

JULY 18, 2025

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*Photo Credit: Environmental Youth Alliance*

## Wildlife Habitat Canada's Community Conservation Action Program

WHC is excited to announce the continuation of the Community Conservation Action Program! With the success of the 3-year pilot, the need for support for small, local, grassroots projects has become evident. WHC plans to invest \$50K annually to strengthen community-based conservation in Canada.

The CCAP is seeking applications for local and regional projects (FY 2026-2027) with funding asks from \$500 - \$10,000 that:

- Connect Canadians with nature
- Engage youth in conservation
- Provide educational conservation programming

**Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is accepting grant funding applications for projects that will occur between April 1, 2026 and March 31, 2027.**







*Photo Credit: Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association*

# PROGRAM BACKGROUND

With the demand for conservation dollars becoming more and more competitive, WHC has been looking for a way to help smaller organizations access the funding that they need to make a difference in conservation within their local or regional community.

We are pleased to be able to offer this community-based grant program, which will invest \$50K/year in grassroots efforts to connect Canadians with nature and deliver conservation achievements on-the-ground.

The CCAP is seeking projects that are innovative, collaborative and engaging.

To maximize the time spent delivering your projects and making contribution achievements, this program has been designed to minimize the administrative burden. Less time filling out paperwork, more time out there making a difference.

## **Supporting Small(er) Canadian Organizations to Connect Canadians with Nature**

Let's get innovative and get Canadians outdoors, connecting with nature!





# WHC BACKGROUND

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, not-for-profit, non-governmental, charitable conservation organization that was established in 1984.

## WHC's Conservation Grant Programs:

- **The Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative:** supports habitat conservation, restoration and/or enhancement or stewardship projects with a focus on wetlands, waterfowl and migratory game birds.
- **Land Trusts Conservation Fund** (*under the Natural Heritage Conservation Plan*): supports Canadian charity land trusts in securing land that contributes to the achievement of the terrestrial and inland water elements of Canada's Target 1 of the Biodiversity Goals and Targets and the protection of habitat for the recovery of Species at Risk.
- **Community Conservation Action Program:** supports small(er) organizations in making conservation achievements within their community, through projects that connect Canadians with nature, engage youth in conservation, or provide educational conservation programming (*funding requests from \$500 - \$10,000*).





Photo Credit: Galiano Conservancy Association

# APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

## Eligible Recipients of the Grant Program are:



- Canadian Residents;
- Small(er) Canadian Organizations\*;
- Research, academic and educational institutions;
- Indigenous organizations, associations, and community management boards;
- Local organizations such as community associations and groups, seniors' and youth groups, and service clubs;

## Ineligible Recipients of the Grant Program include but are not limited to:



- International organizations or individuals;
- For-profit organizations
- Federal level organizations or individuals: Government employees, departments, agencies, and crown corporations.

*\*Small(er) Organizations to this program means local level, independent groups that are looking for funding opportunities to support new or innovative small-scale or pilot project programs.*





Photo Credit: Fondation SETHY

# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

## Ineligible Expenses - CCAP funds cannot be used:



- As a contribution to an endowment fund
- For expenditures directly related to the acquisition of land or an interest in land, including a lease, conservation easement or conservation covenant.
- Requests for small amounts to fund a larger-scale project
  - Examples: salaries, tuition or course fees, indirect/overhead

## Additional Considerations:

Other requirements taken into account by WHC when reviewing grant funding applications include:

- The involvement of multiple partners (collaboration)
- Includes a well-thought out project plan
  - Project activities are concrete and sustainable, with measurable results
- Long term benefits of the project
- Innovative, new approaches
- Participation engagement, including follow up evaluations
- Project evaluation (clear ways you'll define success of the project)





*Photo Credit: Wildsight*

# SUPPORTING ALL GROUPS

Embracing diversity, for both ecosystems and Canadian organizations, is a core value at Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC). As we recognize the need for increased inclusion and diversity in all aspects of wildlife conservation and management, WHC is committed to supporting projects from groups with diverse and inclusive goals and objectives for the 2026-2027 grant program.

## Eligibility Requirements for these projects:

- Must be carried out between April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent within the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- Must have clear milestones & deliverables in both years and a minimum of 1:1 match.
- Projects are required to be related to project categories listed within this document.
- Within the Application, self-identify and demonstrate clearly how your organization or project will be providing improvements to diversity, equity and inclusion within the community of Canada.

For more information on Diversity and Inclusion, please visit [www.ccdi.ca](http://www.ccdi.ca)







*Photo Credit: Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association*

# PROJECT CATEGORIES

## WHC will primarily consider projects that:

- **Connect Canadians with Nature**

**Examples include, but are not limited to:**

- Hunter Education/Recruitment,
- Climate Change Initiatives,
- Walking tours on protected properties.

- **Engage Youth in Conservation**

**Examples include, but are not limited to:**

- Student Programming,
- Youth Conservation Plan creation,
- Habitat Litter Clean ups,
- Interactive videos that engage youth.

- **Provide Educational Conservation Programming**

**Examples include, but are not limited to:**

- Habitat Conservation Education:
  - Species at Risk,
  - Conservation in the classroom,
  - Climate Change Education.





*Photo Credit: All Our Relations*

# FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must ensure that project implementation complies with all relevant legislation, regulations, licenses, permits, etc.
- Funding request between \$500 and \$10,000.
- Project delivery timeframe: April 1, 2026– March 31, 2027.
- Project must demonstrate a minimum 1:1 funding match ratio\* (i.e., WHC contributions cannot exceed 50% of the Project Revenue).
- Invasive Alien Species: Please note at this time, this program will not accept ongoing maintenance projects associated with IAS projects.
- Projects must read, understand and abide by the [Program Guidelines](#).







Photo Credit: Wildsight

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## Apply online!

- Application forms must be completed and [submitted online](#).
- First time applicants will be prompted to create a username and password.
- The application form can be saved at any point, so you can work on it piece by piece!
- You can invite a collaborator to assist you in completing your application form. Using this function allows the person you select in time during the completion of the form.

**Note: Any application forms submitted to WHC by email or mail will not be considered.**

### Before you Press Submit:

- ➡ Review this [Call for Proposals document](#)
- ➡ Review the [WHC Letter of Agreement \(funding agreement\)](#)
- ➡ Review the [Program Guidelines](#)

**Submission Deadline: Friday, October 3, 2025**





*Photo Credit: Galiano Conservancy Association*

# SELECTION PROCESS

Grant applications submitted by the October 3, 2025 deadline will be reviewed by Wildlife Habitat Canada Staff. Staff will select projects to receive funding, following a review of the suite of applications received. Applications will be reviewed for completeness and considered based on well thought out and clear objectives, how well the project meets program criteria, demonstration of solid plans for evaluating project success, and innovative and collaborative elements.

Applicants will be contacted about the results of their applications prior to April 2026. It is anticipated that award notifications will be provided in February 2026.

Proponents with projects approved for funding under WHC's Community Conservation Action Program will receive a funding agreement for signature. WHC funding is subject to projects meeting the conditions and requirements set out in the Funding Agreement.

## Questions?

If you require any further information, or assistance in completing your applications, please contact **Jennifer Collard, Acting Project Manager**, by email ([grants@whc.org](mailto:grants@whc.org)).

