

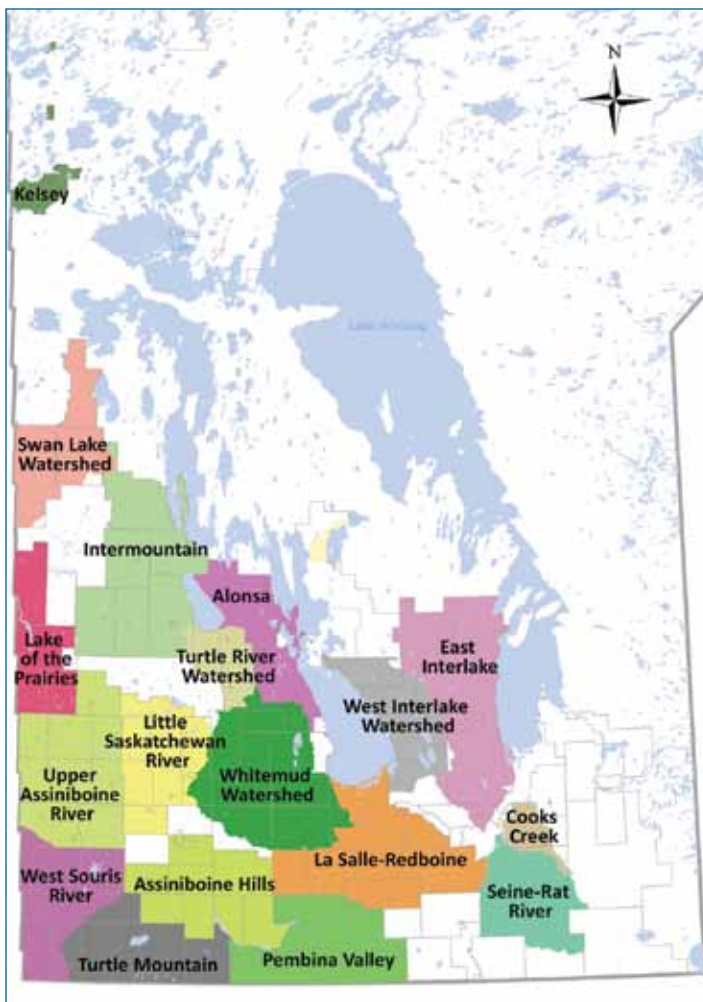
The Conservation Districts Program

a Manitoba success story

The Conservation Districts Program

Manitoba's Conservation Districts Program is one of the most successful land and water conservation partnerships in Canada. The purpose of the Conservation Districts Program is to create healthy and sustainable watersheds through focused, priority-based programs that provide definite improvements to watershed health. The success of this program is important for all Manitobans who benefit from a healthy, diverse landscape and clean freshwater.

Manitoba Conservation Districts



The Conservation Districts Program is based on core principles that have made it a success. The program:

- functions as a partnership between levels of government and the engagement of local citizens.
- is cost-shared by provincial and municipal government partners who provide long-term core funding.
- is incentive-based and non-regulatory.
- relies on local decision-making through conservation district boards and sub-districts. Local people work together with technical and science experts to solve local issues.
- is watershed-based and uses watershed boundaries to make planning and management decisions and provide program delivery.

There are conservation districts across most of municipal Manitoba, covering all or parts of 27 watersheds, and the program continues to grow. Each conservation district offers its own unique set of programs and projects tailored to suit the needs of the watershed.

Conservation district programming includes:

- drinking water protection
- waterway management
- water quality protection
- wetland enhancement
- environmental education
- soil conservation
- riparian management

Conservation districts are leading the development and implementation of integrated watershed management plans. They work in consultation with watershed residents, stakeholder groups and government partners.

A watershed is a topographically defined area of land where the water within it flows to a common point. Any activity that affects water quality, quantity or the flow rate in one part of the watershed may affect locations downstream. The conservation district concept fosters watershed co-operation and communication between upstream and downstream municipalities to address local land and water management issues. Understanding this watershed connectivity is important when managing water.

An integrated watershed management plan is a document that outlines actions needed to manage the land, water and related resources on a watershed basis. Plans contain shared goals and a list of projects that work towards those goals over time. Conservation districts offer programming to landowners and promote water management principals that reflect the goals of their integrated watershed management plan. In Manitoba, conservation districts are just some of the many organizations that turn plans into action on the ground.

Careful management of our natural resources is essential for sustainable economic growth in harmony with the environment. The Conservation Districts Program in your watershed is tailor-made to reflect the issues and needs of local residents in a sustainable manner.



Riparian Management - Fencing and Off-site Watering System



Integrated Watershed Management Plan - Public Consultation

For more information on the sustainable management of land and water resources in your watershed, contact your conservation district today:

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