

Putting the Conservation Trust into Action

La Salle-Redboine Conservation District/Redboine Watershed District

The La Salle-Redboine CD/Redboine WD is excited to put the new Conservation Trust into action with three projects for which we've received \$115,000.

The first of our three projects is the Mill Creek Retention Program. In partnership with landowners along the Mill Creek and the Rural Municipality of Cartier, we will be constructing a series of water retention structures in the creek using municipal roads and modified culverts to hold back the flow. This project will produce valuable ecological goods and services. By slowing down the flows in the waterway, these structures will allow nutrients to settle and be absorbed by riparian vegetation instead of flowing into our lakes and contributing to algae blooms. Peak flow reduction will strengthen flood resilience by reducing pressure on municipal infrastructure and reducing bank erosion. The stored water will be available to producers for irrigation, improving drought resilience and reducing reliance on water pumped from the Provincial Pump Structures on the Assiniboine River.

The second project will be constructed in partnership with the Rural Municipality of Victoria on the Cypress River Wetland Trail. Our project will remove the existing boardwalk through the wetland and replace it with a new boardwalk. The new boardwalk will be accessible by those with limited mobility and will include an area that can be used as an outdoor classroom for critter dipping programs. The new boardwalk will connect both sides of the wetland together and will link the main use area to a short hiking trail that will be created on the previously unused, opposite side of the wetland.

The third of our Conservation Trust projects is a trail restoration at the Pinkerton Lakes Wildlife Refuge south of Treherne. We will be installing bridges, and boardwalk/raised bed pathways across the wet sections of the trail to enable year-round use, greater accessibility and more efficient maintenance. This renewal will set the stage for more ecological education use through school hikes, scout campouts, and water festivals, and greater use by bird watchers, ski clubs, snowmobile clubs and the general public. The April 2020 Manitoba Envirothon South Regional event will mark the grand re-opening of the newly upgraded sections of the trail.

A huge thanks goes out to the Province of Manitoba for creating the Conservation Trust which will provide much needed funding for conservation work all across the province for generations to come. With the help of our municipal project partners and landowners, the La Salle-Redboine Conservation District is eager to put the Conservation Trust into action.