

# Alberta Wetland Replacement Program

## A Collaborative Approach to Wetland Management

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### Wetland Replacement Program (WRP)

For the 2020/2021 program, WRP is prioritizing partnerships with municipalities that can meet the minimum pre-qualification requirements and that either have invested, or will invest, resources into identifying projects for wetland replacement.

### Pre-Qualification Requirements:

If your municipality meets the minimum pre-qualification requirements, you are eligible to apply this year. Your municipality can be pre-qualified if they meet the following requirements:

- Has a dedicated staff member(s) who:
  - works in the community and can aid in identifying potential wetland replacement opportunities;
  - has an understanding of the Alberta Wetland Policy and its directives;
  - has dedicated time for project management; and
  - has proven project management experience.
- Will ensure each project component, including wetland assessment, design, construction, inspection and adaptive management, is supervised and signed by an Authenticating Professional with professional experience and competencies in wetland restoration and/or construction activities, as set forth in the Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design and Engineering Work in Alberta (AEP, 2017);
- Has the ability and resources to retain the services of sub-contractors through a Request for Proposal (RFP), and to manage all sub-contracts;
- Has the ability and resources to negotiate agreements with private landowners; and
- Has the ability and resources to hold funds in a separate account to make payments to landowners for the lease term in the negotiated agreement.

### Eligible Wetland Replacement Projects:

WRP is focusing on wetland restoration and wetland constructions projects. Wetland enhancement projects are not eligible at this time.

- **Wetland Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded wetland.
  - Re-establishment: Re-establish the natural/historic area of a former/degraded wetland. Results in a gain of wetland area, with or without a gain in wetland function.





- **Wetland Construction:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of creating a wetland on a site location that was historically non-wetland.
  - Establishment: Development of a wetland that did not previously exist on an upland site. Results in a gain of wetland area and function.
  - Expansion: Development immediately adjacent to an existing wetland to expand the wetland into area that was historically non-wetland (upland or deepwater sites). Results in a gain of wetland area with or without a gain in wetland function.



Examples of wetland restoration and construction include, but are not limited to:

- Installing a ditch plug in a drained wetland or partially drained wetland that is no longer functioning as a wetland.
- Removing tile drainage.
- Modifying an existing dugout or stormwater pond to function as a wetland.
- Modifying upland or an ephemeral waterbody into a wetland.

## Municipal Partnerships

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has funding available for eligible wetland replacement projects and is seeking to establish partnerships with municipalities. AEP will formalize its relationship with each pre-qualified municipal partner through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once a MOU has been signed, municipal partners can submit project proposals that will be reviewed by AEP. AEP will form contracts for each successful proposal.

## Next Steps

If your municipality would like to discuss the pre-qualification requirements, or to learn more about the next steps of participating in the program, please contact us at [aep.wetlandreplacement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.wetlandreplacement@gov.ab.ca) by April 9 with the following information:

- Three dates and times you and your colleagues are available for a teleconference interview between April 20 and May 1; and
- The names and contact information of all staff and sub-contractors who would like to attend the teleconference meeting.