



MANITOBA CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS PROGRAM
2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



**MINISTER
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

Her Honour the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Room 235
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

The Conservation Districts Program reinforces key government priorities in delivering real, measurable outcomes that demonstrate value for the investment to improve the health and resiliency of our watersheds. Conservation districts are ideally situated to coordinate watershed-based surface water management, including no net loss of water retention capacity policy approaches and development of surface water management plans. The Manitoba government is also developing a unique made-in-Manitoba program called GRowing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW), based on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model, to secure ecological goods and services for the benefit of all Manitobans. Conservation districts will play a key role in delivery of GROW, in partnership with other agencies and government.

As Minister of Sustainable Development, I have the privilege of presenting, for the information of your Honour, the Annual Report of the Conservation Districts of Manitoba for the year ended March 31, 2017, along with the audited financial statements of the districts for the same period.

Respectfully submitted,

original signed by

Rochelle Squires



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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THE MANITOBA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM

VISION

The Conservation Districts Program will strive to create healthy watersheds to support watershed residents, the environment, and the economy, for the present and the future.

MANDATE

Conservation districts lead the development of integrated watershed management plans (IWMPs) and play a key role in plan implementation. Through a watershed-based shared governance model, conservation districts deliver local solutions to complex issues—contributing to healthier, more resilient watersheds through the engagement of local citizens.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: A MANITOBA SUCCESS STORY

Manitoba's Conservation Districts Program is one of the most successful land and water conservation partnerships in Canada. The Conservation Districts Program creates healthy and sustainable watersheds through focused, priority-based programs and partnerships. With funding from provincial and municipal governments, locally-appointed conservation district boards make local planning and management decisions to improve watershed health across most of municipal Manitoba. 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 engages local citizens
- is cost-shared by provincial and municipal government partners
- is incentive-based and not regulatory
- relies on local decision-making through conservation district boards and sub-districts with support from technical experts to solve local issues

Conservation districts currently span most of municipal Manitoba, covering all or parts of 27 watersheds. Each conservation district offers its own unique set of programs and projects tailored to the needs of the watershed.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Municipal Levies

\$1,755,667

Participating municipalities are required to match core provincial grant funding at a 3 to 1 ratio. This means municipalities contribute \$1 for every \$3 that the province contributes. Municipalities appoint members to conservation district boards to implement projects and programming relevant to their local watersheds.

Provincial Grant

\$5,312,000

\$5,267,000 Core grants
\$45,000 Watershed plan development

The Manitoba government provides an annual grant to each conservation district to implement watershed management plans in their local watersheds.

Other

\$2,582,535

\$1,039,259 Federal
\$806,666 Non-governmental
\$520,020 Additional municipal
\$216,590 Additional provincial

Other funding is obtained from a variety of sources, including environmental non-government organizations (NGOs), industry, and government (federal, provincial, municipal) programs and grants.

Total Program Funding

\$9,650,202



PROGRAM SPENDING BY ACTIVITY

Conservation district programming reflects the priorities of local watersheds in Manitoba. Conservation districts design their programming around goals, objectives and actions identified in watershed management plans. Although programming and project types may vary between individual conservation districts, programming generally falls within five main categories:

Surface Water Management

54%

Includes water retention, erosion control, grassed waterways, wetland restoration, drain maintenance and others



Nutrient Reduction and Water Quality

24%

Includes exclusion fencing, alternative watering systems, riparian buffer strips and others



Drinking Water Protection

11%

Includes abandoned well sealing, wellhead remediation and more

Natural Areas Protection and Enhancement

6%

Includes conservation agreements, habitat leases, tree planting, fish ladders and more

Education

5%

Includes water festivals, producer workshops, tours and presentations



ENHANCED WATERSHED PLANNING

- develops a shared vision and coordinated action for watersheds
- provides funding for targeted, on-the-ground action to address local and provincial priorities
- builds local capacity for cooperation, improved communication and local knowledge sharing
- builds and strengthens local, provincial and federal partnerships



IMPROVED LAND MANAGEMENT

- protects and restores aquatic, riparian and prairie habitat
- protects and enhances ecological goods and services
- fosters linkages between land development planning and watershed planning



REDUCED IMPACTS OF FLOODING

- targets and prioritizes locations for water retention and peak flow reduction projects
- identifies and co-ordinates surface water projects on a watershed basis
- prevents and mitigates flood events
- builds soil health and water retention capacity of soils
- manages waterway networks to reduce the impacts of flooding while considering the environment



IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

- increases local capacity to monitor and understand trends in water quality
- implements projects to improve water quality and reduce nutrient loading
- improves soil health and reduces the need for over-application of nutrients on agricultural lands
- fosters collaboration between technical professionals and local land managers to improve water quality



PROTECTION OF DRINKING WATER

- conducts source water protection planning for public drinking water systems
- provides recommendations and implements actions to improve local drinking water quality at the source
- implements projects to assess and protect drinking water quality
- fosters collaboration between technical professionals and local people to monitor groundwater quality, assess groundwater issues and implement projects aimed at protecting local groundwater sources



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- provides direct injection of government funding into rural communities, increasing local ability to leverage additional sources of external funding
- supports rural employment and local businesses
- educates youth and local land managers
- manages waterway infrastructure to support a productive agricultural landscape and rural development

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

HEALTHIER,
MORE RESILIENT
WATERSHEDS

STRONG
RURAL ECONOMY

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN ACTION

TREE PLANTING PROTECTS SHORELINES

Shorelines are more than a place to cast your fishing line or set up your beach chair. A healthy shoreline stabilizes banks, reduces erosion and provides habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. While they play a very important role in the watershed, these areas are also very susceptible to damage and degradation.

The flood of 2011 had a devastating impact on the shoreline along Lake Manitoba. High water levels combined with wave action and wind decimated shoreline areas and left considerable damage and devastation to trees along the banks. Without these trees, banks rapidly eroded and habitat was destroyed.

In response to this local devastation, the West Interlake Watershed Conservation District started a program to re-establish trees along the Lake Manitoba shoreline. Since the program began in 2013, over 26,000 trees have been planted to restore damaged areas. The program provides 25 free trees to property owners with an option to buy additional trees at a

subsidized cost. The trees arrive as bare root saplings ranging in size from a foot to a foot and a half. The tree species available through the program are selected in discussion with Sabados Greenhouse, a local greenhouse located south of Lundar which provides all of the stock for the program. The tree list is based on what is most suited to the region and what the greenhouse is able to supply.

Their local presence enabled West Interlake Watershed Conservation District to identify this important issue and adapt their programming to meet the watershed's needs. According to Linda Miller, Manager of the West Interlake Watershed Conservation District, "the Community Tree Program is very popular with residents along the lake shore, as most of the residents lost all or large numbers of their trees in the flood of 2011. The residents are very grateful the conservation district offers this program."



LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, 424,797 TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.



**IMPROVED
LAND
MANAGEMENT**

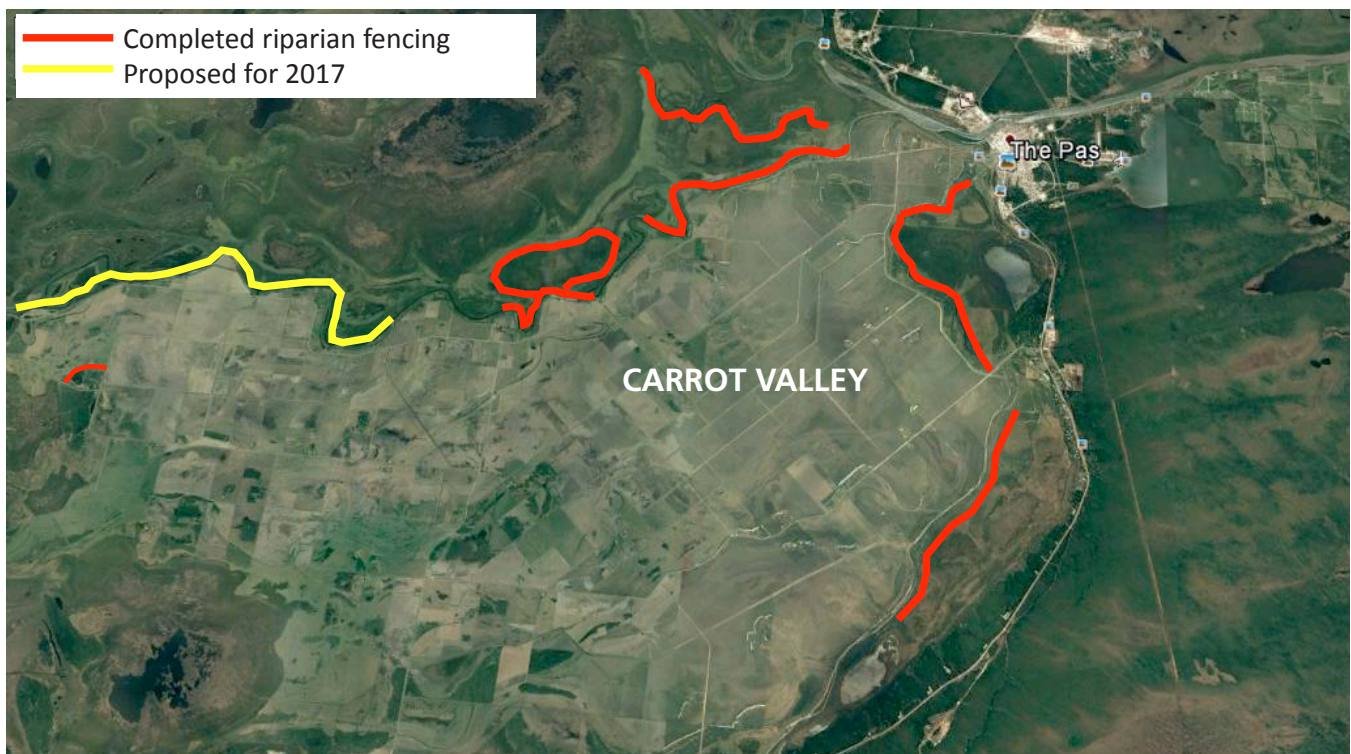
PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE CARROT

The Carrot Valley, located west of the Town of the Pas, is a pocket of intensively farmed land surrounded by wetlands and forested areas. Since settlement, the relatively flat landscape has been modified and managed to accommodate both crop and livestock production. The Carrot River is a main feature in the valley and is a significant tributary to the Saskatchewan River. While the Carrot River provides a critical source of water for livestock and crop production, the proximity of farming activities to its shoreline also puts it at risk of degradation if not properly managed.

As the northernmost conservation district in Manitoba, Kelsey Conservation District offers a unique suite of programming tailored to their watershed. Area residents value access to clean water for both recreational and drinking water purposes and actions to protect and improve the quality of local waterways

are a focus of the Carrot-Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

As the lead agency in plan implementation, one of Kelsey Conservation District's goals is to restrict cattle access to rivers in the watershed. Riparian fencing will help to alleviate cattle pressure on the streambank – protecting riparian habitat, reducing sedimentation, and reducing the risk of contamination from pathogens in manure. Livestock access is now restricted to the Birch and Pasquia Rivers by riparian fencing. Cattle are provided with off-stream watering sources, effectively creating a buffer between the pasture and the river. The conservation district's next goal is to completely fence the Carrot River to restrict livestock and protect sensitive habitat, improve shoreline stability and protect the Saskatchewan River downstream (the Town of the Pas' drinking water source) from degradation.



IMPROVED
WATER
QUALITY



LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

SINCE 2013, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE INSTALLED 147.4 KILOMETRES OF RIPARIAN FENCING AND 122 OFF-SITE WATERING SYSTEMS.

VALLEY THROUGH RIPARIAN FENCING

Given their remote location, livestock producers in the watershed need to travel nearly 500 kilometres round trip to purchase fencing supplies in Swan River. The high cost of acquiring and installing fences has been a barrier to many farmers installing riparian fencing and off-site watering systems on their own. For the past three years, Kelsey Conservation District participated in the Growing Forward 2–Growing Assurance Ecological Goods and Services Program to cover the cost of materials and installation of the fencing and provided technical advice on project design and implementation.

Cost isn't always the only barrier to project implementation – sometimes a shift in attitude or demonstration is needed to encourage change in farm management practices. Kelsey Conservation District recognizes the opportunity that large-scale, visible projects like this provide for advertisement and promotion of these types of projects. Peer-to-peer learning is a key principle of the district's programming and they use events like their annual pit roast barbecue, project tours and demonstration sites to encourage farmers to share information and learn from one another.

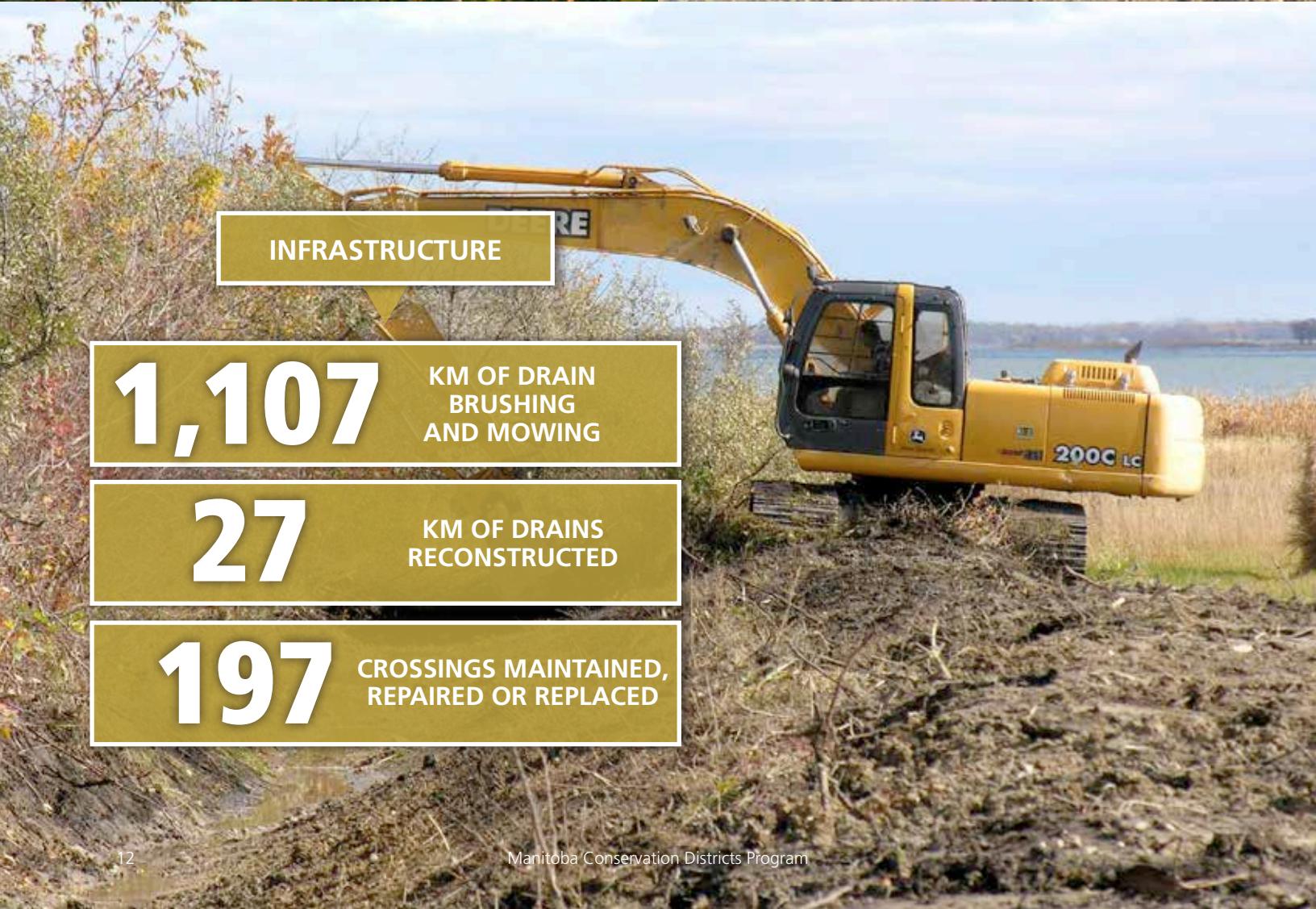




3 WETLAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS

27 WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

474 ACRE-FEET OF STORAGE CREATED



INFRASTRUCTURE

1,107 KM OF DRAIN BRUSHING AND MOWING

27 KM OF DRAINS RECONSTRUCTED

197 CROSSINGS MAINTAINED, REPAIRED OR REPLACED



EROSION CONTROL

36

EROSION CONTROL
STRUCTURES

9

GRASSED WATERWAYS

4

GULLY STABILIZATION
PROJECTS

9

STREAMBANK
STABILIZATION
PROJECTS

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

PROTECTING MANITOBA'S WATERSHEDS

2016-2017 PROJECTS



260

ABANDONED
WELLS SEALED

2,350

CATTLE EXCLUDED FROM RIPARIAN
AREAS THROUGH THE INSTALLATION
OF 37.5 KM OF FENCING

STORING WATER ON THE LAND: RURAL

WILSON CREEK ALLUVIAL FAN EROSION CONTROL

Around 1930, the natural alluvial fan of Wilson Creek at the base of the Riding Mountain National Park was altered when a drainage channel was dredged to connect with downstream drains. The work essentially destroyed the natural floodwater storage capacity of the alluvial fan and wetland area, dramatically increasing the speed of water flow. The velocity of flow easily eroded the shale and transported the sediment downstream. The sediment was deposited into agricultural drains causing overland flooding, impacts to municipal infrastructure, and more erosion.



An alluvial fan is a fan or cone shaped area of sediment deposited from upstream water erosion. They are typically found at the base of mountainous terrain and intersected and built up by streams. Upstream, channelized, fast flowing water reaches the base of the mountain where it slows down and deposits sediment as it fans out across a wider and flatter area.

The degradation of the alluvial fan due to additional land clearing and down-cutting of the drainage channel continued for over 50 years until a plan to construct five erosion control structures in the alluvial fan was made. Two structures were constructed in 1980 and an additional two in 1987 to 1988. In 1996, a steel sheet pile weir, not part of the original project, was also constructed. The erosion control projects helped to better manage water flow and trap sediment but were not a final solution to the long-standing issues occurring downstream.

In the Dauphin Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan, stream erosion and modifications to the alluvial fans at the base of the steep slopes of the Riding Mountain National Park were identified as major issues. Some of the recommended actions to address these issues include:

- maintaining and protecting existing natural areas that help to capture, retain, and slow down water in the headwaters
- investigating headwater retention areas
- encouraging water retention and restoration of former alluvial fans
- implementing erosion control structures
- removing shale from within drains
- cooperation among all levels of government, landowners, non-government organizations, conservation districts, and Parks Canada

In 2016, the Turtle River Watershed Conservation District initiated a large restoration project along the Wilson Creek – a project that was identified in the Dauphin Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The purpose of the project was to slow down water in the headwaters and restore the former alluvial fan. A site was selected near the boundary of Riding Mountain National Park. The site was prepared by a tracked excavator followed by application of woven geotextile and over 400 yards of field stone. The project work cost over \$30,000. Jody Tucker, Manager of the Turtle River Watershed Conservation District said “the project was long overdue – the creek would have ‘head cut’ much farther back up into the park if we had waited any longer.” The district has an additional \$30,000 budgeted for this project and plans to complete the project in 2017.



AND URBAN, OPPORTUNITIES

WORKING WITH URBAN PARTNERS ON STORM WATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

Conservation districts are a key partner in the stewardship of soil and water resources across rural landscapes in Manitoba. In an effort to engage all watershed residents in their programming, the Seine Rat River Conservation District has expanded programming into urban communities to improve storm water runoff management.

Urban development changes the hydrology of the landscape, impacting the flow rate and volume of runoff. As the landscape is converted from open fields dominated by pervious soils and vegetation to an impervious state dominated by asphalt parking lots, roads, rooftops, driveways, sidewalks and residential streets, the amount of surface runoff quickly escalates. Sediment, nutrients, pesticides, trash and debris, or other impurities are at greater risk of transport in the runoff with little opportunity for natural filtration, treatment and breakdown. During rapid snowmelt or intense rainstorm events, increased discharge from developed areas can lead to higher water volumes both within city or town limits and downstream.

To address these issues, the Seine Rat River Conservation District partnered with the Parc Carillon committee in the community of St-Pierre-Jolys to transform an existing low, wet area with little functional value into a naturalized storm water runoff system (wetland). The wetland serves as a storm water detention area for runoff from a residential area and from the community's recreational splash park. The pond was transformed into a natural wetland ecosystem through excavation and introduction of native plant species which are naturally adapted to our climate and the local environment. The floor of the wetland was excavated to create 'shelves' of various depths up to a maximum of one metre deep. Different aquatic plant species were introduced based on the depth of the wetland floor or shelf. This combination of wetland floor design and establishment of native plants both within and surrounding the wetland adds biodiversity, improves water infiltration and use, and helps filter and purify runoff water which is

diverted and retained here. Retaining the runoff water here also helps take pressure off local waterways, which are often overtaxed.



A little further to the east in the City of Steinbach, Seine Rat River Conservation District hosted a one day seminar on naturalized storm water runoff by partnering with Native Plant Solutions of Winnipeg. The goal was to educate participants on alternative ways to manage storm water runoff in urban settings by sharing experiences from other jurisdictions.

Naturalized storm water runoff systems incorporate a diverse plant community in and around the drainage network and retention areas to help utilize and filter runoff, reduce erosion, and minimize maintenance costs. At the same time they also add biodiversity and a pleasing aesthetic to developments. Many urban planners and developers have been hesitant to adopt this technology in the past due to cost, but that trend is changing over time as more research and experience is gained across North America. Experience is showing naturalized storm water systems not only provide improved ecological functions to improve water quality and water use, but the improved biodiversity and aesthetics can increase property values and offset development costs.

LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

SINCE 2014, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE CONSTRUCTED 14 URBAN RAIN GARDENS IN MANITOBA.



**IMPROVED
LAND
MANAGEMENT**

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ARE INTEGRAL

Manitobans value safe and reliable drinking water. Our public drinking water supplies are protected through a “source to tap” approach: protecting raw water sources from potential contamination, regulating the treatment of raw water to meet Canadian Drinking Water Quality Standards, and monitoring treated water as it moves through distribution systems to the taps in our homes, schools, hospitals and communities. Conservation districts play a critical role in this multi-barrier approach to safe water supplies by offering programs and assistance to homeowners and public water supply providers.

PUBLIC SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

Protection of drinking water supplies begins at the source. Through the watershed management planning process, Manitoba has taken a preventative approach to source water protection.

Source water assessments are conducted for each public drinking water system in the watershed by a team of technical and local representatives including provincial staff, conservation district staff and plant operators. At each site, the team examines the raw water source, treatment facility and distribution system, and reviews land use and potential pollutant sources within a pre-determined buffer zone. The team then recommends actions and partnerships to reduce contamination risks, with the local conservation district often leading implementation. “Offering this service to our municipal partners not only improves the public’s trust in their drinking water supply, but it also provides protection to aquatic ecosystems and groundwater resources,” states Cliff Greenfield, Manager of the Pembina Valley Conservation District.

WELL INVENTORY PARTNERSHIP

Over the past few years, the Groundwater Management Section and Office of Drinking Water (Manitoba Sustainable Development) have partnered with a number of conservation districts to conduct well inventories and test private wells for bacteria. Water samples are taken by conservation district staff and sent to a provincially-approved lab for conductivity, bacteria and nitrate analysis. The province subsidizes the cost of the laboratory analysis and test results are shared with the well owners. According to Neil Zalluski, Assiniboine Hills Conservation District Manager, this partnership benefits the private well owner, the conservation district, and the province, as “we are able to help well owners concerned about the quality of their well, and expand our knowledge about aquifer quality in the region, especially in areas that we know are vulnerable to groundwater contamination.” At the end of the sampling season, the conservation district provides individual well information to the province for inclusion in the provincial water well database. Assiniboine Hills, East Interlake, Pembina Valley and West Interlake Watershed Conservation Districts have all participated in the program in recent years.



TO PROTECTING WATER SUPPLIES

ABANDONED WELL SEALING

Abandoned wells can act as pathways for the movement of near-surface contaminants such as bacteria into aquifers and can pose both health and safety hazards. All conservation districts offer an abandoned well sealing program to reduce safety risks and to protect aquifer water quality. The most common method of sealing wells involves the addition of natural clay or bentonite – a pelletized clay product that expands when exposed to water, “plugging” the old well and preventing vertical water movement. Well sealing in Manitoba is governed by the Groundwater and Water Well Act and its supporting regulations, which came into force January 1, 2017. Conservation districts adhere to the procedures outlined in the Well Standards Regulation when sealing abandoned wells.

PRIVATE WELL PROTECTION

Conservation districts offer programs to assist homeowners with the care and maintenance of private water wells. Shock chlorination or well disinfection is the process of treating (disinfecting) a well and plumbing system with chlorine to kill or reduce certain kinds of bacteria. This disinfection process is strongly recommended if the test results from a well water sample indicate the presence of coliform bacteria. If a private well test comes back positive for bacteria, the local conservation district may provide landowners with shock chlorination service, collect and submit a water sample re-test, and provide additional information on how to maintain their well. Conservation district staff can also evaluate the conditions around the well to determine potential contamination risks and may provide advice or services to landowners to mitigate these risks.

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH

Conservation districts offer an integral service to Manitobans through source water assessments and programs for private well owners. This work plays a critical role in reducing risk of contamination of public drinking water sources, improving trust in public facilities, remediating safety risks and contamination concerns, improving understanding of how to protect groundwater quality and protecting human health. For more information on protecting private wells, please go to: manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/groundwater/well_aware.html

LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE SEALED OVER 1,000 ABANDONED WELLS, CONDUCTED OVER 3,050 DRINKING WATER TESTS, AND REMEDIATED 24 WELL HEADS.



**PROTECTION
OF DRINKING
WATER**



GROWING FORWARD 2: GROWING ASSURANCE - ECOLOGICAL GOODS AND SERVICES PROGRAM

2016-17 marked the fourth year of the Growing Assurance – Ecological Goods and Services Program in Manitoba. The program focuses on providing positive environmental benefits from healthy ecosystems, clean water and air, and enhanced biodiversity.

The program provides conservation districts with funding to help local producers implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) that conserve and enhance the agricultural landscape. This year a total of \$814,765 was approved for conservation districts, including:

- 13 water retention structures
- 12 riparian area enhancements
- one buffer zone and grassed waterway establishment
- one perennial cover project for sensitive lands.

Growing Assurance is a program under Growing Forward 2, a five-year (2013 to 2018) federal-provincial-territorial initiative, funded by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba.

REDUCED
IMPACTS OF
FLOODING



LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

IN 2016-17, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BUILT 27 WATER RETENTION PROJECTS TO STORE UP TO 585 DAM³ (474 ACRE-FEET) OF WATER.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PUT GROWING FORWARD FUNDING TO WORK

Frequent flooding across Manitoba has caused damage to homes, agricultural land and infrastructure – renewing focus on tools and techniques to store water on the landscape, especially during high flow periods. Water can be stored either temporarily or permanently on the landscape but most conservation districts construct temporary storage areas. The basic design principle is to store water during the peak flow event (ex: spring runoff) and then release it slowly once the downstream system can handle it. While these structures are considered small scale, they can hold significant amounts of water at key times and work especially well when several are constructed in a series.

The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District constructed six water retention structures with assistance from the Growing Assurance–Ecological Goods and Services Program in 2016-17. These six structures store approximately 200 acre-feet of water in the watershed. The locations of these projects are identified in the conservation district’s recently completed Whitemud River Integrated Watershed Management Plan as key locations above the Manitoba escarpment to relieve flooding pressure

during spring runoff and heavy rainfall events. Many of these locations also happen to sit above the Assiniboine Delta Aquifer which should lead to more infiltration to the aquifer for recharge.

As is the case for most conservation district projects, these projects are located on private land. Some landowners have agreed to store this water on their property as a way to have access to a water supply through the summer months, while others simply recognize the downstream (watershed) benefit. The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District plans to continue to build water retention structures as they have seen the benefits they provide first hand. The conservation district is fortunate to also have the support of partnering municipalities that see the benefits to these projects and have contributed significant equipment time for their construction. Although the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District was the key player in finding, organizing, and constructing the projects they would not have happened without the support of these municipalities.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

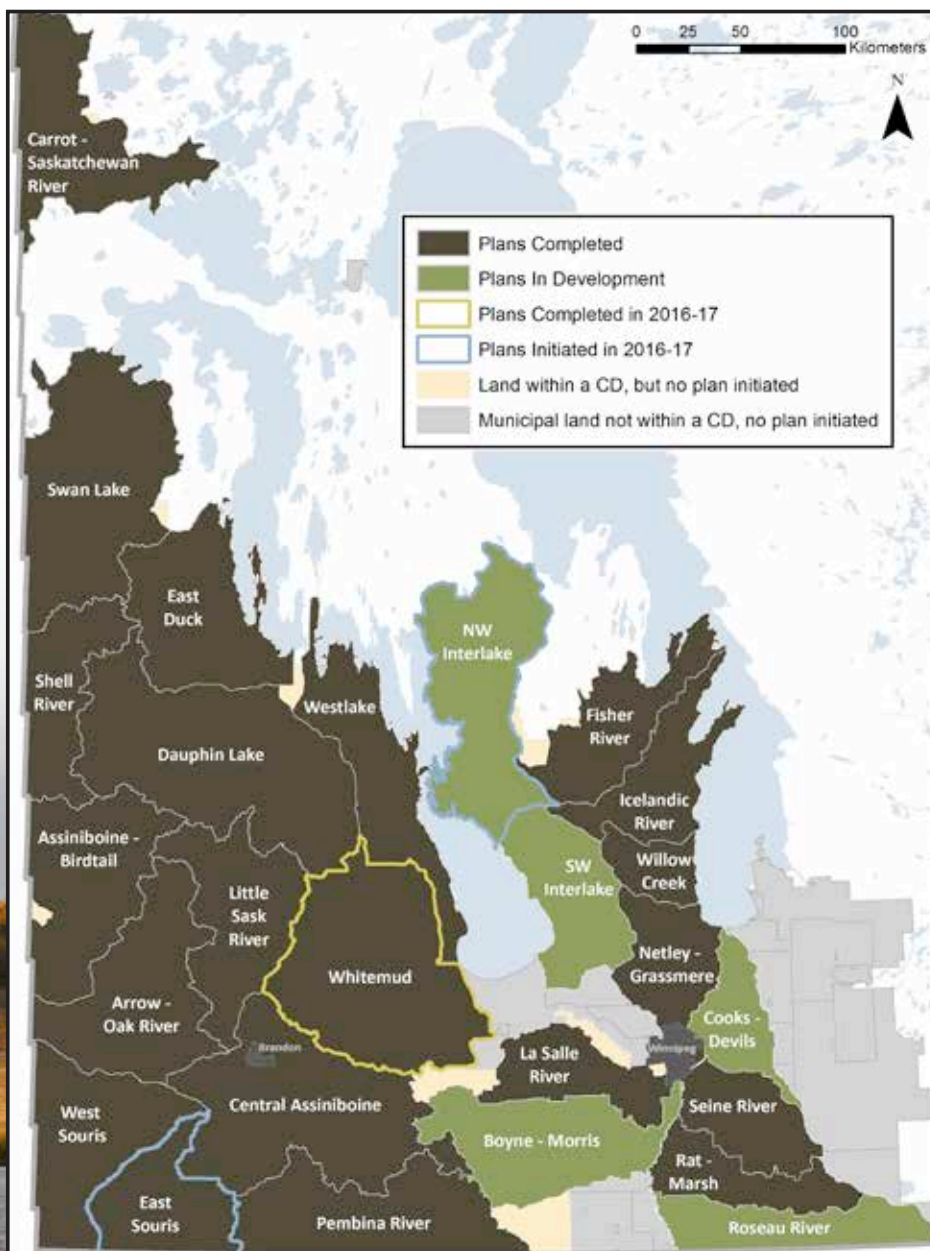
Activity	Projects	Sites	Storage (dam ³)	Km	Hectare	Head of Cattle	Trees	Attendees
Planning & Monitoring								
Water soft paths planning	4							
Infrastructure inventory (culverts, drains, dams)	21	7,247						
Riparian and aquatic assessments	5	36		73.88				
Hydraulic assessments	29	32						
Surface water flow & retention assessment	30							
Strategic planning	4							
BMP research	8	31						
Benthic monitoring	1	4						
Drinking water testing	70	959						
Surface water testing - MSD partnership	17	236						
Surface water testing	12	82						
Groundwater testing	47	47						
Soil testing	11	15						
Well Stewardship								
Well establishment	7							
Well inventory	5	793						
Abandoned well sealing	260							
Well head remediation	1	1						
Well shock chlorination	54	54						
Surface Water Management								
Small dams (<50 dam ³)	26		435.84					
Water retention structures (>50 dam ³)	1		149					
Beaver dam removal	188	252						
Beaver management (levellers, etc.)	12	9						
Beaver bounty incentives	1,224							
Erosion control structures	28	36						
Weirs	1							
Grassed waterway	9				29.84			
Gully stabilization	4				3.5			
Streambank stabilization	9				4.46			
Wetland reclamation	3		2,991		871			
Drop inlet	4		20					
Gated culverts	5		130					
Drainage licenses reviewed	216							
Rain barrels	92							
Livestock Programs								
Alternative watering systems	36					6,624		
Exclusion fencing	11			37.5		2,350		
Forage buffer strips	8				522.55			
Livestock crossings	6					550		
Constructed wetlands	1		6		1.1			
Livestock shelters/portable windbreaks	1					200		
Composters	38							

Activity	Projects	Sites	Storage (dam ³)	Km	Hectare	Head of Cattle	Trees	Attendees
Land Stewardship								
Pasture pipeline	13			17.5		1,375		
Rotational grazing	7				1,224	1,150		
Forage seed	81				2501.6			
Polycrop trials	2	2			129.5			
Salinity seed	23				125.94			
Tree planting	89						43,950	
Field and property shelterbelts	93			133.5			45,964	
Private woodlot management	12				300			
Tree seedlings provided	23						4,510	
Habitat lease	8	152			2,218			
Conservation agreement - total	17				2,552.1			
Property maintenance (CD owned or managed)	46							
Conservation corridors	451				2,165			
Aquatic Habitat								
Aeration projects	4	4						
Education and Extension								
Banquets and watershed functions	18							1,526
Project tours	58							587
Project or interpretive signs	65							
Water conservation rebates	5							
Nesting structures	3	7						
Nature trails	24			64.5				
Eco-tourism	2							
Geographic information systems (GIS)	268							
Aerial photographs	118							
Urban rain gardens	5	5						
Water festivals	13							3,948
Youth education	126							9,021
Demonstration and tours	27							1,008
Websites and social media platforms	41							
Brochures distributed	20	22,995						
Drain Infrastructure								
Drain maintenance				146				
Brushing/mowing				1,107				
Drain reconstruction				27				
Crossing Infrastructure								
Crossing maintenance	182							
Crossing replacements / major repairs	15							

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Integrated watershed management plans guide conservation districts, municipalities and other environmental agencies in protecting, restoring and managing water, aquatic ecosystems, and drinking water sources. The planning process engages watershed residents to identify and prioritize watershed issues, gather and analyze local, technical, and traditional knowledge, and develop recommendations to address priority issues in targeted areas. Plan implementation is shared by conservation districts, all levels of government, stakeholder organizations and watershed residents. Conservation districts have initiated 27 integrated watershed management plans to date, of which 21 are complete, five are at various stages of development, and one is beginning the 10 year renewal process.

In 2016-17, one integrated watershed management plan was completed – the Whitemud River Integrated Watershed Management Plan by the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District. This plan reflects considerable hard work over the past several years by the board and staff of the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District, as well as the project management team, Indigenous communities, stakeholders and residents of the watershed. Actions identified in this plan will be implemented over the next 10 years to reduce nutrient inputs into our rivers and lakes, provide ecosystem and community resilience, and support climate change adaptation.



In 2016-17, the Manitoba government provided grants to initiate the Northwest Interlake Watershed Management Plan and to renew the East Souris River Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The East Souris River Integrated Watershed Management Plan, approved in 2006, was the first watershed plan to be completed in Manitoba. With 2016 marking the end of the 10 year implementation period of the plan, this year's planning grant will help celebrate the success of the first plan and initiate the development of a 'second generation' plan – a new chapter of watershed planning in Manitoba.

THE VALUE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN WATERSHED PLANNING

Manitoba uses an integrated approach to land and water management planning. By building collaborative relationships with local communities, government, non-profit organizations and industry conservation districts have developed multi-faceted watershed plans. However recent success in also engaging local Indigenous communities in the planning process has further enhanced watershed planning in Manitoba by providing depth, context and insight from a historical perspective.

Conservation districts have come to play an important role in fostering partnerships between Indigenous communities, municipalities, and local residents. Strong Indigenous partnerships lend traditional knowledge that encompasses the beliefs, practices, culture and spirituality of Indigenous communities. These skills and practices are passed on from generation to generation and reflect a long-standing relationship with land and water in their community.

Indigenous communities have participated in several integrated watershed management plans and participation has been most enriching when communities are represented at the local committee level – the project management team. This group is responsible for leading development of a watershed plan.

Strong Indigenous involvement from early on in the planning phase strengthens overall watershed values by providing a holistic and traditional knowledge lens throughout the planning process.

Building engagement and awareness with local watershed residents was a priority for the team that developed the Carrot-Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan, so they developed a short summary document that outlines key priorities for the watershed. This summary document is available in both English and Cree to make it accessible to all communities in the watershed. Members of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation were instrumental in translating the summary document into Cree, and are working with local schools to incorporate the document into their curricula.



LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

SINCE 2006, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE INITIATED 27 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS, OF WHICH 21 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.



**ENHANCED
WATERSHED
PLANNING**



EDUCATION

3,948
STUDENTS ATTENDED
WATER FESTIVALS

27
DEMONSTRATIONS AND
PROJECT TOURS WITH
1,008 LANDOWNERS

58
PROJECT TOURS
WITH 587
ATTENDEES



2,552
HECTARES OF LAND PROTECTED
THROUGH 17 CONSERVATION
AGREEMENTS



TREE PLANTING

89,914 TREES PLANTED

133.5 KM OF SHELTERBELTS ESTABLISHED

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
PROTECTING MANITOBA'S WATERSHEDS
2016-2017 PROJECTS



318
SURFACE WATER
QUALITY TESTS



959
PRIVATE WELLS
TESTED



COORDINATED WATERSHED APPROACH TO SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT BY INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICTS

The first four conservation districts were established in the 1970s to address unique surface water challenges in their watersheds. Alonsa Conservation District, Cooks Creek Conservation District, Turtle River Watershed Conservation District, and Whitemud Watershed Conservation District use a locally-driven decision-making structure to work with municipal and provincial partners to maintain waterway infrastructure and crossing networks for the agricultural community.

These four conservation districts manage the condition of waterways within their watersheds, as well as the associated crossings. This includes cleanout maintenance of the man-made drainage channels, as well as replacements of culverts, bridges, and low level crossings. Vegetation control and beaver management in these waterways also help keep these waterways in good working condition. To complete such extensive work to a large drainage system requires local knowledge of the issues and controlled flows to minimize flooding impacts.

Maintaining drainage channels is one of the main priorities of an infrastructure conservation district. Drain channels typically need to be maintained every 20 to 30 years. Since these channels are used to convey water (and sediment) across the landscape, they typically require sediment cleanout after

significant deposition has occurred. Excavating sediment buildup from within man-made channels reduces flooding of adjacent agricultural land.

In 2016-17, the Turtle River Watershed Conservation District initiated the Meezee Lake Drain cleanout project that covers a long flat area connecting many wetlands. This area has been dealing with year-round high water for several years. The lack of flow is caused by years and years of cattail growth across the whole drain. Without regular maintenance, the vegetation grows, then decays and rots in the bottom of the drain. After many years the drain becomes completely choked out with vegetation and water flow is minimal at best.

The first phase of this project required clean out of the cattails and root zone starting near the bottom end of the drain and continuing upstream for four and a half kilometres. This cleanout allowed the multiple wetlands to flow out as they once did, restoring wetland habitat and productivity by allowing more natural ebb and flow of water levels. The restored retention capacity of the wetland provides storage during peak flow periods to reduce flooding downstream. The second phase of the project will continue cleanout of this drain, as well as a connected lateral drain to realize even more benefit for the landowners and the local watershed.

The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District includes a large wetland called the Big Grass Marsh. Levels in the marsh were intended to be regulated by a control structure installed by Ducks Unlimited Canada many years ago, but continuously rising water levels were raising local concern. During a winter site inspection of the wetland, conservation district staff discovered the drainage channel upstream of the dam had filled with sediment to where only a small amount of water was reaching the dam. The conservation district immediately worked to remove the built up sediment on one side of the drain to regain some of the capacity, which improved flow to the dam significantly.

Farmers in the Cooks Creek Conservation District were also dealing with flooded cropland in 2016-17. The Swede Drain is a waterway that was over-taxed with flows during high water events causing water to back up and flood adjacent land. Rather than expand the capacity of the existing channel, the district decided it was more efficient to divert 20 per cent of the water from the Swede Drain into the Cooks Creek where it would end up anyway.

Responsibility for drain maintenance in Manitoba includes many players. The Alonsa Conservation District was able to work together with some local landowners and the Manitoba government to clean out a drain along a provincial road. Known locally as the highway 278 drain, the channel runs parallel to PR 278 and was causing flooding of agricultural land. The project took place on highway right of way but was funded by the conservation district and a group of several affected landowners. The landowners and conservation district split the cost of the 10 mile drain project 50/50.

	Alonsa	Cooks Creek	Turtle River	Whitemud
Total crossings	250	200	800	1,400
Total kilometres of drains	645	550	800	1,770

TOTAL CROSSINGS AND KILOMETRES OF DRAINS IN MANITOBA'S INFRASTRUCTURE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

FOUR CONSERVATION DISTRICTS MANAGE 3,765 KILOMETRES OF WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE AND 2,650 CROSSINGS TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT





NEW APPROACHES TO SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT PLANNING

Drones have changed the way people in the fields of agriculture, surveying, surveillance and land and water management do their work. The popularity of drones has grown immensely in the last five years as people now realize the benefits and efficiencies they provide.

A drone is a component of an aircraft system which includes a drone, a ground-based controller, and a system of communication between the two. The flight of a drone is controlled manually by remote control or autonomously by onboard computers. They range in shape, size, ability and cost.

Conservation districts are using drones to collect real-time landscape information to address challenges with collecting information in difficult to access areas, plan projects more efficiently, and improve workplace safety. Shawn Gurke, Manager of the Alonsa Conservation District, uses a fixed wing drone for all of his surveying work. The efficiency of surveying using this type of drone is far superior to traditional surveying. In fact, ground-based collection is now secondary and only used to fill in gaps where the drone can't collect measurements due to water or dense vegetation. The conservation district also uses a

multi-propeller helicopter style drone to collect photos and video at problem water areas and potential project sites. By using drones and associated computer technology, Shawn routinely completes the work of two to three employees and minimizes workplace risks associated with trying to access difficult areas on his own.

One project that Shawn recently completed was to accurately define the boundaries of a flooded area and determine the number and location of beaver dams present in the area. This work would have required about a week of hard work, trudging through flooded areas on foot, boat and all terrain vehicle, but only took 30 minutes using a drone.

The Turtle River Watershed Conservation District recently purchased a fixed-wing drone to improve its surveying accuracy and efficiency. They also have a multi-propeller helicopter style unit that they use to scout projects in areas difficult to access such as along the heavily forested escarpment along Riding Mountain National Park.

EDUCATION ISN'T JUST FOR YOUTH

When we think about 'education' activities our mind tends to default to youth education. But as a conservation district board it's important to recognize and plan for engagement with all segments of the community. Programs such as the Oak Hammock Marsh "On the Go" program, water festivals, and tree planting activities are a natural fit for school age children and provide core youth education activity for most conservation districts. But what about the rest of us?

At the West Souris River Conservation District, no segment of the population has been overlooked. This past summer the conservation district partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada to put on a grazing workshop for people in their region of the province. One hundred and ten people attended this event. Two expert speakers on soil health, Dr. Allen Williams from Mississippi, and Dave Bortok from Quorum Lab in Illinois, were brought in to provide professional advice. This daylong event brought together a large crowd and demonstrated how improving soil health benefits both the watershed and landowners.

The West Souris River Conservation District also hosted a day long tour across the entire watershed. This tour was open to anybody from the area and included members of the board and sub districts, municipal councillors and members of the public. The tour made a variety of stops at conservation district project locations such as orchard plantings, riparian area projects, shelterbelts, water retention projects and off site watering systems.

The Intermountain Conservation District recently identified a need to educate producers in the Dauphin Lake watershed by hosting an informational workshop on tile drainage. The event took place in March in Dauphin where professionals presented on tile drainage works and their potential benefits and impacts on the watershed. In addition to primarily producers, several municipal councillors were in attendance to gain more information on the topic.



Credit: Virden Empire-Advance, Brandi Pollock

LINKING TO OUTCOMES...

SINCE 2013, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE HELD 268 PRODUCER WORKSHOPS AND TOURS WITH 5,194 PARTICIPANTS.



**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROMOTE WISE USE OF WATER

Manitoba is fortunate to have an abundance of freshwater resources available to support our communities, industries, wildlife and aquatic habitats. Because we often take water availability for granted, public utilities and non-profit organizations throughout Canada continue to raise awareness about the importance of conserving water to protect supplies now and for future times of drought. Conservation districts play a key role in education, research and demonstration projects that raise awareness about water conservation and efficiency in their local communities.

RAIN GARDENS REDUCE WATERING REQUIREMENTS

Rain gardens are a landscaping feature designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces such as buildings and parking lots. Not only do they slow storm runoff from developed areas, reducing the impact on urban stormwater systems, rain gardens also add beauty with hardy native plants that have adapted to the variable weather conditions on the prairies. Homeowners and municipalities take pride in these low-maintenance gardens that require little watering or fertilizing, rather than high-input lawns or annual garden plants. Conservation districts have partnered with local schools, organizations and municipalities to construct and/or fund rain garden installation in several communities in the last several years.

EFFICIENT WATER USE PRACTICES

Before a utility or community can identify ways to reduce their water use, they need to know how much they are currently using and where there's waste. Manitoba communities are interested in improving water use efficiency to allow for economic growth now and under future climate scenarios that predict more frequent and more intense periods of drought. Pembina Valley Conservation District used the "water soft paths" approach to identify water demand and conservation options for the 11 public utilities in the district in 2012. A final report was produced for each utility that provided guidance for future water demand scenarios. Pembina Valley Conservation District obtained the funding for the project, and communicates with each utility annually to offer support and monitor implementation progress.

Many conservation districts have offered rebates or subsidies for water efficient fixtures, appliances and rain barrels over the years. For example, in 2015, Lake of the Prairies Conservation

District partnered with the Russell Inn to replace existing fixtures with low-flow toilets – reducing water use by 20 percent. West Interlake Watershed Conservation District also offers rebates for low-flow toilets, and Cooks Creek Conservation District offered a rebate for high efficiency washing machines in 2016-17. Others have provided low-cost rain barrels to homeowners in recent years. These rebates and subsidies raise awareness of ways to change our practices to improve water use efficiency and conservation at home.

MULTI-PURPOSE WATER RETENTION

In addition to offering programs targeted to conserving municipal water use, conservation districts also have the expertise to plan and design multi-purpose water retention structures. These small dams help to reduce flooding downstream and also provide landowners the ability to capture spring runoff and store it for irrigation or cattle watering later in the season. Holding water on the landscape through multipurpose water retention is critical for maintaining landscape resiliency for the benefit of producers, communities and watershed health.

DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

As awareness of our changing climate and the potential economic and environmental impacts of drought increase, watershed management plans are evolving to include assessments of drought preparedness. The Roseau River Integrated Watershed Management Plan is the first of its kind to include a drought preparedness study prepared by Manitoba Sustainable Development. The study provides background information to characterize the watershed, identifies periods of historical drought, conducts a water supply and demand assessment, and makes sector-specific drought preparedness recommendations. These recommendations will assist conservation districts in continuing to offer targeted programs to improve water conservation and efficiency, and to increase the resiliency of their local watersheds to future droughts.

By obtaining funding, building partnerships, offering project construction and support, and providing education and outreach to citizens, conservation districts play a key role in delivering local water conservation programming and expertise in local watersheds.



SPECIES AT RISK PARTNERSHIPS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS (SARPAL)

LOCAL EXPERTISE ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LANDOWNERS

The Turtle Mountain and West Souris River Conservation Districts applied to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) program to engage the agriculture sector in preserving and enhancing key wildlife habitat for species at risk on private property in southwest Manitoba. The conservation districts work with project partners and agricultural producers to enhance critical habitat for species listed in the Species at Risk Act, while maintaining the land's productive value.

BURROWING OWL RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Turtle Mountain Conservation District and Bird Studies Manitoba (Manitoba Sustainable Development) are partnering on a burrowing owl project that will install artificial nests to research and raise awareness of burrowing owls. The burrowing owl population has been in decline since the late 1970s and was listed as endangered under Manitoba's Endangered Species Act in 1992 due to loss of habitat, environmental contaminants and increased predation. The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program began in 2009 with the goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining burrowing owl population in Manitoba.

Artificial nest burrows have been established at several sites throughout the conservation district. The artificial nest burrows consist of a piece of weeping tile leading down to a buried five gallon pail that serves as a den and are placed in a 12'x12' cage in native pasture. Young owls are raised through the summer in these dens and are then either brought to the Assiniboine Park Zoo or released into the wild. It is hoped that this soft release process will encourage the owls to return to the areas where they were released and thus increase the population in Manitoba. Having the artificial nest burrows in local pastures and grasslands raises awareness of the importance of maintaining the native prairie and other factors that will aid in the owl's recovery.

GRASSLAND BIRDS PROJECT – WEST SOURIS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The West Souris River Conservation District has also partnered with Bird Studies Manitoba (Manitoba Sustainable Development) on the Grassland Birds Project focusing on the ferruginous hawk, chestnut-collared longspur, sprague's pipit, baird sparrow and loggerhead shrike. The project centres on surveying and mapping bird populations and habitat on private land as well as implementing bird-specific beneficial management practices. The bird survey is unique in that it is not a roadway survey but is being done on private land. "The conservation districts are our main point of contact with landowners. We couldn't do it without them – they open the doors for access to private property that has been identified as having high species diversity" says Christian Artuso from Manitoba Bird Survey. The conservation district also provides support in erecting nest platforms for ferruginous hawks and shrub mowing to enhance habitat for loggerhead shrikes.



ALONSA AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE ENTERPRISE (AACRE)



The Alonsa Conservation District is partnering with the Rural Municipality of Alonsa and the Alonsa Community School to enhance their local community and build capacity for sustainable agriculture through the formation of the Alonsa Agricultural Community Restorative Enterprise (AACRE). They are striving to meet their goals by combining efforts and resources, inviting participation and ideas from local people, constructing visible and accessible projects, and providing exciting learning opportunities.

The group has completed a number of projects to date. The initial project focused on enhancing the yard around Alonsa Community School. With the

participation of students, fruit trees were planted, garden boxes were constructed, and the old sand pit was transformed into a rest area with benches. The next project completed was a greenhouse and garden boxes constructed on land adjacent to the Alonsa municipal office. The location of the project was ideal as it is highly visible to the local community and allows for easy access and maintenance. Local students and summer staff hired by the conservation district helped with construction. Funding to hire the students and purchase materials for the project was received from the Green Team and Healthy Together Now programs.

The garden boxes provide a fun and unique hands-on learning opportunity for the youth in the community. In addition to constructing the garden boxes, local students plant seeds, weed and tend to growing plants, and harvest herbs and vegetables at the end of the season. Students learn about the challenges with growing food, where food comes from, composting, the importance of a nutritious diet, and opportunities available in the field of agriculture.

The project team has met with communities throughout the municipality to do presentations on sustainable agriculture and gather ideas for new projects. The presentations were well received and have yielded many new project ideas. The group's current project list includes plans for more greenhouses and garden boxes, a fruit orchard, outdoor community meeting place, and a farmers market. In February 2017, the group received a grant of \$25,000 from the Healthy Tomorrow Now program which they plan to use to expand their initiative and undertake project plans.



PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS 2016-17

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Canada Revenue Agency

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Growing Forward 2 (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

Service Canada

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND CROWN CORPORATIONS

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

Manitoba Agriculture

Manitoba Education and Training

Manitoba Emergency Measures

Manitoba Sustainable Development

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

Manitoba Hydro

NON – GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Brandon University

Ducks Unlimited Canada

ECO Canada

Enbridge

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Lake Winnipeg Foundation

Landowners

Manitoba Conservation Districts Association

Prairie Mountain Health

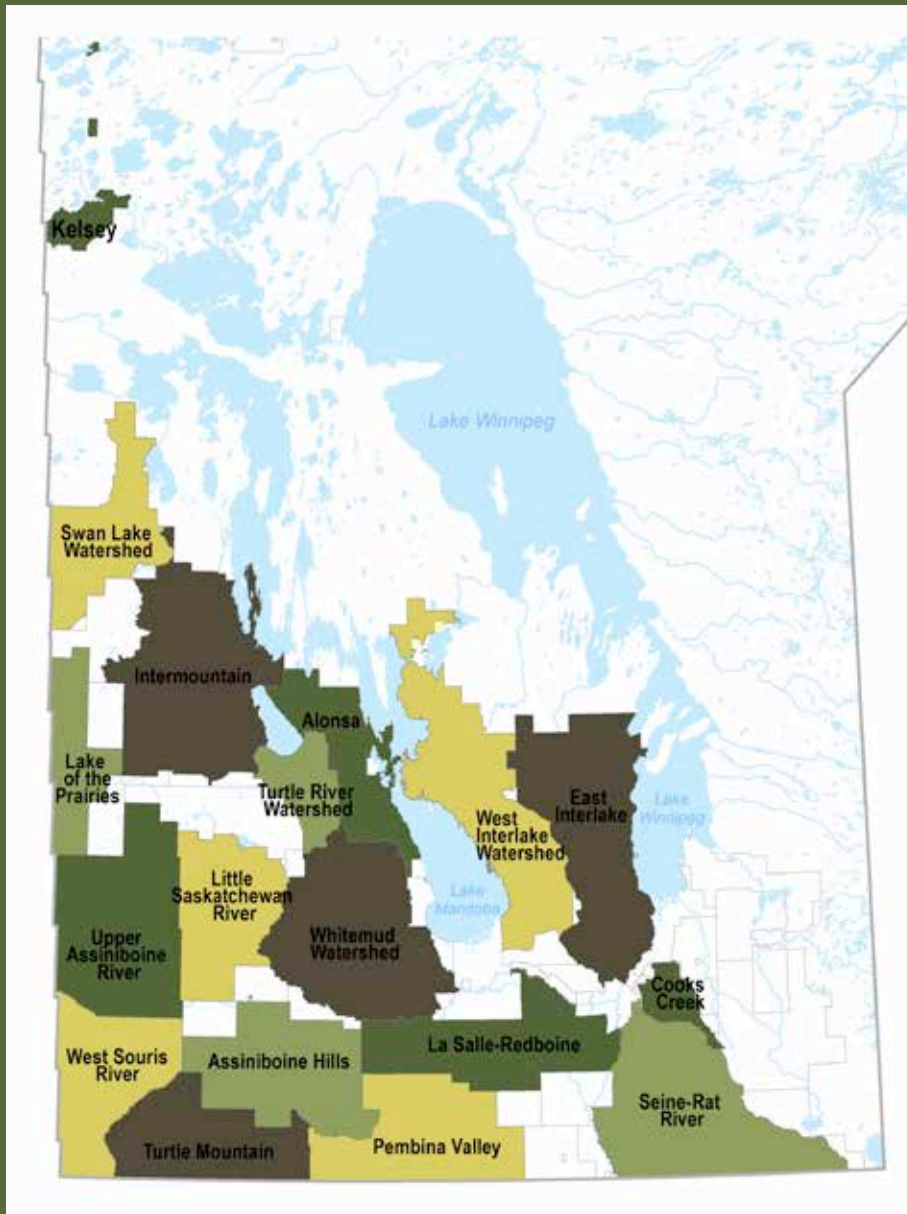
Royal Bank of Canada

Tree Canada

Tundra Oil & Gas



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN MANITOBA



Pembina Valley CD

204-242-3267
 pvwd.mgr@gmail.com

Seine-Rat River CD

204-326-1030
 manager@srrcd.ca

Swan Lake Watershed CD

204-734-9550
 manager.slwcd@mymts.net

Turtle Mountain CD

204-747-2530
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Turtle River Watershed CD

204-447-2139
 mgr.trwcd@mts.net

Upper Assiniboine River CD

204-567-3554
 uarc@mts.net

West Interlake Watershed CD

204-762-5850
 admin.wiwcd@mts.net

West Souris River CD

204-877-3020
 manager@wsrcc.com

Whitamud Watershed CD

204-476-5019
 wwdmanager@mts.net

**Manitoba Sustainable
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Watershed Planning and
 Programs Section
 204-945-7487
 Kristin.Hayward@gov.mb.ca

**Manitoba Conservation
 Districts Association**

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 manager@alonsacd.com

East Interlake CD

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 abelanger@eicd.ca

La Salle Redboine CD

204-526-2578
 j.reid@lasalleredboine.com

Assiniboine Hills CD

204-535-2139
 ahcd.mgr@mymts.net

Intermountain CD

204-742-3764
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Lake of the Prairies CD

204-564-2388
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Cooks Creek CD

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Kelsey CD

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Little Saskatchewan River CD

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MANITOBA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND WATERSHED ASSISTANCE 12 4(E)

Districts	Provincial Grants
Alonsa	\$267,500
Assiniboine Hills	\$316,000
Cooks Creek	\$295,000
East Interlake	\$300,000
Intermountain	\$268,000
Kelsey	\$155,000
Lake of the Prairies	\$200,000
La Salle Redboine	\$222,000
Little Saskatchewan River	\$200,000
Pembina Valley	\$359,500
Seine – Rat River	\$378,000
Swan Lake Watershed	\$225,000
Turtle Mountain	\$303,000
Turtle River Watershed	\$417,500
Upper Assiniboine River	\$270,000
West Interlake Watershed	\$200,000
West Souris River	\$203,500
Whitemud Watershed	\$687,000
Watershed Planning and Support Grant	\$45,000
Total	\$5,312,000



PROGRAM MEMBERS AND STAFF

CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Alonsa	Kelsey	Grant Matchullis	Rusty Still – Vice Chair
Shawn Gurke – Manager	Shawn Sexsmith – Manager	Ted Ross	Ernest Pethick
Cary Anderson – Admin	Heather Perchaluk – Admin	Stan Saxton	Robert Alexander
Tom Anderson – Chair	Jarret Berezowecki – Chair	Les Titchkosky	Johnny Michasiw
John Berthaudin – Vice Chair	Debbie McLaughlan – Vice Chair	Seine-Rat River	Bill McQuaker
Lyle Finney	Joel LeSann	Jodi Goerzen – Manager	Charles Bertram
Rick Lodge	Neil Scott	Beatrice Mukahirwa – Admin	Darcy Oliver
Ken Dunn	Randi Salamanowicz	Cornie Goertzen – Chair	Tom Judd
Michael Brown	Lake of the Prairies	Jim Swidersky – Vice Chair	Connie Fouillard
David Senkowski	Adam Kerkowich – Manager	Howard Janzen	Gab Huberdeau
Assiniboine Hills	Terry Kotzer – Admin	John Fehr	Todd Brown
Neil Zalluski – Manager	Wayne Buick – Chair	Bob Brandt	Theresa Michaluk
Margaret Sigvaldason – Admin	Jack Lenderbeck – Vice Chair	Art Bergmann	West Interlake Watershed
Jeff Elder – Chair	Glenda Chescu	Ed Penner	Linda Miller – Manager/Admin
Jack Bolack – Vice Chair	Gary Clunas	Ron Mamchuck	Irina Zotter – Admin Assistant
Heather Dagleish	Damien McNabb	Larry Bugera	Jack Cruise – Chair
Walter Finlay	Mike Shenderevich	Swan Lake Watershed	Henry Rosing – Vice Chair
Sam Phillips	La Salle Redboine	Stephanie Reid – Manager	Brian Sigfusson
Ted Snure	Justin Reid – Manager	Kendra McFadyen – Admin	Neil Brandstrom
Hugh Stephenson	Meghan Robidoux – Admin	Walter Kolisnyk – Chair	Kris Fjeldsted
Ken Turner	Roy Wood – Chair	Don Bobick – Vice Chair	John Halchuk
Cooks Creek	Ray Huggart – Vice Chair	Don Machan	Pat Dunlop
Colin Gluting – Manager	Reg Dyck	Larry Mychalchuk	West Souris River
Debbie Shaver – Admin	Rob Graham	Brian Burick	Dean Brooker – Manager
Neil Van Ryssel – Chair	Ray LeNeal	Kelly Phillipchuck	Ina Cook – Admin
Marc Ross – Vice Chair	Mark Lowdon	Turtle Mountain	Lloyd Atchison – Chair
Jonothon Roskus	Jim McGregor	Aaron Vanbeselaere – Interim Manager	Richard Thiry – Vice Chair
Roger Vaags	Marshall Piper	Sandra Hainsworth – Admin	Wilson Davis
Rick Wilson	Little Saskatchewan River	Greg More – Chair	Dave Dickson
Verner Johnson	Colleen Cuvelier – Manager	Gary Nestibo – Vice Chair	Carey Murray
East Interlake	Anne Davidson – Admin	Lorne Bolduc	Whitemud Watershed
Armand Belanger – Manager	Ray Frey – Chair	Myna Cryderman	Chris Reynolds – Manager
Brigitte Demarchuk – Admin	Denis Pederson – Vice Chair	Murray Duncan	Belinda Stewart – Admin
Garry Wasylowski – Chair	Don Huisman	Barry Janssens	Gerond Davidson – Chair
Rick Gamble – Vice Chair	Cindy Murray	Keith Vanbeselaere	Ray Drayson – Vice Chair
Harold Foster	Dave Falkevitch	Turtle River Watershed	Daryl Shipman
Gordon Grenkow	Kaye Wolstenholme	Jody Tucker – Manager	Robert Rodgers
Robert Green	Larry Cardy	Lisa Lepla – Admin	Jerry Doucette
Jim Hardy	John Spaller	Paul Brunel – Chair	Dennis Jarema
Intermountain	Pembina Valley	Shawn Buchanan – Vice Chair	Jim Anderson
Jeff Thiele – Manager	Cliff Greenfield – Manager	Kelvin Code	Kerry Tomchuck
Laurie Hykawy – Admin	Lexine LeBlanc – Admin	Armand Verhaeghe	David Single
Syd Puchailo – Chair	Murray Seymour – Chair	Rick Kutcher	Arnold Coutts
Mervyn Kotak – Vice Chair	Walter McTavish – Vice Chair	Kris Kristjanson	
Jack Bremner	Bill Howatt	Upper Assiniboine River	
Lyle Morran	George Jackson	Ryan Canart – Manager	
John Towle	Wendell Krahn	Janet Sandstrom – Admin	
Ken Shewchuk	Brian Leadbeater	Darcy Oliver – Chair	
Wilmer Malcolm			

Members listed are current
as of March 31, 2017

WATERSHED PLANNING AND PROGRAMS STAFF

The Watershed Planning and Programs Section administers and manages the Conservation Districts Program as defined by The Conservation Districts Act and coordinates and supports Integrated Watershed Management Planning (IWMP) as outlined in The Water Protection Act.

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Watershed Planning and Programs

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MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM HAS 104 MUNICIPAL PARTNERS.

VILLAGES

Dunnottar
St. Pierre-Jolys

TOWNS

Carman
Minnedosa
Neepawa
Niverville
Ste. Anne
Stonewall
Swan River
Teulon
Virden
Winnipeg Beach

CITIES

Brandon
Dauphin
Morden
Selkirk
Steinbach

MUNICIPALITIES

Alonsa
Arborg
Argyle
Armstrong
Bifrost–Riverton
Boissevain–Morton
Brenda–Waskada
Brokenhead
Cartier
Cartwright–Roblin
Clanwilliam–Erickson
Coldwell
Cornwallis
Dauphin
Deloraine–Winchester
De Salaberry
Dufferin
Ellice–Archie
Elton
Emerson–Franklin
Ethelbert
Fisher
Gilbert Plains
Gimli
Glenboro–South Cypress
Glenella–Lansdowne
Grahamdale
Grandview

Grassland
Grey
Hamiota
Hanover
Harrison–Park
Kelsey
Killarney–Turtle Mountain
La Broquerie
Lakeshore
Lorne
Louise
Macdonald
McCreary
Minitonas–Bowsman
Minto–Odanah
Montcalm
Mossey River
Mountain
Norfolk–Treherne
North Cypress–Langford
North Norfolk
Oakland–Wawanesa
Oakview
Pembina
Piney
Pipestone
Portage La Prairie
Prairie Lakes
Prairie View
Reynolds

Riding Mountain West
Ritchot
Riverdale
Roblin
Rockwood
Rosedale
Rossburn
Rosser
Russell–Binscarth
Sifton
Souris–Glenwood
Springfield
St. Andrews
St. Laurent
Stanley
Ste. Anne
Ste. Rose
Stuartburn
Swan Valley West
Taché
Thompson
Two Borders
Victoria
Wallace–Woodworth
West Interlake
West St. Paul
Westlake–Gladstone
Woodlands
Yellowhead



