

# **WATER FUND**

## **2026 Applicant's Guide**

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# Available Funding

The Water Fund is a cost-sharing program that supports environmental projects.

Landowner projects may be approved for up to 50% of the **total project cost\***, to a maximum of \$4,000. Approved projects will receive funds after the project is completed and reporting documents are submitted.

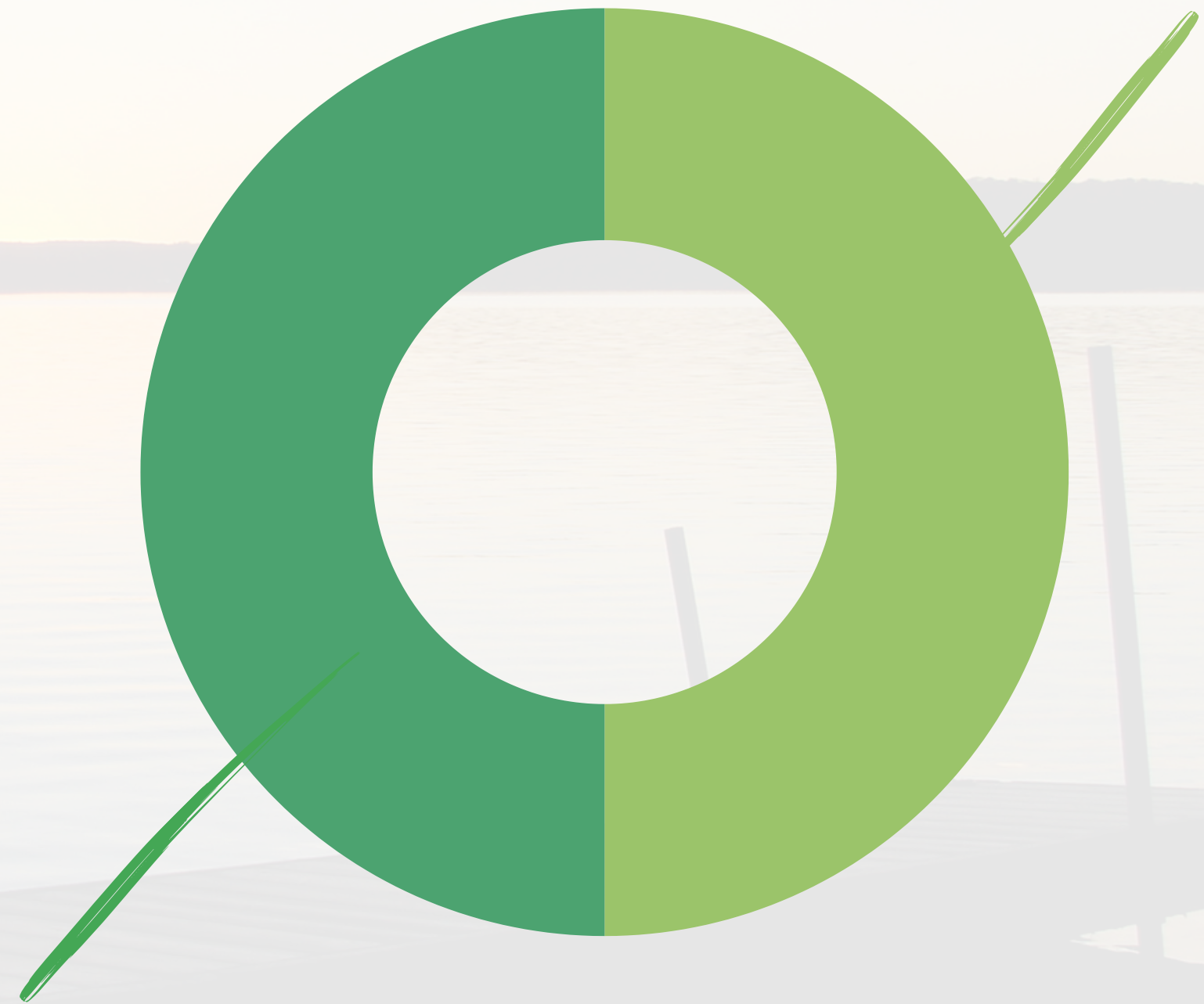
*\*The **total project cost** excludes HST.*

Community projects may be approved for more than 50% of the **total project cost**, amounts vary per funding year.



50% Water Fund  
Grant Contribution

50% Landowner  
Contribution



# Eligibility

## Applicants must be landowners within:

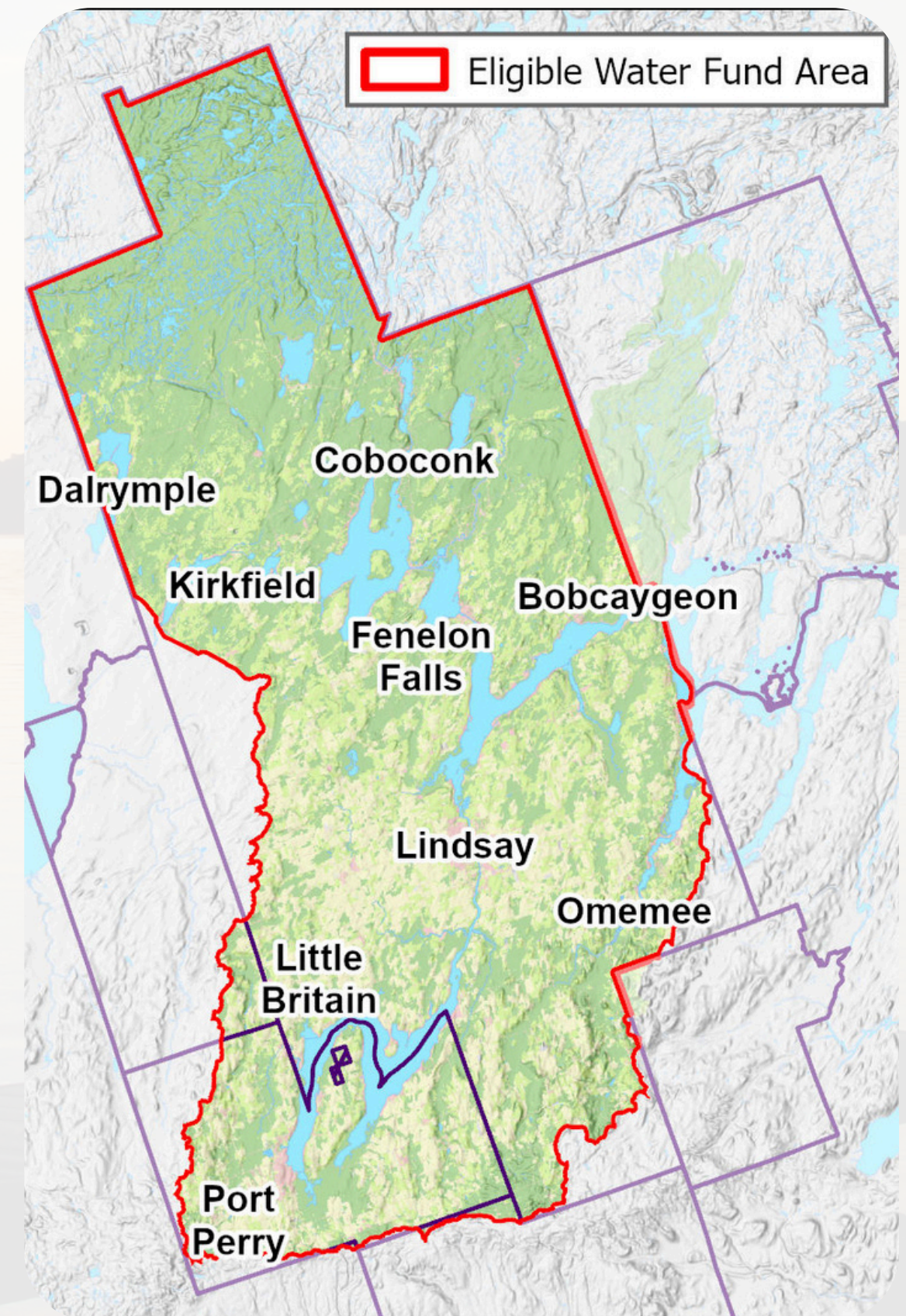
- the Kawartha watershed and City of Kawartha Lakes
- the Kawartha watershed and Durham Region
- or an area in City of Kawartha Lakes not covered by another Conservation Authority

## OR community organizations within:

- the Kawartha Watershed and City of Kawartha Lakes
- or an area in City of Kawartha Lakes not covered by another Conservation Authority

## Priority will be given to:

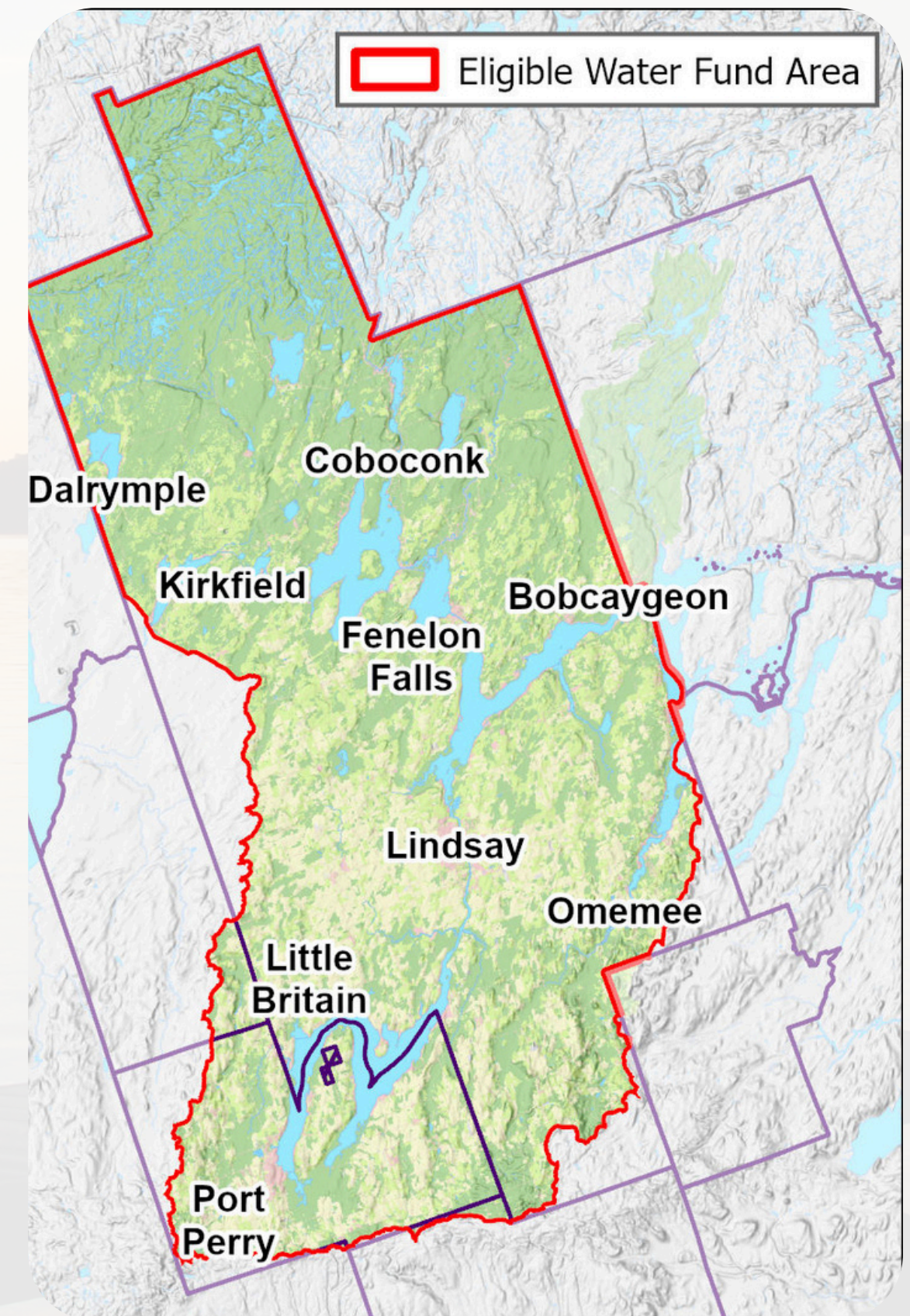
- Projects near water
- Projects that improve water quality
- First-time applicants



# Who Can Apply?

To be eligible for the Kawartha Conservation Water Fund, you must be a landowner or community organization located within the **City of Kawartha Lakes** or a landowner within specific areas of **Durham Region**.

If you're unsure whether your property falls within the watershed, check the map or contact us for clarification.



# Ineligible Costs

- Hardened shoreline structures
- Non-native or invasive plant species
- Pond construction
- Private new well construction, well pumps, and water purification or treatment systems
- New septic systems, septic repairs, septic replacements
- Purchase of equipment to complete projects
- Stocking of ponds, or stocking of property with game
- Projects that have already begun or been completed
- Other expenses not recommended by the Water Fund Review Committee or approved by Kawartha Conservation
- HST

# AGRICULTURAL

## Project Ideas:

- Water management (eavestroughs, alternate watering systems, tile drain control boxes, livestock exclusion fencing)
- Naturalization (tree, shrub, and native plants)
- Other Best Management Practices (BMPs): cover crops, manure storage, windrows and vegetated buffers, etc.

## Applicant Tips:

- Emphasize the following where possible:
  - proximity to lakes and/or rivers
  - impact on water quality
  - impact on farm operations
- Water and sediment erosion control structures (WASCoBs) must be designed and overseen by a certified engineer or erosion control structure designer following OMAFA standards



# TREE PLANTING

## Project Ideas:

- Small scale block planting (< 500 trees)
- Windbreak planting
- Other - get in touch with our team!

## Applicant Tips:

- Only native species will be funded - check out the [Ontario Tree Atlas](#) for support
- Ensure you are accounting for an appropriate number of plants by spacing at the following recommended densities:
  - Trees: 1 tree/4m<sup>2</sup>
  - Shrubs: 1 shrub/m<sup>2</sup>



# SEPTIC AND WELL

## Project Ideas:

- Septic system replacements, septic system upgrades using innovative technology (No new septic systems)
- Well upgrades and decommissions (No new wells)

## Applicant Tips:

- **Septic:**
  - Septic projects must be within 100 metres of lakes and/or rivers
  - Prepare to provide information about the current septic system vs. what it is being replaced with.
- **Well:**
  - Any proposed work must be completed by a licensed well contractor as per *O. Reg. 903*
  - Well upgrade projects as stipulated in *O. Reg. 903* require a well tag and a well record



# URBAN

## Project Ideas:

- Naturalization (planting native trees, shrubs, and/or perennials)
- Rainwater management methods (raingardens, rain barrels, French drains, other green infrastructure projects)
- Other - get in touch with our team!

## Applicant Tips:

- Only native species will be funded
- Emphasize the following where possible:
  - proximity to lakes and/or rivers
  - impact on stormwater management
  - impact on local environment and biodiversity

# WATERFRONT

## Project Ideas:

- Naturalization (planting native trees, shrubs, and/or perennials)
- Erosion control with sloped stone and native plants
- Other - get in touch with our team!

## Applicant Tips:

- 75% of the length of **all erosion control projects** must be planted with native vegetation
- Only native plants will be funded. Ensure you are accounting for an appropriate number of plants by spacing at the following recommended densities:
  - Trees: 1 tree/4m<sup>2</sup>
  - Shrubs: 1 shrub/1m<sup>2</sup>
  - Perennials: 4 perennials/1m<sup>2</sup>

# COMMUNITY

## Applicants to the Community Fund Must Be:

- Not-for-profit organizations / registered charities
- Primarily operating in the City of Kawartha Lakes

## Applicant Tips:

- Emphasize the following where possible:
  - impact on water quality
  - community education
  - community engagement and/or research
- If the proposed project requires access and/or alteration to public or private land, permission from the landowner must be obtained prior to proposal submission and proof of permission must be attached with the application
- The organization signing officer must submit the application





# APPLICANT'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Estimated costs of materials and supplies
- ☐ Estimated contractor fees (attach a professional estimate)
- ☐ Estimated number of in-kind hours (unpaid time you and your project partners will spend creating the project)
- ☐ Photos of your project site from all directions
- ☐ Completed phone or site consultation with a Kawartha Conservation team member (strongly advised)