



**GROW**

Growing Outcomes in Watersheds

***Program Activity Catalogue***





*A home-grown ecological goods and services program for Manitoba supported by The Conservation Trust, a Manitoba Climate and Green Plan Initiative delivered by the Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC)*

**GROW will provide incentives for the delivery of Ecological Goods and Services on private lands in Agro-Manitoba. Incentives to landowners include annual payments for land enrolled in the program.**

Activities that are eligible in our local **GROW** program include:

1. **Wetland** conservation of Class 1 and Class 2 wetlands
2. **Riparian area** conservation
3. **Upland area** (Wooded and Grassland) conservation, (e.g., shelterbelts, multi-species buffer strips, woodlot management, grassland conservation, converting marginal cropland to grassland, soil health improvements)

**These activities will require varying levels of landowner implementation and maintenance. Landowners who apply and are approved for project implementation will enter a 10-year contract with the SLWD in which the management and maintenance requirements will be outlined.**

# 1. Wetland Activity

The purpose of the Wetland Activity is to conserve wetlands to provide ecological goods and services that include enhanced water storage; reduced peak flows, which can moderate the timing and volume of runoff and reduce negative impact downstream; improved water quality; protection to aquifers and enhancement of recharge; improved wildlife habitat and biodiversity, increased carbon sequestration.

## Eligible Practices:

**CONSERVATION** of existing **Class 1** and **Class 2** wetlands (pg. 3) on private lands. GROW prioritizes Class 1 and 2 wetlands on annual cropland due to a higher risk of loss and are not protected under current legislation. Continued cropping of these wetlands does not affect eligibility, as long as wetlands are not drained or filled. Class 1 and 2 wetlands in pastures, or in marginal lands are lower priority.

*Projects that are part of a compensation requirement under The Water Right Act are not eligible*

# Wetland Classification



Class 1 – Ephemeral Wetlands



Class 2 – Temporary Wetlands

## 2. Riparian Area Activity

The purpose of Riparian Area activity is to conserve areas (pg. 5), which are the lush, vegetated buffers adjacent to a body of water, such as rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands. This will provide improvements to surface water quality; water storage and flow reductions that reduce downstream flooding during high water events; greater landscape resiliency; carbon storage and sequestration; shoreline stabilization and erosion control; wildlife habitat and continuity and greater biodiversity.

### Eligible Practices:

**CONSERVATION** of existing healthy riparian areas on private lands that are high risk of loss

# Riparian Health

An **unhealthy riparian** area with basic characteristics such as:

- Weeds and undesirable plants are present
- Forage production is poor
- Little, if any, woody plant material
- Stream channel downcutting
- Streambanks eroding or slumping
- Exposed bare soil



A **healthy riparian** area with basic characteristics such as:

- No weeds and undesirable plant species
- Good forage production
- Woody plant material
- Stable stream channel
- Streambanks primarily stable
- Little or no bare soil exposed



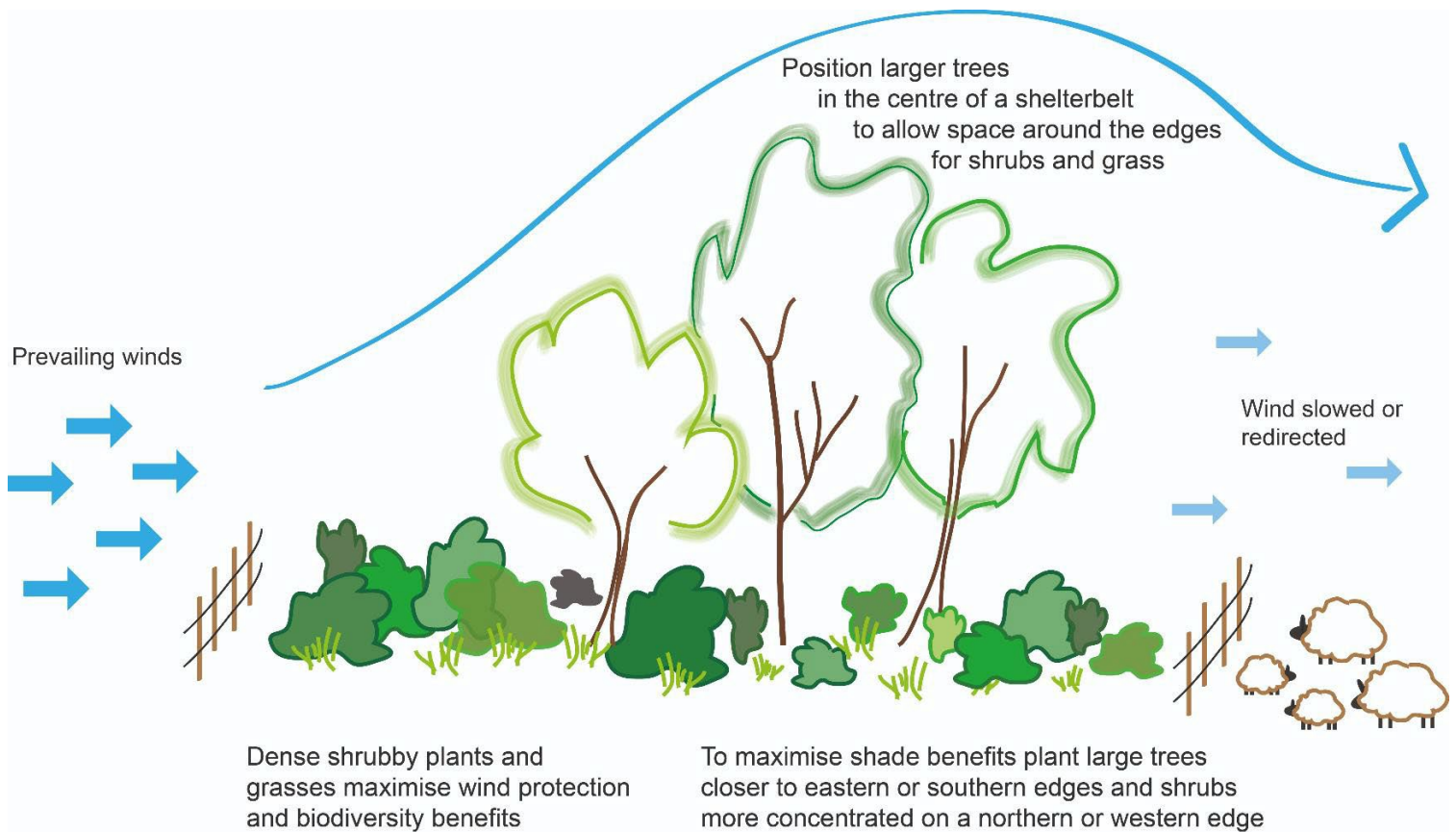
# 3. Upland Activity

Activities that pertain to the management of natural upland areas and areas that may be vulnerable to conversion to other land uses, such as cropping or development. Upland area conservation supports the health of natural areas to: improve the ecological function of natural and managed upland areas; promote healthy wildlife and pollinator habitat, and biodiversity; increase carbon sequestration and soil health; reduce soil erosion.

## Eligible Practices:

**CONSERVATION** of existing native or tame prairie grasses or highly erodible upland areas on private land such as shelterbelts (not around a yard site), tree bluffs, and other larger upland wooded areas.

# Shelterbelt Design



# Native Grasses

Southern Manitoba was once covered with Mixed Grass and Tall Grass Prairie, which contributed to our complex ecosystem. Native grasses and wildflowers deliver benefits that include improved soil health and provide habitat that supports pollinators (e.g., bees and butterflies) and wildlife (e.g., birds and deer).

Examples of **native grasses** are:

- Big and Little Bluestem
- Switchgrass
- Side Oats Grama
- Sweetgrass

Examples of **wildflowers** are:

- Yarrow
- Pasture Sage
- Whorled Milkweed
- Goldenrod

An example of a healthy, established Tall Grass Prairie (shown below)

