



Tall Grass Prairie Stewardship Credit Pilot Program

The Stewardship Credit Pilot Program (SCPP) is a five year pilot program (2021-2026) delivered jointly by the R.M. of Stuartburn and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The tall-grass prairie ecosystem is one of the most ecologically valuable and endangered ecosystems in the world, with less than 1% remaining in Canada. Through this pilot program, the R.M. of Stuartburn and NCC hope to acknowledge the important role that locals have played in protecting and managing the rare habitats and species within the region, and to further support these efforts through annual incentive payments and cost-shared opportunities.

Program Values

The Stewardship Credit Pilot Program is guided by the following values:

1. Results-based

Participants will be encouraged to use their expertise and innovation to deliver positive results for native habitats and species in a way which works best for them and their property. Payments will be made to participants solely based upon the results delivered.

2. Non-prescriptive

Using this approach, participants will have the freedom and flexibility to choose how they manage their property to achieve results. If desired, participants can reach out to NCC and the Community Program Liaison for any management suggestions or additional resources.

3. Adaptive

This approach allows participants to develop individualized management plans for their property. The flexibility of this program also recognizes the need for participants to adapt their management plans throughout the year due to changing environmental factors.

4. Confidential

Participants, NCC, and the Community Program Liaison will sign a confidentiality agreement to assure that information about the participant's property, including the presence of endangered and threatened species, will never be shared to other organizations or third parties outside of NCC without express permission.





Tall-grass prairie; Photo by NCC Staff

How Payments Work

Habitat-based Payments

This pilot program aims to increase the quality and quantity of native habitat on participants' property. Each year, the condition of the habitat on participants' property will be assessed, and will be provided a score out of ten. Each score will be assigned to a payment level, with higher payments made for higher scores. Payments range from \$2/acre to \$45/acre. Payments will be made once a year and on a per acre basis.

Once enrolled in the habitat-based component of the program, participants may be eligible for additional payments under the following voluntary program components:

Target Species Payments

With critically endangered species in the area, additional per acre payments will be made for the presence of target species on participants' property. Target species include: western prairie-fringed orchid, Poweshiek skipperling and western silvery aster.

Cost-shared Payments

To help improve scores, all participants will be eligible for a one-time cost-shared (50/50) investment into their property up to \$10,000. Examples of these investments include the installation of livestock fencing, brush control, or control of invasive species. These cost-shared opportunities will be presented by the participant to NCC who will consider projects on a case-by-case basis.

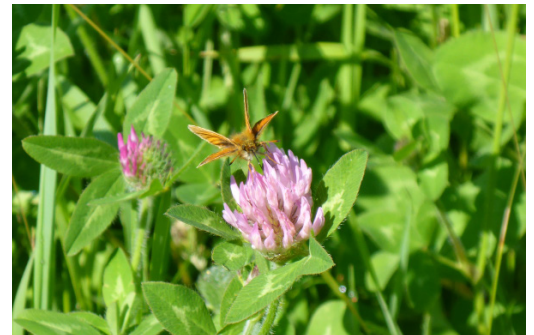
Eligibility

All residents in the outlined program area (see on third page) with native prairie may be eligible to participate in the program. This includes production and recreational land, municipal land, conservation easements, industry lands and more.

An initial site visit may be required to confirm eligibility.

If interested, please contact Norm Gregoire, the Community Program Liaison, R.M. of Stuartburn.

Applications are currently open.



Poweshiek skipperling; Photo by NCC Staff

Contact Information

Community Program Liaison

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Prairie lilies; Photo by NCC staff

Program Area

The program area (see below) is a 445,628 hectare landscape located in southeastern Manitoba. The rich diversity of the area provides many benefits including increased water quality, the pollination of crops, flood mitigation and better livestock health. In turn, this abundant landscape is home to some of the rarest prairie landscapes in the world, with over 1,000 different documented species; seven of which are recognized as globally imperiled.

Only with the continued efforts of locals can we keep these last wild spaces intact for future generations to enjoy.

