

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

2027



perthcounty.ca/stewardship

Perth County Stewardship Program



Three years of progress and growth

The Perth County Stewardship Program has supported community groups and landowners with stewardship projects since 2024. In 2025, the Living Snow Fence stream was added to support winter roadway safety and landowner soil and water conservation. Two applicants kicked off this new stream with sections of living snow fence installed in spring 2026. Two landowners have completed Forest Management Plans to manage their woodlands for future prosperity and resilience. In 2027, the Stewardship Program continues to support forest health, agricultural best management practices, and water quality protection. Perth County is dedicated to growing a greener future while cultivating opportunity, together.

Impact Snapshot

28,429

Trees planted with stewardship program assistance

43

Kilometers of windbreak established in Perth County

99

Project applications supported to date

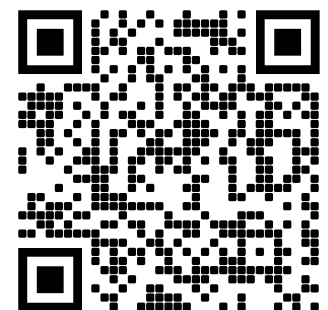


How do I plant a tree?

Whether it's your first time, or 100th time planting a tree, great advice and diagrams are available for planting ball-and-burlap, large stock trees, and seedlings.

Scan this QR code to learn more.

Or visit: thamesriver.on.ca/landowner-grants-stewardship/forestry-tree-planting/how-to-plant-your-trees/



Grant Streams

Each application stream supports landowners with targeted long-term stewardship action within Perth County. Eligible expenses vary by stream. For more information or questions, please get in touch with Perth County Staff.

Stream	Details	Maximum Grant
Forest Management Plan	Forest Management Plans support sustainable management strategies of woodlots and woodlands in Perth County. Done by a Registered Professional Forester.	\$1,000
Living Snow Fence	Supports rural landowners planting trees in a windbreak, 25-35 metres from the edge of the roadway to reduce snow drifting, improve visibility, and improve the safety of road users in the winter.	\$10,000 (up to 100% p.c.)
Landowner Tree Planting	Supports private landowners planting 50+ trees for windbreaks, block plantings, or buffers.	\$4,000 (up to 60% p.c.)
Community Tree Planting	Supports non-profit community groups, Conservation Authorities, or local municipalities in accomplishing restoration projects on public lands.	\$4,000 (up to 100% p.c.)

p.c. = project cost. All project locations must be within the municipal boundaries of Perth South, West Perth, North Perth, or Perth East. Applicants can combine funding from other cost-share programs up to 100% of project costs. More information is available for each stream on the Perth County Stewardship Program website.

Please note: Application support is contingent on the approval by County Council through the budget process and application review.

Key Dates

Application Intake	Grants Awarded	Final Reports Due
October 12, 2026 - January 22, 2027	February 2027	August 14, 2027
June 1, 2027 - September 3, 2027	October 2027	December 3, 2027

A fall application intake will only be offered if there are residual funds from the spring intake. If considering a fall project but want to ensure access to grant funds, an application can be made during the spring intake and the project completed in the fall, with council consent.

Eligible Expenses

Stream	Eligible Project	Eligible Expenses
Forest Management Plan	A forest management plan and/or silvicultural prescription created by a Registered Professional Forester in good standing of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.	Eligible: Registered Professional Forester services and applicable fees. Ineligible: HST, permit costs, and harvest tendering.
Living Snow Fence	Minimum of 50 trees and/or shrubs of one or more species planted in a parallel row to a roadway with the goal of reducing wind speed and snow load on the roadway and adjacent properties. Minimum lifespan of 15 years applies.	Eligible: Native trees and shrubs, site preparation (herbicide treatment, ground cover), tree protection products (e.g. mulch, coco mats, stakes, wraps, tree tubes), paid planting labour. Ineligible: HST, in-kind services, and permit costs.
Landowner Tree Planting	Minimum of 50 trees and/or shrubs of one or more species planted for a windbreak or a restoration plot. Projects with higher species diversity are scored in the evaluation preferentially.	Eligible: Native trees and shrubs, site preparation (herbicide treatment, ground cover), tree protection products (e.g. mulch, coco mats, stakes, wraps, tree tubes), paid planting labour. Ineligible: HST, in-kind services, and permit costs.
Community Tree Planting	Minimum of 50 trees and shrubs of one or more species planted on public or privately owned lands by a community group.	Eligible: Native trees and shrubs, site preparation (herbicide treatment, ground cover), tree protection products (e.g. mulch, coco mats, stakes, wraps, tree tubes). Ineligible: HST, in-kind services, and permit costs.

Expense eligibility are approved by the evaluation committee and are supported at the discretion of County Staff and Council.

How to Apply



Review how your project aligns with the program's eligibility criteria. Contact county staff, a contractor, or a Conservation Authority to make a planting plan.



The landowner or contractor may apply to the program using the online form or printable forms. Quotes, approvals, and the project plan are required.



Applications are reviewed by Perth County staff, committee, and council, and are scored using evaluation criteria. Successful applicants are notified.



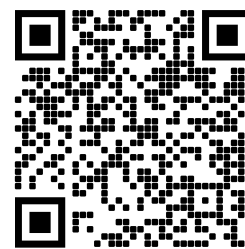
Project work is led by the landowner or applicant. A final report must be submitted using the online form upon project completion. Grant funds are sent electronically upon receipt of the final report.

Submitting an Application

Applications must be submitted before the closing date specified in this guide. Applications received after the closing date and time or incomplete applications will not be considered for that application intake. Visit the program webpage for more information:

www.perthcounty.ca/stewardship

Application forms may be submitted online through the Perth County Stewardship Program webpage (preferred), or delivered in hard copy to the Perth County Courthouse at: 1 Huron Street, Stratford ON, N5A 5S4.



Visit the Perth County website to access application forms, final report forms, and supporting resources.

Questions about the application process can be directed to the Perth County Resiliency and Stewardship Coordinator:

hcann@perthcounty.ca
519-271-0531 x 420

Stewardship Tips

Species Diversity

Tree planting projects with higher species diversity improve resilience to disturbances, provide high quality habitat, and improve the land's ability to mitigate extreme weather events. All species used in planting plans must be native to Southwestern Ontario, with the exception of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*). Landscaping plants are often non-native.

Multi-Property Projects

Habitat fragmentation, the absence of linking corridors between ecosystems, is a key threat to resilience and contributes to declining biological diversity. Projects that link natural assets are valuable to our landscape. Large projects that cross multiple properties can be submitted under one application, as long as all landowners agree to support the project. For example: a windbreak following a creek flowing across multiple farm fields linking two forest areas.

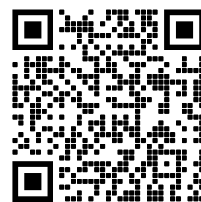
Landowner Annual Caps

The Perth County Stewardship Program has been oversubscribed in two of the three years it has been offered. In order to support as many unique applicants as possible, in 2027 applicants will be limited to one naturalization project. Additional applications for the same property may be proposed in following years. County staff can advise landowners of other available external cost-share programs to support each project.



Is this tree native?

Check out the Ontario Tree Atlas. Perth County is within the Southwest Zone:





Perth County is committed to a green and sustainable future.

Thank you to today's and tomorrow's applicants for joining us in advancing resilience and sustainability in Perth County.

Questions? Contact Us

**Perth County
Stewardship Program**

www.perthcounty.ca/stewardship

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