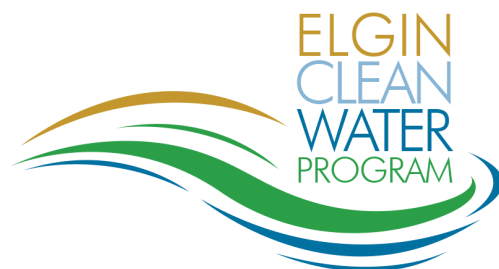


2021 Annual Report



Celebrating 10 Years

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 the County of Elgin, the Elgin Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Elgin Federation of Agriculture and a landowner from Elgin County.

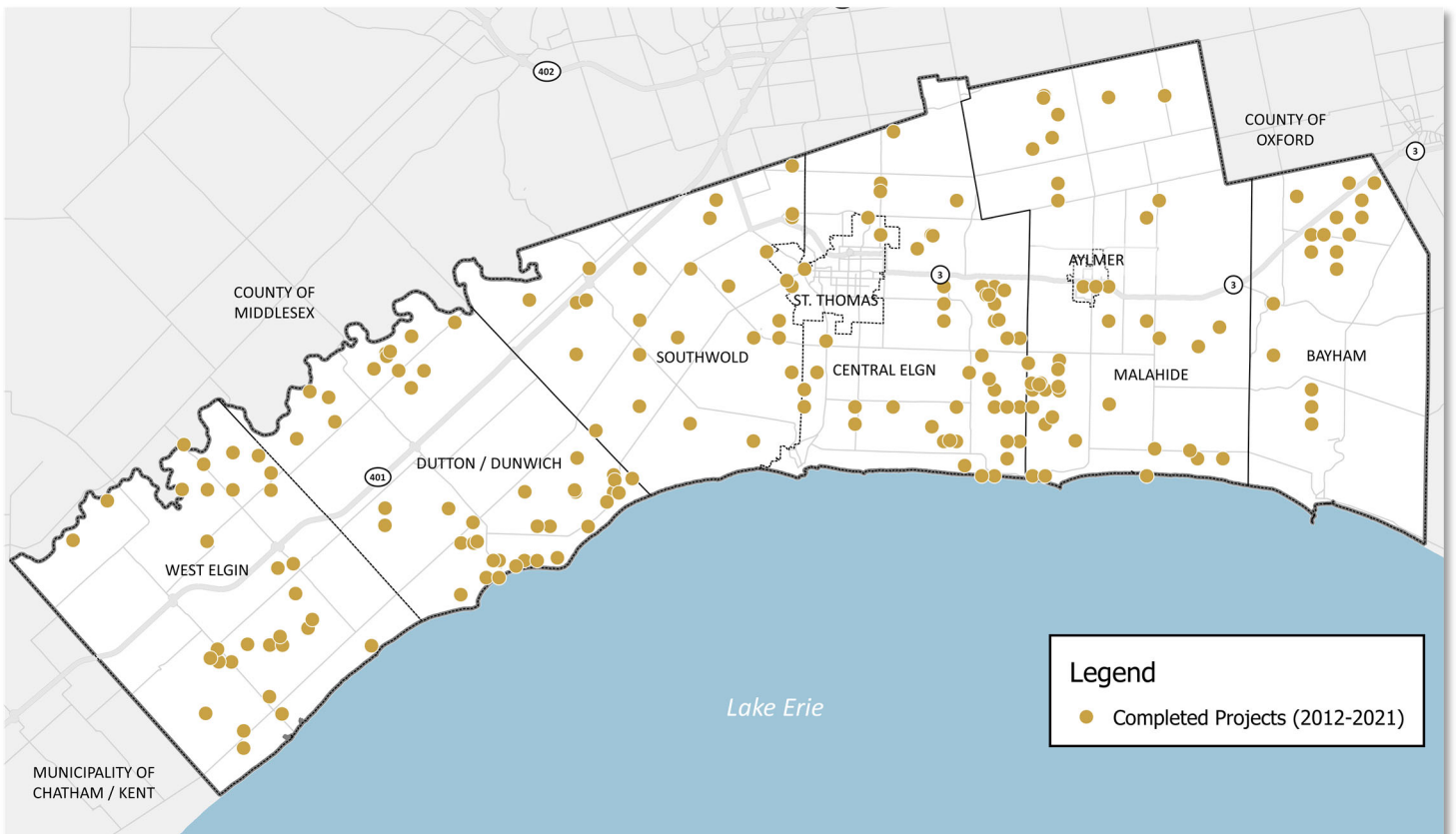
The following project categories are funded by the Elgin Clean Water Program:

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

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.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

To date, 264 projects have been completed across Elgin County since the program began in 2012. Total project costs have exceeded \$3,105,000. The ECWP has contributed \$725,296 in grants to landowners to undertake projects. CA staff have assisted landowners in leveraging the ECWP funding to obtain \$1,377,495 in matching funds and landowners have contributed \$1,002,967 of their own funds, labour and equipment.

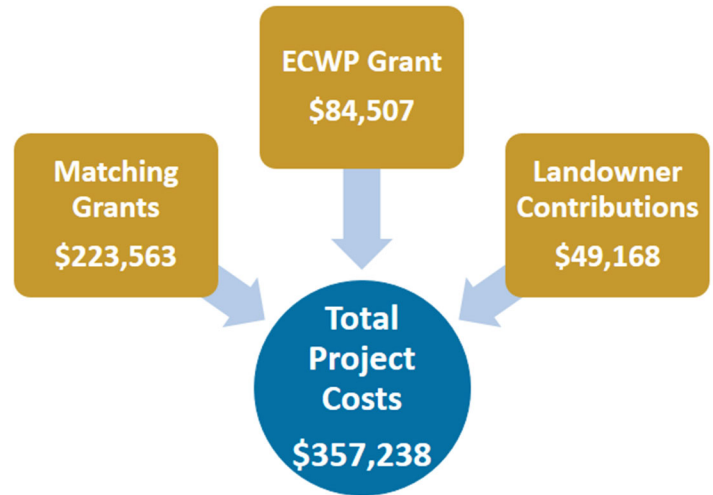


2021 PROGRAM SUMMARY

In 2021, 29 projects were completed, totalling \$84,507.49 in ECWP grants.

The breakdown of completed projects was as follows:

- 6 Erosion Control
- 14 Wetland Creation
- 5 Tallgrass Prairie Planting
- 4 Cover Crop



SAMPLE PROJECTS

Wetland Creation

Again in 2021, wetland creation was the most funded project by the Elgin Clean Water Program with 14 wetland projects completed.



One acre of cattle pasture was retired and a 0.75 acre wetland created to help reduce erosion in the Talbot Creek subwatershed.



A 2 acre wetland was created to create habitat and help reduce erosion across the hilly terrain of this property.



Two wetland cells were created in this unused scrubland area of a farm to increase wildlife habitat and to collect overland flow from neighbouring fields.



A 0.5 acre wetland was created in a wet area of an agricultural field adjacent to a woodlot containing a provincially significant wetland feature.

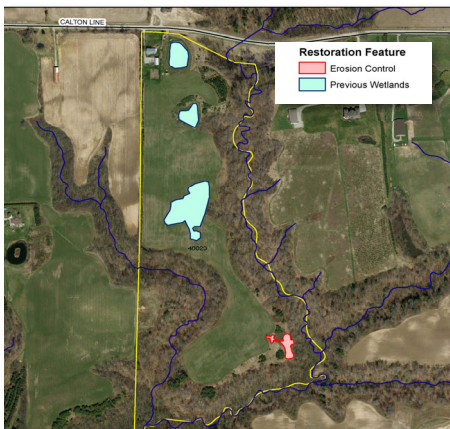
Tallgrass Prairie Planting

Three acres of tallgrass prairie was planted in a fallow field along the Lake Erie shoreline. The landowner was interested in diversifying habitat on the property and wanted to attract pollinators and Monarchs along a major migration route.



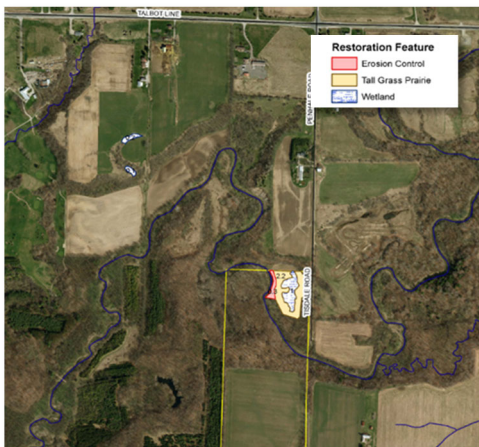
Erosion Control

This landowner was experiencing erosion that was progressively moving towards the field edge. The project consisted of the construction of a series of rock chute spillways designed to slow down and control the direction of surface water runoff. Sediment control basins/vernal pools were created in between the rock chute spillways to remove sediment from surface waters, while providing wildlife habitat.



Streambank Erosion Control

A 150 metre section of streambank was regraded and stabilized with rip-rap rock. The bank was then vegetated with native tree and shrub species with support from Environmental Leadership Program students at East Elgin Secondary School.

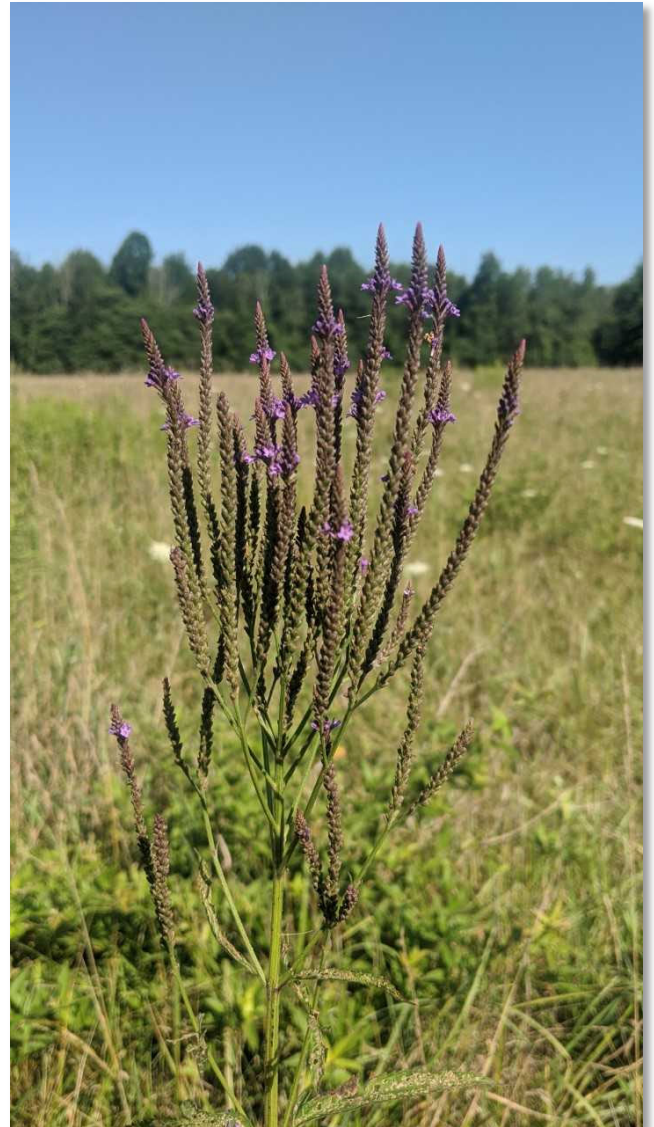


2021 PROGRAM SPONSORS



2021 LANDOWNER TESTIMONIALS

- “The ECWP fills a strong need by assisting in the development and creation of environmental stewardship projects that are of interest to the agricultural community as we focus on land preservation.”
- “I have recommended this program to other landowners, including a friend who applied and has had a very successful BMP project installed and has been very satisfied with both the support she received and the beneficial results of the projects.”
- “I look forward to growing more cover crops in 2022 and exploring new ways to integrate green cover to my cropping rotation and I hope that the Elgin Clean Water Program will continue to provide guidance and assistance to farmers interested in undertaking similar practices.”
- “I have experienced many benefits - significantly improved habitat, from insects/pollinators, to song birds, raptors and mammals of all types, from voles and deer to coyotes. The property is in much better balance.”
- “Without funding support from ECWP, I likely would not have been able to address this BMP project.”



The Elgin Clean Water Program is a partnership of:



www.elgincleanwater.ca