



POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Title: OTIS Award

The OTIS Award is a way to recognize individuals, producers & businesses, organizations, and youth in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds who are Outstanding In Stewardship. Stewardship is taking action to care for our watershed, including the land, air, water, and biodiversity. It also supports healthy communities, including our culture and economy, now and into the future.

The OTIS Award is named after the star character in the book series "Otis and Friends: Environmental Adventures." This series was written by Ponoka high-school students in our Caring for our Watersheds Contest. Otis and his friends help people take action to create a better watershed. OTIS is also an acronym for Outstanding In Stewardship! Otis, his authors, and the OTIS Award Winners are examples for us all.

Nominations will be assessed using the Evaluation Guide included below.

Eligibility: Individuals or groups that have made a contribution towards preserving, protecting or enhancing the natural environment in the Battle River or Sounding Creek watershed will be considered for the OTIS Award.

If an individual or group has previously been honoured as an award recipient, they may, after a period of three years, be eligible for the award again.

Award categories: Each year, one award will be presented in each of the following categories:

- Youth
- Individual
- Group (e.g., Business, NGO, Committee, First Nations, Métis, Municipality)
- Agriculture

Deadline: Nominations are accepted annually between July 1st to the end of March in the following year (e.g., July 2023 - March 2024)

Award Recognition: Winners will receive an individual award and will be acknowledged on the OTIS Award plaque displayed at the BRWA office. Individual awards will be presented annually at the BRWA AGM (typically the AGM is hosted in June but dates may vary from year to year).

To publicize the award and acknowledge the stewardship initiative, the recipient(s) of the OTIS Award will have their picture and biography displayed in the BRWA newsletter, website and social media. From time to time, winners are acknowledged in the local newspaper.

Administration of the Award: The award program coordination and all nominations are administered by the Battle River Watershed Alliance. The BRWA Education and Outreach Committee, or equivalent, will be responsible for scoring each nomination and deciding on winners for each category.

Examples of Eligible Projects: Implementation of beneficial management practices including offsite watering systems, building or retrofitting facilities for energy efficiency, green infrastructure projects, protecting or enhancing natural areas, riparian restoration or enhancement initiatives, pollution reduction initiatives, climate mitigation and resiliency initiatives, projects for solid waste reduction, sustainable development practices, implementation of renewable energy sources, community action initiatives including stewardship education or advocacy, etc. Check out past award winners for more examples.

Criteria and scoring:

Nominations for an OTIS Award, for any category, are evaluated on the individual or group's contribution towards preserving, protecting or enhancing the natural environment in the Battle River or Sounding Creek watershed based on the following criteria.

All nominations will be evaluated using the Evaluation Guide (rubric) below. This includes initiatives that focus on stewardship outreach, education, conservation efforts, or physical changes to the landscape. Scoring in each category will be decided based on what might be expected from comparable projects or plans and overall impact.

The scale for evaluation is 0-3 with 3 as the best. Please use a separate evaluation guide for each nomination.