

Conservation Trust Categories

Organizations seeking funding from the Conservation Trust may apply for up to \$600,000 total across the six Conservation Trust funding categories listed below. An applicant may submit multiple applications.

Applications may be approved for partial or full funding. Applicants may partner on additional proposals over and above their funding cap. Watershed Districts may also apply for a maximum of \$100,000 across the six Conservation Trust funding categories, for activities not eligible under GROW.

Categories should be selected based on deliverables achieved within the project period.



HABITAT AND WILDLIFE



WATERSHEDS*

UP TO \$600,000

- Projects designed to improve habitat quality and quantity
- Activities that enhance populations of key wildlife species or suites of species
- Habitat activities that support a regional, provincial, or national plan for wildlife or habitat

Project examples may include:

- Wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement activities
- Grass and forage cover plantings
- Native prairie and rangeland enhancement
- Pollinator habitat establishment
- Block plantings for forests and wildlife corridors
- Fish habitat restoration above the waterline
- Crown land habitat restoration or enhancement that is within agricultural landscapes

UP TO \$600,000

- Projects that have water quality and quantity (water retention, drought mitigation, etc.) as key EG&S outcomes
- Activities that contribute to other EG&S such as biological diversity, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, etc.
- Activities that support established priorities in an integrated watershed management plan, established basin plan, or a plan that has watershed health as a fundamental objective.

Project examples may include:

- Wetland restoration and enhancement
- Water retention with a significant habitat enhancement component*
- Riparian habitat enhancement
- Forage plantings that have significant watershed benefits, e.g. buffer zones, grassed waterways, forage plantings on marginal croplands

**Water retention projects that deliver multiple ecological goods and services (EG&S) benefits will be ranked higher than projects that are designed simply to store water. Natural infrastructure projects that incorporate habitat (e.g. re-vegetating associated berms and structures, inclusion of pollinator habitat, inclusion of tree planting around a structure, etc.) will be ranked higher than those with a single or few EG&S benefits.*



SOIL HEALTH*



INNOVATION



CONSERVATION PLANNING*



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE*

UP TO \$600,000

- 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

Project examples may include:

- Perennial cover management primarily to enhance soil health
- Grazing and cropping systems that align with regenerative agriculture principles and practice

**Priority will be given to projects that emphasize perennial cover systems or multi-species cover crop systems*

UP TO \$100,000

- 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.

UP TO \$25,000

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

**Successful planning applications will guide on-the-ground conservation projects in the near-term*

UP TO \$75,000

- Landscape Enhancements, e.g. riverbanks and natural greenways or equivalent natural areas in urban or high use rural settings
- Projects that improve citizens access to nature (e.g. trails) or enhance a visitor's experience with nature (signage)
- Outdoor-based interpretive and/or educational programs specifically designed to connect people with nature and foster environmental awareness and conservation efforts

**Funding is limited in this category. Projects in the Connecting People to Nature category that include all three activities (landscape enhancements, infrastructure enhancements, and provide in-person outdoor-based interpretive programming) will be ranked higher.*