

Community Preparedness



Keeping Water Moving: Building Resilience Through Channel Clearing



The Water Security Agency's Channel Clearing & Drainage Project Maintenance Rebate Program helps reduce flooding of roads and agricultural land by keeping creeks and drainage channels clear. Over time, watercourses can become blocked by sediment, vegetation, fallen trees and beaver activity. When water cannot flow properly, it can spill onto fields, roads and nearby infrastructure.

This program provides cost-shared financial support to rural municipalities, small urban municipalities, watershed association boards, conservation and development associations, and individual landowners. This cost-shared funding supports the removal of blockages from natural watercourses, as well as eligible approved drainage maintenance work. Keeping channels open allows water to move safely across the landscape, reducing potential flood risks.

Why It Matters

Healthy water flow is essential for protecting infrastructure, farmland and natural systems. When channels and ditches become blocked, flooding can damage roads, disrupt agricultural operations and affect nearby communities. Maintained watercourses also support healthy riparian areas along rivers, streams and wetlands. These natural buffers help slow water, reduce erosion, filter sediment and protect aquatic habitat. By supporting regular channel maintenance, the program helps communities and landowners take practical steps to manage water responsibly, reduce flood impacts and maintain resilient landscapes that continue to function under changing conditions.

Link to Related Information

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