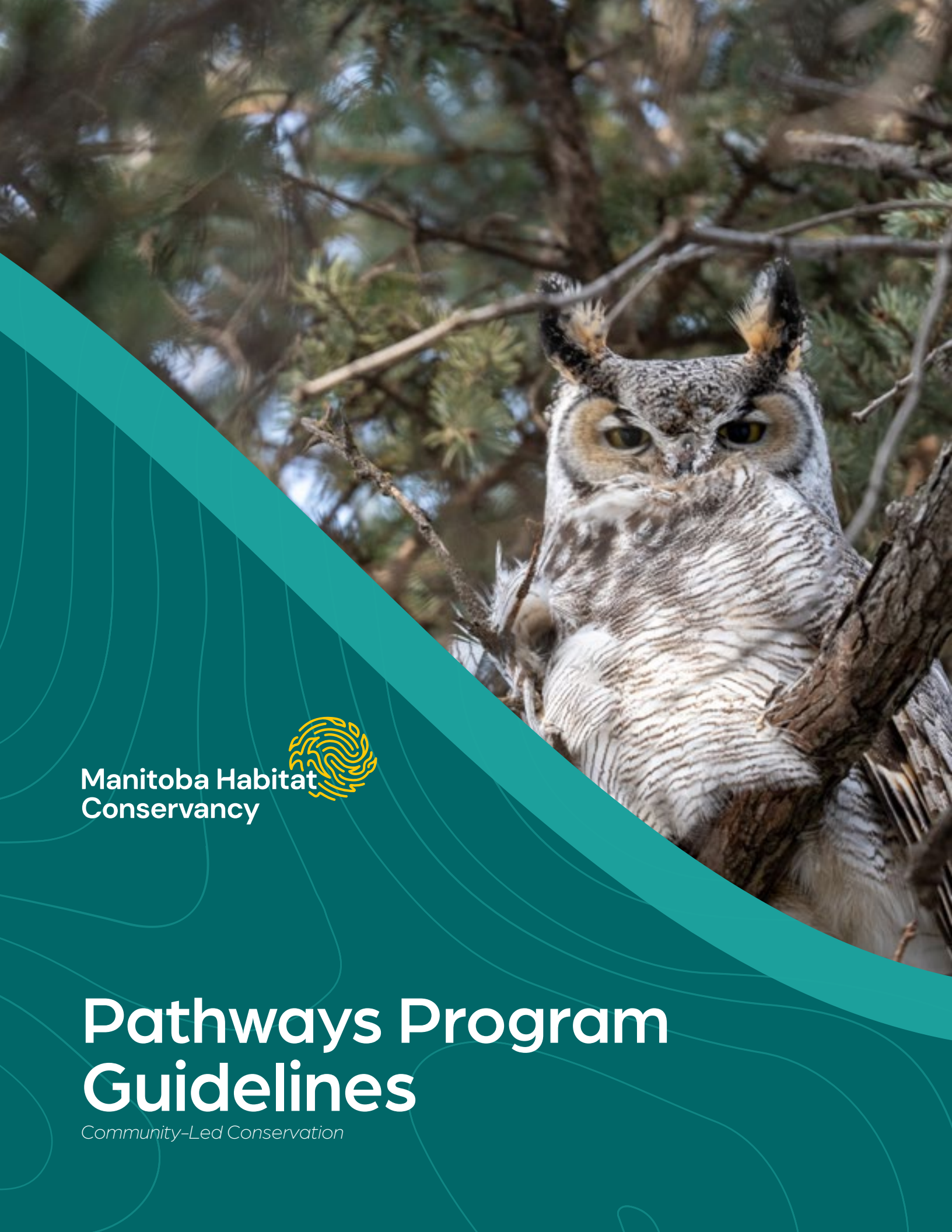




Manitoba Habitat  
Conservancy



# Pathways Program Guidelines

*Community-Led Conservation*

# Overview

## Manitoba Habitat Conservancy

Manitoba Habitat Conservancy's (MHC) work is grounded in conserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats across Manitoba. The mission of MHC is to realize enduring conservation benefits through investment in and delivery of initiatives that achieve productive natural landscapes and community well-being. We do this with conservation initiatives, by working in partnership with others, and through the delivery of the Conservation Trust granting programs.

## Conservation Trust Pathways Program Introduction

The Conservation Trust Pathways Program is focused on making conservation funding more accessible and inclusive in Manitoba. Through this program we collaborate with Indigenous communities, grassroots organizations, and other community groups who care for land, water, and wildlife. Together we honour our shared role in sustaining healthy ecosystems and move forward together in a spirit of reciprocity.

We understand that stewardship takes many forms, shaped by community knowledge, experience and relationships. As you read through the guidelines and begin your application we invite you to bring forward your story, vision, and experience.

Whether your work restores wetlands, teaches youth on the land, or protects habitat, we want this process to feel like a conversation grounded in trust, transparency and respect. You know your place, your people, and your story best, and we value the insight you bring to this work.

You are welcome here.

These guidelines lay out the steps for you to prepare and share your application. We ask that you review the guidelines first, then call or email us to talk through your project before developing an application. This will help us learn about your project and ensure it fits with the Pathways Program. We also welcome conversations at all stages of the process. You can share your questions and ideas by phone, email, or whatever feels right to you and your organization or community.



## The Pathways Program focus:

The Pathways Program focuses on making conservation funding more accessible to groups in Manitoba who have traditionally been underserved. This includes a strong commitment to Indigenous-led conservation and communities, grassroots organizations, and diverse groups working toward healthier land, water, and wildlife. We support projects that uplift community leadership, generational knowledge, and local stewardship. By walking this path together, we can ensure conservation in Manitoba protects landscapes while also upholding reciprocity and equity for generations to come.

## Geographic Criteria:

Projects located in the Prairie and Boreal Plain regions, generally including southern and central Manitoba, extending as far north as Opaskwayak Cree Nation and The Pas.

## Who Can Apply

- Indigenous governments or representative groups (ex. Band councils or tribal councils)
- Non-profit organizations or community groups with limited access to conservation funding, typically with operating budgets under \$750,000
- If the principal applicant is an organization in partnership with an Indigenous community, a letter will be required from the Indigenous community stating its support of and relationship to the project

## Ineligible Applicants

- For profit organizations
- Individuals
- Organizations that do not have established operations in Manitoba
- Non-governmental organizations that have previously received funding of \$50,000 or more under the Conservation Trust Program, or that have annual operating budgets over \$750,000
- Federal, provincial, municipal or local government or government body or agency

## Opportunities for Funding:

The Program supports a range of activities and initiatives that advance conservation, protect biodiversity, strengthen relationships with land and water, and reflect local priorities, cultural knowledge and collaborative approaches. **Funding is available for but not limited to:**

- Local stewardship measures that support conservation and protection of biodiversity and yield ecological benefits
- Public education programs or land-based learning that foster awareness and actions related to conservation or builds respectful relationships with the land and animals
- Approaches that incorporate two eyed seeing, braiding Indigenous and Western knowledge to achieve conservation and restoration goals
- Restorative efforts that reflect local values and stewardship priorities including traditional ecological or cultural practices, e.g. restoring wetlands, shorelines, native plants and medicines
- Habitat enhancement activities such as wildlife corridors, nesting structures, and culturally important habitats

- Community based programs for biodiversity and habitat health
- Development of land use plans that include stewardship and conservation priorities
- Innovative projects that focus on new approaches to land and water stewardship
- Regional collaboration and/or capacity building focused on stewardship and building local conservation leadership

### Ineligible Expenses:

- Contributions to endowment funds
- Fundraising costs
- Major capital assets such as buildings, major equipment purchases (over \$5,000 per item)
- Costs for general repairs to existing projects
- Research costs\*
- Expenditures related to land purchase
- Water quality monitoring

*\* Field assessments, such as land monitoring and biodiversity surveys, may be eligible where they are undertaken to inform or support the implementation of habitat enhancement activities.*

### Funding Request:

To support your planning, we want to offer guidance on the scale we typically work with:

- **Modest Request: under \$15,000**
- **Average request: \$15,000–\$25,000**
- **Large request: \$25,000–\$50,000**

We generally do not fund more than \$50,000 per project, or more than \$25,000 for planning projects. That said, we understand community and organizational needs aren't always linear, and in unique circumstances, we may consider a higher amount where the relationship and purpose call for it.



## Before You Apply

These guidelines are designed to help you understand the program and prepare to apply. Applications will be completed and shared using a separate application form.

### Step 1: Read the Guidelines & Connect with Us

Start by reviewing the program guidelines and then connect with us by phone or email to talk through your project before developing your proposal.

### Step 2: Choose Your Way to Apply

You can share your application in the way that feels most natural:

- Written submission: If you wish to share the project name or key concepts in a language other than English, please feel free to include them, along with a translation or pronunciation guide if you believe it will help us understand your project more fully.
- Oral or video submission: A recorded story or conversation.

You may also include the following visual submissions as part of your application: A photo essay, storyboard, or community map.

If you're unsure, reach out; we can help fit your ideas into a format that works for both you and the Pathways Program team.

### Step 3: Consider the Application Questions

The following sections summarize the information that will be requested in the application and will guide how proposal are reviewed.

#### General Project Information

- Who you are, your project's name, and who is leading the work.

#### Story and Summary

- A brief description of your project, including what you're protecting or restoring and how it will make a difference in your community.

#### Purpose and Plan

- Your project objectives, timeline, and any activities or teachings guiding the work.

#### Project Budget Information

- A detailed breakdown of all expected revenues and expenditures needed to successfully complete the project, including cash and in-kind source.

#### People and Partnerships

- The people, relationships, collaborations and experience that strengthen your team.

#### Sustainability & Longevity

- How this project will live on, in people, land, or story (the impact of the project beyond the funding period).

#### Learning & Reflection

- How you will know your work is creating the change you hope for, and how you will gather input and learn from your work.

#### Community Agreements & Safety

- If your work involves agreements or permissions (land access, ceremonial use, or sharing knowledge), how will you approach these with respect.

### **Reporting & Reciprocity**

- We will ask you to complete a basic report capturing the results of your project and invite you to share back through story, images, photos or conversation.

### **Sharing and Acknowledgment**

- How you'll celebrate, acknowledge, and tell the story of this project, and how you will acknowledge the contribution of the Pathways Program.

We honour that stories and experiences belong to the people and communities they come from. We understand that some information may not be meant to be shared publicly, and we do not take or share stories without consent.

### **Step 4: Share Your Application**

When your application is ready, you will send it – along with any supporting documents – using one of the options below:

- The online portal,
- By mail,
- By email or shared drive, or
- By phone or voice note, if preferred (we will document the conversation together).

## **Project Review Process and Timeline**

There is no application deadline. Submissions will be reviewed throughout the year, depending on the number of proposals received and the funds available. Once your application has been submitted, a member of our team will be in touch to confirm that it has been received. Your application will be reviewed by MHC staff and an external review committee. You can expect a funding decision within four months of submitting a complete proposal.

## **CT Pathways Program Contact:**

### **The Trusts Team, Manitoba Habitat Conservancy**

**Email:** [pathways@mbhabitat.ca](mailto:pathways@mbhabitat.ca)

**Phone:** (204) 784-4350

**Website:** [www.mbhabitat.ca](http://www.mbhabitat.ca)

## Closing Words

We invite you to share your work in your own words and ways. The Pathways Program is shaped by the belief that funding works best when it is connected to strong relationships built on trust, openness, and care.

We look forward to walking alongside you and learning from your journey.

**Manitoba Habitat  
Conservancy**

