

2022



ANNUAL REPORT



PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Elgin Clean Water Program (ECWP) was initiated in 2012 as a collaboration between the four conservation authorities (CAs) within Elgin County: Catfish Creek CA, Kettle Creek CA, Long Point Region CA and Lower Thames Valley CA. The ECWP provides the necessary technical expertise and financial incentives for landowners that are interested in implementing environmental projects.

A Review Committee oversees the program and reviews and approves projects. The Review Committee is comprised of representatives from Elgin County, the Elgin Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Elgin Federation of Agriculture and an Elgin County landowner.

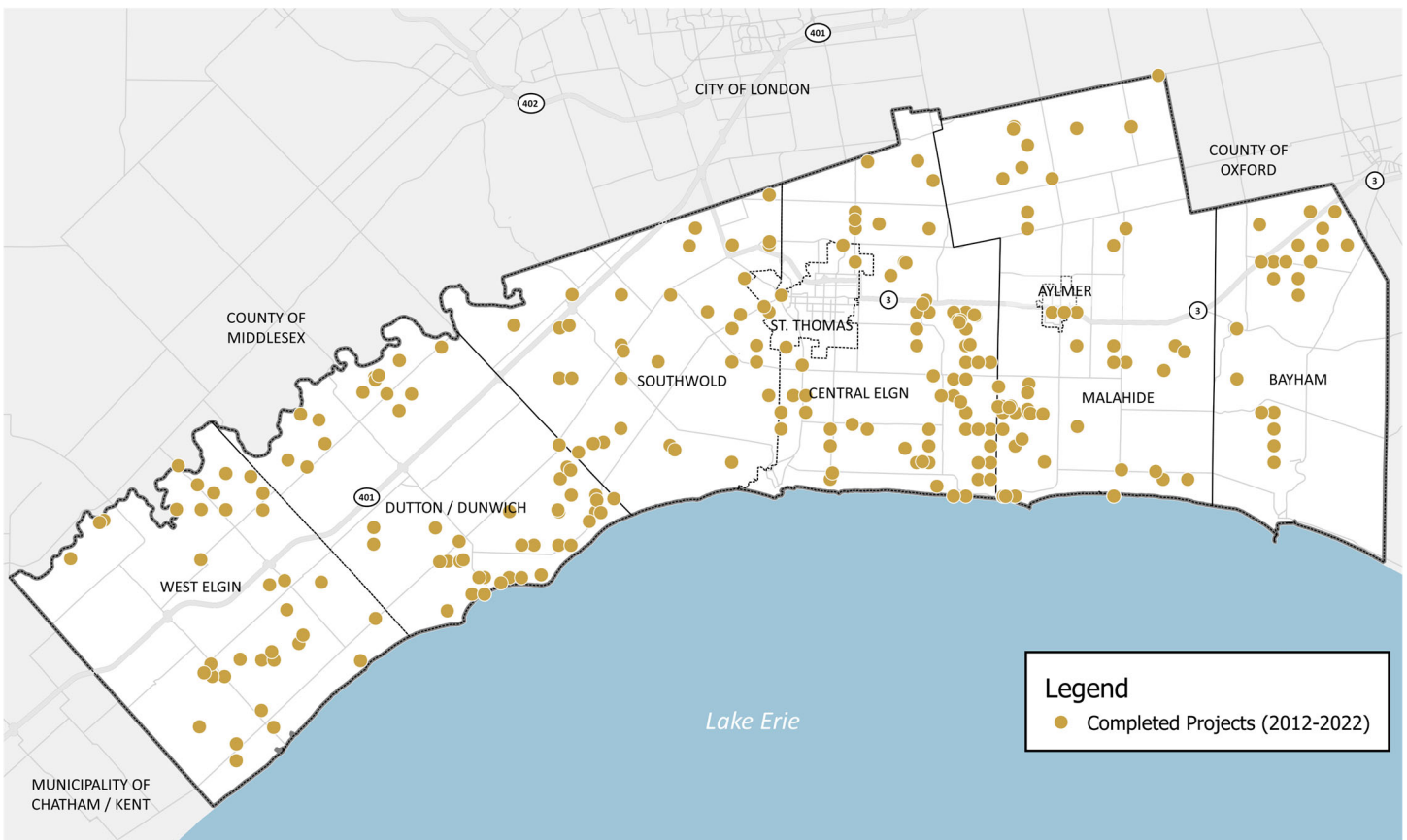
The following project categories are funded by the Elgin Clean Water Program:

- Well Management
- Erosion Control Structures
- Clean Water Diversion
- Wetland/Riparian Protection/Restoration
- Livestock Management

In addition, a Cover Crop Incentive Program was established in 2017 which provides an incentive for farmers to plant cover crops on their farm in an effort to provide erosion control on agricultural fields over the winter months.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

To date, 290 projects have been completed across Elgin County since the program began in 2012. Total project costs have exceeded \$3,370,000. The ECWP has contributed \$793,905 in grants to landowners to undertake projects. CA staff have assisted landowners in leveraging the ECWP funding to obtain \$1,533,535 in matching funds and landowners have contributed \$1,042,282 of their own funds, labour and equipment.

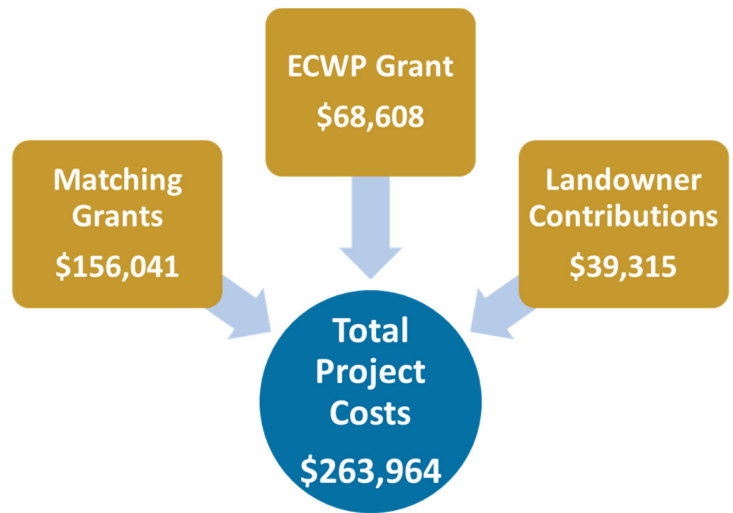


2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY

In 2022, 26 projects were completed, totalling \$68,608.19 in ECWP grants.

The breakdown of completed projects was as follows:

- 2 Erosion Control
- 1 Wellhead Protection
- 12 Wetland Creation
- 3 Tallgrass Prairie Establishment
- 8 Cover Crop



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

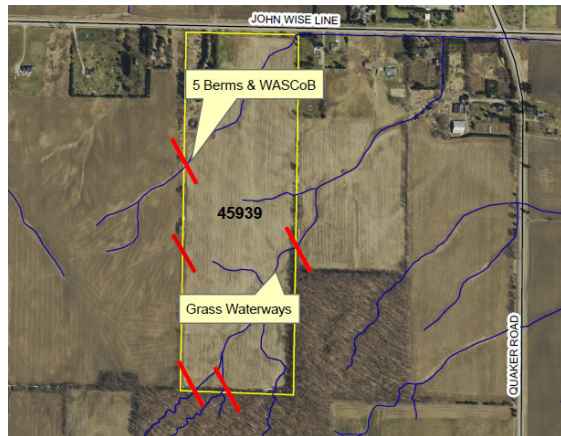
Wetland Creation

Wetland creation projects continued to be the most funded project category in 2022 with 12 projects completed. This wetland creation project saw the retirement of 2 acres of marginal farmland to create a wetland in a wet area of the field. In addition, 1,900 native tree and shrub seedlings were planted.



Erosion Control

Five Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs) were installed to slow the movement of surface water across the farm. Two of the structures built adjacent to the woodlot incorporated larger sediment control basins to allow for a larger amount of surface water to be captured, while also adding wildlife habitat.



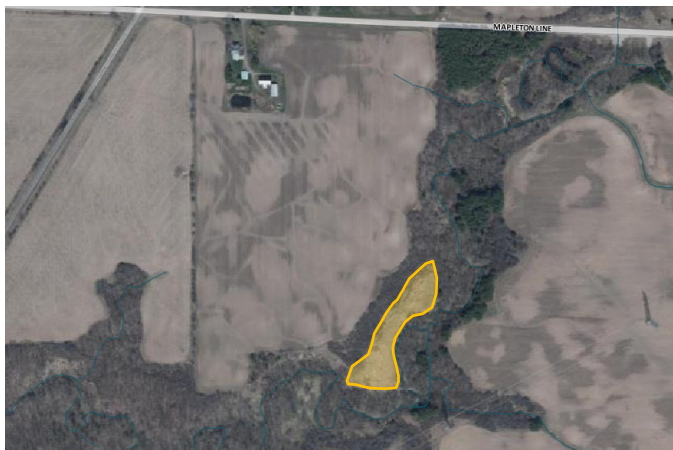
Wellhead Protection

The existing well was located inside a pumphouse structure four feet below grade. A licensed well contractor extended the well casing above grade and installed a pitless adapter .



Tallgrass Prairie Planting

Tallgrass prairie was established at this 1.5 acre parcel of marginal farmland. The landowner was interested in diversifying habitat types on the property. A mix of wildflowers and native grasses were planted including Big bluestem, Switchgrass, Wild bergamot, Grey-headed coneflower and Sullivant's milkweed.



2022 PROGRAM SPONSORS

Thank you to Elgin County and the Green Lane Community Trust Fund for funding the Elgin Clean Water Program.



2022 LANDOWNER TESTIMONIALS

- “ECWP enables landowners to make environmental improvements to enhance water quality and improve wildlife habitat that would not always be possible within their financial capabilities.”
- “The ECWP allowed us to access government funding to make improvements to our farm without too much hassle from red tape.”
- “If you are considering a project to enhance wildlife habitat such as wetlands or erosion control structures, ECWP and the local conservation authorities are an excellent resource for planning and implementing projects as well as financial assistance.”
- “I think these funds can go a long way to encouraging people to improve their properties and reduce erosion.”
- “We could not have transformed this fallow field into a beautiful wetland to support biodiversity if not for the generosity of the ECWP.”



The Elgin Clean Water Program is a partnership of:



www.elgincleanwater.ca