

## ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION PROGRAM

### How can I GROW my bottom line?

We have two main types of funding available: [Conservation Contracts](#) and [Project Funding](#).

#### Conservation Contracts:

If you have Class 1-2 wetlands on your property or are interested in protecting vulnerable habitat (ex. forest or prairie) you may be eligible to receive annual incentive payments based on the number of acres protected. Fill out an Expression of interest (EOI) indicating that you are interested in a conservation contract, and someone will arrange a site visit with you to assess your property and funding potential.



#### Project Funding:

We also provide project funding. The extent of the funding depends on many factors including the type of project, the overall ecological goods and services the project will provide to the larger watershed, and funding available, to name a few. Some examples of projects that may be eligible for funding include water storage, wetland enhancement, prairie rehabilitation, shelterbelts, reforestation, and regenerative agricultural practices. On top of project funding, some of these projects would also be eligible for a Conservation Contract (annual payments). We are open to other project ideas that you may have! If you think you have a project that may be eligible, please fill out an EOI and someone will contact you to discuss project details further.

### Funding Details:

#### 1. Conservation Contracts - Annual Incentive Payments

- If you have an area that provides ecological goods and services to the larger watershed, you may be eligible to receive annual payments.
- Different habitats that may be eligible include:
  - Class 1-2 wetlands
  - Native forests
  - Native prairie
- Annual payments are determined by multiple factors including land use, property value, soil class, etc.
- Payment would be distributed at a fixed amount (# of acres x \$ value) annually for 10 years. The contract may be reviewed and renewed upon expiration.
- Producers can still farm/hay protected Class 1-2 wetlands, but they may not drain it.
- Landowners can still use the area and any specific management or use concerns can be written into the contract (ex. harvesting trees for personal use, cutting ski trails, etc).

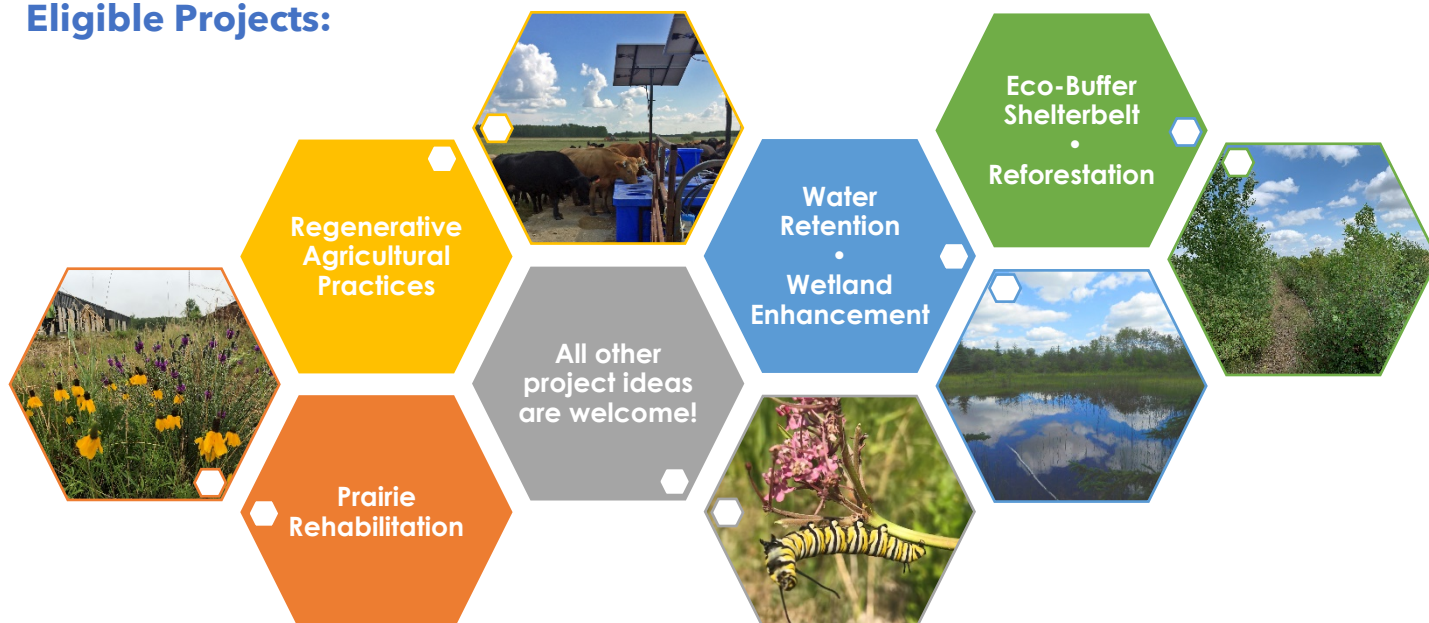
#### 2. Conservation Contracts - Perpetual Conservation Easements

- If you have an area that you would like to protect from future development, you may be eligible for a perpetual conservation contract.
- EIWD would partner with a third party (such as NCC or MHHC) to determine the conservation value of the proposed parcel of land.
- Once a Perpetual Conservation Contract has been developed a tax receipt for the agreed upon conservation value will be issued and the protection will be on the land title.

### 3. Projects

- There are a variety of projects that may be eligible for funding.
- Projects will fall into two main categories: landowner-driven and EIWD-driven.
  - Landowner-driven projects means that landowners will be responsible for almost all aspects of the project from developing a plan, to creating a budget, to hiring contractors. EIWD will assist as much as possible/necessary and approved funding % will be distributed as a rebate.
  - EIWD-driven projects means that the EIWD is responsible for all aspects of project development and implementation. These are generally water storage projects and are usually 100% funded by the EIWD. There is NO rebate provided as the EIWD handles all costs throughout project development.

### Eligible Projects:



**Have a project idea that isn't listed above? We would love to hear from you!**

### ALL APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOME



#### What is a Class 1-2 wetland?

Low prairie/wet meadows that hold water from April to as late as mid-June (2-6 weeks). Class 1-2 wetlands can be identified in a field based on the presence of weedy species including green foxtail, bindweed, kochia, quack grass, mustards, barnyard grass, Canada thistle, dock, and smartweed.

#### Why can't I receive annual incentive payments for Class 3-5 wetlands?

Class 3-5 wetlands are ineligible for annual incentive payments because they are protected under The Water Rights Act.

#### Do you provide funding for trails?

Currently we do have funding for trails because trail creation does not improve the ecological goods and services that the ecosystem is providing.