



Working With Nature

Using Natural Infrastructure
to Mitigate Flood and Drought

Introduction to the Toolkit

THE WORKING WITH NATURE PROCESS

Components

The **Working With Nature** (WWN) process is designed to guide small-to-medium-sized municipalities through a process of identifying hazards and risks associated with flood and drought, understanding the natural infrastructure assets that could help mitigate those risks, and then creating a prioritized action plan to maximize the effectiveness of their natural infrastructure assets.

The process includes group work that is to be completed in scheduled workshops and meetings, as well as individual assignments that are coordinated and managed by your team leader.

The Three W's

Your team will complete the process by working through tasks using three different tools.

The workbook is the starting point and the 'final' product. Participants work through the process of populating the workbook.

The worksheets are used to capture the individual input of participants (i.e., the municipal personnel gathered together as the Natural Infrastructure Working Group or Team).

The workshops allow your Team to collect and vet information as a group.



Getting Started

Organize and schedule leadership support, natural infrastructure team and necessary background research.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

WORKSHOP ONE

1

Goals and Principles

Articulate hoped-for outcomes and the way values will guide what is done.

2

Hazards and Risks

Articulate the hazards the municipality is worried about and the risks that might be expected.

3

Natural Infrastructure

Catalogue existing natural infrastructure assets in community.

4

Actions

Articulate, detail and prioritize actions to employ natural infrastructure in support of flood and drought mitigation.

WORKBOOK CLEANED

WORKSHOP TWO

POLICY MEETING

5

Policy Development

Transform the completed workbook into policy-based direction.

ACTIONS DETAILED
ACTIONS PRIORITIZED

WORKBOOK FINALIZED

Ready to take action!

Getting Started

Getting Started

The WWN process could be initiated at any level but needs to be taken on as an official project of the municipality. A team and point person will be identified, and preliminary background research to determine hazards and risks will need to be completed.

PRELIMINARY WORK COMPLETED

- Initiation tasks
- Collect basic background information

WORKSHOP ONE (FULL DAY RECOMMENDED):

- Convene your Team
- Start populating the workbook
- Articulate the municipality's goals
- Clarifying the hazards/risks
- Identify natural infrastructure

1

Goals and Principles

Goals and Principles

This step gets participants to articulate what they hope their efforts will lead to in terms of outcomes for the municipality (the **Goals**), as well as articulating how they plan to operate in the course of getting there (the **Principles**).

2

Hazards and Risks

Hazards and Risks

This step gets participants to articulate the **Hazards** (i.e., the bad situations they are worried about like flooded neighbourhoods and fires), and the **Risks** (i.e., the losses that they would expect if those bad situations happened—e.g., human casualties and damaged property).

3

Natural Infrastructure

Natural Infrastructure

This step gets participants to identify, map, and catalogue the actual **natural infrastructure assets** in their community, including fully natural and built/engineered features.

WORKBOOK CLEANED

After the first workshop is complete, there will be many loose ends that need to be cleaned up and then reflected in the Workbook. These include:

- Updating the goals and risk information based on the feedback at the workshop
- Ensure all Team Member worksheets have been collected and reflected in the workbook as necessary
- Collate the natural infrastructure information from the mapping exercise
- Circulate the now clean, but incomplete WWN Workbook to Team Members

WORKSHOP TWO

(HALF DAY RECOMMENDED):

- Team works through the Actions tab of the Workbook
- Team brainstorms actions
- Actions are discussed and added to the Workbook
- Team reviews next steps

4

Actions

Actions

This step gets participants to articulate and detail the **informed Actions** that the municipality will take to better employ natural infrastructure in support of flood and drought mitigation.

ACTIONS DETAILED

Workshop Two will not allow time for all the details of the various Actions to be captured. All Team Members have to commit to going back to their office, completing the details for the Actions assigned to them, and returning those to your Team Leader. Only once the details have been added can your team move on to the Prioritization stage.

ACTIONS PRIORITIZED

Completion of the Action development stage leaves the municipality with a long aspirational list and limited resources. Working With Nature comes with a separate Prioritization tool. Your Team Leader coordinates this process, providing a separate worksheet for each person, then collating them to come up with a consensus-based prioritized action list. This task was designed to be done through email exchanges, but could be done in a workshop environment.

WORKBOOK FINALIZED

The WWN Workbook becomes the living resource document for your team. Your Team Leader circulates the Workbook for final comments, and makes the determination that the Workbook is 'finished'.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

- Reconvene your Team
- Determine best form for the Plan
- Ensuring Plan's sustainability
- Strategy for monitoring its effectiveness

5

Policy Development

Policy Development

This step gets participants to take the final step from a completed workbook, to a policy-based direction.

**Ready
to take
action!**

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