

An aerial photograph showing a landscape with a winding waterway or stream that meanders through a wetland area. The wetland is characterized by brownish, marshy vegetation. To the left of the waterway is a large, dark brown, tilled agricultural field. To the right is a vibrant green field, possibly corn. In the background, a paved road runs horizontally, lined with trees displaying autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. A few houses are visible in the distance. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

# Middlesex Clean Water Program



## 3 Pillars of the Clean Water Program



**Technical** and **Financial** assistance to improve and protect water quality.



**Research** and **Demonstration** to develop and share new BMP's practices and test effectiveness.



**Marketing** and **Education** knowledge transfer.

### Program Management

- All aspects of the program are determined by the Steering Committee.
- Committee approves all projects and provides guidance for changes over time.
- Staff carry out field delivery of the program and any needed research or information to assist the Committee.
- Staff carry out clerical responsibilities.
- Website and database updates.

**Streamlined project process: technical and financial assistance through one delivery agent.**



## **Categories of Clean Water Program:**

Proportion of funds for each category directed by County priorities.

### **Milkhouse Washwater Disposal**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$2,000

### **Clean Water Diversion**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$3,000

### **Livestock Access Restriction from Watercourses**

- Grant Rate: 50% of the cost of an installed fence project or 70% for self-installed fence
- Maximum Grant: \$3,000

### **Nutrient Management Plans**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$500

### **Wellhead Protection**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$500

### **Decommissioning Unused Wells**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$500

### **Fertilizer, Chemical and Fuel Storage or Handling**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$500

### **Septic Systems**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$4,000

### **Erosion Control Structures**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$3,000

### **Fragile Land Retirement**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$2,000

### **Woodlands Conservation / Enhancement**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$2,000

### **Wetlands Conservation / Enhancement**

- Grant Rate: 50%
- Maximum Grant: \$3,000

### **Cover Crops (UTRCA)**

- Grant Rate: \$30/ac
- Maximum Payment: \$3,000



Landowners in Middlesex County have a long history of taking positive stewardship actions in local watersheds.

### **Last 3 years:**

- \$90,000 contribution from County
- \$152,000 in total grants allocated
- \$486,000 in total project costs
- 100 projects approved
- 9 rejected (outside program criteria)

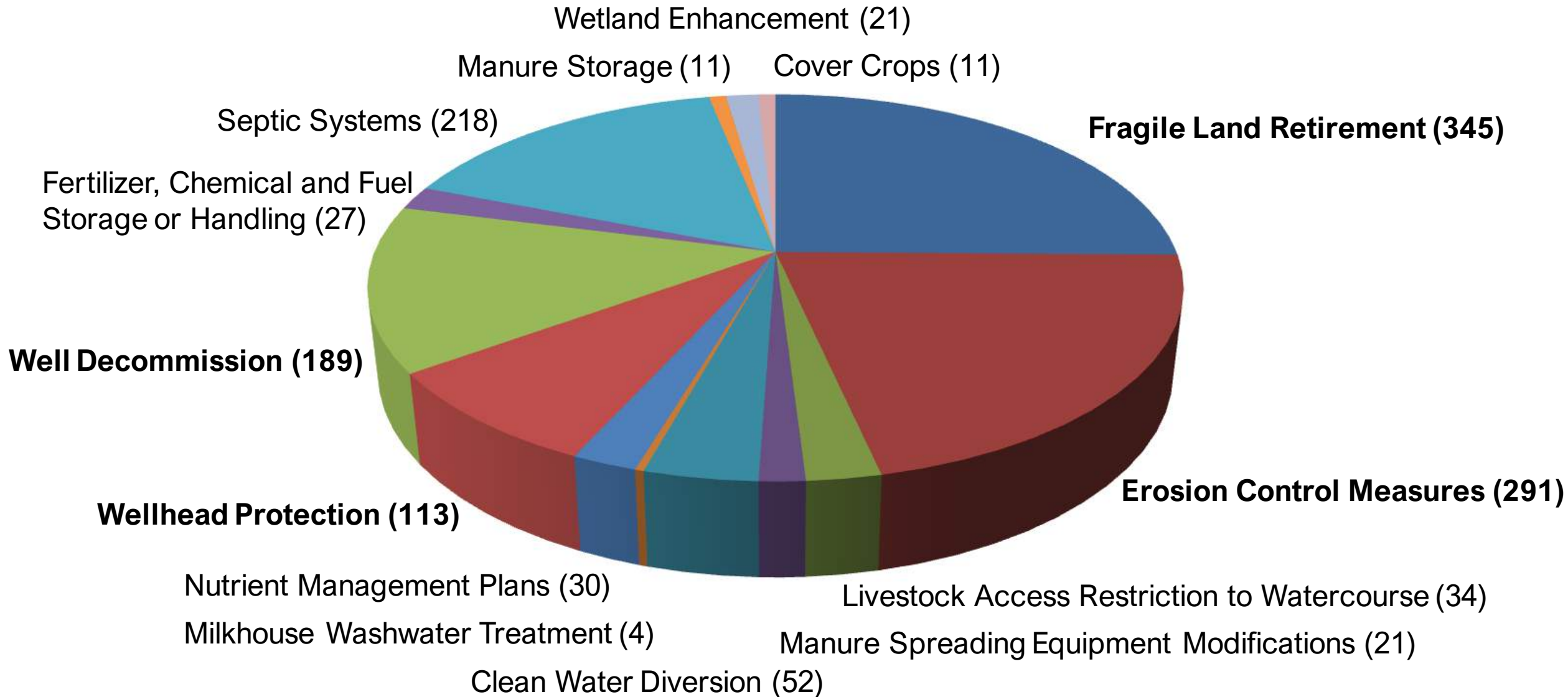
### **Over 40 years:**

- \$ 5 million in project costs
- \$ 2.1 million in grants

**1367 Clean Water Projects in the County**



# Middlesex County Program Numbers



\*Bolded items represent priority and highly requested categories



## Erosion Control Measures

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Broad and narrow based berms

Grassed waterways

Terraces

Streambank stabilization

Rock chutes

UTRCA and ABCA staff are certified agricultural erosion control contractors to design projects that meet OMAFRA Soil Erosion Standards.







## **Well Decommission**

Prevent groundwater contamination via improperly abandoned or unused wells by encouraging the proper decommissioning of wells that are dry or no longer used.

## **Wellhead Protection**

Reduce the risk of contamination of well water by implementing proper construction and maintenance practices and safeguards for existing wells.





## Fragile Land Retirement

- Block planting of slopes or floodplains
- Field windbreaks
- Buffer strips along watercourses

**17,000 trees planted in Middlesex in 2022**





## Fragile Land Retirement

- Wetland enhancement
- Prairie





## Leverage funds to do more projects and new projects with landowners.

- Since 2020 **cover crop** funding available in UTRCA watershed.
- Cover crop programs also exist in SCRCA, LTVCA, ABCA for Middlesex landowners.





## Local Research and Demonstration Projects

- Saturated Buffer
- Thorndale Demo Farm
  - Multiple stewardship practices showcased on one farm
- Upper Medway water quality monitoring
  - Year-round sampling
  - Cover crop project
  - Controlled drainage
  - Slag filter





## Project Momentum

- In-stream restoration
- Riffles and pools
- Bioengineering
- Friends of group plantings
- Community and school group plantings
- Pollinator gardens
- Stream of Dreams





## Knowledge Transfer

- Tours
- Workshops
- Videos
- Social Media
- Presentations
- Field Days
- Factsheets
- News Articles



**Middlesex farmers actively participate in knowledge transfer activities through CA's or partner agencies.**



## Drives deliver of local actions and recommendations

- Actions in Watershed Report Cards
- Water quality priorities
- Climate change mitigation

"UTRCA water and sediment control technical expertise intertwines with practical farming. Projects work with farm equipment, so they are logistically feasible and protect the environment as much as possible. Knowing upfront what funds are available to farmers has helped to construct and upgrade several berms on the property. When the creek flows full through my property, I know my soil is not in there."

-Jamie Payton, Farmer in Thames Centre





**Cumulative Impact:** Opportunities to partner for additional grants and leverage funds for projects.

**Recent Partners in Middlesex Include:**

Conservation Ontario  
ALUS Middlesex  
Duck's Unlimited  
Forests Ontario  
Ontario Land Trust Alliance  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Middlesex Federation of Agriculture  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Friends of Medway  
Oneida Nation of the Thames  
University of Waterloo  
University of Guelph  
Western University  
Thames River Anglers Association  
Local Lions and Rotary Clubs  
Local Community Organizations  
TVDSB and LDCSB  
Local businesses  
St. Clair Region CA and partners  
Ausable Bayfield CA and partners  
Kettle Creek CA and partners  
Lower Thames CA and partners  
Middlesex Landowners







Thank you for your support of stewardship projects in Middlesex County!

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