

NOVEMBER 2022

# Grassland Stewardship Initiative

Funding Application



## Funding Application: Grassland Stewardship Initiative November 2022

**Please submit applications and/or questions to Rebecca Pearce-Cameron, Grasslands Restoration Coordinator:**

Email: [rpearce-cameron@forestsontario.ca](mailto:rpearce-cameron@forestsontario.ca)

Phone: 1-416-646-1193 ext. 236

*\*\*Please see "GSI Funding Information" document for details including GSI program information, project eligibility guidelines, application completion guidance and appendices.*

### Important Timelines:

- Deadline for call for proposals: 3pm January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Project activities start: spring, 2023

### Funding Application Checklist:

**\*\*Please review and complete application checklist prior to submission** to the Grassland Stewardship Initiative.

- Reviewed GSI Funding Information Document
- Applicant information (name, title, organization, phone, email)
- Project Information (ownership, property and project size, property address and project location information including latitude and longitude, landowner contact, historic land use)
- Project description
- Site plan and map(s), photos
- Site Suitability Assessment (SSA)
- Habitat Quality Assessment (HQA)
- Work Plan and Budget spreadsheet attached
- Project Funding Summary spreadsheet attached
- Supplementary documents attached (required: any species mix/seed source used on site; other: see GSI Funding Information Appendix B for suggestions)

**Applicant Information**

Name, Title:
Organization:
Phone:
Email:

**Property Information**

Group of properties and/or landowners involved:	Ownership:	
Total Property Size (hectares)	Property Address:	
City:	Postal:	
County:	Lot:	
Concession:	Township:	Farm business registration number (if applicable):
Main Contact:	Phone:	Email:

**Project Information**

Project Size (hectares):	Project Category (select all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> CREATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENHANCEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> MAINTENANCE
Site Latitude (decimal degrees format):	Site Longitude (decimal degrees format):

**Land use on site over the last three years:**

(select all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned field                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay/pasture land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Privately owned farm/grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Fallow           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active row crop land           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:           |

**Project Description:**

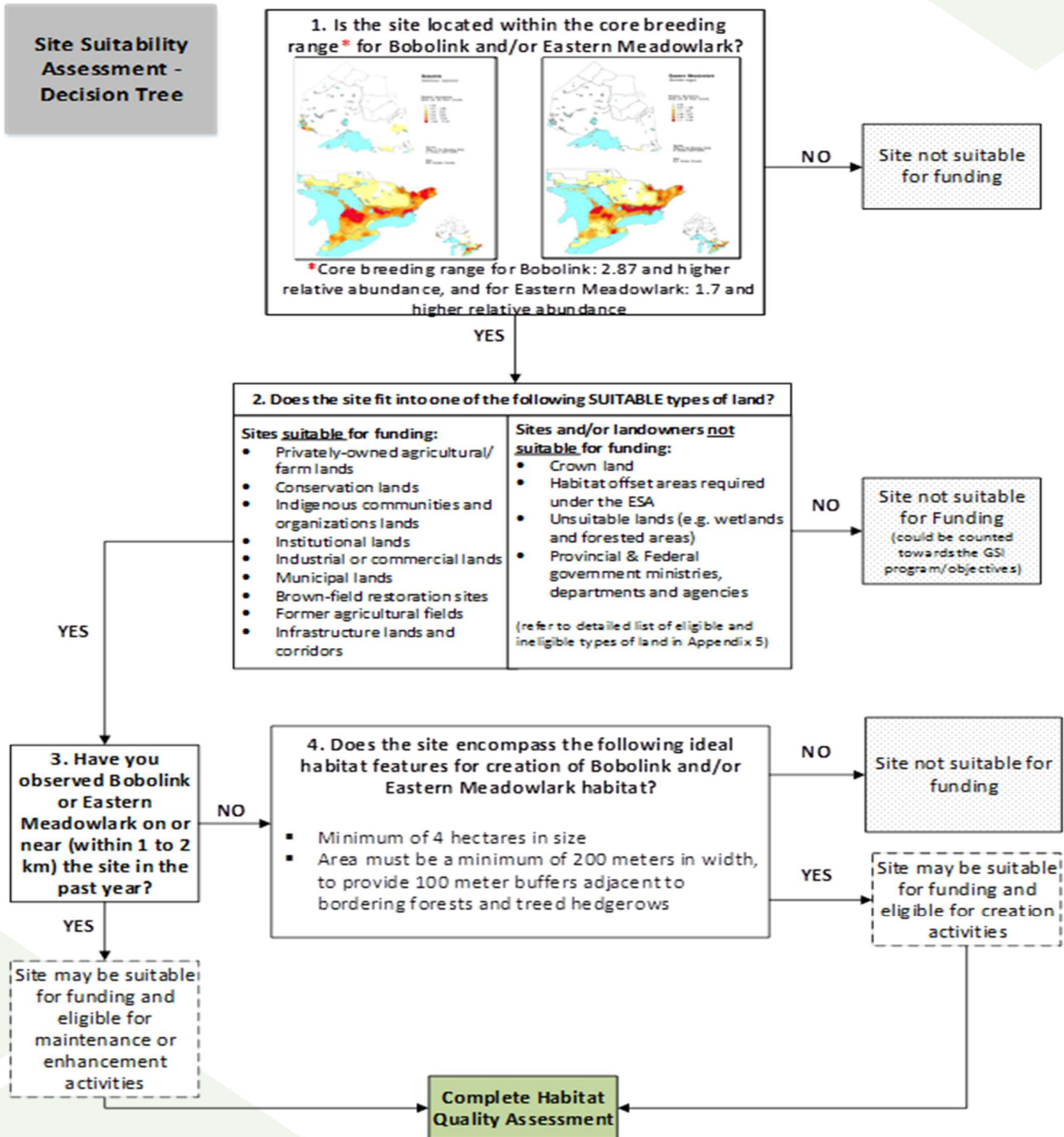
Please describe the project, noting the project type (creation, enhancement, maintenance, combination), project length (years), objectives, number of landowners involved, size of the project area (ha), other efforts (if any) associated with the proposed project and any interesting or unique project or landowner features. Include applicant qualifications and background. Suggested maximum 250 words. Supplementary information can be attached to the end of this application:

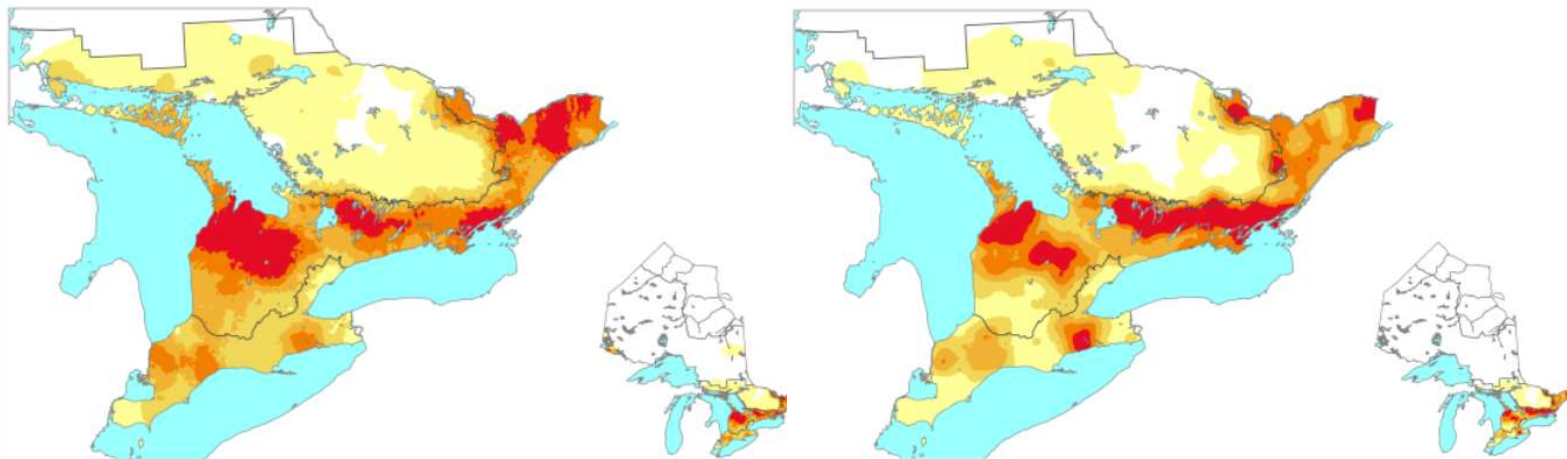
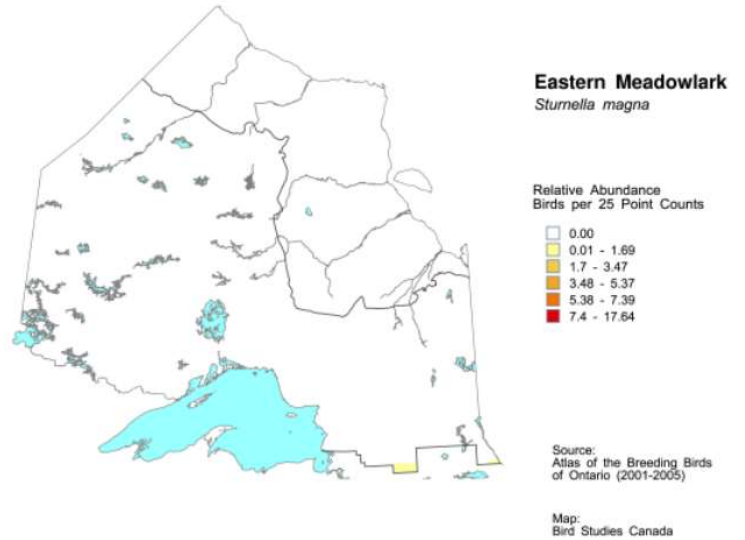
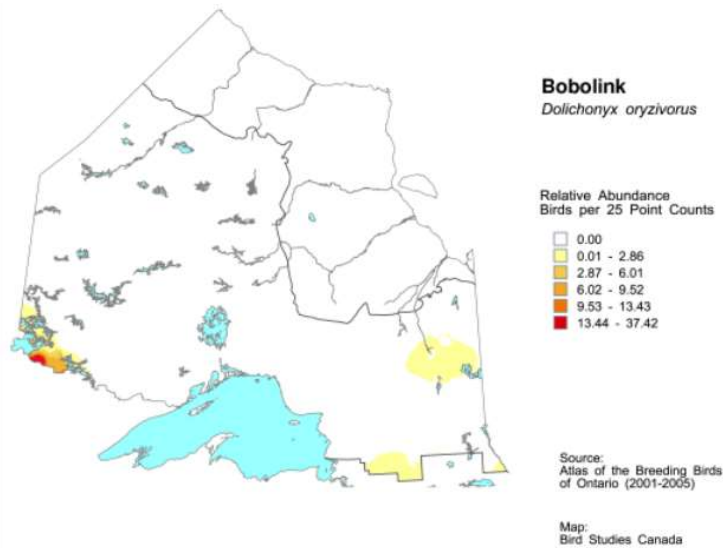
**Site Plan:**

Please include a screenshot/map with the project area outlined (if the project spans multiple areas, delineate all project areas Eg. Field A 4 ha Prescribed Burn and Field B 5.25 ha Invasive species control) on Google Maps (or equivalent) and/or a site plan, include site photos. Hand-drawn maps will not be accepted. Describe any landscape challenges or considerations, the landscape context including habitat fragmentation or connectivity in the surrounding area. Suggested maximum 250 words. Species mix(es) and seed source(s) must be attached to the end of the application, along with any other supplementary information:

**Site Suitability Assessment (SSA):**

Please complete the SSA by working through the decision tree below. Select the boxes that apply to your project site. If the project site is deemed suitable, applicants should complete the Habitat Quality Assessment (HQA). PLEASE NOTE: A larger copy of the core breeding range maps follows the decision tree for ease of determining if the project site is located within the eligible boundary.





**Figure 2.** Relative abundance of **A)** Bobolink and **B)** Eastern Meadowlark in Ontario in 2001-2005 based on breeding bird atlas point count data.

**Habitat Quality Assessment (HQA):**

Applicants are required to submit a HQA with the project proposal. This information establishes baseline metrics on the grassland habitat quality. The HQA differentiates between high, medium and low-quality grassland habitats. For each HQA parameter, choose the most appropriate response and then tally the total number of low, medium or high responses at the bottom of the form. The total number of responses in each column will determine whether a site’s current condition is low, medium or high-quality habitat. Please note, the results of the initial HQA will not impact the decision to award funding for the project, but instead are used to determine which eligible activities the project will receive funding towards.

**NOTE: The recommended deadline to complete the initial HQA (May 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>) has passed. For the 2023 restoration season, historical information or observations by the partner or landowner will be considered in the application.**

If the project is successfully enrolled in the GSI, partners will complete additional HQAs during the breeding season (May 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>) in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 to show pre, mid and post-activity changes.

The following two parameters may be added to the application as supplementary background information to support the HQA:

1. Identify soil characteristics on site: soil mapping available online through AgMaps ([www.ontario.ca/agmaps](http://www.ontario.ca/agmaps))
2. Identify sites that were previously prairie/historic prairie sites based on historic mapping

Parameter	Habitat Quality		
	Low	Medium	High
<b>1A) Which of the following best describes the site</b>  <i>(If more than one, select the quality level with the greatest extent)</i>	Row crop/grain	Old field (grass dominant)	Hay (grass dominant)
	Old field dominated by coarse herbs or scattered trees/shrubs	Field or paddock with light to moderate grazing	Ungrazed paddock (before July 15 <sup>th</sup> )
	Hay (alfalfa dominant)		Native grassland (including restored)
	Heavily grazed field or paddock		
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			



Parameter	Habitat Quality		
<b>1B) Which of the following best describes your haying or grazing practices?</b>	Field is harvested, mown, or grazed before July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Field has delayed haying or grazing in central area for rotational systems	Field is not harvested, grazed, or mown before July 15 <sup>th</sup>
		Not harvested, grazed, or mown	
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			

If a site scores in the low category for either of the above parameters (1A or 1B), the site will automatically be deemed low quality.

<b>2) How much of the site is covered by grass</b>	Low	Medium	High
<i>(Including non-native grass, but not legumes)</i>	≤25%	26-75%	>75%
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			

<b>3) On average, what is the height of grass cover within the site in the 1st week of June?</b>			
<i>(Including non-native grass)</i>	<10 cm or >100cm	10-40 cm	41-100 cm
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			

Parameter	Habitat Quality		
<b>4) How much of the site has shrubs or trees &gt;1 m in height?</b>	>15%	5-15%	<5%
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			

<b>5) How many other grassland bird species have been seen on the site over the past year?*</b>	0 species (or unknown)	1-2 species	>2 species
<i>Check one quality level:</i>			

\*\* American Kestrel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Barn Owl, Henslow's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Kingbird, Dickcissel, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bobwhite, Short-Eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow

	Low	Medium	High
<b>6) How many Bobolink have been seen on the site in the past year?</b>	Not present	≥ 1 male	Breeding evidence
	Unknown		
<i>Insert #s and/or identify type of breeding evidence</i>			

<b>7) How many Eastern Meadowlark have been seen on the site in the past year?</b>	Not present	≥ 1 male	Breeding evidence
	Unknown		
<i>Insert #s and/or identify type of breeding evidence</i>			

<b>Total # of Low, Medium, and High</b>			
---	--	--	--

**Project Funding Summary:**

Please complete separate excel document “GSI Funding Application\_Workplan and Budgets”.

Complete and submitted with application form.

**Work Plan and Budget:**

Please complete separate excel document “GSI Funding Application\_Workplan and Budgets”.

Complete and submitted with application form.

**Please review and complete application checklist to ensure application completion prior to submission to the Grassland Stewardship Initiative.**