SEVERN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (SSEA)
Joint Municipal Service Board Est. 2009
SERVICES PROVIDED & AVAILABLE to Member Municipalities

Established under the Municipal Act.… *for the purpose of supporting the Municipalities in the management of their environmental activities, to continue to coordinate the Long-Term Sustainability Plan and to assume the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Severn Sound Source Protection Authority pursuant to the Ont. Clean Water Act, 2006.*

Core municipal partners include: Tiny, Tay, Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte, Springwater, Penetanguishene and Midland.

SSEA services support policies in Midland *Official Plan* (see sections 6.3.2, 6.5, 7.2.2c, 7.3.1d).

★ NOTE: Municipal partners with interest in services not specifically identified below are invited to discuss and explore opportunities for additional services with SSEA Board and Staff. This highly skilled, multifaceted team is here to work with you, our partners.

★ **Budget Estimate (2025) – this is an estimate only (by service category) for services, shared between 8 partners, for the Town of Midland.**

Table 1: SSEA Core Services

CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland Share (2025)
Source Protection Authority (Municipal Drinking Water Source Protection) ● SSEA is the Regulatory authority as a Source Protection Authority under the *Ont. Clean Water Act, 2006* ● Technical Support, legislated annual reporting to the Province, liaison and representation at Provincial Source Protection Committee, local leadership for Provincial Policy and drinking water system amendments	**SSEA is the Regulatory Authority** O.Reg 284/07 under the Ontario Clean Water Act, 2006	**SSEA is the Regulatory Authority** Municipal drinking water sources are protected from overuse and contamination Municipality represented at various committees and working groups Support system to ensure municipality has the tools and knowledge to fulfill their legal obligations Most up to date science used to influence planning decisions/direction through updates to local Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plan	Source Protection Authority **No cost for 2025** (covered by Province of Ontario MOU with SSEA)

Environmental Monitoring and Data Analysis ***Data Analysis and Reporting*** ● Data from SSEA Tributary and Groundwater Monitoring publicly available for all municipalities through Provincial *Water Quality Monitoring Network* and *Groundwater Monitoring Network* sites ● Archived climate data available on request, current conditions publicly available on SSEA website ● Reporting on Severn Sound water quality conditions ● All datasets maintained and available for municipal use upon request	Supports Municipal requirements under: Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015 Under the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) Section 2.2, "Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by…minimizing potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts"	Conditions in Severn Sound and surrounding tributaries are better understood through analysis and reporting of long-term monitoring data, allowing for evidence-based municipal decision making and priority setting. This builds public trust by demonstrating a commitment to protecting lakes and rivers from human impact. Open water data is valuable in sewage and water infrastructure planning and grant applications. Having the SSEA act as "one window" for environmental information eases the burden on municipal staff in dealing with public inquiries. Data analysis and reporting on local climate data can be used for climate adaptation planning and risk analysis, providing a scientific basis to support municipal decision making. Datasets and results related to Severn Sound and tributary water quality monitoring are frequently referenced when completing land use planning or infrastructure related reviews at the request of the municipality, in particular to "confirm sufficient water quality, quantity and assimilative capacity of receiving water are available to accommodate the proposed developments" (PPS, 2020)	Environmental Monitoring & Data Analysis $62,500 (note the annual subscription for the Midland weather station is $900 + maintenance covered by the SSEA) (note cost for lab analysis is covered by the Province, a cost of approx.. $5,500)

Environmental Quality Monitoring Programs
● Open Water Quality Monitoring – quality, status, potential issues, trends
   ○ Water Quality, Algae, Zooplankton
● Tributary (Stream) Monitoring – quality, status, potential issues, trends
   ○ Water Quality, Temperature, Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling
● Groundwater Monitoring – quality, status, potential issues, trends
	Fulfills commitment to monitor the open waters of Severn Sound with water sample analysis support from the MECP, in support of goals under the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015.	Public Health: Monitoring water quality ensures that the recreational waters used by residents are safe and free from contaminants that could pose health risks. Regular testing helps identify and address issues promptly. Routine open water monitoring allows for early detection of blue green algae blooms, and for the appropriate agencies to be alerted.
		
		*SSEA is working with MECP field testing and validating hand held fluorometers to measure chlorophyll-a and Phycocyanin as	

○ Water Quality, Quantity (levels) ● Climate Monitoring (including weather stations) ○ Rainfall, Temperature, Wind, Crop Heat Units ● Citizen Science (Ice cover, lake and stream conditions) ● Water Level Gauge (Midland) - Coordinate maintenance ● In-house blue green algae monitoring and identification ● Detection of trends, changes and early warning of potential issues (ex. Toxic blue green algae)		indicators of potential toxic blue green (cyanobacteria) algae blooms. Regulatory Compliance: Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement requires planning authorities to minimize water quality impacts and confirm that receiving water can accommodate that water quality impacts of developments. This can only be done through a watershed approach to regular monitoring. Failure to monitor water quality and plan for climate change impacts could lead to legal and regulatory consequences. Environmental Protection: Monitoring water quality helps protect local ecosystems and aquatic life by detecting pollution or changes in water conditions that could harm the environment and/or human health, allowing for actions to address impacts. Infrastructure Maintenance: Regular water quality/quantity and climate monitoring can identify and prioritize needs for infrastructure maintenance and can ensure that infrastructure maintenance (ex. stormwater pond or ditch clean outs) do not have a negative impact on the environment. Emergency Preparedness: Monitoring provides a baseline of conditions which through comparison can provide early warning for potential water quality problems, which is crucial for responding to emergencies, such as chemical spills or contamination events. Accountability: Transparency in water quality monitoring helps build public trust by demonstrating that municipalities are committed to protecting public water resources. Long-Term Sustainability: Monitoring supports the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources, helping municipalities plan for future water needs and conservation efforts.	

		Overall, monitoring water quality is essential for protecting public health, complying with regulations, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring sustainable water supplies. **SSEA manages the weather station at the Town of Midland STP, data in near real time is publicly available at** Weather Stations - Severn Sound Environmental Association	
Invasive Species Program ● Provide one point of contact service for member municipalities and their residents- Monitoring, identification, prevention, education & outreach, management ● Provide education and health and safety training for staff at partner municipalities	Supports Municipal requirements under: The Invasive Species Act (2015) regulates the prevention and management of invasive species in Ontario. Under this Act, 22 species are prohibited (illegal to import, possess, transport, or release), and 11 additional species are restricted (illegal to import or release). For municipalities, this means due diligence is needed for invasive species management/control and disposal, following best management practices outlined by the Province. The Weed Control Act (1990) facilitates the control of noxious weeds on properties in close proximity to lands used for agricultural or horticultural purposes. The Act requires lower tier municipalities to appoint a weed inspector who can order the weeds destroyed, for example through the Midland Property Standards Bylaw 2002-81. Other Legislation pertaining to Invasive Species: Federal: Fisheries Act, Plant Protection Act.	SSEA provides invasive species resources and information and can assist municipal staff in the identification of invasive and noxious plants within the watershed, to ensure compliance with the legislation and by-law. Invasive species are harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health and municipal infrastructure. Invasive species are a serious problem and have a variety of negative impacts including changing ecosystems. The Invasive Species Centre estimates the potential economic impacts of invasive species on forestry, agriculture, fisheries, healthcare, tourism and recreation to be approximately $3.6 billion per year in Ontario. The SSEA Invasive Species Program has executed the following deliverables to help mitigate impacts of numerous invasive species in the watershed: ● Coordination of municipal invasive species working group to provide networking and learning opportunities to municipal staff and local environmental organizations, ensuring a harmonized invasive species management effort. ● Health and safety training for municipal staff pertaining to noxious/dangerous & invasive species. ● Habitat preservation through targeted invasive species management.	Invasive Species Program $25,000

		• Invasive species education through community events and social media. • Annual Invasive Species Reports for municipalities and watershed. • Secure external funding to increase impact of invasive species management for member municipalities, ex. OFAH Hit Squad summer staff, Invasive Species Centre grants, Municipal Roadside Phragmites Mapping to identify size and scope of invasive phragmites, Wye Marsh Phragmites Project, etc.	
GIS/Mapping • Storing/maintaining Severn Sound watershed based spatial datasets • Field Verification Mapping and Cataloguing • Map production (ex. Invasive species)	Support requirements that call for spatial analysis of data (e.g. Water Characterization, impervious cover mapping for Drinking Water Source Protection)	Enhance municipal capacity for visualization and analysis of complex spatial datasets that can be used in municipal planning and decision making, and to communicate results of watershed monitoring. GIS skill and mapping are done to support SSEA work and projects. Examples include: Drinking Water Source Protection Authority, involves assessment report mapping updates for existing and new drinking water systems, and base layer updates (e.g. Impervious, land cover and surface water). Environmental monitoring benefits from site location maps and other essential data visualizations. Additionally, tools and maps are used to facilitate monitoring site selection, route planning and data retrieval. Thematic mapping highlighting environmental monitoring results is created for education and outreach to engage the community on environmental issues and initiatives.	$34,000
Remaining Core Services **Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage** • Species at Risk, Natural Heritage, Habitat and Stewardship expertise and information for general public and municipal inquiries	Supports Municipal requirements under: Provincial: Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act Federal: Species At Risk Act, Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act	SSEA answers inquiries and provides general information and resources to municipalities and the public on species at risk, habitat and natural heritage. Site specific reviews for planning are handled as cost recovery (see Table 2 below)	$32,000

	Individuals, property owners and municipalities must ensure that activities being undertaken by them or for them do not contravene applicable laws/legislation, and are responsible for obtaining any required permits or permissions.		
Tree Programs ● Facilitate large and small tree planting projects on private and public lands ● Community Tree Planting Program, Tree Seedling Distribution Program		SSEA's Community Tree Planting program gives residents and local volunteer groups the opportunity to contribute to positive action in their local environment. SSEA's Tree Seedling Distribution Program provides landowners with reasonably priced seedlings to encourage the planting of native trees and shrubs on private property within the Severn Sound watershed and in the Town of Midland. This allows residents to easily contribute to increasing forest cover in their municipality. Both tree programs are beneficial for increasing forest cover on private property in the municipality. Increasing and protecting existing forest cover is important for a variety of reasons, trees and forests benefit municipalities: ● help mitigate the effects of climate change by carbon sequestration, reducing air pollution, producing oxygen, and reducing heat island effect. ● provide habitat for a variety of animal species and preserve biodiversity. ● critical to ecosystem health by contributing to nutrient cycling, improving water filtration, reducing stormwater runoff, protecting shorelines and stream banks from erosion and flood damage, and keeping watercourses cool for sensitive fish species. ● provide direct benefits to our society: they shade and cool our homes, reduce wind speed and noise pollution, reduce stormwater runoff, improve aesthetics in neighbourhoods, increase property values, and have an overall positive influence on tourism and the public perception of a municipality.	Cost offset by external grants and seedling sales

		Municipalities receive a wide array of environmental and societal benefits from trees and forests that are on public and private land, and municipalities should continue to take part in efforts to plant trees and protect and enhance forest cover.	
Education and Outreach ● Provide local expertise and information on all program areas and SSEA Municipal leadership ● Includes events (ex. annual open house, partners reception, booth at local events), presentations, social media, traditional media, reports, factsheets, watershed tours, webinars, videos, website etc.		Municipal council, staff and ratepayers are better informed about the environment and SSEA's work, including programs and services offered as well as stewardship initiatives, findings from environmental monitoring and volunteer opportunities. Municipal ratepayers are informed about positive work their municipalities are undertaking to protect the local environment and create more resilient communities.	
Funding and Grant Applications ● SSEA continuously researches and applies for outside funding with good success rates ● SSEA information and data can be provided to partner Municipalities for their funding applications		Leverage existing resources to allow SSEA and municipalities to implement programs and projects that would otherwise be outside current operating budgets and staff capacities (ex. citizen science monitoring, pollinator/habitat planting, stream restoration). Funding may also increase staff resources (ex. seasonal staff) or build organizational capacity (ex. purchase of equipment) that supports existing programs/projects. Staff identify and support municipal staff in applying for funding applications specific to municipal application (ex. Enbridge gas municipal climate action grant) **2024 external grants secured by SSEA as of Q3, approximately $216,000**	
Technical and Scientific Support ● Review and Comment on Municipal, Federal and Provincial policy re: environmental health and impact on Severn Sound watershed		Opportunity for municipalities to have coordinated input to provincial and federal policy that will have a local impact. A united voice carries more weight and can result in beneficial changes locally.	

• Support Municipalities for Deputations and presentations (ex. At AMO, ROMA, Great Lakes St Lawrence Cities Initiative, Provincial and Federal Minister meetings)		Municipality can access diverse expertise within SSEA staff for input on municipal policy to ensure environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration.
Networking and Partnership Building • Academic and government research projects • Leverage resources and support to maximize project value		Leverage existing resources to allow SSEA to conduct projects that would otherwise be outside current operating budgets (ex. fish habitat mapping, Severn Sound nearshore algae study), and gain access to experts in various research areas and to emerging technologies. Partner with other like-minded organizations to amplify collective value on the landscape and in water (including GB5, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Muskoka Watershed Council, local land trusts, Trent University, Toronto Metropolitan University, Lakehead University, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association etc.) Active member of Lake Huron Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP) providing access to Science and Research leaders from Canada and the US focussed on Lake Huron.
Staff Complement Expertise, Professional Development • Partners have access to a team of science, policy and technical experts in a variety of fields		More economical for municipality to share a team of experts than to hire in-house or outsource to consultants. For example, training municipal staff on IS and toxic plant **2024** as of Q3: for the majority of the year 7 full time permanent, 1 part time permanent, and 6 contracts funded through special projects/ core (3 with external $). Staff compliment peaks in spring/summer field season 7 additional term contracts that were supported through external funding. Municipal members have access to this team through the core budget.
Remedial Action Plan Commitments		

• Continue environmental monitoring and where possible continue implementing actions to meet <u>Delisting Conditions</u> (Stage 3 Report - Delisting Severn Sound as an Area of Concern) • Assess environmental changes and ecosystem health • Ensure investments & commitments made by municipalities to delist Severn Sound (International Joint Commission, 2003) are maintained	Delisting conditions – SSEA's commitment to monitor the open waters of Severn Sound with water sample analysis support from the MECP, in support of goals under the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015	Demonstrate municipal leadership in protecting Severn Sound and ensuring the investments made through the Remedial Action Plan in the past are not lost and that Severn Sound does not revert to conditions that existed when it was listed as an Area of Concern.	
Accountable Exceptional Service Driven Organization • Board Governance and Accountability • Corporate Strategic Planning (5 yr cycle) • Corporate leadership and compliance - governance, financial and human resources		There is value to the municipality in supporting an organization that is accountable and adheres to standard municipal corporate policies (e.g. IT, health and safety); this reduces liability for municipal partners. Transparency of SSEA activities and finances through board governance increases public trust. The strategic planning process provides an opportunity for municipal partners to direct SSEA's future activities.	
		TOTAL **CORE SERVICES** BUDGET ESTIMATE MIDLAND (rounded) **$153,500**	

Table 2: SSEA Cost Recovery OR Special Project OR external funding NON-CORE

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
Data Analysis and Reporting ● Reporting on special projects (ex. inland lake water quality conditions) ● Analysis available for site or project specific data at internal cost recovery for municipal partners	Under the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) Section 2.2, "Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by…minimizing potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts"	Conditions in local inland lakes (Little Lake) are better understood through analysis and reporting of long term monitoring data, allowing for evidence-based municipal decision making and priority setting (ex. winter salting of Little Lake path). This builds public trust by demonstrating a commitment to protecting lakes from human impact. Datasets and results related to Little Lake water quality monitoring are frequently referenced when completing land use planning or infrastructure related reviews at the request of the municipality (ex. SEASONS development, Hwy 93 Secondary Plan) in particular to "confirm sufficient water quality, quantity and assimilative capacity of receiving water are available to accommodate the proposed developments" (PPS, 2020) Value in having access to expertise for analysis and reporting at significantly lower cost compared to a consultant.	
Risk Management Services (Municipal Drinking Water Source Protection) ● Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspector services as legislated under Part IV of the Ont. Clean Water Act, 2006	Regulatory requirement under Clean Water Act Section 47(6) - municipal responsibility that has been given to SSEA through Midland by-law 2018-68	Fulfilling legal requirements and ensuring municipal drinking water sources are protected from contamination and overuse. Makes sure all incoming development applications are in line with South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan policies Cost saving, affordable option - Shared resource across all SSEA member municipalities (except Springwater), that gets access to a dedicated, trained and experienced Risk Management Official/Inspector.	$18,975
Environmental Quality Monitoring Programs ● New Municipality-specific sites for any of the Monitoring Programs (Tributary,	Supports forthcoming Municipal requirements for monitoring under:	**Inland Lake for Midland – Little Lake** Monitoring water quality is crucial for several reasons:	$7,835

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
Groundwater, Open Water, Climate/weather stations) can be added at low or no cost • Inland Lakes • Regulatory change and site-specific issues (ex. Upcoming requirement for stormwater receiving water monitoring (CLI ECA), algae bloom causation and prevention)	Environmental Protection Act, Ontario Water Resources Act (Consolidated Linear Infrastructure ECA) SSEA can provide scientific background information for legislated environmental permissions like approvals, assessments, licenses, permits and registrations on various activities that businesses, individuals and public sector organizations plan to engage in that may have associated environmental risk. SSEA can alleviate pressures on municipal staff by providing answers to questions, documents, and data to apply for environmental permissions through the MECP (ex. Environmental Compliance Approvals, Pesticide licences and permits, Permits to Take Water)	Public Health: Ensuring that water is safe for recreational use is paramount. Poor water quality can contain harmful contaminants like algal toxins that can affect public health. Environmental Protection: Monitoring helps protect aquatic ecosystems by identifying issues before they become irreversible. Pollution from industries or urbanization can harm aquatic life and disrupt ecosystems, leading to long-term ecological imbalances. Industrial and Commercial Use: Many industries rely on water in their processes. Poor water quality can damage equipment and affect product quality. Recreation and Tourism: Clean water bodies are essential for recreational activities like swimming, fishing, and boating. Tourism often depends on pristine natural environments Regulatory Compliance: Governments set water quality standards to protect public health and the environment. Monitoring helps entities meet these targets. Early Detection of Problems: Regular monitoring allows for the early detection of pollution or contamination incidents, enabling a rapid response to prevent widespread harm. Resource Management: Water is a finite resource, and monitoring helps manage its use efficiently. It ensures equitable distribution among various users. Climate Change: Climate change can affect water quality. Monitoring helps understand and mitigate these impacts. Public Awareness: Publicly accessible water quality data can raise public awareness and support conservation efforts and responsible water use. In summary, monitoring water quality is vital for safeguarding human health, protecting ecosystems,	

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
		supporting various industries, and ensuring sustainable water resource management.	
Sustainability - Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS) ● Regional Climate Planning, Climate Change Support, support for building municipal and watershed resilience ● FCM Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program commitment support (includes obtaining & analyzing energy use data from energy suppliers) ● Review opportunities to advance Watershed Resiliency and Climate Adaptation planning and policies ● Jurisdictional review and policy support for *Climate Emergency* declarations ● Investigate and connect municipalities with potential funding ● Develop resources, training, and workshops regarding climate policies and actions	Supports Municipal requirements under: Municipal facility energy data (usage and GHG emissions) is required to be submitted to the province per Ontario Regulation – 25/23 Municipalities must prepare an energy conservation and demand management plan every five years – O. Reg 25/23	Cost effective service collaboration. Creating a unified approach to climate change action in the watershed, connecting and strengthening individual and collective municipal action – whilst sharing the program costs across 8 municipalities. Dedicated staff constantly reviewing funding opportunities. Reviewing current funding opportunities – Green Municipal Fund, pending ChargeON/ZEVIP EV charging station application (NSSRC) and a successful grant application to the RTO7 GoEV (Towndock EV charging station) and partnership with Lakeland Solutions. Secured $10,000 from Enbridge's Municipal Climate Action Grant for 2023 and working with staff to finalize another $10,000 Enbridge grant application for 2024. Working to advance through the Milestones in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, staff support for projects related to energy management and climate change. The Climate Change project uses municipal data to inform decisions, but also to work to reduce municipal emissions.	$12,914
Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Assessments ● Mapping and evaluation/assessment of natural heritage features such as woodland, wetlands, fish habitat, past fish habitat mapping and evaluation ● Planning and facilitating targeted wildlife monitoring or site-specific stewardship projects that protect and improve water quality and habitat	Supports Municipal requirements under: Provincial Planning Act. Municipal planning documents (ex., Official Plan, Zoning By-law) **must be consistent with** the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and conform or do not conflict with provincial plans (ex. Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe [GPGGH]), where applicable. The PPS and GPGGH include strong policy	Natural heritage evaluation/ assessment is needed to support updates to Official Plans (ex., develop/update Natural Heritage System or Environmental Protection mapping). There is a need to update natural heritage information and refine the mapping on an ongoing basis, to ensure information is accurate and is consistent with provincial and federal guidance, which is periodically updated (ex., provincial Natural Heritage Reference Manual, federal "How Much Habitat Is Enough?").	

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
• Support for Bee Cities, pollinator habitat naturalization/enhancement and policy support (ie. Jurisdictional review)	direction to protect natural heritage (such as woodlands and wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, fish habitat). Municipal Official Plan updates	Natural heritage features (ex., wetlands, woodlands, significant wildlife habitat, fish habitat) can be located on public or private land, and provide a variety of environmental, social/cultural and economic benefits, including but not limited to: • Improve air quality, produce oxygen • Filter rainwater, anchor soil, reduce surface water runoff • Sequester & store carbon • Habitat for pollinators, birds & other wildlife • Native biological diversity • Reduce urban heat-island effect • Support tourism & recreation • Green spaces are good for human health & happiness Municipal land use planning benefits from natural heritage evaluation/assessment, since it can provide planning authorities and review agencies with information on habitat conditions, significant natural features to be protected (as per provincial policy) and actions needed to protect terrestrial and aquatic habitats, such as buffers.	
Land Use Planning • Review and comment on site-specific land use planning, development, infrastructure upgrades with respect to natural heritage, water quality, stormwater and Low Impact Development	Supports Municipal requirements under: Planning Act; municipal planning decisions must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and conform or do not conflict with provincial plans (ex. Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe [GPGGH]), where applicable. The PPS and GPGGH include strong policy direction to protect natural heritage (such as woodlands and wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, fish habitat) and water quality/quantity. In order to make informed decisions about site-specific proposed development with respect to natural heritage features and	Ontario municipalities should care about natural heritage and nature for a variety of important reasons: Biodiversity: Natural areas within municipalities support a wide range of plant and animal species. Protecting these areas helps maintain biodiversity, which is crucial for ecosystem stability and resilience. Ecosystem Services: Natural areas provide valuable ecosystem services such as clean air and water, pollination of crops, flood control, and carbon sequestration. These services are essential for the well-being of local communities. Quality of Life: Access to green spaces and natural areas enhances the quality of life for residents. Parks, trails, and natural amenities contribute to physical and mental well-being, recreation, and community cohesion.	Cost based on use of service based for each municipality – cost of having these staff available included in core

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
	functions, the Town needs to ensure that appropriate level of study has been completed (ex., Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA], also called Environmental Impact Study [EIS]), and that work done and conclusions for an EIA/EIS are acceptable. Where a municipality does not have natural heritage expertise in-house, typically the process is for EIA/EIS reports to be peer reviewed by an outside agency to ensure technical accuracy of information collected, and ensure that impacts, avoidance or mitigation measures (ex., setbacks/buffers) have been given appropriate consideration. SSEA has been providing site-specific EIA/EIS review services to the Town upon request.	Climate Resilience: Natural areas can help mitigate the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing heat islands, and providing habitat for species that may be threatened by changing climates. Tourism and Recreation: Preserving natural heritage can boost local tourism and recreation industries, providing economic benefits to municipalities through increased visitation and tourism-related spending. Cultural and Indigenous Values: Many natural areas hold cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous communities and contribute to Ontario's cultural heritage. Respecting and preserving these places is essential for reconciliation and cultural preservation. Education and Research: Natural areas offer opportunities for environmental education and scientific research, contributing to a better understanding of ecosystems and conservation practices. Resilience to Natural Disasters: Natural areas like wetlands and forests can act as buffers against natural disasters like floods and storms, protecting communities from damage and loss. Long-Term Planning: Integrating natural heritage into municipal planning helps ensure sustainable development, fostering a healthy environment and economy for future generations. Legal and Ethical Obligations: Municipalities in Ontario have legal responsibilities to protect natural heritage under the Provincial Policy Statement, the Endangered Species Act, and other legislation. In summary, natural heritage and nature is vital for maintaining ecological balance, improving residents' quality of life, addressing climate change, supporting local economies, respecting cultural values, and fulfilling legal obligations. Municipalities play a crucial role in stewarding	

NON-CORE SERVICES	Legislative Requirement	Value to Municipality (why do this) – Midland	Budget ESTIMATE – Midland (2025)
		and conserving these natural assets for current and future generations.	
Education and Outreach ● Can deliver targeted education and outreach projects in the watershed on cost recovery basis		Knowledge on specific issues or for specific audiences is enhanced.	
GIS/Mapping ● Elevation/Bathymetric modelling, visualizations and geospatial data products (ex. Natural heritage mapping, Sensitive features mapping to support municipal west Nile virus - larvicide program ~2015-2017)		Enhance municipal capacity for visualization and analysis of complex spatial datasets that can be used in municipal planning and decision making on a request basis.	

TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE – **NON-CORE SERVICES MIDLAND** $39,724

TOTAL CORE AND NON-CORE SERVICES BUDGET ESTIMATE MIDLAND (rounded)   **$193,224**

SSEA 2025 BUDGET - MIDLAND$192,969