



Benefits of having a wetland on your property

- Wetlands are one of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in Ontario providing habitat for waterfowl and over 600 species of plants, animals and insects, many which are species at risk.
- Wetlands offer numerous recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting wildlife viewing, canoeing or nature photography, etc.
- Wetlands are important groundwater recharge areas. As wetlands store water, they allow seepage back into the ground to replenish groundwater supplies.
- Wetlands help reduce flooding and erosion by providing water storage, which slows down heavy surface flows, leading to less soil erosion.
- Wetlands act as nature's filtration and purification system by filtering pollutants such as chemicals and nutrients from water runoff headed for our lakes, rivers and our drinking water.

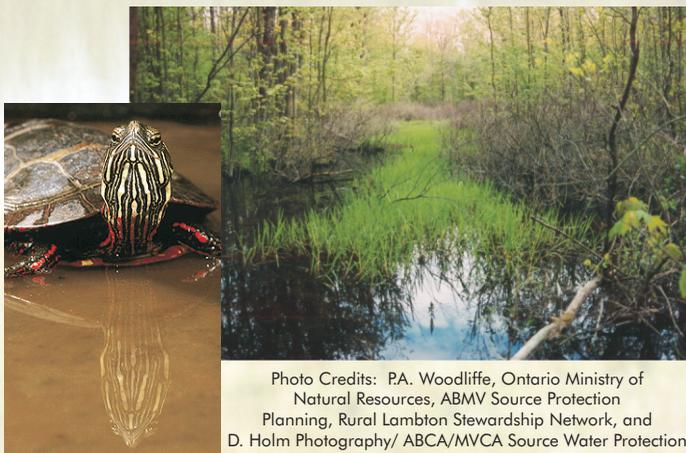


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Eligible Project Types

1. Enhancing Floodplain Habitat

- Floodplains, valley areas, wetlands, seasonal wetlands, oxbows and woodland swamps, etc., enhancements using small, low-cost water impoundment structures

2. Wetland Creation

- a) Small impoundments – areas generally less than 25 acres in size created by restricting water flowing out of shallow, low-lying areas
- b) Excavated wetlands — removal of earth to create a water retention area

3. Creating Conservation Buffers

- Creation of small areas or strips of permanent vegetation, designed to control pollutants and manage other environmental concerns

4. Livestock Exclusion Fencing

- Includes fencing, low-water crossings and creating an alternative watering source.



Who to Contact?

Healthy Headwaters Initiative

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Stewardship Councils

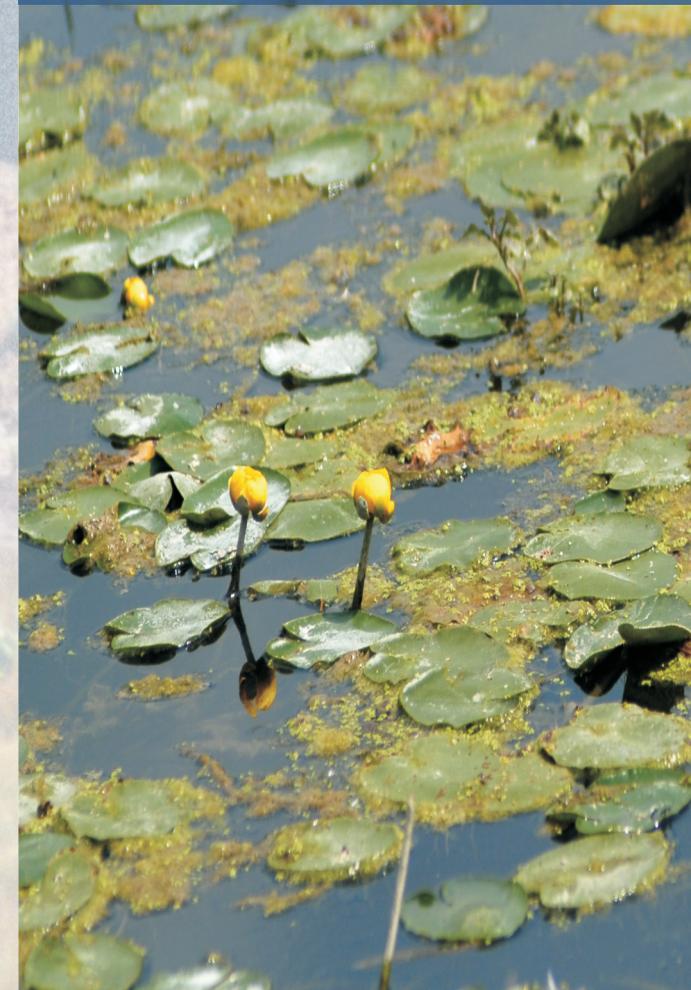
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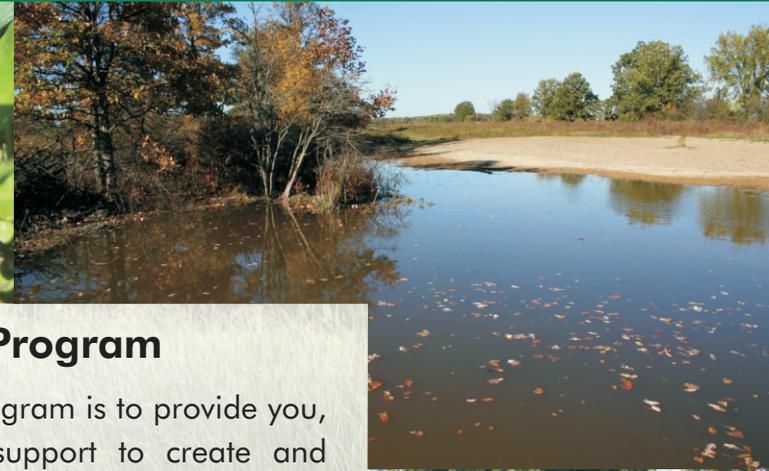


Healthy Headwaters Wetlands Initiative



Create or restore wetlands on your property!

Healthy Headwaters Initiative is an opportunity for rural and non-rural landowners to preserve, restore or enhance wetlands. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Middlesex Stewardship Council, Huron Stewardship Council and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) have formed a partnership to provide you with the technical advice and assistance to complete wetland restoration projects in floodplain or riparian areas. By participating in this initiative you will not only receive technical expertise and the financial incentives necessary to complete a successful project but retain the right to enjoy and use your land while helping to improve the environment.



Purpose of our Program

The purpose of this program is to provide you, the landowner, with support to create and enhance wetlands in floodplain and riparian areas. These wetlands will not only provide valuable wildlife habitat but protect and increase our water supply resources. Through our partnership we will transfer our knowledge about wetland ecosystem functions and be able to raise awareness and understanding of wetland conservation issues. We want to work with you to enhance, create and restore wetland areas as well as promote the protection and enhancement of our water resources on the landscape.



Who is involved?

There are three community working groups which consist of local volunteers who represent a balanced cross-section of landowner, community and non-government individuals from Middlesex and Huron Counties and the Ausable Watershed that promote and re-view potential projects. The panel is supported by the Program Coordinator and staff from the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

