their new Regenerative Accelerator on The Prairies project. Phase One was completed in 2022 and worked with five farms across Manitoba to enhance soil health and ecological services on 2,195 acres of land.

Project participants were paired with a Holistic Management expert to review farm and finance goals and select the most beneficial regenerative project for implementation.

"The focus of regenerative farming is improving soil quality by building organic matter back into the soil," said Dana Penrice, project coordinator for Holistic Management Canada. "Zero and minimum tillage were a fantastic start to building soil, but we need to expedite soil improvement strategies like intercropping, cover cropping, eliminating tillage, adding organic matter, and integrating livestock into cropping systems.

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photo credit: Holistic Management Canada

Bar VI Ranch is a fourth generation cow/calf ranch that sits on the edge of Lake Manitoba, recently managed by Kris and Clorissa Egilson. Kris and Clorissa's objectives for the farm are to improve the soil and increase their herd. They are hoping to become more resilient in times of drought or flood by increasing soil organic matter so that it will increase the ability for the soil to infiltrate water. By improving the soil, they will restore ecosystem processes which will benefit the environment, the people living on it, and their profitability.

Ecological outcome measurements and monitoring: Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) was completed on each farm to set a baseline for the farmers to understand how their projects and their management is impacting the ecosystem. The water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow and biodiversity was assessed in both short term monitoring and long term monitoring.

"What I love about this project is that the ecological services from Regenerative Agriculture go well beyond the farm gate," Dana said. "These include improved water quality, reduced flooding, improved biodiversity, enhanced wildlife habitat, and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere that helps reduce the impacts of climate change. These benefits are enjoyed by all Manitobans."

In Phase Two, HMC will work with an additional 10 farms to increase the ecosystem function of their properties and impact over 4,000 acres.

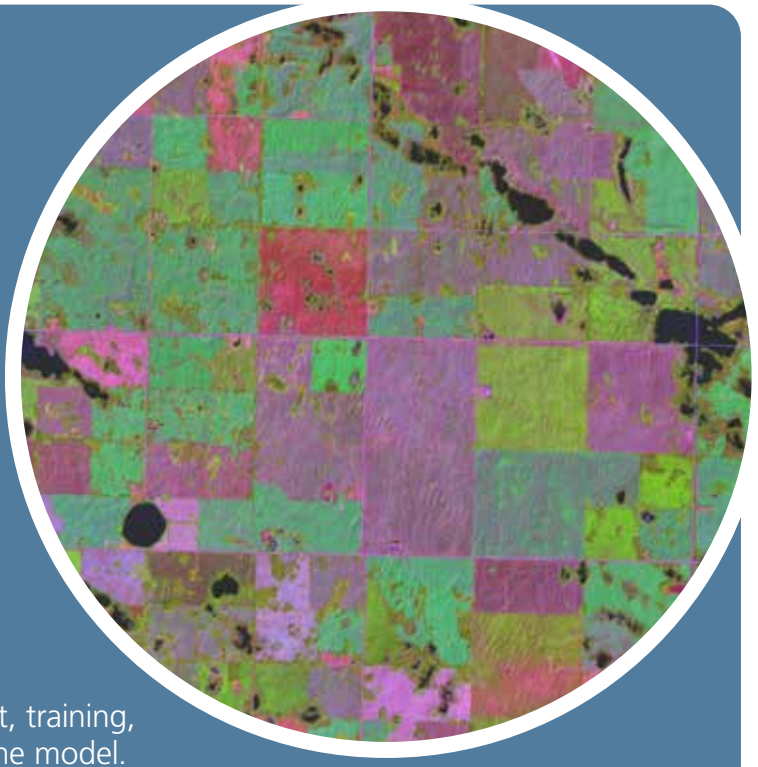
photo credit: Holistic Management Canada

INNOVATION

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW)

Grant: $100,000
Total Project Budget: $389,625



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

The Manitoba Association of Watersheds in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada have completed a Wetland Permanence Classification Tool capable of distinguishing Class I/II wetland basins from wetlands of higher permanence classification.

Watershed Districts were engaged in tool development, training, and collection of field data that was used to validate the model.

These data and mapping products will serve as a decision support tool for watershed districts and conservation organizations to assist in the consistent and efficient delivery of wetland conservation programming in the province of Manitoba.

map credit: MAW

CONSERVATION PLANNING

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter

Grant: $ 25,000
Total Project Budget: $389,153

Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) Conservation Areas Initiative

The Fisher River Initiative aims to protect the health of the thriving natural landscape of Manitoba's southeastern Interlake region so it can continue to provide for sustainable economic opportunities and support cherished lifestyles and cultures.

Under the leadership of FRCN and alongside partner Peguis First Nation, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is helping to develop a regionally-appropriate and balanced conservation plan for a 1.1 million hectare study area stretching from Riverton to Kinwow Bay Provincial Park.

continued on next page

map credit: CPAWS, Fisher River Cree Nation

CPAWS conducted community and stakeholder engagement from March 2021 to February 2022, which entailed meeting directly with communities, local organizations, commercial stakeholders, and conducting open houses for regional citizens and conducting an online survey. Knowledge Keepers from FRCN and Peguis First Nation were interviewed about the region and its values. CPAWS directly engaged 932 people at 33 events through these processes.

CPAWS has since prepared a draft conservation proposal for the study area, which is based on feedback together with analysis of science and Indigenous Knowledge. The conservation proposal will be presented to regional leaders, rightsholders, stakeholders, and residents and refined based on their comments. The resulting final proposal will contain the research and local support that governments require to establish a network of protected areas in the region.

Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative project manager Elizabeth Murdock harvests sweetgrass in August 2021. Photo credits: CPAWS Manitoba

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Project Spotlight

Recipient: Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Inc.

Grant: $19,897
Total Project Budget: $62,150

Connecting Prairie Pothole Habitat Conservation with Beef Cattle Production

The project established an interpretive riparian native meadow and raised garden beds showcasing up to 64 species of native and tame plants. The Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Brookdale Farm Learning Centre also created a kilometer of walking trail highlighting the transition between wetlands and wooded areas. The outdoor based guided interpretive programs are specifically designed to connect the public with the nature and ecology of the Prairie Pothole Region and showcase the role of beef cattle grazing in its conservation. In-person events were interrupted by COVID-19 public health restrictions; however, the interpretive infrastructure and programming will be available to 500 youth and 2,000 public visitors annually.

photo credit:Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Inc.

Project Spotlight

Recipient:
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter

Grant: $50,000
Total Project Budget: $300,747

Connecting Manitobans to Nature – Outdoor Learning Program

The CPAWS 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 foster their connection to the natural world. Building a community of nature enthusiasts is key to fostering the next generation of environmental stewards.

CPAWS surpassed its goal and engaged at least 8,357 participants in connecting to nature though fun, educational, and accessible outdoor activities. Thousands of children participated in curriculum aligned, hands-on daycare and school outdoor learning workshops, field trips, and classroom litter cleanup challenges.

During the early stages of the pandemic Manitobans were able to connect to nature from the safety of their homes with a popular webinar series, a Manitoba photography contest, and a Hudson Bay children's coloring contest.

Outdoor-based workshops were often at capacity and included tree identification, group hikes, skating and snowshoeing excursions, nature journaling, photography, and drawing, and paddle nights.

In addition, ten youth from across southern Manitoba participated in an intensive year-long program aimed at fostering the next generation of conservation leaders, the Canadian Wilderness Stewardship Program (CWSP).

photo credit: CPAWS

APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF TRUST OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

TRUST OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

TRUST EG&S - 2022

Habitat	Water Quality, TP	Water Quality, TN	Flood (FM), Storage	Drought (DR), Storage	Drought (DR), Recharge	Biodiversity and Harvestable Wildlife (BD&HW)	Carbon Sequestration	Soil Health (SH)
Wetlands	24547.4	245474.1	2260.9	9043.6	1085.2	5502.8	12064.57	10500.99
Water Retention	156.8	1437.1	285	46.3	5.6	0	0	0
Wooded	529.02	370.32	69.17	0	51.38	5929.6	27425.79	637.54
Riparian	86.07	743.41	46	0	46	1411.9	3807.42	1915.48
Grassland	20517.02	66743.21	900.5	0	900.5	5347	19356.2	35681.22
	45836.31	**314768.14**	**3561.57**	**9089.9**	**2088.68**	**18191.3**	**62653.98**	**48735.23**

TRUST EG&S - CUMULATIVE TO DATE

Habitat	Water Quality, TP	Water Quality, TN	Flood (FM), Storage	Drought (DR), Storage	Drought (DR), Recharge	Biodiversity and Harvestable Wildlife (BD&HW)	Carbon Sequestration	Soil Health (SH)
Wetlands	49665.1	270591.5	4574.3	18297.3	2195.6	11133.5	24409.45	21245.96
Water Retention	317.3	2907.6	480.3	99.3	12	0	0	0
Wooded	558.98	391.3	72.91	0	54.12	6265.5	28993	1011.45
Riparian	429.38	3708.64	229.47	0	229.47	7043.5	18993.97	9555.68
Grassland	37468.93	121886.02	1598.31	0	1598.31	49496.4	32931.11	66007.46
	88439.69	399485.06	6955.29	18396.6	4089.5	73938.9	105327.53	97820.55

TRUST OUTPUT TABLE 2021 - 2022

Section A

	ACTIVITIES	TRUST-FUNDED Acres	TRUST-FUNDED Number of Basins	TRUST-FUNDED Acre Feet	MATCH-FUNDED Acres	MATCH-FUNDED Number of Basins	MATCH-FUNDED Acre Feet	TOTAL Acres	TOTAL Number of Basins	TOTAL Acre Feet
Wetland	Conserved	1,342.1	721.0	204.4	2,098.7	926.0	226.6	3,440.8	1,647	431
	Enhanced	2,083.4	-	-	41.0	1.0	18.0	2,124.4	1	18
	Restored	72.2	11.0	-	25.0	-	-	97.2	11	-
	Total	3,497.7	732.0	204.4	2,001.7	927.00	245	5,662.4	1,659	449
Riparian	Conserved	228.1			-			228.1		
	Enhanced	1,071.0			362.4			1,433.4		
	Restored	2.5			348.4			350.9		
	Total	1,301.6	-	-	710.8			2,012.4		
Upland-Grassland	Conserved	3,957.3			1,111.6			5,068.8		
	Enhanced	17,872.1			18,197.1			36,069.2		
	Restored	8,860.8			388.4			9,249.2		
	Total	30,690.1	-	-	19,697.0			50,387.2		
Upland-Wooded	Conserved	68.5			315.0			383.5		
	Enhanced	3,965.7			1,215.8			5,181.5		
	Restored	62.3			-			62.3		
	Total	4,096.5	-	-	1,530.8			5,627.3		

Section B

		TRUST-FUNDED Acres	TRUST-FUNDED Acre Feet	TRUST-FUNDED Number of Basins	MATCH-FUNDED Acres	MATCH-FUNDED Acre Feet	MATCH-FUNDED Number of Basins	TOTAL Acres	TOTAL Acre Feet	TOTAL Number of Basins
Water Retention Structures	Temporary	12.8	18.1	3.4	37.8	142.3	5.8	50.6	160	9
	Extended	-	10.0	-	55.1	103.0	22.8	55.1	113	23
	Permanent	8.4	20.0	7.6	12.9	26.3	8.3	21.3	46	16
	Total	21.2	48	11.00	105.8	272	36.99	127.0	320	48

Other Outputs		Acres	Number		Acres	Number		Acres	Number	
	Nest Structures Installed	195	195	0	0	0		195	195	
	Cover Crop- Single Species	263			0			263		
	Cover Crop- Multi Species	6910			515.3			7,425		
	Off-site watering system	2807.7	45.6		628.9	16.7		3,437	62	
	Cattle Excluded	28	3422		0	3295			6,717	
	Livestock Crossing	3429.7	29		20.3	2.3		3,450	31	
		Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)
	Fencing	6331.6	79.7	0	2799.5	12.3		9,131.1	92.0	
	Streambank Stabilized	2.4	0.748	0.03	0	0	0	2.4	0.7	0.0
	Bufferstrip Established	38.1	9	0	0	0.3	0.01	38.1	9.3	0.0
	Bufferstrip Enhanced	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
	New Pollinator Habitat	11	0	0	80	0	0	91.0		
	Enhanced Pollinator Habitat	40	0	0	0	0	0	40.0		
	Shelterbelt Established	24.55	17.9	0.278	277.71	41.15	0.32	302.3	59.1	0.6
	Shelterbelt Enhanced	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-

Communications		Total Quantity	Description
	Events	719	
	People Engaged	1,094,970	
	Communication materials produced	1,484	
	Communication Outreach	1,219,706	
	Producers with Conservation Contracts	239	

Additional Outputs	Enter Activity	Units	Quantity	Units	Quantity	Units	Quantity
	Decision making tools developed	Number	1			Number	1
	Acres influenced by decision making tools	Acres	875,521			Acres	875,521
	Resource Management Plans (developed/updated)	Number	7	Number	18	Number	25
	Acres influenced by plans	Acres	32,684	Acres	45,357	Acres	78,041
	Nest structures enhanced	Number	1,755			Number	1,755
	Pasture pipeline installed	Kilometers	2.9			Kilometers	2.9
	Trails enhanced/created	Kilometers	2.8	Kilometers	0.8	Kilometers	3.5
	Structures supported (boardwalks, canoe racks, docks, etc)	Number	2	Number	1	Number	3
	Interpretive signs	Number	10			Number	10
	Trees planted	Number	217	Number	15,741	Number	15,958
	Indigenous plants propagated			Number	2,852	Number	2,852
	Lidar collected			Square kilometers	7,575	Square kilometers	7,575

TRUST OUTPUT TABLE - CUMULATIVE

Section A

	ACTIVITIES	Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet	Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet	Acres	Number of Basins	Acre Feet
Wetland	Conserved	1,512.7	729.0	314.4	5,568.6	1,120.0	336.6	7,081.3	1,849.0	651.0
	Enhanced	6,551.1	8.0	4.0	1,047.7	16.0	18.0	7,598.8	24.0	22.0
	Restored	379.0	185.0	86.7	30.7	1.0	40.3	409.7	186.0	127.0
	Total	8,442.8	922.0	405.1	6,647.0	1,137.0	394.9	15,089.8	2,059.0	800.0
Riparian	Conserved	373.8			90.4			464.2		
	Enhanced	5,676.6			1,387.4			7,063.9		
	Restored	3.0			348.9			351.9		
	Total	6,053.4	-	-	1,826.7			7,880.0		
Upland-Grassland	Conserved	5,034.3			1,966.5			7,000.7		
	Enhanced	49,026.3			21,633.2			70,659.5		
	Restored	13,543.0			791.9			14,334.9		
	Total	67,603.6	-	-	24,391.6			91,995.1		
Upland-Wooded	Conserved	327.5			388.8			716.3		
	Enhanced	4,224.7			1,269.6			5,494.3		
	Restored	62.3			-			62.3		
	Total	4,614.5	-	-	1,658.4			6,272.9		

Section B

		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	16.6	20.1	4.4	37.8	212.3	5.8	54.4	232.4	10.2
	Extended	129.9	138.0	2.0	155.1	213.0	23.8	285.0	351.0	25.8
	Permanent	80.2	63.5	12.2	12.9	99.8	9.7	93.1	163.3	21.9
	Total	226.7	221.5	18.6	205.8	525.1	39.4	432.5	746.7	58.0

		Acres	Number		Acres	Number		Acres	Number	
Other Outputs	Nest Structures Installed	195	711	0	0	208		195		
	Cover Crop- Single Species	263			0			263		
	Cover Crop- Multi Species	10732			715			11,447		
	Off-site watering system	2920	50		883	24		3,803	73	
	Cattle Excluded	28	4523		0	4605		28	9,128	
	Livestock Crossing	3430	40		20	3		3,450	43	
		Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)	Acres	Length (km)	Width (km)
	Fencing	6452.3	101.1	0.0	3040.3	21.2		9,492.6	122.2	
	Streambank Stabilized	2.4	0.748	0.03	0	0	0	2.4	0.7	
	Bufferstrip Established	38.1	9	0	0	0.3	0.01	38.1		
	Bufferstrip Enhanced	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
	New Pollinator Habitat	843.8	0	0	635.2	0	0	1,479.0		
	Enhanced Pollinator Habitat	40.01	0	0	0.02	0	0	40.0		
	Shelterbelt Established	25.75	45.09	0.278	278.51	52.61	0.32	304.3	97.7	0.6
	Shelterbelt Enhanced	0	38.62	0	0	96.1	0	-	134.7	-

		Total Quantity
Communications	Events	806
	People Engaged	1,227,725
	Communication materials produced	1,522
	Communication Outreach	1,496,036
	Producers with Conservation Contracts	239

	Enter Activity	Units	Quantity	Units	Quantity	Units	Quantity
Additional Outputs	Decision making tools developed	Number	2			Number	2
	Acres influenced by decision making tools	Acres	2,111,021			Acres	2,111,021
	Resource Management Plans (developed/updated)	Number	35	Number	32	Number	67
	Acres influenced by plans	Acres	127,612	Acres	45,357	Acres	172,969
	Nest structures enhanced	Number	3,376			Number	3,376
	Pasture pipeline installed	Kilometers	2.9			Kilometers	2.9
	Trails enhanced/created	Kilometers	5.4	Kilometers	0.8	Kilometers	9.8
	Structures supported (boardwalks, canoe racks, docks, etc)	Number	9	Number	1	Number	10
	Interpretive signs	Number	14	Number	2	Number	16
	Trees planted	Number	20,808	Number	22,595	Number	43,403
	Indigenous plants propagated			Number	2,852	Number	4,852
	Lidar collected			Square kilometers	7,575	Square kilometers	7,575
	Stabilized streambanks	Kilometers	46.3	Kilometers	46.3	Kilometers	92.5
	Watershed Districts influenced by plans	Number	1			Number	1.0

APPENDIX B
LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Organization	Project Name	Intake	Category	Final Grant Amount
Save Our Seine Environment Inc.	Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project	Conservation Trust - Signature Projects	Habitat and Wildlife	$100,000
East Interlake Watershed District	Wetland and Riparian Area Restoration/ Protection	The Conservation Trust	Watersheds	$50,000
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Expansion of IMCD Burdeniuk Tree Plantation	The Conservation Trust	Watersheds	$6,000
Redboine Watershed District	Mill Creek Retention Project	The Conservation Trust	Watersheds	$75,000
FortWhyte Alive	North Prairie Control Burn and Renewed Habitat Management	The Conservation Trust	Watersheds	$29,000
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Improving Watershed Health in AWWD by Engaging Farmers and Ranchers on the Working Landscape	SEED Watersheds & GROW 2020	GROW	$250,000
Benchland Forage Consortium	Aspen parkland habitat improvement via range management infrastructure planning and implementation	The Conservation Trust 2019	Habitat and Wildlife	$60,000
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) Conservation Areas Initiative	The Conservation Trust 2019	Innovation and Planning	$25,000
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Building Climate Change Resiliency and Wind Erosion Resiliency by way of Shelterbelts	The Conservation Trust 2019	Habitat and Wildlife	$15,589
Holistic Management Canada	Accelerating Adoption of Regenerative Farming to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure: Phase 1	The Conservation Trust 2019	Soil Health	$124,179

LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Organization	Project Name	Intake	Category	Final Grant Amount
Manitoba Beef & Forage Initiatives Inc.	Connecting Prairie Pothole Habitat Conservation with Beef Cattle Production	The Conservation Trust 2019	Connecting People to Nature	$19,897
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Expansion of natural riparian zones for wildlife and watersheds	The Conservation Trust 2019	Habitat and Wildlife	$28,333
Souris River Watershed District	Hay,Forages and Shelterbelts for Wildlife Habitat in the Souris River Watershed	The Conservation Trust 2019	Habitat and Wildlife	$40,000
FortWhyte Alive	Connecting people to nature in the Interpretive Centre open spaces at FortWhyte Alive	The Conservation Trust 2019	Connecting People to Nature	$40,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Restoration & Conservation of Land and Water in Agro-Manitoba	The Conservation Trust 2019	Habitat and Wildlife	$250,000
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Recognizing Ecological Services from Farms and Ranches in Assiniboine West Watershed District	Watersheds & GROW Trust 2020	GROW	$500,000
Redboine Watershed District	Boyne River Watershed GROW Program	Watersheds & GROW Trust 2020	GROW	$225,000
Swan Lake Watershed District	Surface Water Quality Improvement for the Swan River Valley	Watersheds & GROW Trust 2020	GROW	$167,120
West Interlake Watershed District	Surface Water Quality Improvement for the Swan River Valley	Watersheds & GROW Trust 2020	GROW	$232,000
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Conservation Planning in the Interlake Plain: Narcisse and Sylvan Dale Community Pastures	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Conservation Planning	$25,000

LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Organization	Project Name	Intake	Category	Final Grant Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Improving Grassland Biodiversity in Manitoba's Community Pastures	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Habitat and Wildlife	$300,000
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Connecting Manitobans to Nature – Outdoor Learning Program	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Connecting People to Nature	$50,000
Delta Waterfowl	Wetland conservation and enhancement in Manitoba to improve duck reproductive success - Spring 2021	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Habitat and Wildlife	$85,955
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Restoring Manitoba's Natural Landscapes - Part 1	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Watersheds	$300,000
Manitoba Association of Watersheds	A Wetland Permanence Classification Tool for the Prairie Pothole Region of Manitoba	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Innovation	$100,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	A new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat and soil health-PHASE 2 (2021)	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Habitat and Wildlife	$232,288
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Soil Health: Addressing watershed priorities for producers and wildlife habitat-PHASE 2 (2021)	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Soil Health	$100,000
North East Red Watershed District	Edie Creek Retention Enhancements	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Watersheds	$25,000
Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun	Indigenous Tall Grass Prairie Enhancement and Conservation through Community-based Stewardship	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Connecting People to Nature	$50,000
West Interlake Watershed District	Working with landowners to improve soil health in the West Interlake Watershed	The Conservation Trust Spring 2021	Soil Health	$100,000

APPENDIX C
SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY (FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022)

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

2021/2022 Funded Projects

Trust	Amount
GROW Trust 2021	$5,533,272.25
Conservation Trust 2022	$2,861,835.63
GROW Trust 2022	$7,449,034.00
Total	**$15,844,141.88**

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

GROW 2021

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Building a resilient, green Manitoba	$1,162,535.25
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Farming the Best - Conserving the Rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District - 2	$745,000
East Interlake Watershed District	Enhancement Protection Program (phase 2)	$226,500
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Advancing Water Retention Capacites within Inter-Mountain Watershed District	$404,100
Kelsey Watershed District	Planting Salt Tolerant Grasses to Reduce Nutrient Runoff into Our Waterways	$40,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	2021 Pembina Plum Initiative #2	$800,000
Redboine Watershed District	RBWD GROW Program - Watershed Management in Action	$350,000
Souris River Watershed District	Wetland Conservation and Restoration in the Souris River Watershed	$599,000
Swan Lake Watershed District	Streambank Stabilization and Enhanced Vegetated Buffer	$61,200
West Interlake Watershed District	Working together to improve watershed health in the West Interlake Watershed	$466,662
Westlake Watershed District	Westlake Watershed District Wildlife and Upland Enhancement Projects	$100,775
Whitemud Watershed District	Whitemud Watershed District 2021	$577,500
	Total	$5,533,272.25

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Conservation Trust 2021 Habitat & Wildlife Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Association of Manitoba Community Pastures	Land Stewardship through Grazing Management Improvements	$400,000
Benchland Forage Consortium	Aspen parkland habitat improvement via range management infrastructure planning and implementation	$62,250
Delta Waterfowl	Wetland conservation and enhancement in Manitoba to improve duck reproductive success - Spring 2023	$89,705
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes - Part 2	$400,000
Manitoba Beef Producers	Grassland Enhancement Program 2022	$400,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	A new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat and soil health - PHASE 3 (2022)	$239,800
Nature Manitoba	Reaching Landowners about Avian Species at Risk	$8,080.63
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	A turning point in Manitoba's prescribed fire community: enhancing capacity and inter-agency cooperation	$100,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Enhancing soil health for the future using regenerative agriculture practices	$100,000
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Enhanced biodiversity-focused grazing systems	$100,000
	Total	$1,899,835.63

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Conservation Trust 2021 Watersheds Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes - Part 1	$350,000
	Total	$350,000.00

Conservation Trust 2021 Soil Health Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Holistic Management Canada	Regenerative Accelerator: Adoption of Farming Practices to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure	$200,000
Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association	Soil Health: Addressing watershed priorities for producers and wildlife habitat-PHASE 3 (2022)	$200,000
	Total	$400,000.00

Conservation Trust 2021 Innovation Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Expanding native prairie seed production in support of a growing private & public land diversified restoration economy	$40,000
	Total	$40,000.00

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Conservation Trust 2021 Conservation Planning Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative	$25,000
Winnipeg Metropolitan Region	Building Resiliency in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region	$25,000
	Total	$50,000.00

Conservation Trust 2021 Connecting People to Nature Category

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Birtle Miniota & District Development Corporation	Riparian Forest Interpretive Kiosk	$12,000
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter	Nature Club After School Environmental Science Program	$35,000
Seven Oaks School Division - Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun	Interpretive Signage & Oral Storytelling Project at Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun	$50,000
FortWhyte Alive	Revitalize Wetland Trail and Improve Recreational and Interpretive Value at FortWhyte Alive in Winnipeg	$25,000
	Total	$122,000.00

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS BY CATEGORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

GROW 2022

Organization	Project Name	Trust Funded Amount
Assiniboine West Watershed District	Watershed Resilience in a Changing Climate	$1,602,500
Central Assiniboine Watershed District	Farming the Best - Conserving the rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District - 3	$805,000
East Interlake Watershed District	GROW Conservation Auction 2022-23	$295,000
Inter-Mountain Watershed District	Building Inter-Mountain Watershed District's Capacity to Deliver the GROW Program	$52,000
North East Red Watershed District	NRWD GROW Program	$350,000
Pembina Valley Watershed District	Pembina Plum Initiative #3	$1,060,000
Redboine Watershed District	RBWD GROW Program	$427,000
Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District	GROWing EG&S in the Seine Rat and Roseau Watershed District 2022-2023	$69,780
Souris River Watershed District	Soil and Water Programming in the Souris River Watershed District	$1,014,000
Swan Lake Watershed District	Enhancing Watershed Health by Improving Water Quality and Nutrient Management	$428,200
West Interlake Watershed District	Working with landowners to improve watershed health in the West Interlake Watershed	$517,500
Westlake Watershed District	2022 Westlake Watershed District Wildlife and Upland Enhancement Projects	$71,604
Whitemud Watershed District	Whitemud Watershed District 2022-2024 GROW Program: Project C	$756,450
	Total	$7,449,034.00

APPENDIX D
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS FOR FUNDED PROJECTS BY FUNDING CATEGORY (FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022)

GROW TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Building a resilient, green Manitoba

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $1,162,535.25 **Total Project Budget:** $2,083,743.25

Assiniboine West will work with watershed residents to increase the amount of ecological services provided from our watershed, by protecting 1000 acres of vulnerable wetlands and developing an additional 430 acre-feet of peak flow runoff storage, to further flood proof our region and downstream communities, converting 1000 acres to permanent cover, and installing 25 off-site water systems, to improve soil health and protect the watersheds' riparian areas.

Project Title: Farming the Best - Conserving the Rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District - 2

Organization: Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $745,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,370,000.00

Our project aims to offer targeted EG&S programming to improve watershed health and build climate change resiliency by offering a number of programs. The programs are targeted towards buffers, riparian areas, upland areas, water retention, and wetlands. The projects will conserve, enhance or restore 2685 acres of targeted habitat within the Central Assiniboine Watershed.

Project Title: Enhancement Protection Program (phase 2)

Organization: East Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $226,500.00 **Total Project Budget:** $306,500.00

This project will improve the habitat of endangered and at-risk flora and fauna, decrease flooding events, improve watershed resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce nutrient loading and improve surface water quality. It is estimated that 100 ac of wetland will be enhanced, 360 acres of wetlands protected, 90 ac feet of water storage will be created, 50 ac of riparian enhanced and conserved, 40 ac of grassland enhanced and conserved, and 100 cows be removed from waterways.

Project Title: Advancing Water Retention Capacites within Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Organization: Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $404,100.00 **Total Project Budget:** $904,100.00

Our Trust proposal, 'Advancing Water Retention Capacities within Inter-Mountain Watershed District, intends to further address the conservation issues as identified in our two IWMPs, plus build upon our earlier GROW project, 'Advancing Landscape Resiliency within Inter-Mountain Watershed District'. We have the desire to work proactively upfront, versus being in a defensive or reactive mode every time there is a flood or a drought. We aim to reduce the peak water flows in our rivers during runoff in order to decrease the flood events, road washouts and the erosion damages we commonly see in our District. This proposal will enable us to build additional flood-control dams, slowing the water as it moves down our steep slopes. These new water retention dams will act as demonstration sites for nearby landowners, improve the local stewardship ethic, and hopefully act as a springboard to future projects in the District. In addition, we will protect several key riparian sites in the District.

GROW TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Planting Salt Tolerant Grasses to Reduce Nutrient Runoff into Our Waterways

Organization: Kelsey Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $40,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $120,000.00

This project will establish good management practices to help reduce salinity in soil saline areas in the watershed, and in time these lands can be converted back into permanent forages. It will create a vegetative buffer between cropland and waterways, reducing the number of nutrients entering surface waters and increase soil health. We also hope to establish new agricultural practices to decrease nutrient loading and providing water quality benefits.

Project Title: 2021 Pembina Plum Initiative #2

Organization: Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $800,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $2,142,000.00

This PVWD Initiative will create 1533 ac ft of water retention storage, protect 504 acres of class 1 and 2 wetlands, restore/enhance 42 acres of class 3,4,5 wetlands, build 12 water retention structures, exclude1800 cattle, install 15 km of riparian fencing, protect 228 acres of the riparian zone, install 6 erosion control projects, convert 120 flood-prone cultivated acres to permanent cover and in the process remove 720lbs of phosporus and 7920lbs of nitrogen, plant 3936 trees, improve soil health on 840 acres.

Project Title: RBWD GROW Program - Watershed Management in Action

Organization: Redboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $350,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $850,000.00

The Redboine Watershed District will partner with landowners and municipalities across the district to expand our GROW program to increase resiliency to a changing climate and help increase water quality in our many watersheds. This GROW program will implement beneficial management projects that will store an estimated 130 acre-feet of surface water, protect, enhance, and restore over 1000 acres of wetland, riparian and upland areas, and plant over 10,000 trees.

Project Title: Wetland Conservation and Restoration in the Souris River Watershed

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $599,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,001,345.00

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, and the conservation, restoration and enhancement of upland and riparian areas. The project will provide annual incentive payments for the conservation of 300 acres of class 1 and 2 wetlands, enhancement and restoration of 2100 acres of grassland and conservation/enhancement/restoration of 120 acres of riparian area.

GROW TRUST 2021 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Streambank Stabilization and Enhanced Vegetated Buffer

Organization: Swan Lake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $61,200.00 **Total Project Budget:** $375,700.00

The Swan Lake Watershed District will seek to stabilize 0.5 km of streambanks and restore 1.5 acres of riparian areas from erosion that would otherwise be inputting hundreds of pounds of nutrient laden soil into surface water, causing eutrophication and negative impacts on sensitive fish and animal habitat. Returning streambanks back to its natural function helps encourage the riparian zones to filter nutrients, stabilize streambanks, and increase water holding capacity on the land. This project also aims to educate landowners on the benefits of a protected streambank and restored riparian area.

Project Title: Working together to improve watershed health in the West Interlake Watershed

Organization: West Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $466,662.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,274,482.00

GROW projects will improve water quality and watershed resilience to the impact of a changing climate by engaging producers and providing establishment costs to implement beneficial management practices. This project will conserve 100 acres of wetlands Class I and Class II and 30 acres of riparian area, enhance 85 acres of riparian areas, restore 2000 acres of tame upland grassland, establish 3 km of shelterbelts, establish 2250 acres of cover crops, erect 10 km of riparian fencing and 10.4 km of cross fencing, and install 10 alternative watering systems.

Project Title: Westlake Watershed District Wildlife and Upland Enhancement Projects

Organization: Westlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $100,775.00 **Total Project Budget:** $362,284.84

Westlake Watershed District plans to seed 1600 acres of land to perennial forage production, establish 6 miles of exclusion fence, assist in one livestock off-site watering system, and create an 80 acre demonstration plot including 8 acres of pollinator habitat showcasing benefits of annual and perennial poly-crops and pollinator habitat, resulting in a high intensity, short duration planned grazing rotation. Westlake Watershed District will host a tour to showcase active projects and producer opportunities to 30 local producers.

Project Title: Whitemud Watershed District 2021

Organization: Whitemud Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $577,500.00 **Total Project Budget:** $958,500.00

The WWD 2021-22 GROW program will achieve 75 acre ft of water storage; protect 140 acres of wetlands, 100 acres of riparian area conserved, protect 220 acres, enhance 190 acres, and restore 160 acres of upland area; enhance 10 acres of riparian habitat through stabilization, improved crossings, vegetation re-establishment, exclusion fencing and alternative watering systems; plant 8750 tree seedings, establish 14 km of shelterbelts, enhance 8 km of shelterbelts, 25 acres of perennial buffers, 20 acres of grassed waterways and enhance 1250 acres of soil organic matter.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Land Stewardship through Grazing Management Improvements

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

Trust Funded Amount: $400,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,200,000.00

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) will deliver a suite of project work targeting drought resiliency across the Community Pasture system with a goal to enhance over 20,000 acres of rangelands. Active management efforts, including brush controls, fencing, water development, and cattle crossings, will promote numerous ecological goods and services of prairie landscapes. Wildlife surveys will be conducted as part of the project.

Project Title: Aspen parkland habitat improvement via range management infrastructure planning and implementation

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife **Organization:** Benchland Forage Consortium

Trust Funded Amount: $62,250.00 **Total Project Budget:** $186,750.00

The objective of the project is to develop a cost share program to which BFC members can apply for funding to undertake 10 landowner projects that have both rangeland management as well as conservation goals. The program is designed such that the applicants will develop a plan they feel best suits their land resource and has the best potential to improve wildlife habitat. This will be achieved by creating an outcome-based framework to meet habitat improvement and EG&S goals.

Project Title: Wetland conservation and enhancement in Manitoba to improve duck reproductive success - Spring 2023

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife **Organization:** Delta Waterfowl

Trust Funded Amount: $89,705.00 **Total Project Budget:** $329,705.00

Manitoba's wetlands provide critical habitat for breeding waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. Continuing the partnership between the Conservation Trust and Delta Waterfowl, this project would permanently conserve up to 400 acres of wetland habitat in Manitoba, enhance another 2,100 acres using Hen Houses, and produce over 9,400 mallard ducklings.

Project Title: Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes - Part 2

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife **Organization:** Ducks Unlimited Canada

Trust Funded Amount: $400,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,200,000.00

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes – Part 2 will allow Ducks Unlimited Canada to provide incentive-based, long-term partnerships to landowners in order to restore 52 acres of wetlands and 700 acres of grassland. An additional 669 acres of grassland will be enhanced for wildlife cover, and 1,520 acres of wetland and grassland habitat will be secured perpetually. These activities will improve the quantity and quality of habitat available for Manitoba's wildlife

CONSERVATION TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Grassland Enhancement Program 2022

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

Trust Funded Amount: $400,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,201,350.00

The Grassland Enhancement Program 2022 will support 50 conservation minded cattle producers in Manitoba. This program will improve operations through the adoption of various beneficial management practices enhancing 9,000 acres and further protecting 5,150 acres of upland-grassland habitats. This approach improves multi-species at-risk biodiversity, landscape level climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, through the Manitoba cattle industry - a critical step toward conserving grasslands.

Project Title: A new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat and soil health - PHASE 3(2022)

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

Trust Funded Amount: $239,800.00 **Total Project Budget:** $719,683.00

The project provides financial incentives, extension, and agronomic support to assist producers in overcoming the challenges and mitigating financial risks of converting cultivated acres to forage. The program 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. EG&S benefits of both wetlands and grasslands will provide benefits to Manitoba producers, wildlife, and society.

Project Title: Reaching Landowners about Avian Species at Risk

Project Category: Habitat & Wildlife **Organization:** Nature Manitoba

Trust Funded Amount: $8,080.63 **Total Project Budget:** $36,676.13

This project will conduct outreach with landowners on working landscapes, and the public to create awareness about conservation of bird species at risk, in particular the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Eastern Whip-poor-will. Through outreach in areas across the range of these species we will raise awareness across 1,584km2. We will directly engage 135 people directly through outreach and monitoring efforts, and reach a further 400 people indirectly through media, social media, advertising, etc.

Project Title: A turning point in Manitoba's prescribed fire community: enhancing capacity and inter-agency cooperation

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

Trust Funded Amount: $100,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $450,000.00

A turning point in Manitoba's prescribed fire community: enhancing capacity and inter-agency cooperation is a Nature Conservancy of Canada project that builds on NCC's current experience and prescribed fire partnerships to conduct prescribed fire through 5 prescribed fire events and enhance 285 acres. The project simultaneously creates sustainable processes and resources for project partners to increase their own capacity and implement prescribed fire across Manitoba.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Enhancing soil health for the future using regenerative agriculture practices

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

Trust Funded Amount: $100,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $300,000.00

Enhancing soil health for the future using regenerative agriculture practices is a Nature Conservancy of Canada project that will establish 335 acres of perennial vegetation on 3 cultivated fields for future agricultural use. These activities will improve soil health and water quality, sequester carbon, and reduce the impact of extreme weather and flooding on NCC's lands in Manitoba.

Project Title: Enhanced biodiversity-focused grazing systems

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

Trust Funded Amount: $100,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $300,000.00

Enhanced biodiversity-focused grazing systems is a Nature Conservancy of Canada project aimed to improve soil health, expand livestock grazing, increase biodiversity, and reduce the impact of extreme weather on NCC's lands in Manitoba. Through the establishment and maintenance of grazing systems, NCC will achieve these outcomes on approximately 2,000 grazed acres.

Project Title: Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes - Part 1

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

Trust Funded Amount: $350,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,050,000.00

Ducks Unlimited Canada will restore 71 acres of wetland and 679 acres of upland using incentive-based long-term partnerships with landowners as part of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement in Manitoba's Working Landscapes - Part 1 project. An additional 1324 acres of wetland and grassland habitat will be secured perpetually through match funding, increasing the Ecological Goods and Services that Manitoba's natural infrastructure provides and contributing to watershed health.

Project Title: Regenerative Accelerator: Adoption of Farming Practices to Enhance Manitoba's Natural Infrastructure

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

Trust Funded Amount: $200,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $603,750.00

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.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Soil Health: Addressing watershed priorities for producers and wildlife habitat - PHASE 3 (2022)

Project Category: Soil Health

Organization: Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association

Trust Funded Amount: $200,000.00

Total Project Budget: $618,000.00

MFGA will again lead a partnership of three Manitoba Watershed Districts from the 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 up to 120 landowners to subscribe 3,600 acres @ $25 acre over two years to improve soil, ecological services and watershed benefits from their farms.

Project Title: Expanding native prairie seed production in support of a growing private & public land diversified restoration economy

Project Category: Innovation

Organization: The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Trust Funded Amount: $40,000.00

Total Project Budget: $250,000.00

Expanding native prairie seed production in support of a growing private & public land diversified restoration economy is an innovative Nature Conservancy of Canada project that supports the development of a strategic plan to analysis and assess building capacity of field-grown native prairie seed production to help stabilize variability in supply, quality, and prices across the conservation community.

Project Title: Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative

Project Category: Conservation Planning

Organization: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter

Trust Funded Amount: $25,000.00

Total Project Budget: $388,500.00

Through this initiative, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter aims to protect the southeastern Interlake's thriving natural landscape so it continues to provide sustainable economic opportunities and supports cherished lifestyles. We will design a realistic, balanced conservation proposal for a 1.1M hectare study area that will incorporate regional interests and values. The initiative is led by Fisher River Cree Nation in partnership with Peguis First Nation and CPAWS-MB.

Project Title: Building Resiliency in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region

Project Category: Conservation Planning

Organization: Winnipeg Metropolitan Region

Trust Funded Amount: $25,000.00

Total Project Budget: $115,000.00

The project will refine a web-based, geospatial decision support tool for resiliency planning to help prioritize natural infrastructure (NI) investment in Treaty 1 Territory through combining an eco-regional hydrographic analysis over ~45,900 km2, natural asset data, hydrological models incorporating climate change scenarios, and by visualizing results. The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region will lead the project and will collaborate with its partners in developing the project.

CONSERVATION TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Riparian Forest Interpretive Kiosk

Project Category:
Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Birtle Miniota & District Development Corporation

Trust Funded Amount: $12,000.00

Total Project Budget: $38,000.00

The Assiniboine Riparian Forest, located along Provincial Highway 83 in the PrairieView Municipality, hosts hundreds of visitors per year. The development of a multi-sided kiosk will display interesting and meaningful conservation, watershed and resource management information to locals and travellers alike. From current species at risk to historical regional land uses, park visitors will see and read extensively about the nature of the Assiniboine River Valley.

Project Title: Nature Club After School Environmental Science Program

Project Category:
Connecting People to Nature

Organization: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter

Trust Funded Amount: $35,000.00

Total Project Budget: $105,000.00

"The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter Nature Club After School Environmental Science Program helps children connect to nature and foster curiosity about the natural sciences. We will collaborate with schools and community centres to offer fun, engaging 6-week outdoor enrichment programs to approximately 400 elementary students. The CPAWS Manitoba Nature Club aims to inspire a lifelong love of nature and environmental science through hands-on experiences."

Project Title: Interpretive Signage & Oral Storytelling Project at Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun

Project Category:
Connecting People to Nature

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

Trust Funded Amount: $50,000.00

Total Project Budget: $193,088.24

Our project will enhance connections between our 3,000 annual visitors and this 49-acre landscape by installing 10 interpretive and storytelling nodes, and wayfinding markers. Our stories and themes are guided by Indigenous voices and perspectives and use a combination of written, graphic, and oral storytelling (QR code) components. These panels provoke student, educator, and community visitors to connect with the land, the stewardship taking place, and reconciliatory actions.

Project Title: Revitalize Wetland Trail and Improve Recreational and Interpretive Value at FortWhyte Alive in Winnipeg

Project Category:
Connecting People to Nature

Organization: The Fort Whyte Foundation Inc. o/a FortWhyte Alive

Trust Funded Amount: $25,000.00

Total Project Budget: $155,000.00

This project will restore the natural and recreational infrastructure of FortWhyte Alive's 1.2 hectare Wetland Trail riparian zone and lakefront area. Public access adjacent to The Great Trail will be improved by constructing a wheelchair-accessible canoe dock ramp, installing solar-powered lighting, and increasing opportunities for recreation and interpretation to an average annual 100k visitors.

GROW TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Watershed Resilience in a Changing Climate

Organization: Assiniboine West Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $1,602,500.00 **Total Project Budget:** $2,992,487.00

Assiniboine West Watershed District will create approximately 245 acre-feet of new water storage and conserve 1517 acres of shallow ephemeral wetlands within our watersheds. The district will work with landowners to conserve, enhance and restore 142.5 acres of riparian habitat, conserve and enhance 100 acres of wetlands, convert 1050 acres of annual crop land to perennial forage and develop 6 acres of new buffers in the form of trees and/or shrub plantings. These projects all build towards a more resilient and healthy watershed.

Project Title: Farming the Best - Conserving the rest within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District - 3

Organization: Central Assiniboine Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $805,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,370,000.00

Our project aims to offer targeted EG&S programming to improve watershed health within the Central Assiniboine Watershed District (CAWD). Programs are targeted towards wetlands, water retention, riparian areas, buffer and upland areas. Our plan to conserve, enhance or restore habitat within CAWD in the following ways:

- 4 retention structures to reduce peak flows by capturing 40 acre-feet or water
- 1.8 km of riparian fencing covering 210 acres will be installed along waterways to exclude 200 cattle.
- 18 acres of riparian habitat will be enhanced.
- 4 livestock crossings will be installed over 9 acres to reduce riparian impacts.
- 15 km of shelterbelts plantings in which 10 are established and 5 are enhanced.
- 765 acres of wetlands with 747 acres conserved, 10 acres enhanced, 8 acres restored.
- 444 acres of uplands will be impacted over 4 projects, all the acres will be annual crop to perennial cover land use change projects.
- 1200 acres of single or multi species cover crops will be planted.
- 120 acres of buffer strips of which 70 acres is established and 50 acres is enhanced.
- 50 acres of new pollinator habitat.

These projects will help the CAWD build resiliency towards climate change and climate change impacts.

GROW TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Building Inter-Mountain Watershed District's Capacity to Deliver the GROW Program

Organization: Inter-Mountain Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $52,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $362,000.00

Our Trust proposal, 'Building Inter-Mountain Watershed District's Capacity to Deliver the GROW Program', intends to further address the conservation issues as identified in our two IWMPs and build upon our earlier GROW projects. We aim to reduce the peak water flows in our rivers in order to decrease flood events, road washouts, and erosion damages we commonly see in our District. We aim to classify and identify wetlands in order to conserve, enhance, or restore wetlands throughout the District. This proposal will enable us to build 2 multi-functional dams and an erosion control structure, as well as classify wetlands within the District with an intent to conserve 20 acres of wetlands, and restore or enhance 5 acres of wetlands total. We aim to build capacity with 1 FTE to help deliver these objectives as well as our previous GROW projects throughout Inter-Mountain Watershed District.

Project Title: NRWD GROW Program

Organization: North East Red Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $350,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $650,000.00

The District will partner with local landowners to store 100 acre-feet of water, enhance 50 acres of wetlands, and enhance 50 acres of riparian area. The District will also install 10 nesting stations, and conserve 50 acres of upland area.

Project Title: Pembina Plum Initiative #3

Organization: Pembina Valley Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $1,060,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $3,109,000.00

This Pembina Plum #3 Initiative, will create 135 ac-ft of water retention storage, 1,082 ac-ft of aquifer recharge, protect 370 acres of class 1 and 2 wetlands, build 9 water retention structures, restrict 1900 cattle in riparian zones, install 19 offsite watering systems, install 19km of riparian fencing, enhance 31.75 acres of riparian area, install 17 erosion control projects, convert 60 flood-prone cultivated acres to permanent cover, plant 9,000 trees on 18 acres, improve soil health on 2,500 acres. In upland regions of the district, conserve and enhance 700 acres of upland marginal and saline lands and conserve 80 acres of natural bluffs in drinking water management zones at risk of conversion will be secured for a 10-year period.

Project Title: GROWing EG&S in the Seine Rat and Roseau Watershed District 2022-2023

Organization: Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $69,780.00 **Total Project Budget:** $269,780.00

This project will provide preservation protection for 100 acres of sensitive lands under a 10-year preservation contract in the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District.

GROW TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: Soil and Water Programming in the Souris River Watershed District

Organization: Souris River Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $1,014,000.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,668,000.00

The project will focus on the securement of class 1 and 2 wetlands in annual cropland through 10-year conservation agreements restricting drainage, the enhancement and restoration of upland grasslands and riparian areas, the establishment of shelterbelts for reduction in soil erosion, increasing water retention capacity to minimize peak flows and increase holding capacity.

These activities will contribute to enhance flood and drought resiliency, greater biodiversity and habitat, increased carbon sequestration, improved water and soil quality and an overall more resilient watershed to climate change impacts.

The terminal basin program will continue to provide support for perennial cover tied to the conversion of land use from chronically flooded annual cropland within a terminal basin.

Project Title: Enhancing Watershed Health by Improving Water Quality and Nutrient Management

Organization: Swan Lake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $428,200.00 **Total Project Budget:** $681,055.00

The SLWD is continuing to implement the GROW program into their District. The District aims to conserve, enhance, or restore 50 acres of Class 1 and 2 wetlands; conserve, enhance, or restore 600 acres of riparian area; conserve, enhance, or restore 300 acres of upland wooded and grassed area; 500 people reached throughout the Swan Valley; 5 advertisements that promote and generate interest in the GROW program; and at least 8 new landowners signed up through the GROW program.

Project Title: Working with landowners to improve watershed health in the West Interlake Watershed

Organization: West Interlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $517,500.00 **Total Project Budget:** $1,627,199.00

The West Interlake Watershed District will be delivering the GROW project to improve water quality and watershed resilience to the impact of our changing climate, by engaging producers and providing establishment cost shares to implement beneficial management practices. This project will conserve up to 75 acres of wetlands, 500 acres of riparian area, enhance up to 60 acres of riparian areas through exclusion fencing, restore 1,500 acres of perennial upland grassland, establish 1,750 acres of poly-crops / cover-crops / green manure crops, establish 2 km of shelterbelts and/or buffer-strips, erect 5 km of exclusion fencing and install 5 alternative watering systems to exclude approximately 700 head of livestock from riparian areas, and will erect 5 km of cross fences and install 5 alternative watering systems to implement grazing management practices to enhance up to 1600 acres of upland area. In addition, this project will contribute to improved biodiversity, enhanced fish and wildlife habitats, climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, and reduction of greenhouse gases, and will enhance sustainable agricultural production.

GROW TRUST 2022 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title: 2022 Westlake Watershed District Wildlife and Upland Enhancement Projects

Organization: Westlake Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $71,604.00 **Total Project Budget:** $222,744.00

Westlake Watershed District, in partnership with MHHC, will be offering landowners opportunities for Upland Enhancement, and Riparian Area Management through programs such as Forage Seed Reimbursements, Offsite Watering Systems Reimbursements and poly-crop demonstration sites.

- 1000 acres of land seeded to perennial forage
- 2 offsite watering systems
- 60 acres of year 2 demonstration plot seeded poly-crops and perennial forage
- 40 acres poly-crop (reduce synthetic inputs on shore of Lake Manitoba)

Project Title: Whitemud Watershed District 2022-2024 GROW Program: Project C

Organization: Whitemud Watershed District

Trust Funded Amount: $756,450.00 **Total Project Budget:** $2,358,137.00

Wetland Trust

- Restore 10 acres of wetlands
- Conserve 245 acres of class 1 or 2 wetlands (Includes restored 10 acres of wetland)

GROW Trust

- Develop 8 AWS or well projects that enhance riparian areas by restricting livestock access
- 12 km of exclusion fencing
- Develop 1 crossing
- 12km of fencing to encourage rotation grazing or exclude livestock from sensitive areas like overgrazed woody areas
- Enhance 100 acres of grassland through fencing projects
- Establish 10 acres of grassed runways, 10 acres district
- Establish 10 km of shelterbelts
- Establish 5 acres of perennial buffers
- Buy a Row Crop tool to help producers with cover crop selection
- Plant 12,000 trees
- Develop water storage projects that cover 8 acres
- Put 1500 acres into forage
- Conserve 95 acres of permanent upland vegetation using incentive payments, continue the Conservation Corridor program and continue to monitor 100 acres of conserved vegetation