



# North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

In partnership with the



## Vermilion River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project

### Funding for Individual Private Landowners

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada



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and Parks



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November 2015

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## INTRODUCTION

Wetlands and riparian areas are ecosystems that perform important Ecological Services in a watershed. In varying degrees, wetlands and riparian areas provide water storage, flood attenuation, sediment and contaminant retention, habitat and food source for wildlife, maintenance of biodiversity, and provision of recreational opportunities and natural scenic beauty. These Ecological Services benefit people, other living organisms, and the overall functioning of interconnected natural systems within watersheds.

Citizens, watershed stakeholders and various conservation groups recognize that conservation and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas in Alberta are needed for sustainably functioning watersheds.

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA), in partnership with the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA), received grants from three sources to restore or enhance wetlands and riparian areas in the Vermilion River watershed (please see map) for the period 2015-2018. Projects under these grants are collectively called the **Vermilion River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project (VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project)**.

VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project will implement some of the recommended actions of the *Vermilion River Watershed Management Plan (2012)* ([www.nswa.ab.ca/Subwatershed Plans](http://www.nswa.ab.ca/SubwatershedPlans)) under its **Goal 2** - Improve reliability of surface water supply, **Goal 3** - Maintain or improve surface water quality, and **Goal 4** – Maintain or improve aquatic ecosystem health. Other goals of the plan are: **Goal 1** - Develop capacity and knowledge, and **Goal 5** - Protect and sustain ground water quality and supply.

**Table 1 VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project Funders, Deliverables, and Goals**

Funder	Deliverables	Goals
Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program (WRRP), Government of Alberta	Restore degraded or lost, or enhance existing wetland and riparian areas in the Vermilion River watershed: Wetlands = 40 ha total Riparian areas = 10 km total (20 ha equivalent)	Improve watershed resiliency to floods and drought.
National Wetland Conservation Fund (NWCF), Environment Canada	Restore degraded or lost small wetlands (<1 ha) in the Vermilion River watershed = 24 ha total	Improve biodiversity.
EcoAction Community Funding Program, Environment Canada	Restore degraded riparian areas in the Vermilion River (main stem) = 2 km (equivalent 4 ha), and conduct a survey of aquatic species & habitat*.	Improve water quality, assess aquatic condition.

\*The survey of aquatic species and habitat is being done by a consulting firm.

The purpose of the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project is to provide financial support to private land owners within the Vermilion River watershed who are interested in land and water stewardship: to restore degraded or lost natural wetlands and riparian areas, to enhance existing natural wetlands and riparian areas, or to establish riparian buffers within their lands.

Private landowners within the Vermilion River Watershed (please see map) are invited to propose projects to be funded by the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project.

Applications are due by **March 1, 2016**. Applications will be processed on 'first come first served' basis. The total area to be restored or enhanced for both wetlands and riparian areas is limited by the amount of grants received by NSWA.

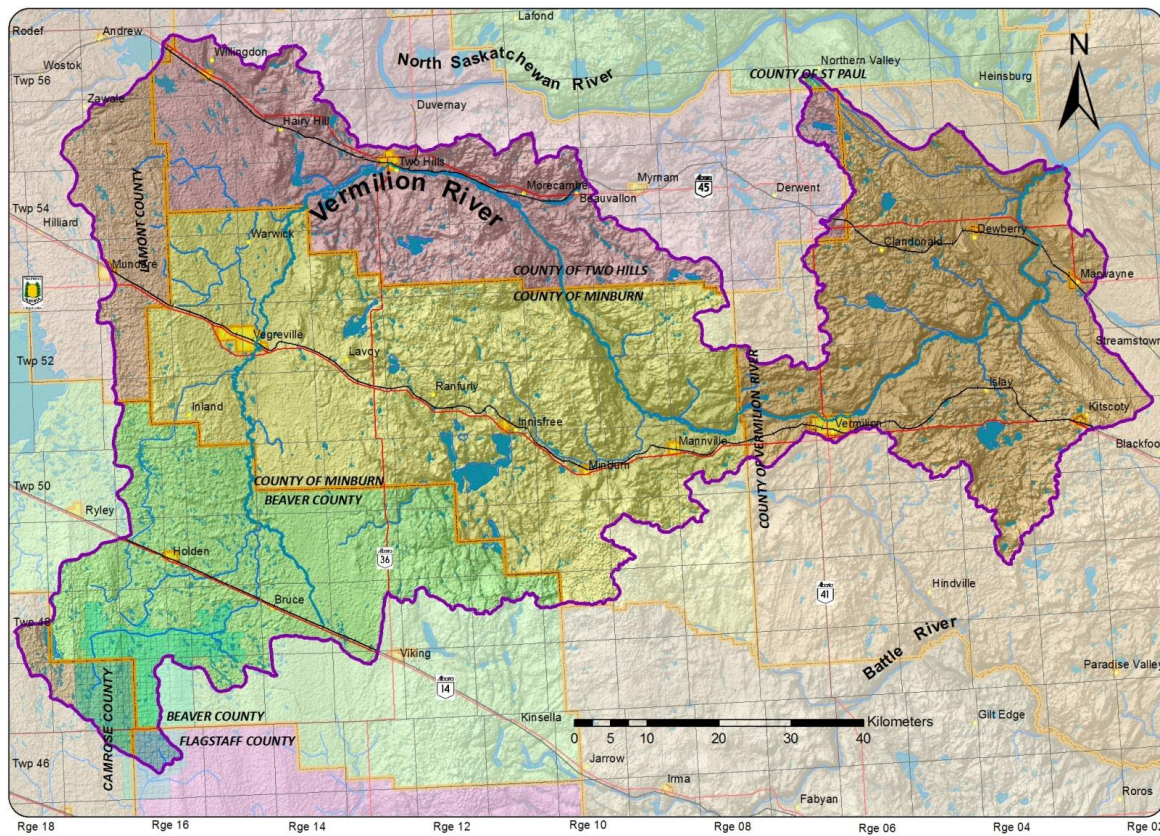
Eligible Applicants and Projects are found in the Eligibility document. Application for funding can be made by completing the prescribed Application Form. The Definitions document explains the various terms used such as: restoration, enhancement, wetlands, riparian areas, wetland buffers, and riparian buffers. Contact information for inquiries and assistance in filling the Application Form are provided in the Application Form. The set of documents can be downloaded from: [www.nswa.ab.ca/Subwatershed Plans](http://www.nswa.ab.ca/Subwatershed Plans)

All project and project-related activities by landowners must be completed by **March 15, 2018**.

A project launch is scheduled for November 2015 to promote the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project and to explain the application procedure.



### Vermilion River Watershed Basemap



- Legend**
- Vermilion River
  - Vermilion Watershed
  - Urban Municipalities
  - Rural Municipalities
  - Holden Drainage District
  - Townships
  - Highway
  - Roads
  - Rail

