

Natural Resources Grants

Hennepin County offers grants to landowners for projects that preserve and restore the county's natural resources.



This grant program has two options	Good Steward grant Primarily for smaller projects that improve surface or ground water quality or quantity, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community.	Opportunity grant Primarily to help partners take advantage of opportunities to implement larger projects that improve surface or ground water quality or quantity, or preserve, establish or restore natural areas.
Eligible recipients	Landowners, including individuals, non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses in Hennepin County.	
Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal for smaller community-based or single applicant projects. • Typical projects include constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation installing vegetated filter strips and other best management practices. • While these grants may fund removal of invasive plants as part of a larger overall project, most invasive plant removal is not eligible unless it is part of a comprehensive habitat and restoration plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal for larger scale projects seeking to leverage multiple funding sources from more than one partner. • Ideal for projects documented as priorities in the applicant's managements plans (e.g. comprehensive plan, watershed management plan). • Applicants are encouraged to seek design and engineering assistance to help scope a project prior to the application period.
Eligible expenses	Environmental or engineering consulting fees, materials, supplies, labor and inspection fees.	
Application timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply once per year in the fall. • Successful applicants are determined through a competitive selection process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications are accepted at any time; however, funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. • A pre-application meeting to discuss project details is highly recommended.
Amount of funding available per grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of \$25,000 per project. • Typical awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$100,000 per project. • Typical projects range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
Matching funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding can cover up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • The landowner is responsible for contributing the remaining 25% of the project costs, which can be cash or in-kind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No match is required. • Funds are often used for required match for other leveraged funds.
Project timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 to 24 months to complete project. • All practices must be designed and maintained for at least 10 years. 	
Reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project must enter into a formal project agreement with the county. • Submit a project work plan with budget and design, operation and maintenance plans. • Submit final report with invoices and project outcomes. 	

Contact us today

Our staff is available to answer questions and offer resources to:

- Evaluate the natural resources on your property with Hennepin County's natural resources interactive map
- Provide technical assistance on water quality and erosion control issues
- Help develop a suitable project
- Provide follow-up and ongoing assistance

For more information:

- Visit hennepin.us – search natural resources grants
- Kris Guentzel at 612-596-1171 or kristopher.guentzel@hennepin.us

