

Fishing Lake Berm Fund: Shoreline Protection Program Profile

Water Security Agency

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Overview

The Fishing Lake Berm Fund was created in 2014 to provide cost shared funding to the Fishing Lake Watershed Association, RM of Sasman, RM of Foam Lake, Resort Village of Chorney Beach and Resort Village of Leslie Beach for the maintenance of the constructed berms, and then was expanded in 2017 to include cost shared funding for maintenance of the emergency channel and associated control structures between Hazel Lake and Newburn Lake.

Due to ongoing high-water levels in 2026 and availability of funding through the Fishing Lake Berm Fund, the Water Security Agency (WSA) is making available, on a one-time basis, 50 per cent cost shared funding up to a maximum of $5,000 to individual lakefront property owners at Fishing Lake that do not have an existing berm for the purpose of purchasing and installing rock for shoreline protection.

The program provides cost-sharing assistance for shoreline protection measures provided:

- the work is described as eligible in this program profile and provides permanent shoreline protection to a lakefront property at Fishing Lake that is not otherwise protected by an existing berm;
- eligible costs are incurred between April 1, 2026 and January 31, 2027;
- all invoices, proof of payment, after photos and any other required documentation must be received on or before February 15, 2027;
- rock must:
    - be obtained from outside the bed, bank or boundary of any watercourse or water body;
    - be clean and free from fine sediment or other contaminants; and
    - be an average diameter of 30 cm (12 inches) to withstand the forces of current, wave and/or ice action; and
    - follow the natural contour of the shoreline and placed on a stable slope.
- projects must follow the guidelines in WSA's Shoreline Stabilization Environmental Protection Plan; and
- the applicable regulatory approvals are obtained prior to the start of work (e.g. Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit, municipal development permit, etc.).

Landscaping, sand or beach development, slope failure, flood protection for cropland, pastureland, orchards, golf courses or gardens and temporary shoreline protection measures (e.g. sandbags, etc.) are not covered under this program.

The program will not provide funding for flood protection measures that qualify for assistance under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) administered by the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

Process

- Application intake will occur from November 15, 2026 to December 15, 2026.
- Upon the Water Security Agency (WSA) receiving the application and cost estimates from the client, the application will be reviewed to ensure program criteria are met.
- Upon approval of the shoreline protection project, the client (RM of Sasman, RM of Foam Lake, Resort Village of Chorney Beach, Resort Village of Leslie Beach, Fishing Lake Watershed Association, or individual) is required to sign an agreement with WSA outlining the shoreline protection measures to be implemented, the cost-sharing rates and other terms satisfactory to the WSA.
- Once an agreement is signed, the client will secure any required permits or approvals and undertake the work or hire a contractor. Upon completion of the work, original paid receipts must be submitted to the WSA for payment in accordance with the cost-sharing provisions. The WSA will not be responsible for interest charges on client paid or unpaid invoices.
- Final payment to the client is subject to the receipt of required documentation by February 15, 2027 (e.g., invoices, photos, and paid receipts).
- If the work was previously completed, after April 1, 2026 and before November 15, 2026, paid invoices, proof of payment, copies of any applicable permits, and photos of the project will be required with the application.
- As a condition for assistance, the client shall hold the Water Security Agency and its agents and consultants contracted to the Water Security Agency, harmless from all damages or claims that may result from works undertaken pursuant to this program.

Assistance Available

Shoreline protection measures must adhere to all federal and provincial regulatory requirements.

Shoreline protection measures include those that are permanent:

- **Purchase and placement of rock to protect shorelines from ongoing wind and wave action and provide long-term shoreline protection. Emergency permanent flood protection measures covered by the program include*:**
    - Purchase and delivery of rock
        - Rock must be obtained from outside of the bed, bank or boundary of any watercourse or water body
        - Rock must be appropriately sized to withstand the forces of wave and/or ice action, with a minimum average diameter of 30cm (12 inches).
    - Washing of rock
        - Rock must be clean and free from fine sediment or other contaminants prior to being installed
    - Installation of rock by a qualified contractor
        - Rock installation must follow the natural contour of the shoreline and be placed on a stable slope. Construction of berms is not eligible under this program.

**An Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit may be required.*

Measures not covered by the program:

- Sandbags, sand, or sandbagging efforts
- Temporary pumping
- Purchase and installation of large totes, barrels or other temporary shoreline protection measures or equipment
- Temporary ditching or dyking
- Purchase or deployment of reusable water tubes or aqua dams
- Berm construction
- Channel clearing
- Snow removal and culvert steaming
- Slope failure mitigation or protection
- Protection of boathouses and docks
- Landscaping
- Beach development or redevelopment
- Protection, maintenance or development of public roads or private farm access roads
- Actions or materials eligible for funding under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program

Eligible costs:

- Rock with a minimum average diameter of 30cm (12 inches)
- Cleaning/washing of appropriately sized rock prior to installation
- Installation and/or placement of appropriately sized rock on the natural contour of the shoreline
- Road haul levies as part of materials costs (typically included in costs charged by contractors)
- Delivery costs associated with having the rock brought to the property
- Contracted labour or overtime labour for employees of the client or employees hired specifically to implement shoreline protection measures
- Equipment rental (e.g., machinery)
- Geotextile fabric

Ineligible costs:

- Costs associated with sandbagging, temporary shoreline protection measures, temporary ditching or dyking and channel clearing
- Pumping
- Purchase of a pump or associated pumping equipment
- Purchase and installation of large totes, barrels or other temporary shoreline protection measures or equipment
- Purchase of materials sourced from the client's own land (clay, sand, rock, etc.)
- Purchase or deployment of reusable temporary mitigation products (refillable dykes, water tubes, etc.)
- Purchase of machinery
- Repairs to buildings
- Breaching or repair of washed out roads
- Landscaping
- Sand, gravel or other material
- Non-overtime labour for employees
- Voluntary labour
- Food, refreshment or equipment purchases (e.g., tools, gloves, etc.)
- Rental of hand tools or power tools owned or purchased by the client
- Fees for permits from government agencies
- Costs of extraction and reclamation when materials are sourced from client's own land
- Clients' use of their own machinery, unless client is a qualified contractor and charges are at standard industry rates
- Provincial Sales Tax
- Goods and Services Tax

Cost-Sharing

Cost-shared financial assistance will be provided by the Water Security Agency to eligible clients at 50 per cent of costs for rock and rock installation for the purpose of permanent shoreline protection measures in areas at Fishing Lake that do not have an existing berm.

Program Contact

Please contact the Water Security Agency at 1-866-727-5420.